Building Collections, Building Services, and Building Sustainability

The Project:
- "Building Collections, Building Services, and Building Sustainability" is the digital image production project designed to provide better access to documents that chronicle the histories of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the African American experience.

- Cornell University, HBCU Library Alliance, Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center and SOLINET are providing administrative, staffing and logistical support for the 18-month initiative from 2005-2006.

- The HBCU Alliance is a coalition of HBCU library deans and directors working to strengthen the role of libraries on historically black campuses and expand access to information and cultural resources available in their collections.

- Funded through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, "Building Collections," is modeled after the Appalachian College Association's "Digital Library of Appalachia Project," which spurred that organization's Central Library collection

The Process:
- *Participating Organizations* – Ten HBCU libraries have been selected for participation in the initial project:
  - Alabama State University
  - Atlanta University Center (Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theology Center, Morehouse College and Spelman College)
  - Bennett College for Women
  - Fisk University
  - Grambling State University
  - Hampton University
  - Southern University
  - Tuskegee University
  - Tennessee State University
  - Virginia State University

- The major components of the project include:
  - Training
  - Digitization and storage
  - Collection management and access
  - Assessment

Training
♦ In November 2005, training was provided to representatives of the 10 participating libraries during a week-long digital training session at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, Ga.
♦ The workshop was a customized version of Cornell's award-winning digital imaging workshop "Moving Theory into Practice: Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives."

Digitization & Storage
♦ An advisory committee comprised of library directors, an archivist and related experts was formed to discuss implementation concerns and make policy recommendations to the HBCU Library Alliance regarding dissemination of the resulting digitized materials.
♦ (DISCUSS THE MATERIALS YOUR INSTITUTION WILL INCLUDE IN THE DIGITIZATION PROJECT AND THE RATIONALE FOR SELECTING THEM)
♦ Equipment has been purchased and housed at each participating library.
♦ The digitized content will be stored on a CONTENTdm server housed at the Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center.
♦ Scanning technicians funded by the grant will begin digitizing content at each institution.
♦ (DISCUSS WHERE YOUR EQUIPMENT IS BEING STORED, WHO WILL DIGITIZE THE MATERIALS AND WHEN THE DIGITIZATION WILL BEGIN AT YOUR INSTITUTION)

Collection management and access
♦ Project liaisons at each participating institution will upload and manage images and metadata from the server, making that institution's digital collection viewable on its library Website.
♦ (DISCUSS HOW THE COLLECTION WILL BE MANAGED AT YOUR INSTITUTION AND HOW ACCESS TO IT WILL BE PROVIDED)
♦ Users will be able to search across all the collections in the CONTENTdm database. The materials will be available for public viewing in the fall of 2006.

Assessment
♦ Quarterly reports July 2005, March 2006 and project evaluation to be completed by December 2006. Final report will be submitted to the grantor in January 2007.

Implications:
➢ "Building Collections" opens the door to the treasures of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, fostering the research and teaching of scholars specializing in African American Studies, the American South, American Democracy, cultural pluralism and other related disciplines.

➢ By increasing national and international access to HBCU archives, these digital collections will promote research and scholarship on the African American experience.

➢ The partnership between the members of the HBCU Library Alliance, Cornell University Library, Robert W. Woodruff Library and SOLINET will:
- Increase access to HBCU library holdings
- Encourage broader collaboration between HBCU libraries and other organizations
- Promote the visibility of HBCUs

Next Steps:
➢ Next steps for the partnership will be determined through detailed evaluation focusing on:
- Training
- Hardware
- CONTENTdm software
- Quality and quantity of digital images