August 15, 2009

The Elsevier Foundation
360 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010-1710

Dear Program for Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries,

The Florida International University Libraries (FIU), along with the University of Florida Libraries (UF), the Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections (CIFNAL), the National Library of Haiti (Bibliothèque Nationale d’Haïti, BNH) and the Brothers of the Holy Spirit Haitian Library (Bibliothèque Haïtienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit, BHPSE) propose to create the first online public access catalogs (OPACs) for these prestigious Haitian libraries. While working against considerable funding and infrastructure constraints, both of these libraries have been very successful in continuing to provide services to their users. This proposal for Electronic Access for Library Patrons in Haiti and Abroad will enable these libraries to take a vital first step in the automation and sharing of their resources.

The key objectives for this program are to:

- Build library infrastructure and technology though electronic access to the current library catalog through a local network and an online public access catalog (OPAC)
- Increase efficiency of researchers, students, policymakers and library staff by providing immediate online access to searchable library catalogs and digital reproductions when possible through a digital interlibrary loan request system
- Use the CDS ISIS library management system to move towards automated BNH and BHPSE library functionalities (cataloging, acquisitions, circulation, Interlibrary Loan and OPAC), converting from a current manual system to a MARC format that would allow for cooperative networking and resource sharing among both internal library departments and external library partners.
- Develop ongoing training and support via peer to peer relationships between librarians at the partner institutions in Haiti and the members of the CIFNAL

These collections include rare historical documents and sources of pertinent and valuable information on society, health, and disease, with exacting documentation on the movement of people into and through Haiti, the living conditions under slavery, prior crop and disease cycles, underlying infrastructure for various cities, and more.

To achieve these goals, FIU is requesting $23,973 in support from the Elsevier Foundation. Thank you very much for your consideration of this proposal, and the work you are supporting in libraries across the globe.

For more information, please contact Robert Gutierrez, Director of Pre-Award, Office of Sponsored Research, at robert.gutierrez@fiu.edu or 305 348 2494.

Sincerely,

Laura K. Probst
Dean, Florida International University Libraries
2. **Goals and plan:** A clear description of the program goals and implementation plan, including timeframe.

The Electronic Access for Library Patrons in Haiti and Abroad program will convert two of the principle library bibliographic management systems in Haiti from a manual system to a MARC format that would allow for cooperative networking and resource sharing among both internal library departments and external library partners. Currently, many of the libraries and researchers most basic functions are dependent upon handwritten notations, individual phone calls requesting copies of materials that have been located by outdated bibliographies, word of mouth conversations, or personal knowledge from researchers traveling to Port-au-Prince and visiting various libraries to find resources. Providing access to the holdings of these two institutions will enable more research to be conducted on Haiti and more efficient and thorough research processes that incorporate intelligent retrieval tools that rely on sophisticated cross-references or methods such as searching for phrases with similar spellings.

In addition to creating OPACs for BNH and BHPSE, the FIU Libraries propose to add a digital interlibrary loan request system. As the administrative partner for the Digital Library of the Caribbean (www.dloc.com), the FIU Libraries have the proven infrastructure to support digitization for access and preservation, with online hosting of materials for access and redundant long term archives for preservation. By creating a fully functioning OPAC, this project will create the necessary access points for information on materials and for requesting access to digitized versions of those materials.

Goals:

- Build library infrastructure and technology through electronic access to the current library catalog through a local network and an online public access catalog (OPAC)
- Increase efficiency of researchers, students, policymakers and library staff by providing immediate online access to searchable library catalogs and digital reproductions when possible through a digital interlibrary loan request system
- Use the CDS ISIS library management system to move towards automated BNH and BHPSE library functionalities (cataloging, acquisitions, circulation, Interlibrary Loan and OPAC), converting from a current manual system to a MARC format that would allow for cooperative networking and resource sharing among both internal library departments and external library partners.
- Develop ongoing training and support via peer to peer relationships between librarians at the partner institutions in Haiti and the members of the CIFNAL
Implementation Plan:

The Electronic Access for Library Patrons in Haiti and Abroad will rely on the combined strengths of the three U.S. partner institutions and the talent and dedication of two the libraries in Haiti. The following timeline addresses the four primary tasks necessary for the successful completion of this program:

*Establish Electronic Catalog Interface for CDS ISIS*

In order to develop the electronic catalog interface, first the two Haitian libraries will send electronic copies of their current database to the dLOC programmer at the University of Florida. For the next two months, the programmer will create the electronic catalog interface with the support from the two library specialists associated with this project. In the fourth month, both the programmer and librarian will travel to Haiti to test the program with the two library partners in Haiti. Based on this feedback from the Haiti library partners, the programmer will revise the library catalog and return in the seventh month to launch the on-site library catalog network. After two months of on-site testing, the project will launch the online catalog. The final month will allow time for additional revisions based on the feedback from the online catalog. Project personnel will document the entire development process to ensure that similar libraries in developing countries can replicate this solution.

*Create Internal Network for catalog*

The dLOC project coordinator will facilitate the purchase and shipping of the equipment to the project partners, and the dLOC programmer will build the network and train a local representative at each location to troubleshoot minor difficulties that may arise during the two on-site visits in months four and seven.

*Develop peer to peer relationships between Haiti/CIFNAL*

During the first three months of the project, the dLOC / CIFNAL project coordinator will develop a listserv and community workspace to facilitate communication between CIFNAL librarians in the United States and librarians in Haiti. This listserv will promote awareness of projects, technologies and materials held in both the United States and Haiti. During months four through ten, the librarians from both countries will form small groups to facilitate the exchange
and collaboration on specific projects. During the final two months, the groups will submit recommendations for future collaborations between libraries in Haiti and CIFNAL.

**Update CDS ISIS catalog records / Digitize and provide links to out of copyright works**

In the first month, the subcontracts will be prepared for the Haitian libraries to hire a local intern for months two through eleven to ensure the catalog is complete, update catalog records as necessary and digitize out of copyright materials using dLOC digitization standards which will be identified either by library staff or via patron requests. In months four, seven, nine and ten, the intern will work with library staff and the programmer to update the catalog records in the electronic database as it is being created. The intern will provide a report of his/her activities in months four, eight and twelve that will detail the tasks completed during the previous period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Steps to Implement</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish Electronic Catalog Interface for CDS ISIS</td>
<td>1. Export CDS ISIS catalog</td>
<td>Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Program interface</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Test 1 in Haiti</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Feedback/Revisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Launch library network</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Revisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Launch OPAC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. Feedback/Revisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9. Documentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create Internal Network for catalog</td>
<td>1. Purchase equipment</td>
<td>Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Ship to Haiti</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Build network/train local technician</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop peer to peer relationships between Haiti / CIFNAL</td>
<td>1. Create listserv to facilitate exchange</td>
<td>Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Pair librarians from Haiti/US to identify areas of collaboration</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update CDS ISIS catalog records / Digitize and provide links to out of copyright works</td>
<td>4. Prepare subcontract for local libraries</td>
<td>Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Hire student intern</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Update records, Digitize materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Update catalog/OPAC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. Report</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. **Innovation:** How will the program introduce new ideas, capabilities and/or capacity for the institution or country? How the program would serve as a model for others.

This project will enable two of the most prestigious libraries in Haiti to provide electronic access to their catalogs for the first time. While both the BHPSE and the BNH have their catalogs in electronic form in CDS ISIS\(^1\), neither institution have had the resources to make this catalog either searchable by patrons inside the library or electronically via an online catalog. As a result, many of the libraries’ most basic functions are dependent upon individual phone calls or emails requesting copies of materials that have been located by outdated bibliographies, word of mouth conversations or personal knowledge gained from those who have traveled to Port-au-Prince to conduct research.

