Digital Library Initiatives in the Caribbean and the dLOC

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Outline

• Defining digital libraries

• Challenges in the Caribbean

• Current Digital Library Initiatives

• dLOC
Early vision of a “Caribbean Library”

- In 1952, Dr. Eric Williams, first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, envisioned:
  - ‘West Indian Library’
  - (a collection of all libraries in the region) that would ‘command respect, even when compared to such collections as the British Museum, the Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris and the Library of Congress’

- ‘hardly a practical proposition, however, though it may be possible at some time in the future to envisage a deliberately planned regional collection’
Defining Digital Libraries

• Digital initiatives:
  • digital libraries, digital repositories and digital archives

• A digital library –
  • not merely an automated library, or access to bibliographic electronic resources, or simply having a library website

• Digital libraries build on and supplement basic library functions
  • manage large amounts of information in diverse electronic format (text, audio, video etc)
  • increase access to materials in terms of time available and in terms of quantity
  • provide for preservation of material
Some Challenges in the Caribbean

- Funding and lack of resources
- Usage of materials
- Intellectual Property (IP) and copyright issues
- Legal issues – authenticity and veracity of digital objects
- Staffing and technical expertise
- Intellectual and ethical issues in selecting resources
- Should be distinguished from web search engines – i.e. should add value to web resources
Current Digital Library Initiatives
The Caribbean Digital Library

- Part of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Portal (CKMP) at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

- Links to Caribbean documents related to planning already available on the web

- Content organised in 27 broad subject headings

- Contains about 5000 items with about 400 added annually

- Uses open source software, Plone
Access to key full-text ILO publications and documents which focus on labour and workplace issues of the Caribbean region.

25 Subject areas are represented and includes:
- labour and employment
- industrial relations
- decent work
- small enterprise development
- gender
- HIV/AIDS
- labour market information
The ILO Caribbean Digital Library

The ILO Caribbean Digital Library of the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean is a collection of key ILO publications and documents which focus on labour and workplace issues of the Caribbean region. It contains publications produced by the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean over the years as well as those produced by ILO, Geneva, which are of particular relevance to the region. Subjects covered include labour and employment, industrial relations, decent work, small enterprise development, gender, HIV/AIDS and labour market information.
Voyages Digital Library

- Launched on the web in 2004 as part of the South Atlantic Digital project

- Includes
  - Documents from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries
  - For the Corsario document - traveled to Spain and received permission from the Minister of Culture to digitize holdings from their Viejes de los Obispos collection.

- Has a complicated history and the programming is unique.
  - The software is proprietary . . . developed by programmer, Elena Lyderman, and definitely not out of the box or replicable without consent.

- Items will be added and the prototype will be turned into a full scale model this year.
Welcome to the Voyages
Caribbean Digital Library

Our Vision:
Internationally there is a growing trend towards providing digital access to cultural heritage based on emerging network and computer technologies. The primary motivation behind these digital initiatives is a desire to increase access to the human record, both locally and globally, for educators, scholars, students, and the interested general public. This international trend is also evident in the Caribbean islands, though the efforts have been dispersed and isolated. Just as the Caribbean islands are geographically fragmented, a Caribbean presence on the Internet is equally fragmented and marginalized from the rapidly developing collection of Internet accessible cultural heritage resources. The possibility of developing a Caribbean wide digital collection is real, but also involves many challenges. The economic and technical challenge of increasing access to Caribbean cultural heritage makes realization of a coherent collection daunting when viewed from the vantage point of one institution or even one nation. However, this challenge can be made much less daunting if it is approached collaboratively, through the cooperative sharing of expertise and resources.

The Voyages in the Caribbean Project started in July 2004 as part of the South Atlantic Digital Library Project in collaboration with the High Performance Computing Facility (HPCF), the Centro de Investigaciones Históricas and the Centro de Recursos Educativos at the Rio Piedras campus. More recently the Escuela Graduada de Ciencias y Tecnologías de Información has joined the team as part of a larger initiative, The Virtual Caribbean Project, a virtual community within the Caribbean.

