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eBlack Champaign-Urbana Holding Public Symposium

Submitted by anonymous on October 31, 2010 - 11:02am **Champaign County** Local Interest

For the past year the eBlackChampaign-Urbana project has worked with local youth and community institutions to digitize local African-American history and make it accessible online. In doing this project we discovered that technological barriers prevented full use of this free resource. At this free Symposium, November 5-6, the project will attempt to connect together the many individuals and institutions making differences in the lives of local African-Americans to build a network of support that can be used to enable our community to take full advantage of the technological resources that already exist and will be built in the future.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (Champaign, IL) -- Since Fall 2009 a group of University of Illinois students, faculty and staff, in collaboration with local community institutions, has been building a digital library to celebrate local African-American history online. The project, based out of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, counts among its collaborators local educators, churches, businesses and cultural heritage institutions.

"I learned about history and how it changed the community. I realized things about technology I never knew before. I met new people and it's gonna be an unforgettable memory," said Dominique Johnson, a junior at Urbana High School, on her experience as an eBlackChampaign-Urbana summer intern, one of seven youth who were employed by the project team to learn technological skills and help produce the digital library.

The digital library is completely free and publicly accessible, at <http://www.eBlackCU.net>, and contains over 600 digital items, including videos,

Local Interest

- Illinois: Medical marijuana vote possible this week
Post date: Nov 15 2010 - 10:42am
- Blackwater/Xe Flees Jo Daviess County But Training Continues
Post date: Nov 13 2010 - 12:16pm
- PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS WEEK ON UPTV
Post date: Nov 9 2010 - 12:14pm
- The IMC Weekly for the week of Monday, November 8th
Post date: Nov 9 2010 - 10:50am
- Protests Over Massacre Coverage Spur Editor to Apologize
Post date: Nov 8 2010 - 6:30pm
- Innovators Improv on Community Impact
Post date: Nov 5 2010 -

- Amnesty Int. Calls on European Union to Prosecute CIA Renditions
5 hours 5 min ago
- Why Was Obama Shellacked?
1 day 3 hours ago
- Human Rights Groups United in Demand for Bush's Prosecution
1 day 6 hours ago
- It's Official: Rich Declare War on the Middle Class
1 day 6 hours ago

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- Good news on the Korea FTA!
- 10:10:10 и 350.org: маркетинг, манипуляции и статус кво.
- Protest After OPD Kill Derrick Jones
- JUICIOS A LOS GENOCIDAS
- Desaparecimento Forçado: uma realidade na Colômbia
- Uribe Served Subpoena by Georgetown Students
- Video: Protect Salmon AND Sea Lions
- Protest against sea lion killings
- judiciales y asoma
- Ultimo momento
- El día llegó
- Se viene el cospelazo
- Richard Shapiro Banned From India For Academic

church programs, oral histories, digital exhibits, newspaper clippings, dissertations and a nearly complete digitized, full-text searchable run of the Cotillion books, produced by Gamma Epsilon Psi since 1972 to help local youth attend college.

Margaret Neil, housing coordinator at Joann Dorsey Public Housing in Champaign, expressed her thrill at being able to search for family members' names and find information about them in the digitized Cotillions. Other former Champaign-Urbana residents, from as far away as Denver and Minneapolis, have gotten in contact with the project team after finding information about their families' histories in the digital library.

From Digital Library to Digital Community

In the course of developing the eBlackCU database the project team encountered two obstacles: 1) digital inequalities in our community that kept sectors of the population from taking full advantage of the digital tools we use in this project; 2) tension between the University of Illinois and the local community that led to suspicion of this project and its goals.

Michael Pollock, social science teacher at Urbana High School, and one of the collaborators in this project said, "I have been working with eBlackCU since its inception to help the project develop in a way that is most useful for classroom teachers and local educators. This is a perfect example of the University of Illinois interacting in a positive and constructive way with the local community and helping to erase the sometimes historical division between the two."

To address both of these issues the project team is developing a free, public campus-community Symposium to focus both on Champaign-Urbana community institutions' use of digital technology and campus-community engagement. The over-arching context for this initiative is the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project, which has the potential to revolutionize community life if civil society is mobilized to use the technology for community-building.

