



2021 Fact Sheet

The HBCU Library Alliance (www.hbculibraries.org) 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, CEO and Library Director, Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library, is the founding Board Chair. Monika Rhue, Director of Library Services and Curation, Johnson C. Smith University (NC), is the current Board Chair.

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 HBCUs so designated by the White House Initiative on HBCUs, schools of library and information science at HBCU institutions, and
2. Libraries of organizations that are not HBCUs, which may be admitted only 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 library 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

Building Capacity for Humanities Special Collections at HBCUs

<http://www.hbculibraries.org/humanities-2019.html>

Funded by a [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH) challenge grant, the goal of this program is to improve the preservation of significant collections held within HBCUs. This program aims to address preservation and conservation needs of special collections located at member libraries. Member libraries will be able to competitively request funding for preservation planning documents, collection surveys, treatment and rehousing services, and educational programs.

Partnerships

[HBCU Library Alliance Summer Library Conservation/Preservation Internship Program](#)

The Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation and the HBCU Library Alliance have received funding to coordinate a fourth round of fully-funded, six-week summer internships in library and archives preservation at recognized library preservation/conservation laboratories. The internships are delivered virtually or face-to-face. HBCU undergraduate students interested in the humanities, arts and sciences are given the opportunity to learn and practice library preservation skills for this full-time internship under the mentorship of professional conservators and library staff at a host site.

The [Library of Congress](#) participates in this project and coordinated two fully-funded eight-week 2020 summer internship in library conservation and preservation.

Authenticity Project Fellowship Program

<https://www.diglib.org/announcing-the-authenticity-project/>

The Authenticity Project, an HBCU Library Alliance + Digital Library Federation collaboration, is an IMLS-funded mentoring and professional development program for early-to-mid-career library staff from HBCUs with an ultimate goal of creating a more diverse, inclusive, collaborative digital library workforce that is ready to work across all types of institutions.

The Council on Library and Information Resources

<https://www.clir.org>

The [Council on Library and Information Resources](#) (CLIR) and the HBCU Library Alliance entered into a long-term partnership that seeks to develop collaborative solutions to build community; cultivate leadership; and preserve, make accessible, and advocate for the rich cultural heritage—original bound volumes, documents, photographs, and audiovisual materials—held within HBCUs. Specific goals include (1) assessing the research value of and risks to these collections, (2) improving scholarly and public access through digitization, and (3) establishing a leadership training program for HBCU library staff.

The HBCU Library Alliance and the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) have received a \$75,000 planning grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a project titled "[Creating Access to HBCU Library Alliance Archives: Needs, Capacity, and Technical Planning](#)." The project will identify common barriers and shared visions for creating access to historic collections held by libraries at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Staff and Contact Information

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