

eBlack Champaign-Urbana: A Collaborative Digitization Case Study



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Context 1: Genealogy and Citizen Science

*50-90 percent of the users of
archives are genealogists

*From FamilySearch.Com (Mormon Church)
presentation on citizen science and genealogy:

- Worldwide, volunteer-based “army” to index census images
(extract key information)
- More than 100,000 volunteers transcribe a million names daily
 - Internet-based system —
work from home or public computing center

(<http://www.personalarchiving.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/FamilySearch-Wright.pdf>)

Context 2: Digital Inequalities - Nation

64% of Americans have Broadband at home (2009)

Only 49% African-American

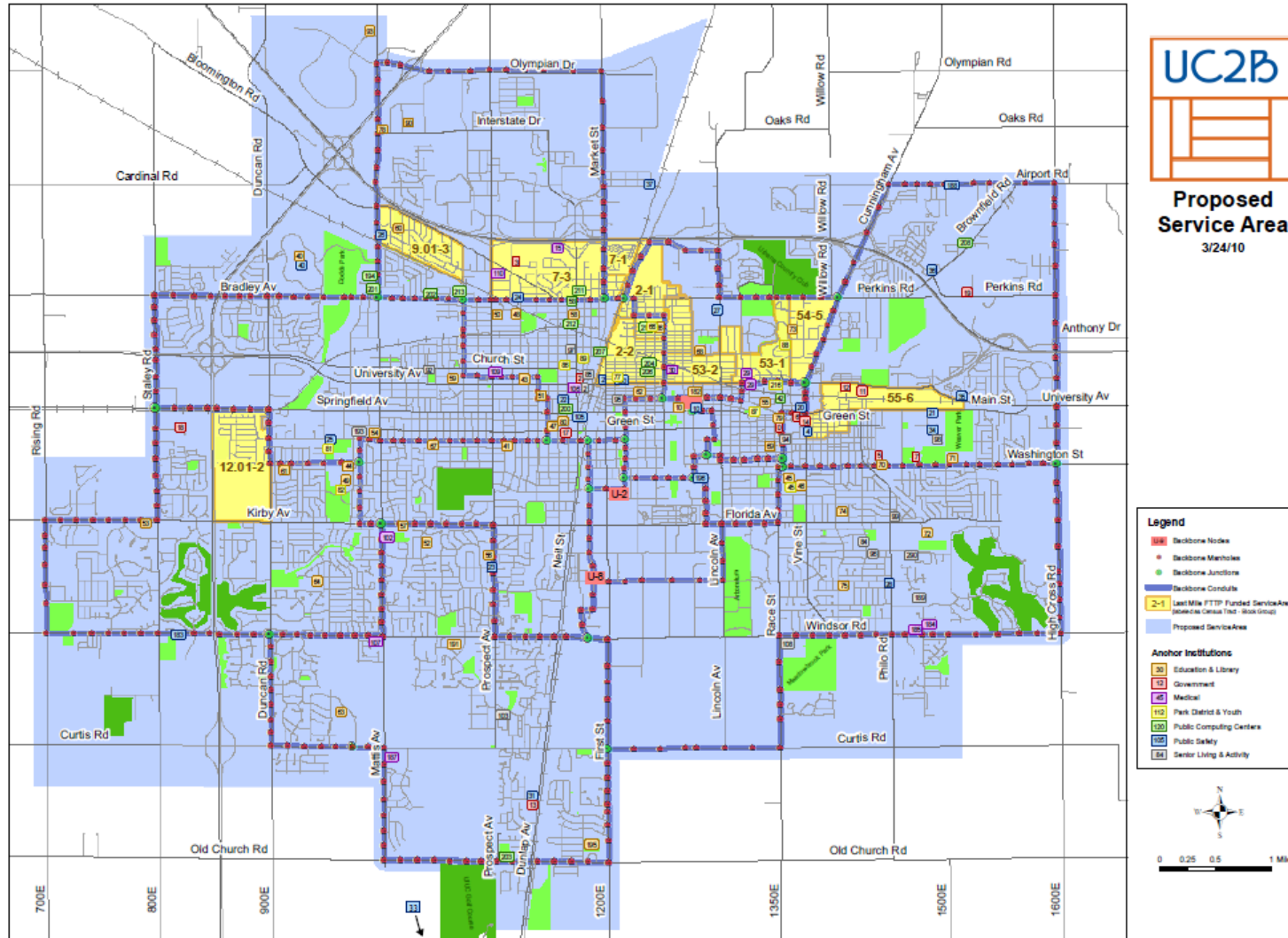
Only 33% Urban Black w/ less than \$25,000/yr

