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For immediate release

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Librarians' Internet Index to Merge with Internet Public Library

The *iSchool* at Drexel to Host Both Renowned Resources.

PHILADELPHIA (September 21, 2008) — Further expanding its ability to enhance the Information Field (iField), The *iSchool* at Drexel, College of Information Science and Technology, announces the merger of the Librarians' Internet Index (LII) with the Internet Public Library. Effective in October 2008, the LII will be hosted at the *iSchool* with the intention of merging the LII with the IPL, making the *iSchool* home to two of the most widely used library-based technological resources connecting individuals, businesses and society with information.

“The merger between the LII and IPL seems very natural; they are complementary resources with different audiences that together provide a comprehensive information service,” said Master’s Program Director Eileen Abels. “We are delighted to add the LII’s strong collection to the IPL.”

The LII is a publicly-funded, database-driven Web site and weekly newsletter currently managed by The Califa Library Group. LII evolved from the Berkley Public Library Index, which was created in the early 1990s. In 1997, the name was changed to Librarians' Internet Index, and the site was recognized as one of the best Free Reference Web Sites by the Machine-Assisted Reference Section (MARS) of the Reference and User Service Association (RUSA) of the American Library Association (ALA). The LII has an subscriber base of more than 40,000, and comprises more than 20,000 records representing top-notch online sources.

“The merger of these resources is an exciting chapter in the history of the LII,” said Califa Executive Director Linda Crowe. “Librarians turn to the LII as an invaluable resource when looking for information on the Web, and working with the IPL will greatly expand what we have to offer information specialists.”

The *iSchool* has hosted the IPL since January 1, 2007. The IPL is the first, largest and most recognized free online collection and reference service available to anyone in the world. Through the new relationship with the LII, Drexel strengthens its reputation for being at the forefront of the iField. The IPL received more than 10 million visits in the past year, with more than 1,000 digital reference graduate students at partner colleges worldwide assisting with maintenance and answering more than 200 reference queries weekly.

“The IPL partners are committed to maintaining this high-quality resource, which will lead to additional teaching and research opportunities for faculty and students in LIS programs and at *iSchools*,” said *iSchool* at Drexel Dean David E. Fenske. “This merger brings together two significant resources, which can only serve to benefit the schools and sponsors that have worked closely with the IPL for so many years.”

The *iSchool's* digital collections and reference services are continually growing, adapting to new technology and the needs of society, and our faculty, staff and students are at the helm of these exciting changes.

Founded in 1892, The iSchool at Drexel educates students in information science and technology at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels and features Drexel University's Cooperative Education program. The College's mission is empowering society by uniting people, technology, and knowledge through innovative education and research. The iSchool at Drexel is a founding member of the iSchool Caucus of 21 prominent colleges dedicated to immersing students in the iField — connecting people, information and technology. For more information visit www.ischool.drexel.edu

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