



2026 HBCU Library Alliance Fact Sheet

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. Created in 2002 by deans and directors of HBCU libraries, and incorporated in 2006, the HBCU Library Alliance is governed by a Board comprised of five elected directors and two appointed directors. Loretta Parham, former CEO and Library Director, Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library (GA), is the co-founder and inaugural Chair of the HBCU Library Alliance. Adrienne Webber, Dean, Digital Library, Grambling State University (LA), is the current Board Chair. Eligibility for membership in the HBCU Library Alliance is institutional and is based on that institution's designation from the [White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#).

Mission

The HBCU Library Alliance works to transform and strengthen its membership by developing library leaders, preserving collections, and planning for the future.

Institutional Members

1. Libraries at private and public HBCUs so designated by the White House Initiative on HBCUs, to include 1890 land grant institutions, schools of library and information science at HBCU institutions, and
2. Libraries of organizations that are not HBCUs may, on occasion, be invited by invitation of the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors. Potential non-HBCU members are those libraries that have previously partnered with or have supported the HBCU Library Alliance's mission. Diversifying the membership base will continue to enhance opportunities to develop meaningful collaborative relationships and forge new strategic partnerships.

Benefits of Membership

The HBCU Library Alliance is committed to advocating for libraries and the preservation of archival services. Benefits include access to programs designed specifically to strengthen communities of HBCU libraries in service to their constituents, programs designed to address needs within HBCU institutions, and access to workshops and training opportunities.

HBCU Library Alliance Programs

Accelerating Financial Growth for the HBCU Library Alliance

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this five-year program is designed to develop and implement a new infrastructure model that can sustainably support existing programs while nurturing the growth of new programs. The investment offers needed support through the addition of new staff members and the contributions of technical consultants. The expertise investments emphasize the need for stability and retention through competitive wages, professionalization of fundraising strategies, targeted development of earned revenue through new corporate and academic partnerships, and improved communications strategies to support marketing to a variety of audiences.

[Building Capacity for Humanities Special Collections at HBCUs](#)

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funded the five-year to seven-year Challenge Grant program that aimed to address preservation and conservation needs of special collections located at member libraries. The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) was the project partner on the grant. Member libraries competitively requested funding for preservation planning documents, collection surveys, treatment and rehousing services, and educational programs. Through that outreach, the HBCU Library Alliance assisted member libraries in building capacity for fundraising for special collection initiatives, documenting cultural heritage materials, increasing accessibility of special collection items, and promoting the humanities significance of their broad collections of rare materials and their irreplaceable cultural heritage artifacts.

[Empowering HBCU Libraries with Civil Rights Preservation, Digital Innovation, and Transformative Professional Development](#)

The HBCU Library Alliance received a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation grant to support its innovative program, "Empowering HBCU Libraries with Civil Rights Preservation, Digital Innovation, and Transformative Professional Development." The funding enables the HBCU Library Alliance to enhance the capabilities of HBCUs in preserving civil rights history, growing the number of librarians at HBCUs, and providing virtual learning resources for library faculty and staff. The initiative aims to empower member libraries to serve as vital resources for their communities by focusing on three key areas: a Student Protest Archives Oral History and Digitization Project, a Lifting as We Climb Fellowship Program, and an On-Demand Leadership Curriculum.

Professional Memberships

[American Library Association \(ALA\)](#)

[Association of College and Research Libraries \(ACRL\)](#)

[Digital Library Federation \(DLF\)](#)

[Lyrasis](#)

[Society of American Archivists \(SAA\)](#)

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