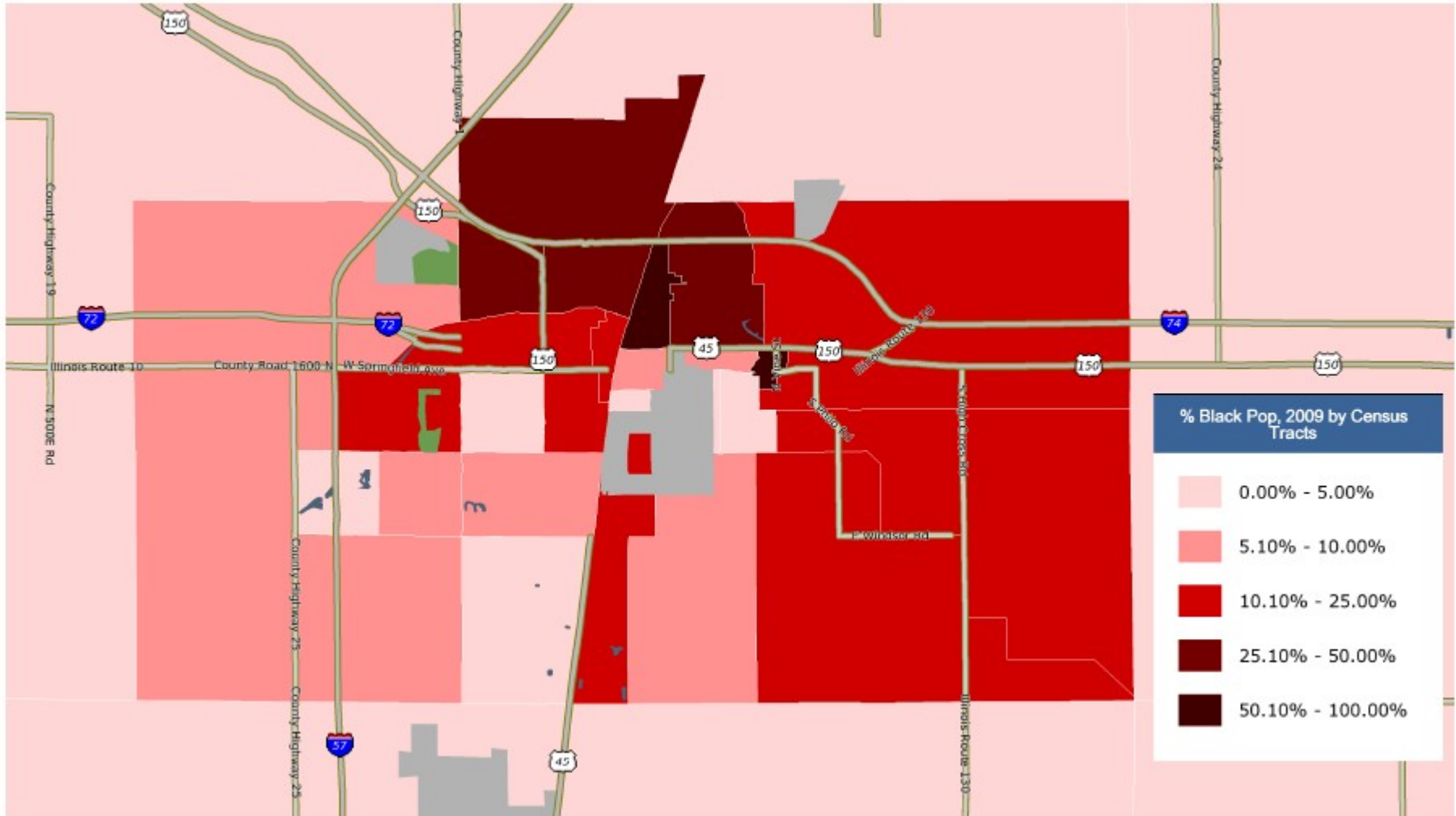
Only 42% Urban Black w/ only High School degree

