From our New President ....

My fellow CARBICAns, it is with great pleasure, as the newly elected President of CARBICA to address you in this special issue of the newsletter.

The CARBICA X Conference ‘Open Access: Addressing the challenges of access to records and public data in the Caribbean’ held in Martinique from 2 - 6 December, was a great success. CARBICA members and other guests discussed the challenges they face especially in the field of use and re-use of records and information rights legislation (or the lack thereof). Once again, it is proved that as CARBICAns we need to share our experiences, our scarce resources and work together in order to achieve the goals we set for ourselves as archives and records professional in our Region. As the new President, this will be my main slogan for the coming years, ‘sharing experiences and collaborating to meet the challenges we encounter’. As CARBICA we have to support and assist our fellow CARBICAns in their efforts to build capacity in their re-

Upcoming Events:

- MIGAN trainings and meetings for 2015 are planned in Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and St. Martin
- March 2015: EC meeting in Grenada
- 26 April - 1 May: ICA Executive Board Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

Happy Holidays
spective countries.

Furthermore, I want to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Dominique Taffin, our Immediate Past President (2010-2014) for the passionate and tireless way she has led the Association. Her valuable contribution to CARBICA these past years has resulted in more capacity building for CARBICAns. As a spokeswoman for CARBICA in the Executive Board of ICA, she has represented the interests of our Association very well. I also want to express my gratitude to Ms. Helena Leonce, who served in various capacities as President (2006-2010) and Immediate Past President (2010-2014) in the outgoing Executive Council. Finally, congratulation to the newly elected Executive Council members of the Association. For the years 2015 - 2018 we will work as a team to achieve the goals we have set for our Association.

Immediately following the election of the new Executive Council in Martinique, EC members have been assigned the task of creating newly invigorated committees to address issues concerning professional education, records management and disaster planning in the Region. Their first task is to draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for these committees; following which the EC will install various working committees in order to achieve the goals we have set. CARBICAns with special skills and interest in the relevant areas will be invited to join as a member of the working committees. The work of the MIGAN project will also continue, as will the drafting of revisions to the Association’s Constitution. One of the goals of the new CARBICA EC is to involve young archives and records professionals in CARBICA projects. In our way forward, we have to take into account that the young professionals will be the new leaders of our Association. In this context, various initiatives will be explored to involve them in the work of CARBICA.

The Executive Council will hold its next meeting in March 2015 in Grenada, where we plan to lend support to that country’s effort to rescue their endangered archives and raise awareness of the importance of records management through organizing a workshop for records managers. During the Grenada meeting we will discuss the future of our Association, especially since we will celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2015. All CARBICAns are invited to share their ideas for the future of CARBICA and send their e-mails to the CARBICA Google group or to the e-mail address of the President or the Secretary. The interests of the members as well as the goals of the Association must be in sync with each other and to achieve this, we will need the input (contribution) of all CARBICAns. I invite you all to involve yourself more in the work of our Association through the CARBICA website, Google group, Facebook and LinkedIn Account! CARBICAns let us join forces for the advancement of our Archive profession in the Region!

Merry Christmas … Happy New Year
Feliz Navidad … Feliz Año Nuevo
Vrolijke Kerstdagen … Gelukkig Nieuwjaar
Joyeuz Noël … Bonnee Année

Rita Tjien Fooh , President CARBICA
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Past President’s Word

These are very special season’s greetings that I would like to extend to all the CARBICA membership at the eve of 2015. At this juncture, I pass on the task of leading the Caribbean Archives Association to Mrs. Rita Tjien Fooh, our newly elected President. It is with great emotion that I want to express my gratitude to the CARBICAns who accompanied me during the 2010-2014 term. With the members of the Executive Council, the Communications Committee and the MIGAN steering committee, I had stimulating interactions for all these years and we have succeeded in a number of achievements.

Among them, I would like to stress that despite the challenges of the scattered geography and travel costs, our different languages, institutional or educational background and also our local agendas which made it sometimes difficult to work at the same pace, we were able to carry out shared activities to serve common goals by defining a broad strategy and implementing it by concrete actions. We also succeeded in letting the voice of Caribbean archivists be heard at an international level through the International Council on Archives.

Building professional capacity, through trainings and projects, such as the MIGAN project, has been a constant objective and we organized no less than 10 training workshops, to which we can add those we contributed to. The professional programme which backed our General Assembly in Martinique, on Dec. 2-5, exemplifies again that goal. Networking and communicating have developed in a dramatic manner and will, I hope, continue with the same impetus.

I want to congratulate the new Executive Council, and our President, Rita Tjien Fooh, and welcome the new members who will bring their vision to the existing expertise. I am confident that she will carry the task with fortitude and skilled ‘know-how’. New actions, new goals will be defined, and I will be happy to serve among the EC as the immediate past president, as well as the project manager of the MIGAN project which will be continued and intensified for 2015. You can rely on my full support!

