The Black Scholars Index™
Research on Scholarship in the Black Diaspora

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Brand new logo!

I Am A Black Scholar

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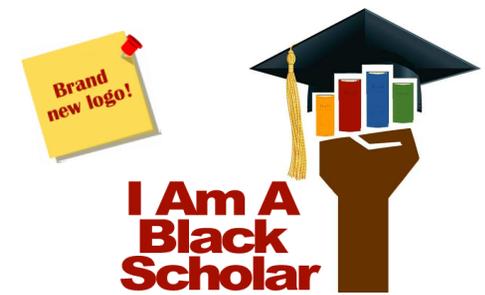
1 Introduction

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, while serving as a means for communication and collaboration for Black scholars and students wishing to pursue advanced degrees around the world.

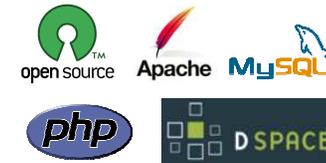## 2 Research Questions

1. What <u>type of data-mining</u> is needed to produce a high-quality web-based resource such as BSI and <u>how can it be achieved</u>?

2. What are the <u>implications</u> for creating such a resource?

3 What is The Black Scholars Index?

Less than a year old, **The Black Scholars Index**™ intends to host features such as the **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.
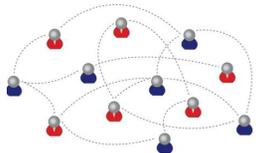
Within the next year, BSI will undergo a design revision, expansion of content, and the implementation of many web tools currently undergoing configuration. One of the intended analysis tools examines the collaboration and co-authorship of research projects and papers. Another tool provides an interface 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 Screen Shot

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**

Map by www.batchgeocode.com

Most of the currently registered scholars work on the East Cost.
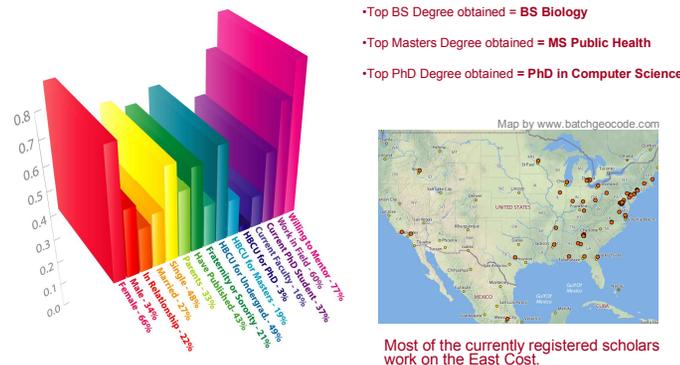
6 Construction & Data Mining

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.

open source — Apache — MySQL — PHP — DSPACE

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 snap shot do not reflect the total number of African-Americans with advanced degrees, it provides a glimpse of demographic information and illustrates the potential for the amount of information that can be garnered overtime. This information along with more qualitative analyses of the perspectives, influences, and motivations of those indexed can prove beneficial for future educational programs, mentoring organizations, and recruitment efforts by 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 the BSI website. Please give to this valuable endeavor.

donate now!