**10-20 percentage point difference in adoption
between White and Black**

SOURCE: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/2010/ESA_NTIA_US_Broadband_Adoption_Report_11082010.pdf

Context 2: Digital Inequalities - Local





African-Americans by Census Tract, 2009

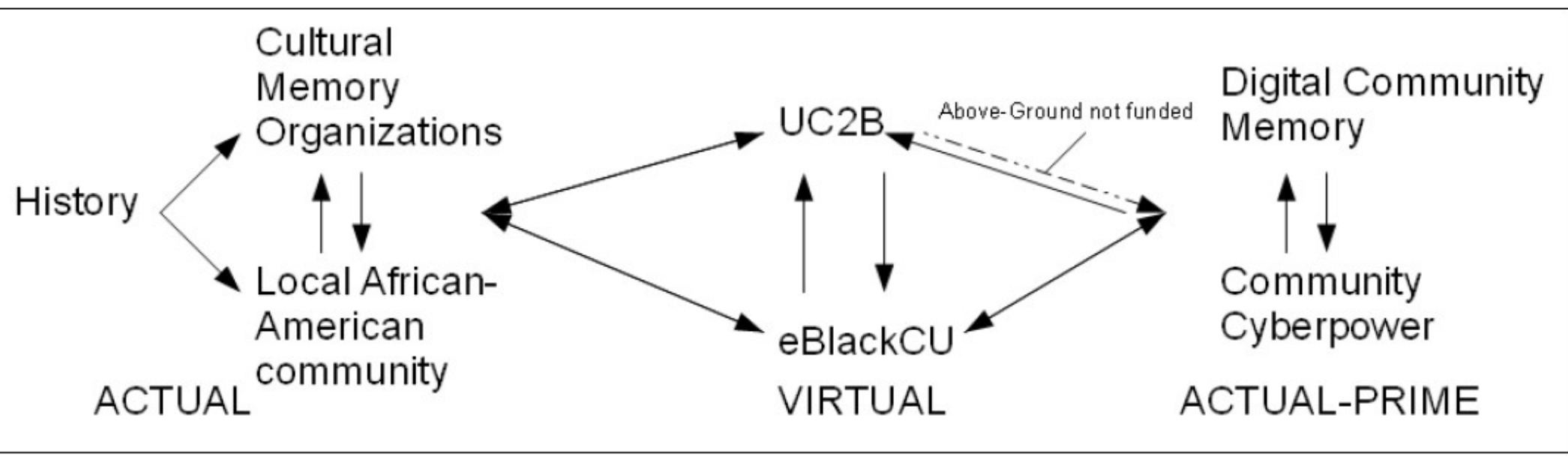
Local Context

	Champaign	Urbana	Champaign-Urbana	Champaign County
Total	78115	39276	117391	192135
Total African-American	12892	6460	19352	24343
Percent African-American	16.5	16.4	16.5	12.7

Decade	Total Afro-Am	Percent Afro-Am.
1860	31	2
1870	173	2
1880	334	4
1890	318	4
1900	479	3
1910	876	4
1920	1569	6
1930	1992	6
1940	2106	6
1950	4153	7
1960	6132	8
1970	8549	9
1980	11986	11
1990	13165	13
2000	15761	15
2009	19352	17

African-Americans in C-U. (top) Source: U.S. Census Population Surveys, by Place, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Based on Black or African-American Alone or in Combination with One or More Races Classification. (right) Source: U.S. Census Population, Urbanized Areas.

Conceptual Model of Project



Overview of eBlackCU

Over 40,000 pages

Over 6 days of audio and video

All publicly accessible

Anyone can contribute items and information -
including YOU =

<http://eblackcu.net/portal/contribution>

Time	Outside Community			Inside Community		
Area of work	Cultural Memory Orgs	UIUC and Community Engagement	UC2B	North First Street	Salem Bapt. Church	Spiders/ Youth Interns
Spring	Facilitating partnerships / digitization	Graduate Student Meetings	C Cubed Meetings	North First Street Digital Exhibit	Digital Exhibit/ Archive CDs	Recruitment and Curriculum
Summer	Summer Digitization	Circulate Call for Proposals	Symposium Planning Meetings	Oral History Day and Posters	Website and Spiders in Church	Summer Program
Fall	List non digitized holdings	<i>CE @ Illinois</i> and Symposium	Symposium/ Follow-Up Jan. 8 Event	No activity	Open House and Organizing	Struggle to Keep Youth Involved

