



DIGITAL
LIBRARY
OF THE

Caribbean

SECTION 1

Project Overview

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Project Overview

Bienvenidos! Bienvenue! Welcome!

As a member of the *Digital Library of the Caribbean* (dLOC), you are part of a consortia of agencies working to increase access to valuable resources for the study of the Caribbean. Together, institutions from across the Caribbean providing content will be building a truly international library to be used by young school students, college-age researchers, and university professors. dLOC resources will serve the continuing learning interest of average citizens, government officials, and tourists. The content we provide will tell the stories of our peoples, their history, the lands they populate, and the cultures they've constructed and maintain.

For more information about the *Digital Library of the Caribbean*, visit the dLOC web site at <http://dloc.uvi.edu/>

About the Digital Library of the Caribbean

The *Digital Library of the Caribbean* embodies research interest in cultural identity. The collections it comprises and the research it is intended to engender illuminate the confluence of cultures, languages and governmental systems in the Caribbean basin.

Caribbean culture, with localized variation, reflects the world and portends the world's future. Three major cultures (races) converge here: Indigenous; European; and African. And, within locales, Semitic (Arabic, Coptic and Jewish), Indian (Hindu, etc.) and Asian cultural influences have been formative.

The region's languages represent the principal cultures of these areas. While the region linguistically is more patchwork than shared ground, its creoles and patois - and, perhaps, none more so than Papiamentu - reflect cultural convergence, and it is not at all uncommon for an individual to speak more than one tongue. Language, and specifically translations, can often be used to track the introduction of new concepts and cultural cross-currents.

Regional customs and practices are indicative of the means and methods by which cultures come to live together. The language of cooking for example is intimately tied to the land as much as to culture, and can reveal "genetic" markers based on race and ethnicity that may indicate - first - where cultures are influenced by environment and - second - where experience and adaptation are shared among cultures. Agrarian life-styles converge and diverge throughout the region, their junctions and conjunctions mapping cultural highways. While concrete highways may map cultures in regions beyond the Caribbean, such tangibility masks the making of culture that lays bare in the Caribbean.



The cultural map is nowhere more diverse than in our urban centers. Mexico City, for example, draws together indigenous and European cultures, mixing a working class raised in the fields with a white collar elite. No city in North America is home to more immigrants than Miami, Florida where more than two-thirds of the population has been born elsewhere. Both cities, with all their ills and innovation, represent the future of North and South America. Within their fragile ecosystems, each can provide vital clues to the stresses that population growth places on the ability of natural systems to sustain life. In this sense the Caribbean is truly a biosphere. Climatologists and archaeologists have begun to publish findings that help us understand the fate of the Maya world's great cities. Mindful that only a handful of ancient codices survive, these scientists in particular have suggested that we mine our cultural heritage for evidence of the past that would serve us into the future.

These examples of merely wash the surface of the content available in the Digital Library of the Caribbean. Increasing contributions from the rich landscapes and diverse populations of the Caribbean bring forth an every increasingly detailed understanding of the region.



Project Team & Contact Information

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- *To be hired in 2006*

dLOC Help (Skype)

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Content Providers:

- The number of dLOC content providers increases constantly. For a full list of current content providers see the dLOC web site (<http://dloc.uvi.edu/>).



Advisory Board

The Advisory Board is comprised of scholars of Caribbean Studies working in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences. Members are appointed to direct content development, suggest granting opportunities, identify other sources of funding, and assist in the development of both promotional materials and educational resources.

Members serve a two-year term with possibility for reappointment and attend the dLOC Advisory Board meeting at the annual Caribbean Studies Association conference.

Membership (January 2006 – December 2007):

- Chair: Dr. Eduardo Gamarra, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Center; Professor, Political Science; Principal Investigator, dLOC
Florida International University, Miami, FL
- Co-Chair: Dr. Carmen Diana Deere, Director, Center for Latin American Studies; Professor, Food and Resource Economics; co-PI, dLOC
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- Dr. Jan DeCosmo, Director, Center for Caribbean Culture; Associate Professor, Visual Arts, Humanities & Theatre
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- Dr. Humberto Garcia, Senior Researcher, Institute of Caribbean Studies
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