



# BLACK C-U: A Collaborative Portal on African-American History and Culture in Champaign-Urbana

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[www.eBlackCU.net](http://www.eBlackCU.net)

## INTRODUCTION

The goals of eBlackCU are to: 1) Centralize dispersed information on local African-American history and culture into an interactive web portal; 2) Connect this information to a community of scholars, activists and citizens interested in learning and creating knowledge; 3) Involve past and present community residents in the production of knowledge by incorporating their memories, texts and images into the portal; and 4) Develop the best-practices to scale this project up to the state-level in the implementation of eBlackIllinois:  
A Comprehensive Database on the Black Experience in Illinois.



## BLACK STUDIES MOVEMENT

**PRINCIPLE ONE:** Cyberdemocracy. eBlack depends on everyone having access to and becoming an active user of cyber technology.

**PRINCIPLE TWO:** Collective Intelligence. eBlack depends on all intellectual production being collected, analyzed, and utilized.

**PRINCIPLE THREE:** Information Freedom. eBlack depends on intellectual production being freely available to everyone.

The entire text of the 2009 eBlack Manifesto is available online at: [www.eblackstudies.org/workshop/manifesto.html](http://www.eblackstudies.org/workshop/manifesto.html).

## CONNECTING CAMPUS-COMMUNITY-COLLECTIONS

### CAMPUS

By uniting graduate students engaged in research involving Champaign-Urbana's historical African-American community, eBlackCU creates and sustains a group of budding scholars that can combine disciplinary perspectives for addressing community concerns. This group meets monthly and will host a public symposium in early Fall 2010 open to all.

### COMMUNITY

Ongoing engagement with a community church, business association, artist and interested citizens demonstrates the power of digital technology for sharing and celebrating the past with the present and the future. Digitization training workshops will build the skills necessary to sustain community collective intelligence and eBlackCU.

### COLLECTIONS

Champaign-Urbana's African-American community has been documented in an uncoordinated fashion. Publicly accessible information is dispersed among many different archives, libraries, museums and websites, not easily accessible nor easily integrated. By working with all the stakeholders in the "information professions" we work to bring this information together and use it to address community needs.

### CONNECTING

The information revolution has digitally divided our communities. By connecting campus, community and collections we bring the information of the past and the citizens of the present online. Our vision is to expand the local connections made in eBlackCU into a statewide network named eBlackIllinois.

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