Description of 2010 Activity



Simple Site Search

Search

Use Google to Search the eBlackCU database

Google™ Custom Search Search ×

[Browse Items](#) [Browse Collections](#) [Browse Exhibits](#) [Contribute](#) [About eBlackCU](#) [Introduction](#)
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Ground Level

Title

Ground Level

Subject

Independent Press, African-American Newspapers, African-American Magazines, Campus-Community Interactions

Description

One photocopy of Ground Level: Viewpoints and Opinions from the Local Community. Volume 1, Number 1 (1976). Champaign, Illinois: Oasis Graphic Arts.

Creator

Oasis Graphic Arts

Date

1976

Online Submission

No

Files

[Ground_Level_Critique.pdf](#)

Collection

[Doris K. Wylie Hoskins Archive on Cultural Diversity](#)

Citation

Oasis Graphic Arts, "Ground Level," in eBlack Champaign-Urbana, Item #793, <http://eblackcu.net/portal/items/show/793> (accessed January 18, 2011).

[Previous Item](#)

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eBlackCU Screen-shot

Memories of the African-American Experience in Champaign-Urbana

Title

Memories of the African-American Experience in Champaign-Urbana

Subject

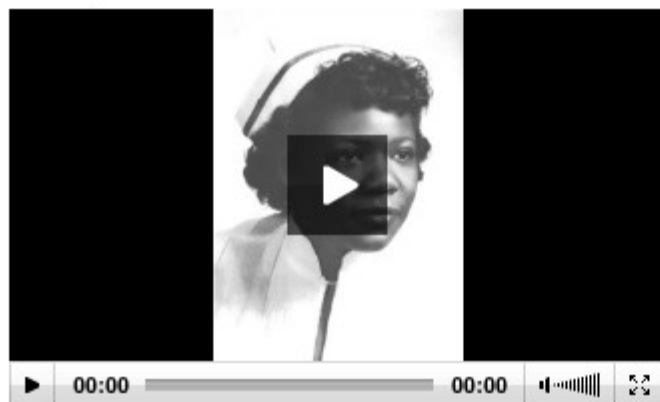
Oral History, Baseball, Chanute, Centennial High School, Segregation, Racism

Description

Bernice Harrington, Ruth Latham and Ernie Westfield share their memories of growing up in Champaign County at Garden Hills Elementary on January 21, 2011.



Video part 1



Video part 2



Video of first hour of Conference: Economic Leaders discuss Technology and Jobs. Panelists include: Craig Rost, City of Champaign; Tom Carrino, City of Urbana; Otis Noble, University of Illinois Office of Equal Opportunity and Access; and Minor Jackson, III, Parkland College Workforce Development Center. Panel was moderated by John Kersh of CITES, University of Illinois and UC2B.



Video of Second hour of Conference. Featured small group break-out discussions on 1) Churches and Technology; 2) Youth and Technology; and 3) Jobs and Technology.



Video of third hour of Conference. Featured a report-back to the large group on the break out conversations and a discussion of next steps for our community.

