

# PRESERVING CORNELL HISTORY

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J. ROBERT COOKE

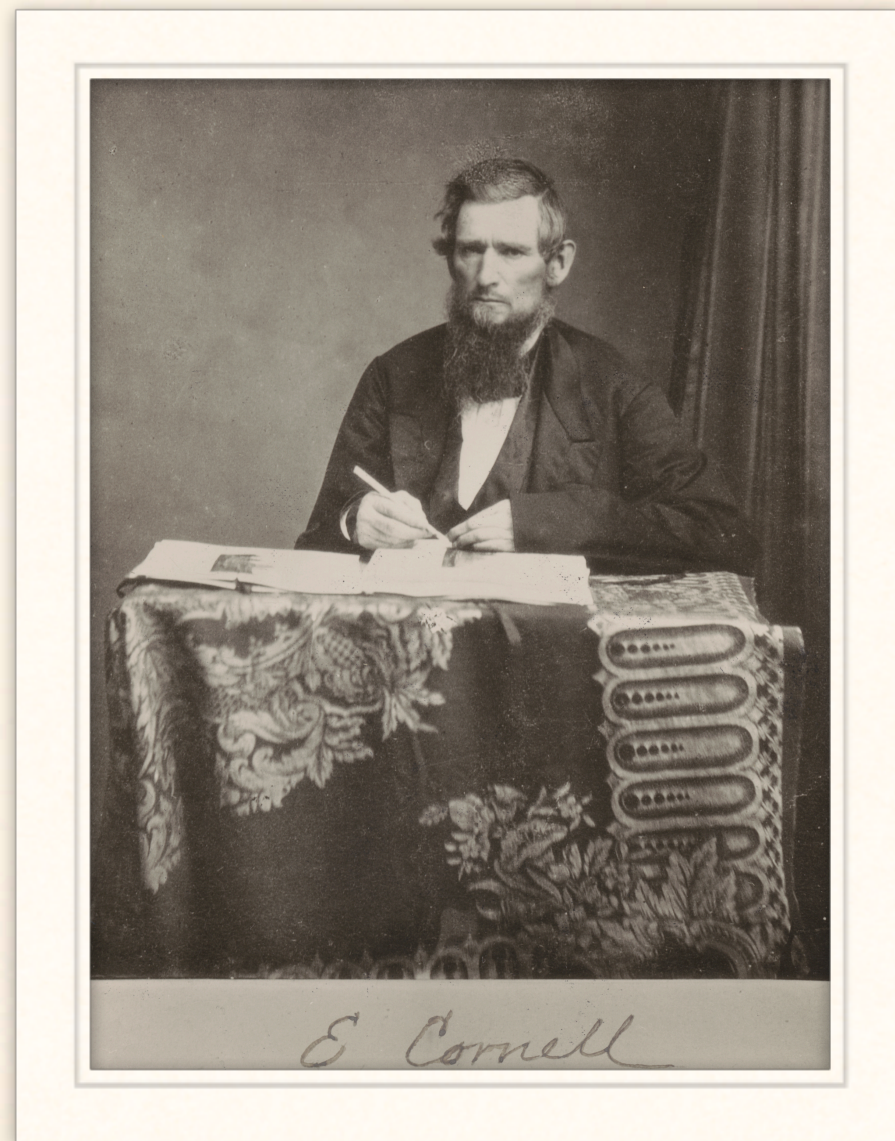
AND

KENNETH M. KING

FOR THE

INTERNET-FIRST  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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*from Cornell's Rare and Manuscript Collection*



GIVEN THE TRANSFORMATIVE  
POSSIBILITIES OF THE INTERNET,  
KEN KING AND I HAVE BEEN  
EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR  
LOW-COST SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

# OUR PROJECT

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- ❖ 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 focussed 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?

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- ❖ **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

<b>Years</b>	<b>Items Added</b>	<b>Downloads</b>
2002	2	[not recorded]
2003	10	[not recorded]
2004	154	[not recorded]
2005	1,589	303,802
2006	2,115	277,251
2007	4,142	1,785,477
2008	2,184	1,628,078
2009	2,282	781,305*
2010	5,145	1,014,129*
2011	5,481	1,193,198*
<b>TOTALS</b>	23,104	6,983,240

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

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



<b>Person</b>	<b>Topic Selected</b>
Bethe, Hans A.	How Stars Shine
Corson, Dale R.	Corson Was A Careful Listener
Brown, Susan K.	Creation of New Apple Varieties
Abrams, M.H. (Mike)	Origin of Cornell's James Joyce Collection
Cooke, W. Donald	A Great Taxi Ride
Hoffmann, Roald	An Attic Escape During WWII
Hartmanis, Juris	The Beginnings of a New Field
King, Kenneth M.	The Protocol Key to An Open Internet
LaFeber, Walter; Abrams, Mike	A Critique of the Dale Corson Legacy
Richardson, Robert C.	"Ever-Lower Temperatures"
Shoemaker, Christine	Women in Engineering at Cornell: The Early Days
Seeley, Thomas	How Honey Bees Select a New Home
Murphy, Susan H.	"Good Evening, Hockey Fans"

<http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/30565>