The Black Scholars Index™

Digital Humanities Project on Scholarship from the Black Diaspora

Leshell Hatley, Creator

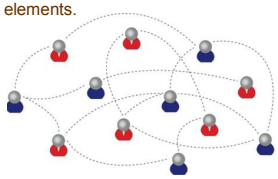
1 Introduction

The Black Scholars Index™ (BSI) is a web-based repository of academic scholarship within the *Black Diaspora*. As the first collection of its kind, BSI seeks to render a centralized portrayal of academic achievement and research contributions of indexed Scholars. This goal is to be accomplished with several website components that provide a means for communication and collaboration for Black scholars and students wishing to pursue advanced degrees around the world.

2 Web Components

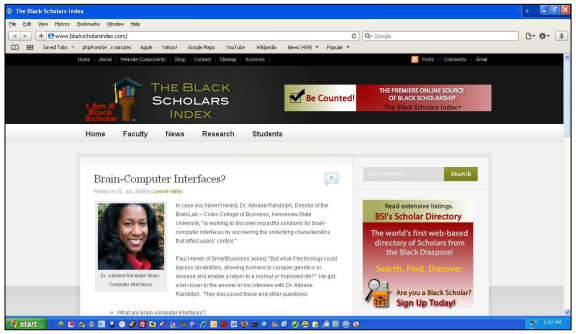
3 What is The Black Scholars Index?

Just over a year old, **The Black Scholars Index™** hosts features such as the **Black Scholars Directory** - an online listing of Black Scholars from every discipline; **Talented Tenth** – a monthly Scholarly Journal; **BSI Digital Repository** - a database of dissertations, research papers, and other work produced by Black scholars; online **collaboration tools**; a network for **mentoring** potential students of higher education; **pod and webcasts**, and a host of **Web 2.0** and **data visualization** elements.



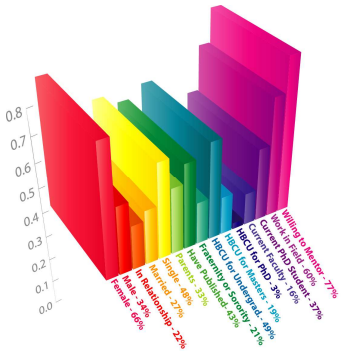
Within the next year, many new features will be added to BSI. One of the intended analysis tools examines the collaboration and co-authorship of research projects and papers. Another tool provides an interface for data entry of well-known African-American Scholars who have lived over the past century; data-entry will be done by volunteer Scholars already registered.

4 BSI Screenshot



5 2-Month Snap Shot of Registered Scholars

Two months after BSI was launched, a snap shot was taken of demographic information relating to ~200 registered Scholars. The results are interesting, especially the HBCU attendance trends and the top degrees obtain of those registered to-date. Below are those statistics along with a map of registered employment locations.



- Top BS Degree obtained = **BS Biology**
- Top Masters Degree obtained = **MS Public Health**
- Top PhD Degree obtained = **PhD in Computer Science**

Most of the currently registered scholars work on the East Cost.

6 Construction & Data Mining

To-date, all web applications have been developed and tested with open-source software, providing low startup costs. Costs currently include sweat equity; design, build, & testing time; and hosting fees.

Development of additional features will continue to use open-source products as much as feasibly possible. However, the cost to develop (design and program) each feature grows with complexity.

7 Implications

Although the measurements from the 2-month snapshot do not reflect the total number of African-Americans with advanced degrees, it provides a glimpse of demographic information and illustrates the potential benefits of data analysis over time. This information along with more qualitative analyses of the Scholars indexed can prove beneficial for future educational programs, mentoring organizations, and recruitment efforts of a variety of organizations and institutions.

8 Acknowledgements

Thanks to all the currently indexed Black Scholars who have registered over the past several months. BSI looks forward to providing valuable resources to you and those who register in the future.

9 Tax-Deductible Donations

Tax-deductible donations can be made at any time directly on Uplift, Inc.'s website. Please give to this valuable endeavor.

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