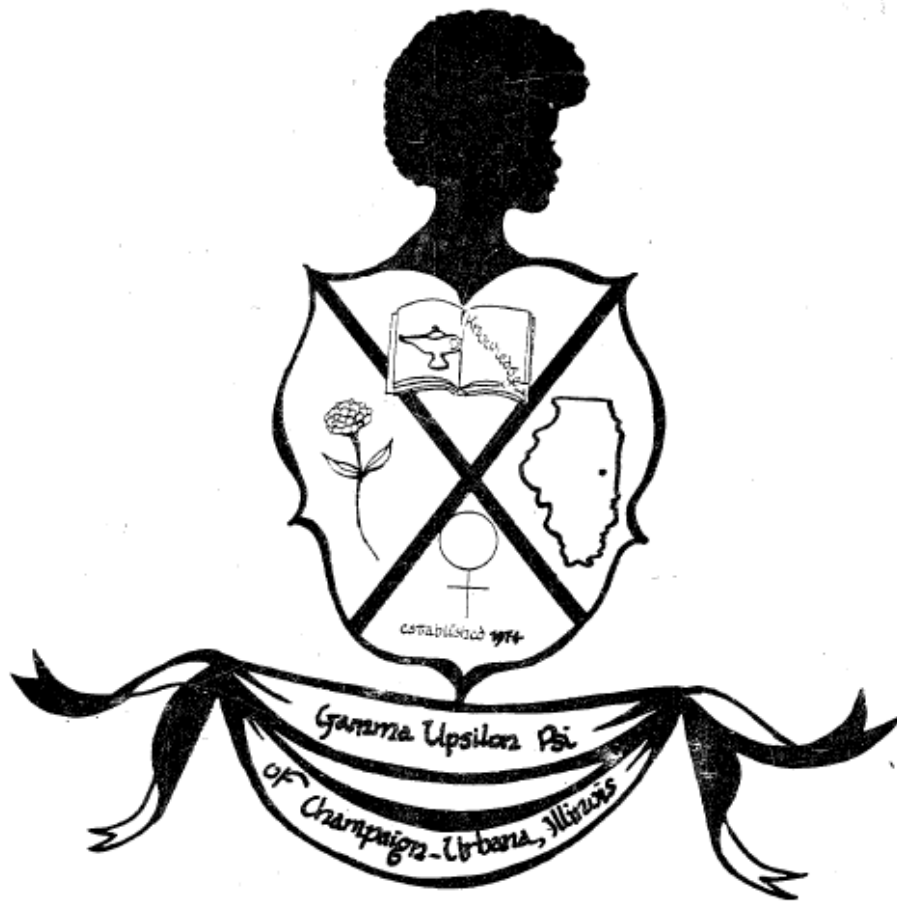
[Photos of Conference, Part 1](#)

[Photos of Conference, Part 2](#)

Recording History as it Happens!

Cotillion Yeabook Database

Sixteenth Annual Debutante Cotillion



<http://eblackcu.net/cotillions/>

All cotillion yearbooks from
1972-2006 and 2009-2010
online with searchable name
index of Debutantes and
Escorts.

We are filling in the gaps and
need YOU to make this
resource come alive!

Who created the content?	Number of items
University of Illinois	230
African-American Community	188
Media	120
Cultural Memory Organizations	58
White Community	50
TOTAL	646

**Cultural Memory Orgs = Libraries, Archives, Museums and other entities with collections of historical information*

**Individual/Entity responsible for creating content
in eBlackCU digital library**

Who digitized the items in eBlackCU?	Number of Items
Spiders	149
eBlackCU Project Director	126
Cultural Memory Organizations	123
News-Gazette	73
University of Illinois, not incl. library/archives	71
Community Individuals/Groups	52
Media, not incl. News-Gazette	25
Government	18
Community Informatics Club	9
TOTAL	646

Individual/Entity responsible for digitizing content in the eBlackCU digital library



Salem Baptist Church



North First Street Photo by Patricia Rosario



e BLACK CU: A community of people
empowering Black people to thrive
The only Black-owned bank
www.BlackCU.net



