

Digital Library Consulting press release

## **US COLLEGES OPEN THEIR RICH ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY TO THE WORLD**

### ***Hundreds of US colleges participate in Historic Campus Architecture Project***

4 December 2008. New York, USA. – Software technology is helping hundreds of US colleges preserve their historic architecture and use it as a unique selling point.

The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) have worked with digital archiving experts Digital Library Consulting to create the largest database of its kind – with nearly 400 colleges and universities across the US submitting landscape and architectural information and images.

“The project is a tremendous success. Not only does it draw prospective students, it is also popular with academic administrators from all disciplines as they seek to understand the importance of their campus architecture and landscape history”, says Barbara Christen, Project Director.

“The project was a valuable opportunity for CIC to not only raise awareness of such rich architectural history, but also to use the physical nature of the campuses as a marketing tool for potential applicants.”

Called the Historic Campus Architecture Project (HCAP), it consists of an online database that includes nearly 5,000 images of 2,100 places of historical significance as well as extensive information about buildings, landscapes, campus plans, and heritage sites of US colleges and universities.

The CIC used the open-source digital collection software Greenstone and partnered with Digital Library Consulting to implement it.

“Greenstone software was chosen because it is open source and we were able to manipulate it to make the most efficient use of the information we had collected,” explains Barbara.

“Digital Library Consulting developed a great working relationship with CIC. They were terrific; it was such a pleasure to work with them,” says Barbara.

“They were so clear about what the issues were that we had to deal with as we were fine tuning and developing the website that it was really a wonderful experience on many counts and they were extremely professional.”

Through the HCAP website, web users can find institutions or places in a particular state or region; seek information about a specific type of architecture, designer, or time period; or gather data for future research.

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The online database makes possible cross-referencing between institutions regarding architectural styles, time period, geographic location, and numerous other criteria.

Through a user-friendly search engine and a rich set of bibliographic materials, it also guides viewers to a wide variety of sources that they can use for further study.

"The comprehensive bibliography provides a really useful resource for scholars, architectural historians and planning professionals – it's a real go-to place for the research into campus history matters", says Barbara.

In the future CIC plans to continuously update the site with new and updated college information and images.

The HCAP was originated by the CIC in 2002, with two funding grants from the Getty Foundation's Campus Heritage initiative over the course of the project.

"CIC were very proud of what they were able to accomplish with the Getty grant and they look forward to facilitating its existence for many years to come".

The HCAP project can be accessed at <http://www.cic.org/hcap/index.asp>

## **About CIC**

CIC is the major national service organization for all small and mid-sized, independent, liberal arts colleges and universities in the USA. It was founded in 1956.

## **About Digital Library Consulting**

Based in Hamilton, New Zealand, Digital Library Consulting are experts in the field of archive digitization using world-renowned Greenstone software.

They have worked with a number of leading tertiary institutions and libraries throughout the US, New Zealand, Africa and the Pacific.

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