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Powerful Synergy Sustained: Second Capacity-Building Partnership with Brown University Forges Ahead

We are thrilled to share news of a second partnership with Brown University, placing reciprocity and the growth of HBCU Library professionals at its core. Brown University Library has been awarded a \$246,000 Implementation Grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. *Advancing HBCU Scholarship, Diversifying Digital Publishing* is a three-year cross-organizational training and support program for HBCU library professionals interested in developing open access born-digital scholarship. This initiative seeks to address the lack of diversity in digital publishing and advance HBCU scholarship by providing specialized training to three librarians from Fisk University, Kentucky State University, and Prairie View A&M University.

The University of Michigan Press will collaborate with Brown Library to mentor the cohort and disseminate HBCU-generated digital publications through an open access model to a broader audience. Involving HBCU students in the project will expose them to digital media skills, enhancing their career opportunities. The partnership aims to create a replicable model for similar collaborations and contribute to longer-term structures for capacity-building within the HBCU community. The project's benefits will extend beyond the grant period, and a public-facing website will make the curriculum accessible to other institutions and communities nationally and internationally. Brown University Library, known for its inclusive approach to digital content development, is uniquely positioned to implement this program in collaboration with the HBCU Library Alliance. The initiative aligns with the vision of advancing equity, justice, inclusion, and belonging in the academic publishing ecosystem, challenging legacy structures based on exclusion. This new chapter builds on the success of *The Stronger Together, Excellence in Library Leadership Program*, advancing our commitment to mutual collaboration and ensuring that HBCU Library Alliance initiatives address the unique challenges and aspirations of the communities we serve.

To learn more about *Advancing HBCU Scholarship, Diversifying Digital Publishing* visit:
<https://blogs.brown.edu/libnews/budp-ims-diversifying-digital-publishing/>

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About the HBCU Library Alliance

The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to providing an array of resources designed to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents.

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