Locks of Glory
Locks of Glory
1004

355-4556
Closed Sunday & Holidays



The Spiders - Photo by Patricia Rosario



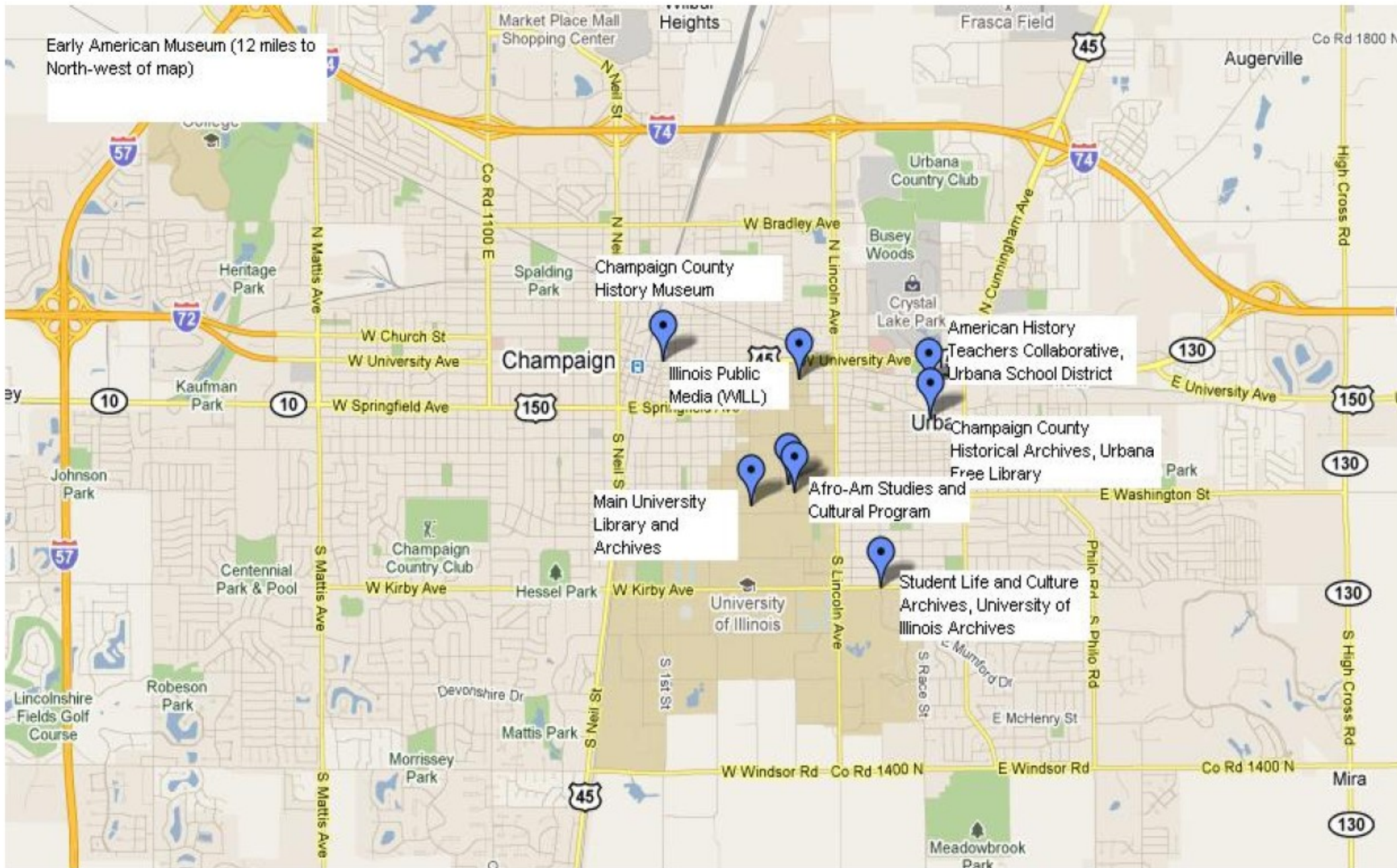
Spiders at American History Teachers' Collaborative, July 2010.

“I got to see a lot of my teachers and it was good to know that the teachers would actually want to use this stuff in their classroom....It was a good experience to know I could teach a teacher something instead of them teaching me all the time.”

a Spider reflects

Community Archives Typology

Type of Community Archives	Type of Social Capital Dominating	Local Example	National Example
Personal Archives	Bonding Social Capital	Pauline Gates Pelmore Photograph/Quilt Collection	Ubiquitous (PersonalArchiving.com)
Family Archives	Bonding Social Capital	Bridgewater Family Archives	DebDavis.org, Home of the Grand Chain Gang, Southern Illinois
Archives of Community Institution (church, non-profit, etc.)	Bonding Social Capital	Salem Baptist Church Archives	Little Black Pearl, Chicago
Independent Community Archives, Museum, Historical Society or Library ¹	Bonding Social Capital	Doris K. Wylie Hoskins Archive	Manilatown Heritage Foundation, San Francisco (ARCHIVES 2008)
Translocal digital community archives	Bonding Social Capital	Black Urbana High School Alumni Network, Facebook	Website of Chilean Community in South Yorkshire (Prescott, 2008)
Community-Based Documentation Projects	Bonding and Bridging (mixed)	eBlackChampaign-Urbana Project	Southeast Asian Archives at University of California-Irvine (Shilton and Srinivasan, 2007)
Municipal Archives (Canda) / Archives in Public Library (U.S.)	Bonding and Bridging (mixed)	Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana Free Library	Austin History Center, see also Wills (1990) and Suhler (1970)
One-off acquisition of community records	Bridging Social Capital	Acquisition of John Lee Johnson Papers by Illinois History and Lincoln Collections, University of Illinois Library	This is the standard way in which archives acquire the records of community organizations. (Klaassen, 1990)