For researchers, providing access to the holdings of these two institutions will make conducting work on Haiti more efficient and thorough. Currently, significant time is spent reading bibliographies and struggling to make the personal connections necessary to know what materials are available and then which library might have the resource. In addition, providing access to these catalogs online will encourage new scholars to undertake research that incorporate intelligent retrieval tools that rely on sophisticated cross-references or methods such as searching for phrases with similar spellings.

For the libraries, enabling researchers to search the collections electronically will decrease the number of basic information requests by patrons and allow the library staff to dedicate more resources to the development and maintenance of the collections and the catalogs.

4. **Impact:** The significance of the program’s intended impact on science, health and society in that country or globally.

Access to electronically search library catalogs is vital for any research program. Dominique Coulombe, Senior Scholarly Resources Librarian at Brown and a specialist in Francophone African and Caribbean Studies stated that “online access to resources held in the National

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\(^1\) Unesco’s CDS ISIS (Computerised Documentation Service / Integrated Set of Information Systems) is library automation software package developed, maintained and disseminated free of charge by UNESCO. Released in 1985, the software is used by many small and medium sized collections in developing nations to catalog and control their collections.
Library of Haiti and Bibliothèque haitienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit would facilitate the discovery of texts and documents held in these libraries and greatly enhance the teaching and scholarly work of the Caribbean region.” While many important materials on Haitian history are held in international libraries, there are many significant publications and manuscript collections that are only accessible in country.

Enabling these resources to be easily discoverable will enable researchers to more easily find and consult the resources. Researchers are steadily working to uncover new primary resources to better understand the various perspectives of Haitian history including the colonization, revolution, post-revolution internal and external politics, environment, health issues, culture and many more. These collections include rare historical documents and sources of pertinent and rich information on society, health, and disease, with exacting documentation on the movement of people into and through Haiti, the living conditions under slavery, prior crop and disease cycles, on underlying infrastructure for various cities, and more. These unique materials on Haiti are exceedingly valuable even now, with core information brokers like Google lacking adequate maps for use during disasters. It is through continued support of the local libraries in Haiti that the information for this research will be made accessible today and to future researchers. Investments in the technology and training of the staffs of these libraries better prepares them to serve this vital role in the research process.

When asked to discuss what having access to these catalogs would mean for research and scholarship, Kate Ramsey, an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Miami replied:

I am thrilled to learn of the Digital Library of the Caribbean’s efforts to enable electronic access, both locally and online, to the catalogs of the Bibliothèque Nationale d’Haïti and the Bibliothèque haitienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit. These are extremely significant initiatives that will greatly benefit students and scholars in Haiti as well as internationally. It will be invaluable for researchers who work on Haiti to be able to access information about these collections remotely, and through key word searches. I am certain that this will enable new discoveries about these extremely rich collections, even on the parts of those who already know them well. For students, having electronic access to these catalogs will be an enormous boon for their studies, and will enable, I am sure, greater and better use of these collections in years to come. In short, I cannot stress enough the important of the Digital Library of the Caribbean’s initiative, and its worthiness of generous funding.
This new access to electronic information will impact the scientific scholarship in Haiti across disciplines and in the public sector through easier and more thorough access to historical information necessary to conduct research or make policy decisions.

5. **Sustainability**: How will the benefits of the program be sustained after the grant has been expended.

This project will create local electronic access to the catalog for patrons inside the library and online access for both the BNH and the BHPSE. Both library partners in Haiti have already created their bibliographic database in CDS ISIS. Once the Greenstone interface is developed and the process for updating the records is established, the current staff at the library will be able to maintain the software. The U.S. partners in this project are committed to providing continued support for these Haitian libraries. Through the Digital Library of the Caribbean, both FIU and UF have proven that they can provide continued support to international partners in collaborative projects. In addition, both libraries in Haiti are partners in another four year project (October 2009-September 2013) funded by the U.S. Department of Education to establish a Caribbean Newspaper Digital Library which will ensure ongoing collaboration and contact even after this grant has been expended.

6. **Budget**: The total amount of the grant requested and justification for the requested amount, including a clear budget overview spreadsheet that indicates in as much detail as possible intended expenditures and other sources of funding, if any.

