

dLOC Scholarly Advisory Board, 2018 Update

Amplify, Elevate, Celebrate

The two co-chairs of the Scholarly Advisory Board are confirmed:

- Dr. Leah Rosenberg, Professor of Caribbean Literature, University of Florida
- Dr. Matthew Smith, Professor of History, University of the West Indies

The co-chairs have been discussing new potential members and the overall charge, scope, and vision for the board. This work continues to be underway.

dLOC's Digital Scholarship team continues to grow with new collaborations with scholars, classes, and partner team members, including:

- Scholarly-related work and teaching by the two dLOC CLIR Postdoctoral Fellows, Dr. Crystal Felima (UF) and Dr. Hadassah St. Hubert (FIU)
- UF and dLOC's NEH award for an Advanced Institute in the Digital Humanities, to be held summer 2019
- Webinar Series: "Caribbean Studies in the Digital Age"

Scholar affirmed the need for dLOC to serve as a research and teaching commons. For that, scholars wanted socio-technical supports, including more sustained conversations and collaborations with multiple scholar experts together with dLOC. Scholars stated that dLOC needed to cross-pollinate with scholarly groups through attendance at scholarly conferences to support overall mission activities through engagement with scholars as part of the broader constellation of communities of practice for dLOC's work, and as part of the work to facilitate the dLOC Scholarly Board.

The needed cross-pollination is also underway with dLOC participation in various conferences and events, including the Caribbean Digital Conference (Columbia University), Haitian Studies Association (HSA), West Indian Literature Conference, and many others.

Other action items from the past report remain in process, including metadata enhancement of existing content, library guide resources for using dLOC, and metadata-only records to facilitate access and discoverability of Caribbean digital scholarship resources.

Respectfully submitted,

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The dLOC Scholarly Advisory Board

Overview: One of dLOC's greatest strengths is its collaborative and inclusive governance model. The dLOC Scholarly Advisory Boardⁱ complements the dLOC Executive Board for scholarly engagement on dLOC. The dLOC Scholarly Advisory Board provides leadership, offering critical insight for dLOC as a research and teaching commons and platform for Caribbean Studies—oriented towards amplifying, elevating, and celebrating Caribbean Studies—strengthening the scholarly community of practice.

Caribbean Studies scholars come together from many institutions, departments, and disciplines, with few in-field colleagues at each local institution. dLOC provides a platform for scholars to meet, share and create knowledge and resources, and connect with others in the widely dispersed interdisciplinary community of Caribbean scholars as well as public communities interested in the Caribbean. With materials in dLOC available to everyone and in perpetuity, scholars have pursued opportunities to support dLOC with the recognition that what is in dLOC and how it is presented will shape the understanding of Caribbean culture and history now and long into the future.

Membership: The dLOC Scholarly Advisory Board will be comprised of 9 Caribbean Studies Scholars. The dLOC Executive Board will appoint two Co-chairs. At least one of the Co-chairs will be based at an institution in the Caribbean. The Co-chairs will appoint or invite nominations for the remaining 7 members to complete the full Scholarly Advisory Board. Membership is a two to five year commitment, to be determined by the Scholarly Advisory Board. The dLOC Digital Scholarship Director serves as an additional ex-officio member, serving as a convener and facilitator.

Meetings: The Scholarly Advisory Board will convene in proximity to a conference in Caribbean Studies for one in-person meeting per year (when possible) and one online meeting per year.

Role: The Board provides leadership in relevant academic disciplines, curriculum development, and/or technical issues by:

- Collaborating, planning, identifying, and helping ameliorate critical gaps in the collection
- Identifying priority materials for digitization and digital acquisition (including metadata-only materials)
- Supporting collaboration for research and teaching
- Providing context and other supportive materials
- Providing pedagogical and teaching support
- Supporting instructors teaching Caribbean subject matter, particularly dLOC materials

- Encouraging institutions with Caribbean holdings to join as dLOC content-contributing partners, and those interested in Caribbean materials as fiscally-supporting members
- Bringing people from different institutions and countries together to pool knowledge & resources
- Identifying projects/speakers for the Caribbean Studies in the Digital Age webinar series
- Helping to obtain permissions for materials

Draft Goals for the dLOC Scholarly Advisory Board, Year One:

- Review the structure of the dLOC Scholarly Advisory Board for improvements, for then review and approval through the dLOC Executive Board
- Identify goals for dLOC Scholarly Advisory Board for each subsequent year
- Identify potential opportunities and ideas to support existing and new Caribbean Studies Scholars as individuals, groups, and communities of practice
- Plan for developing 1-2 scholarly projects that use and build dLOC with Caribbean Studies
- Evaluate progress on goals at the end of the year of service, which ends in May/June to coincide with the Caribbean Studies Association Conference

ⁱ The 2004 grant proposal to create dLOC (<http://dloc.com/FI04071904/00001/pdf>) explained: “dLOC will be an umbrella for digital projects and collections from and about the Caribbean that might exist in isolation at a single institution, thus providing a critical mass of resources in a single space that will foster a fuller interdisciplinary understanding.” In doing so, dLOC will:

- Cultivate the development of new research initiatives among Caribbean scholars by providing a supportive framework to disseminate this work
- Advance Caribbean Studies by engendering new research through improved access to diverse materials for the comparison and contrast of ideas

Methods for accomplishing these goals included establishing:

- Scholarly Advisory Board with seven members, plus two ex-officio members:
 - Principal Investigators (ex-officio, convening the Board at the CSA conference)
 - 5 Caribbean Studies scholars
 - 2 Latin American/Caribbean Studies Librarians
- Caribbean Studies in the Digital Age Speaker Series
- Competitive faculty awards to build a web-based, interpretive module drawing upon research materials in dLOC, thus directly supporting current and new research in the field of Caribbean Studies with grant funds supporting project development and additional Caribbean materials to be digitized.

With the move from grant to sustainable funding, the board added four ex-officio members: dLOC Program Director, dLOC Technical Director, dLOC Librarian Coordinator, and the dLOC Archivist Coordinator. As dLOC’s work in Caribbean Studies and digital scholarship continued to grow, dLOC created a new role with the dLOC Digital Scholarship Director. This new role represents an expansion of the dLOC Team, with the new role to address the new needs and opportunities for greater engagement with the dLOC Scholarly Advisory Board and for next steps.