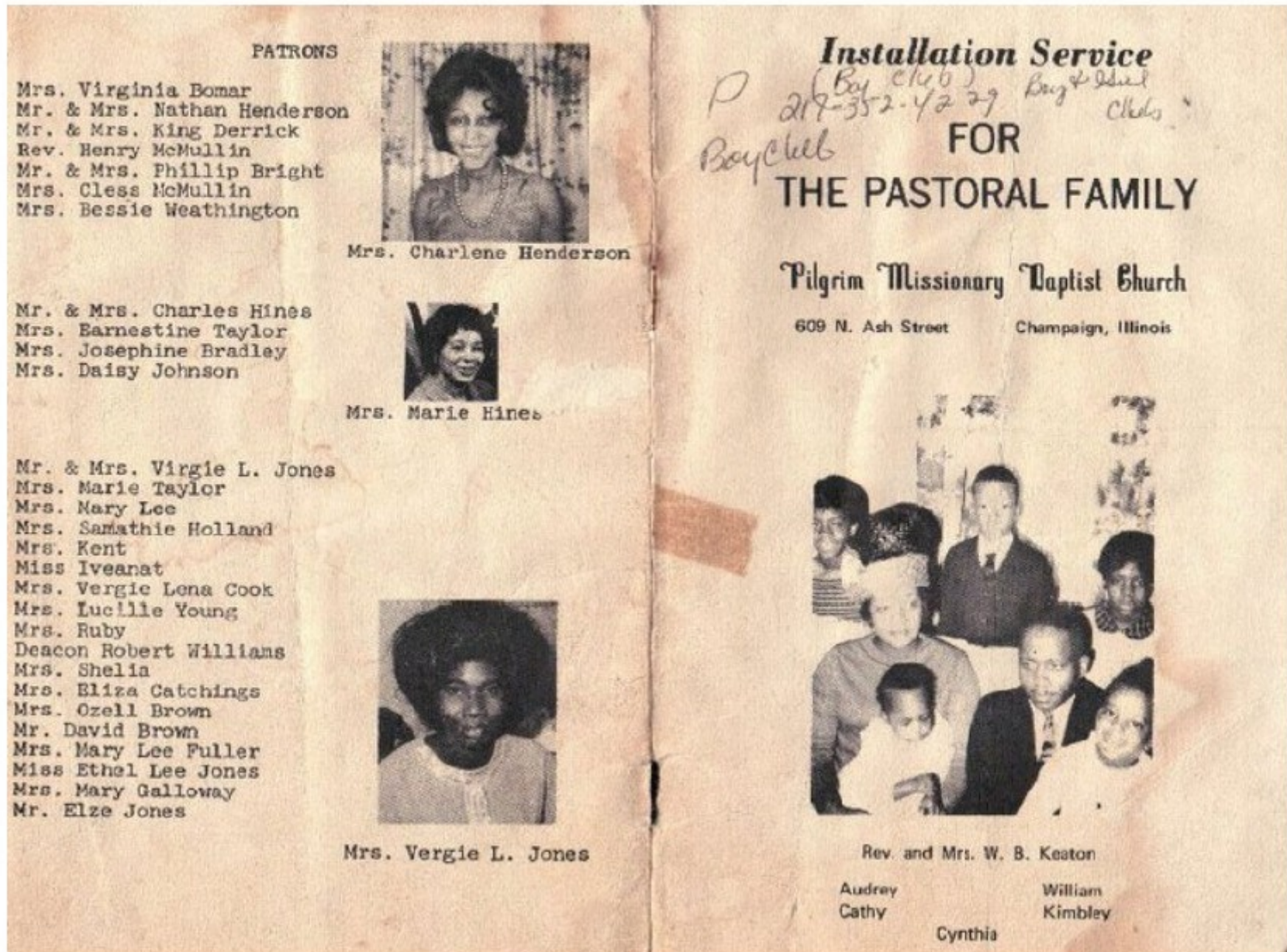


Location of Cultural Memory Orgs in C-U

Photos of [REDACTED]

Photo 11 of 115 Photos of Cynthia · Cynthia's Profile

Previous Next



Facebook and Community Archives



Noah Lenstra Here is an article from the digitized Courier on an African-American barber in Homer

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/dnc/Repository/ml.asp?Ref=VFVDLzE5MDMvMDUvMjggQXIwMDExMQ%3D%3D&Mode=Gif&Locale=english-skin-custom>(May 28, 1903): "DROPPED DEAD AT HOMER" Sudden Death of George Vaughan , a Colored Barber . Ate Hearty Brea...

