



# CARBICA News

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## About CARBICA:

The mission of the International Council on Archives (ICA) is to promote the preservation and use of archives around the world. In pursuing this mission, ICA works for the protection and enhancement of the memory of the world and to improve communication while respecting cultural diversity. The Caribbean Regional Branch (CARBICA) is responsible for carrying out the policy and programmes of ICA in its region, where these are relevant to CARBICA members.

### The 2010-2014 Officers:

- President:** Dominique Taffin, (National Archivist Martinique)
- Vice President:** Rita Tijen Fohh (Director National Archives Surinam)
- Secretary:** Cheryl Sylvester (Technical Services Librarian, St. George's University Grenada)
- Treasurer:** Karla Hayward (Director Bermuda Archives)



## From our President ....

More than ever, CARBICA is there to be the place for Caribbean archivists to work and network together, but also the place where we open up to the rest of the world. While building a strong identity based on our shared culture and on our shared concerns on the role of archives in our region, we also act as a branch of the International Council on Archives.

Your Executive Council has been busy on both these levels for these past weeks :

- 3 Skype meetings since January, to deal with the agenda that came out of our General Assembly in Trinidad.
- Attending the ICA Executive Council in Panama on March 27-30th. This occasion has been a unique opportunity to let others know about our vision and projects and to get the support from the PCOM, the MCOM and the other branches and sections of ICA.

portunity to let others know about our vision and projects and to get the support from the PCOM, the MCOM and the other branches and sections of ICA.

*“Let us get prepared”*

Let us, from now on, get prepared for the forthcoming seminars in Curaçao (Aug. 20-25).

Let us also start to plan our part in the International Congress of Archives, in Brisbane, Australia in 2012. These will be great opportunities as well to show what CARBICA and Caribbean archivists can do.

## The 2011 agenda of the EC:

The agenda of CARBICA executive council. The CARBICA EC has a busy agenda for the next four months :

- preparation of the strategic plan;
- preparation of the amendment of our constitution;
- planning the development of the MIGNAN project.

Its next meeting will take place in Martinique, in June.

Another meeting will be held on the occasion of the opening of the new building of the National Archives of Curaçao in August.

## CARBICA Curaçao, August 2011

Just after the IFLA Congress in Puerto Rico, Curaçao will host an important set of activities open to CARBICA members. The tentative program is as follows

- a 5-day training course on basic level conservation techniques;
- a 2 day seminar on training and certification in archival studies in the Caribbean. This seminar is designed to be a brainstorming session with archivists, university representatives and specialists in training to assess the situation and help define the role CARBICA can take in the development of a coherent training and certification system for archivists and records managers in and from the Caribbean;
- a 3-day workshop on the implementation of archival standards for description and of the ICA AtOM software;
- a 1/2day EC meeting.

More information and application forms will be released by mid-May.

### *“MIGAN seminar is open to any member”*

One must be aware that the MIGAN seminar is dedicated to the partners already committed in the project, but will also be open to any CARBICA member who can manage to come to Curaçao.

The National Archives of Curaçao are in charge of the logistics of these events and make their best to propose the cheapest accommodation possible.

## ICA congress, Brisbane 20-25 August, 2012

Under the main theme of “a climate of change”, the 2012 ICA congress will deal with 3 main streams : sustainability, trust and identity.

Although it may be challenging for many of us to get to Australia, I do think we should do our best not only to get there, but also to submit a coherent offer from the Caribbean. As a branch, we should focus on our projects and achievements : the MIGAN and the CARTAS projects, and the training projects. We should also try to let others know how we manage with our strengths

and weaknesses. The point of ICA congress is to share experience with people from other parts of the world. You are kindly asked to send suggestions on these topics. The earlier we are organized, the better chances we have to be in the program, and the readier we are to seek support for Caribbean delegates.

Pre-registrations are already open on the website of the ICA congress in Brisbane. From June 2011 on, a call for abstracts will be launched.

Check all key dates and information at: [www.ica2012.com](http://www.ica2012.com) and get registered to receive new releases on the congress. Contact : Margaret Kenna, deputy secretary general for the ICA Congress.

### **ICA and CARBICA : overview of the Executive board meeting in Panama (March, 27-30, 2011)**

Two CARBICA members attended the EB meeting : Nolda Römer-Kenepa, as the vice-president of ICA for CITRA and Dominique Taffin, chair of CARBICA.

The main issues discussed were :

- the return of ALA, the Latin American branch of ICA;
- a new format for the CITRA, that will be submitted to the general assembly in Toledo (Spain);
- the future development of ICA AtOM, the software that CARBICA is implementing for our directory;
- the organization of the Brisbane congress.

The meeting has been a unique opportunity to strengthen relations with the board of ICA, make new contacts to facilitate our activities and to develop partnership with ALA.