Our Goals:
Our current short term goal is to develop a technology which will facilitate the process of creating and maintaining a digital library. Our long term goal is to digitize selected manuscripts and books related to the many voyages of discovery throughout the Caribbean region. The Voyages Project provides access through electronic facsimiles presented with transcriptions and translations whenever possible. The researcher is then able to compare the image of the original with its transcription by clicking on a text line in the left panel which highlights the corresponding line in the right panel containing a transcription with notes and commentaries. Other related documents may also be uploaded and categorized so that the nuclear document acquires new meanings by expanding its contextual components.

The Voyages technology is based on open source software accessible via any web browser. This technological framework provides a tool for building and maintaining the digital library which allows both librarians and scholars to insert new items, upload the corresponding descriptions and link to other web sites. The interface also allows librarians or authorized users access to build the matching maps for line highlighting of the original manuscript.
La Biblioteca Digital Puertorriqueña (BDP)

- BDP (Puerto Rican Heritage Digital Library)
  - launched in February 2007
  - based at the University of Puerto Rico

- Is a digital archive of primary sources
  - valuable artwork comprising various cartoons, posters, drawings, photographs, maps, manuscripts, books etc.

- Includes archival photographs from the newspaper *El Mundo* (published from 1919 to 1990 and holds 1.2 million photographs)

- About 16,000 items

- Uses CONTENTdm
Descripción de las colecciones

- Caricaturas
- Carteles
- Dibujos de Mario Brau Zuzuárregui
- Fotografías de Atílio Moscioni
- Fotografías del Periódico El Mundo 1940-68
- Fotografías del Periódico El Mundo General
- Grabados
- Jaime Benitez Rexach
- Libros Raros
- Manuscritos
- Mapas Raros
- Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration (PRRA)
- Tarjetas Postales

Bienvenidos

La Biblioteca Digital Puertorriqueña de la Universidad de Puerto Rico es un repositorio en línea de imágenes y texto relacionadas con la historia y la cultura puertorriqueña.

Es un archivo digital de fuentes primarias valiosas que comprende materiales gráficos diversos: caricaturas, carteles, dibujos, fotografías, mapas; manuscritos, libros y otras publicaciones. Incluye fotografías de la invaluable Colección de Fotos del Periódico El Mundo.

Estos recursos están disponibles libremente para los estudiosos, investigadores, estudiantes y otras personas interesadas en la historia, la política, la economía, los asuntos sociales y culturales de Puerto Rico desde el siglo XIX hasta el presente.
Trinidad and Tobago Digital Library

- Started around 2006
- Uses WINISIS and Greenstone
- There are over 20 collections with more than 40,000 items
The Virtual Health Library (VHL)

- PAHO-WHO, together with BIREME provide **open access to full-text health related publications** from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), in several regional open access portals within the Virtual Health Library (VHL)

- Includes
  - LILACS database - **166,957 documents from 15 countries of LAC**
  - SciELO-Scientific Electronic Library Online - **articles from 748 peer-review journals from 12 countries of the region**
  - Sustainable Development and Health collection - **51,180 documents from 15 countries of LAC**

- Launched in 1998
Launched in 2009

Developed by the Université des Antilles et de la Guyane,

Contains info on the Caribbean, the Amazon, the Guyana Plateau and regions or areas of interest related to these territories.

Contains thousands of materials:
- digitized texts, audio, video and iconographic references to cultural, social, economic or political historical events.

Provides open access to heritage and to scientific information.

Including
- journals (Etudes Caribéennes, Archipélies)
- specialized databases (Caribbean pharmacopea, TRAMIL and Slaves of French Guyana)
La Banque Numérique des Patrimoines Martiniquais (BNMP)

- Launched in October 2010 by the Conseil Général de la Martinique and Direction des Affaires culturelles

- Provides access to extensive archival material on the cultural heritage and history of Martinique, includes:
  - the slave records of Martinique
  - monuments, landmarks or remarkable architectural achievements
  - archeological collections of the Musée départemental d’archéologie précolombienne.

