The Digital Library of the Caribbean: An International Collaborative Virtual Library

By Kyle Rimkus (Florida International University) and Erich Kesse (University of Florida)

Presented at the 2007 Caribbean Digital Libraries Workshop, Port of Spain, Trinidad
dLOC

• Website available at http://www.dloc.com
• Site, digitization manual, and project software all freely accessible in English, French, and Spanish
Project Goals

• An international, multi-institutional digital library
  – Serve as gateway to existing digital resources from and about the Caribbean
  – Generate new digital content for scholars and students
  – Increase access to rare or at-risk Caribbean materials
  – Build capacity for digitization in the Caribbean
  – Implement technical infrastructure and support network in Florida and Caribbean to support contributors of many levels of expertise
  – Form partnerships with Caribbean institutions
The Challenge

• Implementing a collaborative digital library with a central repository with partners from a broad range of cultures and countries
  – Without partners losing claim to submitted content
    • Respecting intellectual property rights to content
    • Respecting cultural patrimony
The dLOC Model

• We accept content from and about the Caribbean
  – Partners retain copyright to all submitted content
  – Partners may host the content on their own servers or submit it to other collections
  – The content is not ours – it belongs to the submitter
Current Partners

- **Caribbean Partners:**
  - Archives Nationales d’Haiti
  - Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Guyana
  - Fundacion Global Desarrollo y Democracia, Dominican Republic (FUNGLODE)
  - National Library of Jamaica
  - Universidad de Oriente, Venezuela

- **American partners:**
  - Florida International University
  - University of Florida
  - University of Central Florida
  - University of the Virgin Islands
Governance

• Executive Committee
  – Each partner appoints one representative
  – Committee democratically decides on key issues to future of dLOC
  – Members communicate via listserv dloc_exec
  – Convenes yearly at the Association of Caribbean University, Research, and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL)
Governance (cont.)

• Scholarly Advisory Board
  – 7 Caribbeanist scholars
  – Advise on themes of interest and collections to pursue
  – Members communicate via dloc_advisory listserv
  – Convenes once a year at the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) Conference
Technical

1. Technical Instruction on location with follow-up & Skype assistance at the ready
2. Selection & Copyright Clearance (local, with guidance on request)
3. Metadata Creation with automated templates designed for ease of use
4. Scanning on-site
Flat-bed or Sheet Feed Scanners
(negotiated off-site scanning of difficult items)
Technical

5. Quality Control Application with structural metadata controls
Technical

5. Quality Control Application with structural metadata controls

6. FTP Application transfers digital objects to dLOC central servers
Technical

5. Quality Control Application with structural metadata controls

6. FTP Application transfers digital objects to dLOC central servers

7. Text Generation
   Prime Recognition with 6 voting engines working in all Caribbean languages
Technical

5. Quality Control Application
   with structural metadata controls

6. FTP Application
   transfers digital objects
   to dLOC central servers

7. Text Generation
   Prime Recognition with 6 voting engines
   working in all Caribbean languages

8. Additional Mark-up
   METS, Dublin Core, MARCXML,
   Geo-temporal tagging, etc.
Technical

9. Ingest into dLOC Digital Library with Google-like search interface
http://www.dloc.com/
  • Contributor Collections
  • Topical Collections
  • Geographic Interface (coming soon)

10. Digital Archiving in the Florida Digital Archive with redundancy and migration policies
Membership policy

Membership requirements:

• Availability of collections with Caribbean content;
• Willingness to contribute collections and to make these freely available to the project;
• Willingness to designate representative(s) to manage local participation; and
• Willingness to comply with common standards for digitization, bibliographic management, and copyright.
Membership policy (cont.)

Partners in the project may either:

- Contribute digital content to a central repository, or
- Make their digital collections available to dLOC through compliance with OAI-PMH.
Benefits to Members

- Increased access
- Retain full control of content
- Gain access to OCR output
- Digital preservation
- Contribute to decision making
- Receive digitization support
dLOC Digitization Training
Contact

website: http://www.dloc.com
email: dloc@fiu.edu
phone: (305) 348-2228
address: Digital Library of the Caribbean / FIU Libraries / GL 225A, University Park / Miami, FL 33199