Nolda and Dominique would work on the program of the three seminars that will take place in Curaçao.

We were particularly successful in promoting the MIGAN project, and in identifying resource persons.

The meeting was perfectly organized by the local host, the Registro Publico de Panama. We also visited the National Archives, which have undertaken a large program of modernization : new storage, new conservation and restoration facility, new digital equipment, linked to a wide set of training for staff.







*The National Archives of Suriname , Paramaribo*

## Records Management Training in Suriname

**Suriname** - Rita Tjien Fooh, Director National Archives

The National Archives of Suriname recently (as of March 2011) started providing Level 1 basic Records Management training for staff responsible for the various record management divisions of government agencies. The aim of the training is to improve the role of Records Management at the various departments.

The training is organized by the National Archives of Suriname/Ministry of Home Affairs partnering with the " Stichting Opleidingen en Examens voor Documentaire Informatie en Administratieve Organisatie-SOD" (Foundation for Training and Examinations for documentary information and administrative organization) from the Netherlands. The importance of this course can be seen in the fact that public records must be kept in order and made accessible for the

people at all times.

There was no formal training available in the field of records management in Suriname; occasionally there were incidental courses, workshops, modules given but not on a formal structural basis. The absence of formal training had a negative influence on the Records Management division of the government agencies where the records were not always kept in good order and in compliance with the Surinamese Archives Law (2006) and the Archives Regulations (2009).

The training started on March 7th with 40 trainees divided in two groups and will end in December 2011. It consists of seven compulsory modules namely, Records Management, Document processing, ICT, Dutch, English, Public Administration, Communications.

In the context of long term capacity building for Archives and Records Management staff, the National Archives of Suriname will also start a Records Management Level 2 training in 2012.





## Preservation Training in Suriname

One of the objectives of the National Archives of Suriname, aside from educating and training its staff, is to also offer training to staff members from other organizations specialized in the field of cultural heritage such as museum, archives and libraries. They are given the opportunity to learn the basic techniques in preserving their collections (Capacity Building Program).

Considering the fact that the history of Suriname consists of various cultures, it is very important to build awareness about the preservation of national heritage for the next generation.

On March 14th, the National Archives of Suriname in collaboration with the National Archives of the Netherlands, The Institute Collection Netherlands (ICN) joined their forces, together with the funding of the Embassy of the Netherlands and started a Preservation course. This will be a one-year course where the overall aim is to teach conservation techniques to preserve the cultural heritage

of Suriname. In 2012, the National Archives will start with another group of participants.

During this course Surinamese trainers, who were selected earlier based on their expertise, will be partnered with a lecturer from the Netherlands and Brazil. The purpose of this concept is that after two years these Surinamese trainers will be fully qualified to pass on the knowledge independently.

The course is designed for pre-qualified (depot) employees who already work in an cultural heritage organization that manage collections, including museums, libraries, archives, auction houses, galleries etc.

The main purpose of the course is that in the end the participants will be able to assist their collections managers or archivists in all the activities in the field of preventive conservation. The participants should also be able to identify situations where expert assistance is needed in the field of conservation or whether restoration is required on an object.

## BARBADOS

### The Newly Renovated W.I. Federal Archives Centre

Barbados - Cherri-Ann Beckles, Assistant Archivist

The W.I. Federal Archives Centre at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados was renovated in 2010. The newly expanded Centre includes an automated Reading Room with exhibition area, a Conservation/Digitisation Room, an extended repository with fire detection, security devices and environmental controls and a GENCAT (Archives software) Administration Office. The work of the Centre has fully resumed and the staff carry out services that include but are not restricted to reference services to internal and external researchers, basic conservation and preventive preservation, advisory services on the care and handling of records, automating the arrangement and description of archival records using an upgraded Archives searchable database with on-line capabilities (-WebGencat) and an outreach programme.

New accessions accrued in the period 2009-2010, including the papers of Sir Sidney Martin, one of the earliest Principals of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, now referred to as the Martin Papers. In addition to the Federal Archives and the Cave Hill Campus Archives, the Centre has acquired the Ramphal Papers (Sir Shridath Ramphal), the Allsopp Papers (Professor Richard Allsopp) and the BWIA Collection. The Archivists-in-charge continued to work in conjunction to the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI) and the Cave Hill Oral History Project on the oral history project entitled, "Remembering The West Indies Federation". It is hoped that a broadcast on The West Indies Federation will be produced to be aired across the region.

The Centre will seek to expand on its outreach programme in order to attract a new crop of researchers. The records housed therein cover a range of research themes including regional integration, federalism, decolonisation, constitutional reform, social welfare,



*Archives Reading Room*



*Expanded Archives Repository*

cultural development, education, telecommunications, transport and shipping, the military and regional security, meteorology and disaster mitigation in the region. The Centre has been providing top quality research services to a number of overseas academics from universities and colleges in North America and the United Kingdom as well as those in the Campus Community. These researchers have benefited from the upgraded, on-line, searchable Archives database (WebGencat) before arriving to conduct research in the newly design Reading Room. Complementary sources such as audio-visual and photographic material enhance the research experience.