"UC2B supports the dialogue that eBlackCU is fostering through its 2-day, community-university symposium. This two-day event will allow community members to see what exists now and what is yet to come in the C-U digital community. By attending the event, participants will be taking an important step towards bridging the digital divide by highlighting and encouraging the adoption of digital technologies into the daily lives of members of the Champaign-Urbana community. This is what ultimately make this community more vibrant and ready for the future," said John Kersh, marketing director for UC2B.

Friday, November 5 will focus on campus-community engagement and Saturday, November 6 will focus on community use of technology. Both days the Symposium runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday will be located at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), 501 E. Daniel, Champaign, room 126; Saturday will be located at the Douglas Annex, 804 N Fifth St, Champaign. Free lunch and refreshments will be available for attendees. Drop-ins are welcome for any portion

- 9:17am
- Cirque du So Lean
Post date: Nov 4 2010 - 9:28am
- Office of Volunteer Programs to Sponsor Two Donation Drives Benefitting Hundreds of Local Families
Post date: Nov 3 2010 - 2:48pm
- "Poetry for the People" Brings Poet Lisa Marie Rollins to Urbana's Neighborhood Connections
Post date: Nov 3 2010 - 8:53am
- The IMC Weekly for the week of Monday, November 1st
Post date: Nov 1 2010 - 1:27pm

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Global Newswire

- The Origin of America's Intellectual Vacuum
Post date: Nov 15 2010 - 12:23pm
- Growth of Ex-Offender Population in United States Is a Dramatic Drag on Economy
Post date: Nov 15 2010 - 11:15am
- Our Imperial Stimulus Package: War to the Horizon
Post date: Nov 15 2010 - 10:05am
- BTL: Secret Corporate Money That Bombards TV Airwaves with Attack Ads in 2010 Election Undermines

From India For Academic Work On Kashmir

- El aparato represivo estatal garantizará el aumento
- Respuesta a Ygrí sobre beca

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of the symposium - however advance registration is requested by visiting the project website, <http://www.eBlackCU.net/portal/symposium>; calling 244-8203; or e-mailing nlenstr2@illinois.edu. All are welcome to any and all portions of this symposium.

To make the campus day of the symposium accessible for off-campus visitors a free shuttle will run from Salem Baptist Church's parking lot to the GSLIS building throughout the day Friday, November 5. The full shuttle schedule is available online at the symposium website. In general the shuttle leaves every half hour from the church parking lot.

During the symposium roundtables will be held on: Campus-Community Engagement Projects; Community-Based Research; Social Services and Technology; Education and Technology; Religious Institutions and Technology; and Community Groups, Media and Memory and Technology.

Special events include: Opening Remarks by Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement Steve Sonka; an awards ceremony and release of a commemorative booklet for Difference Makers in the lives of local African-Americans; and the release of a 200-page edited book entitled "Community Engagement @ Illinois" bringing together historical and contemporary documentation of over fifty University of Illinois projects about or addressed at local African-Americans. Free print copies will be distributed to Difference Maker awardees and online to all.

The eBlackChampaign-Urbana project is an initiative of the Community Informatics Research Lab, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, with support from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement and the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access. Community partners include the Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana Free Library; the Early American Museum, Champaign County Forest Preserve and Salem Baptist Church.



Democracy

Post date: Nov 14 2010 - 7:16am

- Medical Marijuana Initiative Passes to Make Arizona 15th State to Legalize
Post date: Nov 13 2010 - 9:56am
- The Money & Media Election Complex
Post date: Nov 12 2010 - 12:57pm
- BTL:After Election Defeat, Democrats Must Choose: Move to the Right or Stand Up for Progressive Values
Post date: Nov 12 2010 - 8:58am
- La guerre psychologique
Post date: Nov 12 2010 - 1:33am
- Cash-Cow for Banksters or Security for Working Americans? The Fight Over Social Security's Future Is On —But Which Side Is Obama On?
Post date: Nov 11 2010 - 7:51pm
- The Shortwave Report 11/12 Listen Globally!
Post date: Nov 11 2010 - 7:17pm

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