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SOLINET Product News

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famous alumni and churches, which often served as the first classrooms at several of these institutions. "This is an excellent resource for scholars and others interested in understanding the importance of institutions of higher learning founded by African-Americans. It offers direct access to original documents and images chronicling the story of these institutions, which are usually only available to researchers by travel to the institutions themselves," said Dorothy Autrey, chair of the history and political science department at Alabama State University.

The online collection features materials from **Alabama State University, Atlanta University Center, Bennett College for Women, Fisk University, Grambling State University, Hampton University, Southern University, Tuskegee University, Tennessee State University and Virginia State University.**

To view materials from the collection, go to contentdm.auctr.edu. For more information about the partnership and the HBCU Library Alliance digital library initiative, visit <http://hbculibraries.org/html/programs.html>.

SOLINET PRODUCT NEWS

SOLINET Receives NEH Grant for Its Preservation Field Services Program

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded \$500,000 to SOLINET to support its regional Preservation Field Services program for libraries, archives, and museums. The grant will fund education and training, reference services, consulting, and provision of free information resources

to strengthen programs to preserve and protect collections in cultural organizations.

Plans and programs that support preservation are critical to enable access to collections and information resources now and in the future. The 2005 *Heritage Health Index Report* from Heritage Preservation reports that 77% of collecting institutions do not specifically allocate funds for preservation in their budgets, and that only 20% have paid staff dedicated to preservation. Furthermore, 80% do not have a written emergency response plan with staff trained to implement it.

Collections in all formats are in need of focused and ongoing preservation attention, and many continue to be damaged because of storage in poorly controlled environments or inadequate facilities. With the grant from NEH, SOLINET plans to increase preservation knowledge and skills in cultural organizations, provide support for effective preservation planning and management, and strengthen the regional preservation community.

The Preservation Field Services Program at SOLINET has provided leadership, collaboration, and educational services since 1984, with many activities funded during that time by other grants from NEH. During this new grant, SOLINET will continue its successful preservation education and training program, focusing on the development of more web-based courses and a new online curriculum devoted to preservation of digital resources. New interactive, web-based resources will be developed and freely provided to promote preservation best practices and enable ready access to

reliable information. The NEH grant also supports the continuation of disaster response and recovery services, including 24/7 telephone and e-mail assistance, on-site assistance from volunteer experts, and emergency communication support through a disaster wiki. The award from NEH funds services from 2008 through 2010.

Louisiana Honors SOLINET for Hurricane Recovery Assistance

Louisiana State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton presented a certificate of proclamation to SOLINET for “shining the light on Louisiana.” This proclamation was signed by Mitch Landrieu, the lieutenant governor of Louisiana.

“It is a real privilege for SOLINET to work with the libraries on the Gulf Coast,” said Kate Nevins, SOLINET Executive Director. “These libraries have been so strong during a difficult time and have not only continued to provide vital services to their patrons, they have expanded their offerings to meet increased needs.”

The proclamation honors SOLINET for its support of libraries in hurricane-affected areas. With the assistance of a \$12.2 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, SOLINET and the State Library of Louisiana are supporting public libraries in the state recover from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The three-year grant has funded temporary branches, library staff positions, operating expenses, collection development, the planning process for new library facilities, and computers with Internet access.

SOLINET to Co-Sponsor Web 2.0 Conference

SOLINET and OCLC Eastern (formerly OCLC CAPCON) will co-sponsor a conference about Web 2.0 and its role in libraries.

“Changing the Way Libraries Do Business: Meeting the Challenges of a Web 2.0 World” will be Thursday, March 20, at Arlington County Public Library in Virginia. The daylong conference will offer these sessions:

- **Keynote: Emerging Trends and Tools that Make Your Online Life Easier** by Jenny Levine, Internet Development Specialist and Strategy Guide at ALA.
- **Playing to Learn in the Summer of '07: How 23 Things Opened the Door to Web 2.0 for Maryland Public Library Staff** by Jennifer Howell, Staff Development Coordinator at Western Maryland Regional Library.
- **JMO, HTH! Social Networking in Academic Libraries** by Jamie W. Coniglio, Head of the Reference Department at Fenwick Library at George Mason University in Virginia.
- **Metadata Before and After the Web (2.0)** by Karen Calhoun, Vice President of WorldCat and Metadata Services at OCLC.
- **LibraryThing for Libraries** by Kate Sheehan, incoming Head of Knowledge and Innovation Services at Darien Library in Connecticut.

The cost is \$85 for members of SOLINET or OCLC Eastern, and \$110 for non-members of either organization.

A registration form and details about the conference, including session abstracts and biographies of speakers, are available on the SOLINET website at www.solinet.net/Web2.0_Conference.

Ed McBride Joins SOLINET as Chief Marketing and Outreach Officer

SOLINET has named **Ed McBride** to the newly created position of Chief Marketing and Outreach Officer of the library network. He will join SOLINET in the senior-level leadership role on February 4.

In this new role, Mr. McBride will execute innovative programs to help members make the most of their benefits. He will be responsible for ensuring that members are aware of the wide array of services SOLINET provides and for building partnerships with libraries and information organizations.

Mr. McBride is well-known throughout the country for his innovative work in customer service, especially to existing clients. As the Senior Vice President overseeing the Customer Resource Center at Gale (now known as Cengage), Mr. McBride assisted clients after they had purchased a Gale product. The Customer Resource Center, created in 2004, helped Gale retain 97percent of its clients.

As a consultant to libraries, Mr. McBride has advised his clients on building new facilities and automating bibliographic circulation control and other services. Mr. McBride has more than 20 years of experience in the library field. Previous positions have included Automated

Services Coordinator for Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center and Director of Support Services for San Francisco Public Library. He has a bachelor of science in library technology and administration from the University of Memphis.

EBSCO PRODUCT NEWS

14 Additional Publishers Select MetaPress to Host E-content Services

MetaPress®, the world's largest primary host of scientific, technical, and medical content, is very pleased to announce that 14 additional publishers have recently launched their electronic content distribution service via the MetaPress 2.0 platform to host their e-content services. These publishers include the following:

- Bellwether Publishing
- Bulletin of Atomic Scientists
- Canadian Meteorological & Oceanographic Society
- Creative Education Foundation
- Dieticians of Canada
- Harcourt Connected Learning – *Classroom Connect*
- J. Ross Publishing
- Karnac Books
- Men's Studies Press
- Oncology Nursing Society
- Society of Wood Science & Technology
- University of Colorado, Arctic & Alpine Research Center
- University of Nebraska at Omaha – *Journal of Latino and Latin American Studies*
- Walsh Medical Media