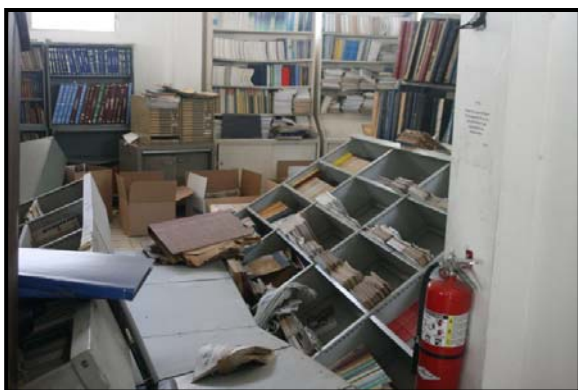


**PROTECTING PATRIMONY:  
The Digital Library of the Caribbean's Initiative  
to Support the Vulnerable Libraries and Archives of Haiti**

In response to the earthquake on January 12, 2010, many institutions and individuals have expressed an interest in supporting Haitian libraries and archives as they begin the difficult and costly process of rebuilding and working towards the future. The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) has been working closely with its partner institutions in Port-au-Prince and is poised to play a vital role in helping them coordinate their efforts to rebuild and implement a long-term plan of sustainability for the future. The Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative builds on strong, long term partnerships, with an emphasis on accountability and transparency.



Periodicals Room at the National Library of Haiti.

*What we need now is really to rebuild capacity...everything is broken, even the clock in the reading room. We first concentrated on securing the documents, the collection is presently sheltered in 1.456 boxes...but the shelving, the desks, the chairs, the periodical hangers, the card catalog (because we still use it when there is no electricity) are gone. What took 60 years to put in place is broken.*

**Françoise Beaulieu-Thybulle (MLIS)**  
Bibliothèque Nationale D'Haïti  
Conservateur/Directeur Général

**The mission of the Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative is as follows:**

The Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative brings together international contributors to assist Haiti with the preservation of Haitian cultural patrimony while respecting local sovereignty.

The initiative has **three goals:**

1. Encourage communication across institutions working to assist Haiti's libraries
2. Coordinate technical and in-kind assistance for Haiti's libraries
3. Raise dollars to support specific collection/archival recovery and preservation projects in Haiti, including purchasing and shipping needed materials, paying travel costs for specialists to travel to Haiti, paying wages for personnel doing archival preservation and recovery work in Haiti

At the **institutional and organizational levels**, contributors dedicate resources (financial, technical, in-kind or human capital) to support the Haitian libraries and archives. Additionally, contributors commit to sharing information, strategies and best practices related to outreach to Haiti.

Sign up to volunteer or donate online at **[www.dloc.com](http://www.dloc.com)**. For more details, **email [dloc@fiu.edu](mailto:dloc@fiu.edu)**.

***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. The technical infrastructure for the project is provided by the University of Florida Digital Library Center and the project is administered by the Latin American and Caribbean Center and the Libraries at Florida International University.