GIVEN THE TRANSFORMATIVE POSSIBILITIES OF THE INTERNET, KEN KING AND I HAVE BEEN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR LOW-COST SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING
In 2003, when we began our project, research libraries were locked in an insurmountable struggle with the commercial publishers. Rising cost were disrupting library budgets that necessitated cancellation of many journals.

There was a parallel, but not yet acknowledged, crisis of scaling. Research library collections double in size every 17 years, so the traditional approach of accumulating and storing all affordable scholarship locally on each campus will eventually become financially unbearable.

The Internet offers an alternative to these two dilemmas.
The Internet provides ‘free’ and rapid worldwide dissemination of scholarly ideas and knowledge.

The Open-Access movement was growing and needed encouragement; a mandated shift to open access was politically unacceptable at Cornell.

We focused on collaborative approaches that utilize Internet publication and local university responsibility for covering the cost of its own scholarly publication.

We founded The Internet-First University Press – which makes online publishing primary, but provides print-on-demand and sale of physical DVDs as a secondary delivery means whereby the interested user, rather than the publisher, assumes these costs.
With Google and other search engines, we have no advertising costs and essentially no inventory and distribution costs, but do have a basis for a collaborative, open access publishing by universities.

A grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies enabled us to acquire a server and operate a database created at the MIT Library. With the Cornell Library as our partner, this server has become the Cornell eCommons.

eCommons is widely used at Cornell and worldwide.

Our special thrust has been The Internet-First University Press. We have published new books, re-issued out-of-print ones and made long neglected, unpublished manuscript accessible.
With low-cost, contemporary technologies, we have emphasized a greater utilization of video as a means of publishing. We have published several international symposia in this manner.

Our scope of interests are broad – covering all scholarly interests at Cornell. For example, we facilitated the online distribution of Cornell theses and dissertations. (We did not choose to limit our scope to a handful of fields.)

C.A.P. E. sponsors our efforts to document Cornell Histories and Biographies. See our list of department histories and video interviews. We have interviewed the senior faculty in Chemistry and Chemical Biology and in Civil and Environmental Engineering. We’re aggressively expanding this.
IMPACT?

❖ **Access to Institutional Resources**: Faculty Minutes (1868-) Faculty Memorial Statements (1868-), Cornell Alumni Magazine (beginning to present), Cornell Chronicle (beginning to present), Engineering Quarterly (all issues), Theses and Dissertations, etc.

❖ **Broad interest in the collections**: See our Guide to the IFUP Collections & a few video snippets pertaining to Cornell history

http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/30565
eCommons@Cornell - Statistics

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*NOTE: Beginning in 2009, we began to exclude robots and harvesters from our statistics

http://ecommons2.library.cornell.edu/stats/stats.html
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