- It also provides virtual exhibitions or albums on selected topics of historical or artistic interest.

- In 2012, it will be updated with significant new contents and new features.
Bienvenue sur la Banque Numérique des Patrimoines Martiniquais.

Découvrez à travers ce portail les principales ressources sur le patrimoine culturel et historique de la Martinique.

Bonne visite !

Retrouvez vos ancêtres esclaves...

La BNPM vous propose d'accéder à un contenu inédit sur l'histoire de l'esclavage et la généalogie servile par la consultation des registres d'individualité,...

Lire la suite
UWI Space

- Launched by The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus Libraries in 2008

- Includes both digital collections and an institutional repository

- Uses open source software, Dspace

- Over 11,850 items available
Welcome to UWISpace, The University of the West Indies Institutional Repository for Research and Scholarship

This archive was established by the UWI Libraries to support the dissemination of knowledge by providing open access to the digitally preserved intellectual output of the University. Here we aim to collect together in one place the research and scholarship of members of the UWI community. UWISpace provides a platform for the collection, organisation, access and preservation of scholarly information in digital formats... (more on the institutional repository)

Departments and individuals wishing to deposit their research material in the UWISpace archive can email the administrators, or phone (868) 662 2002, Exts. 84243, 82241, 82215 at The Alma Jordan Library, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago.

All items in the UWISpace repository are protected by original copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

Search UWISpace

Enter some text in the box below to search UWISpace.

[Go]

Communities in UWISpace

Select a community to browse its collections.

- UWI - Cave Hill
- UWI - Mona
- UWI - Open Campus
- UWI - St Augustine
Digital Collections

Chang, Carlisle. Carlisle Chang collection
This collection includes carnival costume designs, photographs of Chang's art, significant documents on art history in Trinidad and Tobago.

Colonial Bank Correspondence
19th century correspondence on banking in the Caribbean. This is enhanced by transcriptions of many of the letters.

Diaries of Sir William Young
These 19th century diaries provide information on the management of Tobago and they also include detailed colour illustrations of Tobago scenes.

Goldberg, Michael. Michael Goldberg collection
Images of Caribbean life and scenes are captured in this postcard collection.

Huggins, Dudley. Dudley Huggins papers.
Documents from a former Principal of the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies.

Iffill, Garnet. Garnet Iffill photographs
Photographs highlighting government officials of Trinidad and Tobago circa 1962 including the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Eric Williams.
UWI Mona Library Digital Collection

- Uses the commercial software, CONTENTdm

- Over 4,900 items in 10 collections, including
  - UWI historical photos, Cousins Hereward Postcards, Erna Brodber, Elsa Govia and Roger Mais Collections

- About 550 full text documents from the Edward Seaga Collection (over 40,000 pages) via the OPAC

- over 7,000 digitized exam papers via OPAC

- 100 heavily-used documents in the Reserve Books Collection (totaling 2,700 pages)
View Six New Digitised Collections

Send comments to Digital Library Co-ordinator

The Cousins Hereward Postcard Collection
was compiled by Mr. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture in Jamaica, 1908-1932. It consists of 212 picture postcards. Subject areas covered include: Jamaican alphabet, hotels and resort areas. The postcards provide visual records of early 20th Century Jamaican history and documentary evidence of the multicultural society which was emerging after post-slavery in Jamaica. There is also evidence of the retention of African and East Indian traditions. The Collection was donated to the Library by Mr Cousin's family in 1962.

Roger Mais
(August 11, 1905 Kingston-June 21, 1955 Kingston) was a Jamaican journalist, novelist, poet, and playwright. At present, the West Indies & Special Collection Section at the Main Library houses many of Roger Mais works, including manuscripts of plays, novels, short stories and correspondence. The Collection also includes memoirs, interviews and reviews of his works, as well as, four of his paintings.
Access The Roger Mais Short Stories: Roger Mais Plays
Welcome
Use the Search or Browse features to view items in the collection. Throughout your search, you can get help with search functions by clicking the help link in the top navigation bar.

