

SALALM LVII: Popular Culture: Arts and Social Change in Latin America

St. Augustine; Trinidad and Tobago

Title: Digital Library Representations of Popular Culture, and Relevance and Impact for Social Change

Abstract:

This panel presentation will explore popular culture, arts, and social change in the Caribbean and Latin America through the collections in the Digital Library of the Caribbean. The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) is a cooperative digital library for resources from and about the Caribbean and circum-Caribbean. dLOC provides access to digitized versions of Caribbean cultural, historical and research materials currently held in archives, libraries, and private collections. As dLOC has grown from 9 to over 30 partners and hundreds to millions of pages of materials, the need arose for specialized collections, sub collections, and exhibits focused on particular themes or topics. This panel will cover the development of these topical collections, focusing on three collections directly related to popular culture, the arts, and social change:

- Popular culture as captured in the periodicals of the day using the examples of *Abeng*, *Struggle*, and *Arts Jamaica*.
- Popular culture and social change with the Caribbean IRN Collection, which is a developing archive that supports a social project. The Caribbean IRN is a network that connects activists, scholars, artists and other individuals and organizations doing research and work on issues related to diverse genders and sexualities in the Caribbean. The online archive includes various documents, reports, archival clippings, and other materials related to this work.
- Social change through performance will be examined through the Carifesta collection in dLOC. There are nearly 1200 items from 1972-2008 that provide historical background for this theater festival sponsored by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Using these and other popular culture examples in dLOC, we will discuss how the materials, collections, and organization of the collections present and represent popular culture. We will discuss the relevance of these materials to social change in terms of their timeliness, relevance to particular conversations/concerns, ability to sustain a conversation, and ability to participate in and shape popular culture.

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