The budget for this project is based on the experience of FIU in administering library projects in Haiti. The hardware, travel and staff support for Haiti will ensure that the U.S. and Haitian libraries successfully complete this project within the projected timeline. Please see the budget overview spreadsheet for more details.

In addition to this funding for the development of the electronic access to the library catalogs, the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC), a federally funded grant shared between FIU and UF, will support two additional digitization training opportunities with these two partner institutions. In addition, the U.S. Embassy in Haiti has just purchased a state of the art overhead scanner for brittle materials, financed the training for dLOC partners in Haiti, and continues to support the preservation of and access to Haitian historical resources.
7. **Evaluation:** How the program will be measured and evaluated and how its results will be reported.

This program has four clearly defined tasks that serve as the basis for the evaluation of the project. The implementation plan outlines clear tasks and the dLOC project coordinator will follow-up with people responsible for each task to ensure consistent progress on each of the following tasks. The implementation plan identifies dates for final reports and the compilation of the technical documentation. These reports will serve as the basis for the final evaluation report prepared by the project coordinator for the Foundation.

8. **Organization and partnership:** A description of the organization requesting the grant, confirmation of its status as a non-profit entity, and a listing of key officers and staff who will direct the implementation of the program. Description of key program partners, if any.

Florida International University is a major public research university in Miami, FL, and was established by Chapter 65-297, Laws of Florida, which was approved by the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State’s office on June 22, 1965. Chapter 65-297 was codified into Section 240.523 of the Florida Statutes (1997) and is currently codified in Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes (2004). The Library at FIU actively collects Caribbean materials for both its general and special collection holdings. In addition, the FIU Latin American and Caribbean Services Librarian developed the framework for dLOC and this position continues to serve as the co-Director of the program. In coordination with the Latin American and Caribbean Center, the FIU Libraries manages the over $400,000 grant that is developing dLOC, houses the project coordinator, and will begin a new four year project digitizing Caribbean newspapers in the fall.

UF has worked closely with FIU as co-recipients of the U.S. Department of Education Title VI Latin American Area Studies Center grant for 12 years. The UF Libraries have one of the strongest Caribbean and Haitian collections in the United States, and has historically focused on collecting Caribbean materials. UF was designated as the Caribbean collector by the U.S. government’s Farmington Plan in the 1950s. In addition, the UF Digital Library Center (UFDC) has developed one of the nation’s premier digital libraries, and has successfully completed multiple grant funded collaborative projects. UFDC serves as the technical lead on the Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access grant funded Digital
Establishing Access to Electronic Catalogs in Haiti and Abroad
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Library of the Caribbean since 2004, and its staff has trained all of the dLOC partners in the standards of digital preservation and metadata creation.

Additional Partners

- **Global Resources Network of the Center for Research Libraries’ Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections (CIFNAL)**
  Working group to promote and facilitate the cooperative exchange of ideas and resources between French and North American libraries.

- **Bibliothèque haïtienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit (BHPSE)**
  15,000 titles of Haitian history, French colonization, slavery and emancipation, including manuscript collections of Haitian revolutionaries: Toussaint, Dessaline, Christophe, etc.

- **Bibliothèque nationale d’Haïti (BNH)**
  23,000 titles, of which approximately 1,000 are rare.
  Library holdings document Haitian culture, social studies and ecosystems

Key Project Personnel:
The key personnel from the U.S. partner institutions associated with this project have significant experience working the Caribbean through professional experience in their field as well as involvement with dLOC. The two key personnel from the Haitian Libraries are directors of their respective institutions and have the knowledge and will to ensure this project’s success.