Browse
Browse through the collection without formulating a specific search.

Advanced Search
Search using more options, making your searches more precise and getting more useful results.

Preferences
Customize options for search results, My Favorites, Compare and Slideshow views.

My Favorites
View, compare, delete and move collection items you have saved to My Favorites within CONTENTdm. Create and share My Favorites with others or view saved items as a slideshow.

About
Learn more information about this collection.

Help
Learn about My Favorites, Search, Preferences and Browse.
Repositorio Digital de la Estación Experimental Agrícola

- Digital Repository of the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

- Contains about 1,182 items

- Funded by H.W. Wilson Foundation
Bienvenidos al Repositorio Digital de la Estación Experimental Agrícola de la UPR-RUM. El propósito de este repositorio es proveer acceso en texto completo a las publicaciones agrícolas de Puerto Rico. En la primera etapa del proyecto se presenta lo publicado por la Estación Experimental Agrícola. Para dudas, preguntas o sugerencias, favor de comunicarse a la Biblioteca EEA llamando al 787-767-9705 ext. 2057 o 2055 o vía correo electrónico biblioteca@eea.uprm.edu. Este repositorio es desarrollado con fondos de H.W. Wilson Foundation.

Welcome to the Digital Repository of the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES). It's a place in which you have access to books, periodicals and special collections of AES Library of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus. For questions, please contact AES Library at 787-767-9705 ext. 2057, 2055 or by email biblioteca@eea.uprm.edu. The creation of the repository is made possible from H.W. Wilson Foundation fundings.
Digital Repository of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR)

- Provides access to about 200 items – contains mainly research by UPR.

- Uses Dspace software

- Started in 2007.

- Currently developing collections
Dspace en la Universidad de Puerto Rico >

Repositorio Digital de la Universidad de Puerto Rico

¡Bienvenidos a nuestro repositorio de la facultad, los investigadores y los estudiantes de la UPR!

¿Qué es el repositorio digital de la UPR?
Es un espacio en el cual se preserva, disemina y se permite acceso a literatura gris de investigadores, facultad y estudiantes de la universidad.

Nuestra facultad y estudiantes graduados pueden depositar sus resultados de investigación en nuestro repositorio.

Ellos pueden colocar posters, presentaciones ofrecidas en conferencias, disertaciones y tesis de maestría. Para más información, puede contactar a Pura Centeno, bibliotecaria del repositorio y coordinadora.

Search

Enter some text in the box below to search DSpace.

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Communities in DSpace

¡Repositorio Digital de UPR!

Este repositorio le ofrece a investigadores, estudiantes y a la comunidad académica acceso a una variedad de información.

El repositorio captura, almacena, índiza, preserva y redistribuye los resultados de investigación de los investigadores, la facultad y los estudiantes.

La creación de este repositorio es
dLOC

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.

Read the dLOC Fact Sheet (and more about dLOC), see the dLOC partners, read about dLOC’s Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative, or Register for a free mydLOC user account. Please contact us with any questions.

dLOC is developing a collaborative funding model. Support dLOC financially by becoming an institutional or a personal member.

News

The third dLOC newsletter is now online!
In this edition you can learn about the latest dLOC milestones, new collaborations for outreach, content and sustainability, the latest dLOC partner training and summaries of content available in dLOC.

dLOC and THATCamp Caribe
The Digital Library of the Caribbean is excited to participate in the first THATCamp in the Caribbean! A THATCamp is an unconference. There are no papers, no pre-conceived panels, no keynote speaker. The goal of THATCamp Caribe 2012 is to bring together digital humanists with scholars, librarians, artists, technologists and tinkerers to imagine the future of digital humanities in the Caribbean broadly-understood.
Registration for THATCamp Caribe 2012 will open on April the 17th!
For more information go to: http://caribbean2012.thatcamp.org/ >>
About the dLOC

