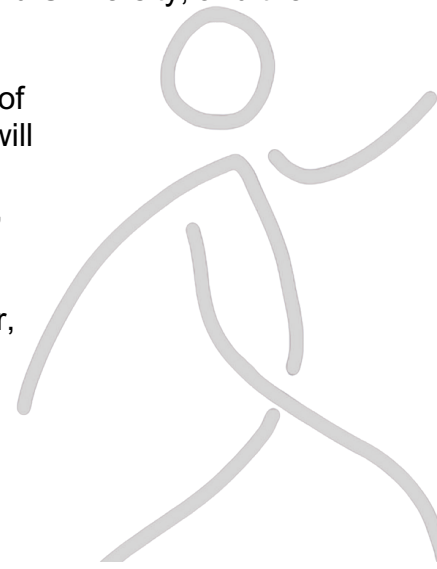**9 May 2023 | Press Release**

Walk With Web Inc. participates at the Congress Expo 2023 and relaunches LiberatedAfricans.org at York University in partnership with Digital Slavery Research Lab of University of Colorado Boulder.

Walk With Web Inc. (WWW, walkwithweb.org) displays digital projects with special focus on African Studies at the Congress Expo 2023 organized by the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences at York University between May 27 and June 2, 2023. At the Congress, the 8,000 participants intend to celebrate the knowledge, culture, and perspectives of Black and Indigenous individuals, while prioritizing a range of voices and ideas from scholars, policymakers, graduate students, and community members.

In partnership with the Digital Slavery Research Lab (https://www.colorado.edu/lab/dsrl/) at the University of Colorado at Boulder, WWW will relaunch its powerful LiberatedAfricans.org website. The relaunch is organized as part of the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) annual meeting (https://caas-acea.org/conf/about/caas-conference-2023) on June 1, 2023 at 10:30 am in the Expo Theatre, York University. Project director, Henry Lovejoy of CU Boulder, will explain how the website records the lives of over 700,000 people who were indentured under labor contracts that were disguised as liberation from slavery when in fact the global campaign for emancipation introduced a new form of servitude. The initial website which was made public in 2015 demonstrated the scope of the British campaign to abolish the slave trade, while the expanded version includes comparable actions by countries other than Britain. The newly upgraded user-friendly and interactive interface has streamlined navigation, cartographic, visualization and enhanced accessibilities features of this pioneering project in African Studies.

As announced, LiberatedAfricans.org has now migrated to WWW's Regenerated Identities network of African Digital Humanities projects which aim to achieve long-term sustainability support (https://walkwithweb.org/config/regenerated_identities.php). In its development, Lovejoy has relied on funding contributions from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University, and the Social Science Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

The relaunch of liberatedafricans.org highlights the activities of WWW's team of graduate students, professional developers and academic collaborators who will showcase their work on related digital projects at a Booth exhibit of Congress Expo 2023. The featured projects include equianosworld.org (Project Director, Paul E. Lovejoy of York University), visabarrier.ca (Project Director, Meredith Terretta of University of Ottawa), metareality.org (Project Director, Katrina Keefer of Trent University), enslavedafricansinearlyontario.ca (Project Director, Natasha Henry-Dixon of York University), and slaveregisters.org (Project

Director, Vanessa Oliveira of the Royal Military College of Canada). These other projects are discussed in formal panels at the CAAS conference between 29 May and June 1, 2023.

Founded in July 2020, WWW is an international corporation working to support the development and sustainability of social sciences and humanities research. Led by CEO, Kartikay Chadha, the Board of Directors includes esteemed academicians including Paul Lovejoy (Chairperson of the Board of Directors and Distinguished Research Professor, Emeritus, York University), Melchisedek Chétima (Assistant Professor, Université du Québec à Montréal - UQAM), Katrina Keefer (Adjunct Professor, Trent University), Erika Melek Delgado (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, King's College, London), and Henry Lovejoy.

WWW is an independent hub that supports digital development and management aspects of social sciences and humanities research and provides training for young scholars including undergraduate and graduate students in both academic and industry working environments. Since its establishment, WWW has developed its Regenerated Identities services to support 15 research projects in African studies (https://walkwithweb.org/Project/project.php). Projects are based at universities, research institutions and publishing houses. These include York University, OCAD University, University of Ottawa, University of Waterloo (Partner, DRAGEN Lab, https://dragenlab.ca), Trent University, the Royal Military College, and UQAM in Canada, the University of Colorado Boulder and Africa World Press in the United States, the University of Essex in the United Kingdom and the Sierra Leone Public Archives in Freetown. The company is making significant contributions to digital research, maintaining long term archives, and generating digital platforms for research groups projects to provide open access for various audiences.

Register for more updates on this event & WWW projects: https://eepurl.com/ipZO2w

For any further details about this release, please email at outreach@walkwithweb.org

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