- Gayle Williams, Latin American and Caribbean Services Librarian, FIU, dLOC Co-Director
- Matthew Loving, Romance Languages Librarian, UF, dLOC/CIFNAL Coordinator
- Mark Sullivan, Systems Programmer, UF, dLOC Programmer
- Brooke Wooldridge, dLOC Project Coordinator, FIU
- Franciose Thybulle, Director, National Library of Haiti
- Patrick Tardieu, Director, Fathers of the Holy Spirit Library
Establishing Access to Electronic Catalogs in Haiti and Abroad
Program for Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries

August 15, 2009

Detailed Budget Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Categories</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Travel</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Initial Network Set up and Test in Haiti</td>
<td>3,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Launch Library Network</td>
<td>2,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equipment</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. 2 OPAC Serving Computers</td>
<td>3,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6 Computer Workstations</td>
<td>2,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 2 Linksys Etherfast Cable/DSL Router with 4 Port Switch</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Ethernet Cable</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contractual</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Interns at Partner Libraries to update catalog / digitize holdings</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shipping</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Direct</strong></td>
<td>21,794</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indirect Costs</strong></td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Costs</strong></td>
<td>$23,694</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Travel a:** Initial Network Set up and Test in Haiti will take place in the fourth month. The network specialist and librarian will build the network and test the first version of the local catalog. Six days are required to test the new software and collect feedback. Breakdown of expenses per person - Flight: $500, Hotel: $720, Per Diem: $240, Incidents: $150

**Travel b:** Launch Library network will take place in the seventh month. The network specialist and librarian will travel implement the revisions from the initial test and launch the local library network. Four days will allow the team time to revise the initial network and address any on-site complications. Breakdown of expenses per person - Flight: $500, Hotel: $480, Per Diem: $160, Incidents: $150

**Equipment a:** Base: Dual Precision T5500 Workstation
Processor: Dual (2) Dual Core Intel Xeon Processors E5502, 1.86Ghx, 4M L3, 4.8 GT/s
Chassis Configuration: Mini-Tower Chassis
Memory: 2 GB, DDR3 Memory, 1066 Mhz, ECC (2 DIMMS)
Warranty: 3 year
Video Card: 356MB NVIDIA Quadro NVS 295
RAID Configuration: All SATA drives, RAID 0, 2 drive total
Hard Drive 1: 80GB SATA 3.0 GB/s
Hard Drive 2: 80GB SATA 3.0 GB/s
No monitor

**Equipment b:** Base: Optiplex 360 Desktop Base
Processor: Intel Celeron Processor 450 (2.2Ghx, 512k, 800Mhz FSB)
Warranty: 3 year warranty
Memory: 1.0 GB DDR2 Non-ECC SDRAM, 800Mhz
Hard Drive: 80 GB 7200 RPOM SATA 3.0 GB/S
Video Card: Integrated
Monitor: Dell E170SB, 17 inch, Flat Panel

**Contractual:** Intern to update CDS ISIS catalog and digitize out of copyright materials. 10 months x $400 x 2 people = $8,000

**Shipping Costs:** To ship materials from manufacturer to Miami and then to Port au Prince, Haiti.

**Indirect Costs:** Rate of 10%, not including the computers over $1000
August 6, 2009

The Elsevier Foundation
360 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010-1710

Dear Program for Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries Reviewers:

Please accept this letter of support for Florida International University (FIU) Libraries’ proposal to the Elsevier Foundation. This project will create the first online public access catalogs (OPACs) for two prestigious libraries in Haiti: the National Library of Haiti (Bibliothèque Nationale d’Haïti, BNH) and the Brothers of the Holy Spirit Haitian Library (Bibliothèque Haïtienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit, BHPSE).

The proposed technology infrastructure to create OPACs is an important step towards increasing accessibility of Haiti’s collections to diverse audiences. As libraries of national importance, BNH and BHPSE use their collections to support researchers worldwide. Providing online access to up-to-date information on their holdings will advance research by facilitating greater access for scholars, faculty, and students around the world. Also, making collections information available online will facilitate development of teaching resources for study abroad, internships, and other projects. Providing information on these collections will allow researchers to more immediately locate and access needed resources.