[See More](#)

Article - Untitled Article

www.library.illinois.edu

 October 15, 2010 at 10:21am · [Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Share](#)

 **Angela Rivers** likes this.



Carla E. Small Jones WOW! Thanks Noah, keep up the great work!

October 15, 2010 at 10:57am · [Like](#)



April Diaz Newspaper articles from the early twentieth century are all just in a league of their own. It seems as though this article was written by Chubbz.

October 15, 2010 at 6:49pm · [Like](#)



Angela Rivers Noah, thank for the article from Homer. The Masonic Lodge mentioned in the article was the Lone Star Lodge of Champaign-Urbana. One of the earliest non-labor jobs African Americans had when they came to Illinois and other northern area was barbering. That was because in many cases in the south and under slavery it was a profession that they were trained in. Check the early blue books and directories to find ads, etc.

October 16, 2010 at 2:50pm · [Like](#)



Angela Rivers Noah, went though the online newspaper archives. Thanks. I have put in my book marks. As to Mrs Bridgewater's map, my mother has also talked to be about 1st Street, when she was little in the 1930's and early 1940's. I have to see where I put my notes on that discussion and e-mail them to you. She also did a map. I just need to see where it is.

October 16, 2010 at 3:18pm · [Like](#)

Write a comment...

Data from one local Facebook “archivist” in the Black Community

Type of Photograph Album	Number of Albums
Event	62
Community	48
Personal	37
Funeral	31
Church	27
Family	18
History	12
TOTAL	235

One local Black "Facebook archivists" contribution to the digitization of the local African-American experience between December 2009 and February 2011.

Who used eBlackCU?*

5,207 unique computers access library

41 percent of users returned multiple times

96 percent from United States

74 percent from Illinois

65 percent of visitors from Champaign County

4 percent of visitors from City of Chicago

*From March 11, 2010 to April 18, 2011

Using Analytics to Show Actual Virtual Actual Cycle in Operation



Chart of Visitors to eBlackCU during the months of October and November 2010. Visits peak immediately before and during our two day Mass Mobilization Campus Community Conference, and again November 18 when the full proceedings of conference are posted online.



The eBlackCU Difference Makers at November 2010 Conference

Collapsed Code of Symposium Attendee	Number of Attendees
Community	103
Higher Education	71
Culture and Media	18
Government/Social Service	17
Youth	15
Activists	11
UC2B	9
TOTAL	244

Attendees of Campus-Community Symposium

Code of Giver of Positive Feedback	Number of Individuals
Higher Education	29
Culture and Media	15
Youth Organizations	12
Government/Social Service	10
Community	9
Activists	6
UC2B	3
Other	1
TOTAL	85

Who gave digital, positive feedback to project?

Future Research

Sustainability and Spiders: Finding ways to embed the eBlackCU model into area high schools, Cultural Heritage Organizations and Churches.

Comparative Lens on African-American Community Cultural Heritage Organizations and Technology Across Illinois. See poster on project.



How do we think about/assess digital public history and digital community archives initiatives?

Need to develop a common language.

Let's discuss today!

Thank You!

Committee: Professor Abdul Alkalimat (Gerald McWorter), Chair; Assistant Professor Kate Williams; Professor Anne Gilliland, University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Information Studies

Community Informatics Research Laboratory, GSLIS

Local Cultural Memory Organizations, especially Champaign County Historical Archives and Early American Museum

Salem Baptist Church and North First Street Business Association

Graduate School of Library and Info Sci/Dept. of African-American Studies

Office of Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement, University of Illinois

Office of Equal Opportunity and Access

eBlackCU Spiders

Chris Hamb, Connie Dillard, Brian Bell, Zernial Bogan and John Kersh

African-American Community of Champaign-Urbana!!