- Started in 2004 at the ACURIL conference that year

- An open access, multi-institutional, multi-lingual international digital library

- Provides enhanced electronic access to physically dispersed collections and to rare and unique items: cultural, historical, legal, governmental, and research materials in archives, private collections and repositories from 29 partners

- As of May 2012, there are over 7 million pages-
  - 343,685 total items which make up 122,648 different titles

- For this year, 55,389 items added in 23,770 titles
dLOC partners

Archives Nationales d’Haïti
Belize National Library Service and Information System
Biblioteca National Aruba

Bibliothèque Nationale Haïti
Bibliothèque Haïtienne des Pères du Saint Esprit
Brown University

Caribbean Community and Common Market
Caribbean Region, International Resource Network
Caribbean Studies Association

College of the Bahamas, Nassau
Curaçao Public Library Foundation
Duke University

Educa Vision
Florida International University
Florida State University

Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo
HistoryMiami (formerly the Historical Museum of Southern Florida)
KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies

National Library of Jamaica
Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra
Universidad de Oriente, Venezuela

University of Central Florida
University of Florida
University of Miami Libraries

University of Puerto Rico
University of South Florida
University of Virgin Islands

Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network
University of the Netherlands Antilles
## Usage

- **2009**
  - over 6 million hits

- **2010**
  - 1,298,224 pages of content
  - With an average of about 80,000 hits per month,
  - Hits ranged from 56,000 to 133,000 a month

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Features – user/researcher-friendly

- A trilingual interface (English/Español/Français)

- Intuitive navigation

- Multiple views for all items
  - e.g. page images, zoomable images, pdf downloads, Flash 360° views, Google maps, thumbnails of all covers

- Allows Google and other search engines to retrieve content on dLOC and partners’ collections

- Searching by topical collections and by Geographic titles (countries, partner collections, publishers, subject)
More Features – user/researcher-friendly

- Advanced, faceted, map and full-text search capability
- Browsing by creator/contributor
- Access to a MyLibrary
- Access to Bookshelves
- Ability to save searches and to share content using social media
High level of digitization support

- dLOC Toolkit
- Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS) editor
- mydLOC interface

- Provides free digital preservation for partner items which are submitted for housing
- dLOC (UF) bears the cost of the technological development and training
- Strengthening of local digitization projects in individual countries
- Provides a digital asset management system
- Provides external back-up for digital files
Successful Attributes of dLOC

- **Builds Trust through Collaborative Governance and Partnerships**
  - US – Caribbean collaboration

- **Builds Trust with Collaborative Collection Building**
  - E.g. partners retain ownership of the material they provide

- **Has Policy to Manage Copyright Issues**
  - The holding institutions retain all rights to the resources and only grant dLOC non-exclusive digital distribution rights for non-commercial educational use.

- **Has Secured Substantial Funding**
  - Currently, has commitments from 11 institutions in the US and Caribbean to provide $53,750 annually
Successful attributes continued

- **Has Extensive Technical Support and Training**
  - Helps partners to acquire funding both for state-of-the-art digitization equipment and provides on-site training from its expert staff

- **Has Strategies for Increasing Usage**
  - Treats project with a library perspective, focusing on usage, conducts usability studies

- **Has Intensive Outreach Efforts**
  - Promotes papers, presentations on the dLOC internationally
  - Introduce dLOC as a classroom teaching tool; has teaching guides

- **Maintains Strong links**
  - dLOC coordinator travels a lot, attends Caribbean Conferences, networks extensively

- **Builds Trust with Humanitarian Efforts**
  - Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative - raised over $12,000 in donations, $8,000 in grants, and delivered computers and archival boxes valued at $30,000
Closing Comments

To a large extent digital libraries are flourishing in the Caribbean

The dLOC has been growing and strengthening over the years, providing invaluable service

This presentation was an update of a much more detailed paper published in 2011
References


• Digital Library of the Caribbean Newsletter No. 3, 2011/2012


Thank you for your attention

A note of thanks is due to all our colleagues who so willingly shared information about their projects to make the presentation possible.

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