For further information, visit our website and search the archives at [www.wifac.org](http://www.wifac.org)





**DOMINICA**



**Archives Unit – Library and Information Service**

**Dominica** - Magdalene Robin, Chief Librarian

Report on newspaper exhibition held from October 25-29, 2010

The Archives Unit of the Library and Information Service held its first exhibition during the month of October 2010. The exhibition with the theme News from the Past was aimed at highlighting the newspaper collection as well as promoting the Archives, and sensitizing the public to the role of Archives in preserving and making available the documentary heritage of Dominica.

The exhibition, which featured a newspaper col-

lection from 1821-1977, was held in the reading room of the Archives from Monday, October 25 to Friday October 29, 2010.

*“... stories from “the Dread Era” ...”*

The exhibits included copies, photographs and some of the original newspapers, opened at pages featuring stories which staff felt would be interesting dealing with topics such as politics, prevalent diseases, health advisories, notices regarding runaway slaves and articles in both French and English. One section depicted stories from “the Dread Era” and another depicted various headlines. There was also a comparison between two newspapers, “The Dominica Chronicle” one from 1821, and one which was started in 1909 that is still in existence today.

A booklet featuring the publishing history of newspapers in Dominica was produced and presented as part of the exhibition.

The number of people who visited was quite

less than expected. However, those who did visit had high praise for the effort.

The following are some excerpts from the comments written in the exhibition visitor book:

“Very impressed with the lay out and the articles presented. Hope more Dominicans come to view this exhibition. Very impressive” S. Eusebe

“This is fine work by obviously competent and dedicated staff...if children read some of this, they will see the consistencies and more so the inconsistencies of those who spanned the political stage from then to now. It is amazing what raw history can reveal. I highly recommend this presentation”. Francis O. Severin

“Very good. Impress[ed] there are documents far back as 1821. Hearts off to those involved in preserving these documents...”

“Excellent exhibition. A historical treasure which must be maintained...” Anne J. Lewis

“Congratulations... on this fine exhibition that shows the wealth of valuable information contained at the Archives, (although we know that this is just the tip of the iceberg!) I hope it will make the interested public more aware of the material available and its important role as a part of our heritage”. Lennox Honychurch

*“... unique exhibition ...”*

“... this is one of the most unique exhibitions that I have had the pleasure of attending. As a media worker I paid special attention to how the writing styles have evolved over the years...”  
Brenton Henry

“A most impressionable display of the history of our country as recorded and viewed through the eyes of the print media. All students should

avail themselves of the opportunity to view such. The Public Library must be commended for its efforts in preserving and protecting such. Great work. Keep it up.” Petter Saint-Jean.

The exhibition was advertised in the print and electronic media, and flyers were placed at numerous business places and institutions. Some people were also specifically invited. However, based on the feedback, we will need to directly target the secondary schools if we expect a good turn out of students.



*Headlines from the past*



*Newspapers and Booklets*





### Assistance to the Archives Nationales d'Haiti

**Jamaica** - John Aarons, University Archivist, The University of the West Indies

Along with two colleagues - Dunstan Newman, (Preservation & Conservation Librarian) and David Brown (Binder) - from the UWI Mona Campus, I visited Haiti from July 11 to 17 to provide training in the areas of preservation and conservation to members of the staffs of the Bibliotheque National d'Haiti and the Archives Nationales d'Haiti. The mission was part of the assistance programme The UWI, Mona offered to Haiti following the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010.

*"... we were the first Caribbean group (...) after the Earthquake ..."*

Although representatives from ICA and Blue Shield in Europe had visited Haiti earlier and had held discussions with government officials, we were the first group of Caribbean archivists/librarians to visit Haiti after the earthquake. Our visit was very practical in that we conducted two (2) workshops, each of two days duration, in basic preservation and conservation techniques. These were attended by twenty (20) persons from the institutions noted above.

The Workshops were well received by the participants and this showed the dire need for training in book binding and conservation techniques.

One of the workshops was held at the Historical Archives on Puerte Marchand which is the old-

est of the three locations of the Archives Nationales. Fortunately, it withstood the earthquake very well although it suffered some damage, especially to the roof.

However, it faces a massive task in rehabilitating its collections as thousands of documents are stored in boxes and bags and are awaiting sorting and cleaning before they can be placed in acid free folders, boxed and shelved. At the time of our visit there were overturned shelves with records beneath them.