Further, this project will build on prior and ongoing collaboration among the FIU Libraries, University of Florida Libraries (UF), Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections (CIFNAL), BNH and BHPSE. These partners have worked together over decades to share and preserve collections, and are currently building the Digital Library of the Caribbean (www.dloc.com). Collaborative efforts have focused on sharing copies of collection items through microfilm and digitization. While the Digital Library of the Caribbean provides an optimal framework for digitization of materials, it can only provide access to items after digitization. BNH and BHPSE’s vast, rich holdings remain hidden. Access is dependent on personal connections and physical travel to Haiti.

The UF Libraries’ participation in this project will strengthen the collaborative network among Florida and Caribbean libraries by facilitating greater access to collections. The UF Libraries staff from Romance Languages & Area Studies and the Digital Library Center will aid in training, technological installation and configuration, and ensure regular data backups so that this project’s new infrastructure cannot be lost.

FIU Libraries’ proposed plan to create OPACs for two libraries in Haiti has my highest endorsement.

Sincerely,

Judith C. Russell
Dean of University Libraries

cc: Laura K. Probst, Dean, Florida International University Libraries

The Foundation for The Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution
August 9, 2009

The Elsevier Foundation
360 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010-1710

Dear Program for Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries,

The Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections (CIFNAL) would like to urge the Elsevier Foundation to approve the support the development of local catalog networks and online catalogs for the National Library and the Fathers of the Holy Spirit Library in Haiti. CIFNAL is a working group under the aegis of the Global Resources Network of the Center for Research Libraries working to promote and facilitate the cooperative exchange of ideas and resources between French and North American libraries. CIFNAL recently entered into an agreement with the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) to improve electronic access to francophone library and archive collections in the French Caribbean, and we see this proposal as an important first step in improving awareness and access to these important collections.

CIFNAL has appointed Matthew Loving, Romance Languages Librarian at the University of Florida, as the project coordinator for the Digital Library of the Caribbean. It is with his leadership that CIFNAL will support the exchanges outlined in the proposal such as the listserv, community workspace, and professional exchanges. The librarians that collaborate with CIFNAL have shown significant interest in supporting collaborations that will increase awareness of materials held in Haiti, and will gladly participate in the exchanges outlined in the proposal.

More generally, providing researchers with access to electronically search for materials held in these two important libraries in Haiti will support new, more efficient production of research on Haiti. In addition, creating a user friendly programming option for the many users of CDS ISIS worldwide will enable other institutions to also present their holdings to their local and international users electronically.

I fully endorse this project and recommend it for funding as part of the Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries Program.

Sincerely,

Claude H. Potts
Librarian for Romance Language Collections
Dear Dean Probst,

It is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the Elsevier Foundation's Grant Program for Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries. We have a history of successfully working through the Digital Library of the Caribbean Collaborative framework, and I am confident that this partnership will allow us to develop both an internally searchable library catalog and an online version.

While our records are currently cataloged using CDS ISIS, the user interface for that program has not enabled us to make our collection searchable for our users. In addition, the lack of consistent power and internet access make locally searching an online catalog not viable. Therefore, this combination of a local network and online catalog will be the most useful given our current situation.

The opportunity to develop inter library relationships between staff in the Haiti and the United States will continue to develop new partnerships that will improve research and teaching in both countries. In addition, having the funds to support an intern in our location will allow the library to build local interest and talent in the field of library science.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Françoise Beaudou-Trouillot
Conservateur/Directeur Général
Port-au-Prince, le 13 août 2009

Florida International University
11200 SW 8th St.
Green Library 835
Miami, FL 33199

Dear Dean Probst,

It is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the FIU proposal to Establish Electronic Access for Library Patrons in Haiti and Abroad for the Elsevier Foundation’s Grant Program for Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries. We have a history of successfully working through the Digital Library of the Caribbean collaborative framework, and I am confident that this partnership will allow us to develop both an internally searchable library catalogue and an online version.

While our records are currently catalogued using CDS ISIS, the user interface for that program has not enabled us to make our collection searchable for our users. In addition, the lack of consistent power and internet access make locally searching an online catalogue not viable. Therefore, this combination of a local network and online catalogue will be the most useful given our current situation.

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Sincerely,

Patrick Tardieu, conservateur