The Archives has a conservation laboratory which was not in operation at the time of our visit. However, it has a functioning repair and binding unit, unlike the National Library which does not have such a facility. Supplies and materials are in short supply and along with the provision of training this is a possible area in which CARBICA members can assist.

One of the great advantages of our visit is that as we are from a neighbouring Caribbean island and therefore accustomed to the climatic conditions in Haiti. We were able to interact well with the staff engaged in their daily work of repair and conservation. We observed the techniques they were using and showed them where there was room for improvement.

We were impressed by the interest they showed in their work and their spirit of determination in spite of difficult living and working conditions in the aftermath of the earthquake.

The international preservation community has announced impressive plans to assist Haiti to recover its cultural patrimony but until that can fully materialize, small interventions such as ours can be beneficial. This is because we were able to obtain first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing the institution and the kind of practical assistance required.

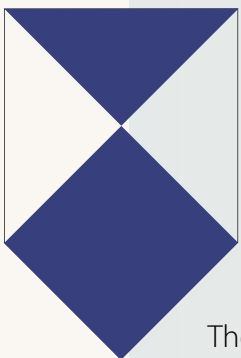




Haiti after the earthquake. Photo: [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)

## The Blue Shield

The International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), founded in 1996, comprises representatives of the five Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in this field:



- The International Council on Archives ([www.ica.org](http://www.ica.org)),
- The International Council of Museums ([www.icom.museum](http://www.icom.museum)),
- The International Council on Monuments and Sites ([www.icomos.org](http://www.icomos.org)), and
- The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions ([www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org))
- The Co-ordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations ([www.ccaaa.org](http://www.ccaaa.org))

National Blue Shield Committees have been founded in a number of countries (18 established and 18 under construction).

The Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield (ANCBS), founded in December 2008, coordinates and strengthens international efforts to protect cultural property at risk of destruction in armed conflicts or natural disasters. The ANCBS headquarters are in The Hague. Contact Information: Blue Shield secretariat: [secretariat.paris@blueshield-international.org](mailto:secretariat.paris@blueshield-international.org)



## CARBICA Strives to:

- (a) establish, maintain and strengthen relations between institutions and individuals concerned with the custody, organization and administration of archives in the Caribbean area;
- (b) foster co-operation between all institutions, professional bodies and persons who are concerned with the custody, the administration, the organization or the use of archives;
- (c) promote all measures for the preservation of all material of documentary value and, to this end, to make practical recommendations to the authorities of Caribbean countries;
- (d) study problems concerned with the conservation of archives in tropical countries;
- (e) encourage the description of archival material and to facilitate the exchange of information relating to archives and to act in ways which make material in Caribbean archives more widely known;
- (f) encourage in all countries in the Caribbean the establishment of archives and to promote the professional training of archivists in the Caribbean region;
- (g) promote the more frequent use of archives and to encourage greater ease of access to archival material;
- (h) periodically hold a Caribbean Archives Conference;
- (i) contribute to a better mutual understanding among the peoples of the Caribbean;
- (j) develop or recommend professional and institutional standards to improve the quality and consistency of Caribbean archives; and
- (k) promote the implementation of records management programs regardless of media format in all Caribbean countries.

## A New Website for CARBICA

The inaugural Communications Committee of the Caribbean Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA) is responsible for promoting and facilitating communications among and between the Executive Committee and CARBICA members. The mission of the Committee is to organize and present timely and accurate information through an official website, newsletters and social networking sites in order to educate and inform members of CARBICA about developments in archival institutions across the region as well as to promote CARBICA/ICA activities and events.

In keeping with this mission, the Communications Committee sought the assistance of a web developer (Barbados) to work on the redevelopment of the official website of CARBICA based on requirements given by the Executive at its November meeting. The primary aim of the upgraded website is to allow for the website to grow and adapt meeting the needs of CARBICA in today's Internet environment. One key feature of the new website is that it would be dynamic and allow for members to log in using the highest security features, access content and share information.

The desired functionalities and requirements include multiple languages, namely French and English (we hope to include Spanish in the near future); on-line membership registration; an interactive membership section; the latest CARBICA/ICA news and events; a photo gallery; a secure area for members that would allow them to view a repository of content; a secure area for the Executive Committee members and Facebook & Twitter integration.

The website would also enable e-mail notifications, visitor tracking and a dynamic map with locations of the archival institutions across the region. The domain name for the website will remain [www.carbica.org](http://www.carbica.org)

### From the Editors:

The Communications Committee would like to thank all those who have contributed to the content of newsletter. The newsletter will be distributed by email and placed on the new CARBICA website and the ICA website to keep members abreast of current events and activities in regional archival institutions. It is hoped that the newsletter will serve to highlight the advancement and achievements of CARBICA as a regional body and its members.

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Membership Fees:  
Category A: US\$ 150  
Category B: US\$ 100  
Category C: US\$ 75  
Category D: US\$ 50

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