2015 will be the 50th anniversary of our organization. This is a special occasion to draw up the future of our organization, with a clear view of our past achievements and capitalize on our experience.

Happy new year to all!

Dominique Taffin
Immediate Past President of CARBICA
The General Assembly of the Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA) was held at the Archives départementales de Martinique, Fort-de-France, Martinique on December 4, 2014.

Ms. Dominique Taffin, President of CARBICA, warmly welcomed the gathering. She expressed appreciation for the presence and participation of Mr. David Leitch, Secretary General of the International Council on Archives and Mr. Charles Gibson, Minister of the Public Service, Belize and a past President of CARBICA.

The President also acknowledged the contribution of one of CARBICA’s past presidents, Mrs. Nolda Romer-Kenepa and requested of the representative from Curacao to pass on her best wishes. The meeting was also informed that plans are in the pipeline to acknowledge the contributions of all CARBICA’s president through The Past Presidents Project.

After the President, Mr. David Leitch made a short presentation entitled, “ICA: Looking to the Future”. He informed of the efforts being made by the organization to increase membership so that members can have their say in the democratization of the organization; ICA’s commitment to modernization through the new website and revised constitution and its strategic objectives including strengthening its presence in certain parts of the world including Africa and Latin America.

The highlight of the General Meeting was the election of officers. Elected to manage the affairs of CARBICA for the next four (4) years are:

- **President:** Rita Tjien Fooh, Suriname
- **Vice President:** Avril Belfon, Trinidad and Tobago
- **Treasurer:** Stephanie Dargaud, St. Martin
- **Secretary:** Karla Hayward, Bermuda
- **Floor Members:**
  - Cherri-Ann Beckles, Barbados
  - Max Scriwanek, Curacao
  - Stanley Griffin, Jamaica
  - Cheryl Sylvester, Grenada
- **Immediate Past President:** Dominique Taffin

At the close of the elections, the new Executive Committee was presented to the meeting. The new president, Mrs. Rita Tjien Fooh, thanked the members for placing their confidence in her and congratulated the other members of the new Executive Committee. As a first task, she plans to address the closure of the archives in Grenada and to that end she proposed to hold her first Executive Committee meeting in Grenada with a view to meeting with officials there to discuss the problem.

Another feature of the meeting was the oral report by members on the activities of their archives during the past four years. As a reminder, attendees are to send their written reports to Ms. Cheryl Sylvester (csylvest@sgu.edu), former Secretary of CARBICA, for inclusion in the Minutes.
Barbados - By Cherri-Ann Beckles

Caribbean Archivists met in Martinique for the Tenth Conference of the Caribbean Branch of the International Council on Archives. The participants of the Conference also experienced a sound educational programme in the form of interactive training workshops. These workshops were conducted in two languages, French and English, on 3rd and 4th December at the Archives Department of Martinique. The English workshop was entitled, ‘Information Rights Legislation and Caribbean Archival Institutions.’ In planning the Conference package the Executive Council of CARBICA recognized that the Caribbean is moving towards the implementation of information rights legislation to meet international standards and requirements. It was therefore decided that workshops should be designed to introduce and describe three main types of information rights legislation in order to empower Caribbean archivists to deal with their impact on archival institutions. The types of legislation addressed in the workshops were Freedom of Information/Access to Information Legislation, Data Protection/Privacy Legislation and Copyright Legislation. The English workshop was prepared and presented by Dr. Cherri-Ann Beckles (West Indies Federal Archives Centre (WIFAC) - Barbados), Ms. Avril Belfon (National Archives - Trinidad & Tobago) and Mrs. Sharon Alexander-Gooding (UWI Archives/WIFAC - Barbados). The workshop included presentations and reviews of case studies. Participants were provided with all reference and assessment materials.

The objectives of the workshops were to provide an introduction/overview of the selected types of information rights legislation to Caribbean archivists; to explore the relationship between the three types of information rights legislation; to examine the impact of information rights legislation on archives services and to discuss approaches and solutions for archival institutions to cope with the changing information rights landscape. By the end, the learning outcomes were for participants to understand the main requirements of the selected information rights legislation; to understand how information rights legislation impacts on the provision of archives services; to learn how best to respond to requests and queries under the selected types of information rights; to acquire some knowledge on how to strike a balance between disclosure and closure of information within archival holdings and to learn how to employ mechanisms to ensure compliance with information rights legislation.

The workshops were well attended and participants stated that they were grateful to have received the information provided. Attendees shared information on the situation in their countries as well as examples and challenges faced thus far. Of particular note was the lack of privacy legislation currently enacted across the Region. Participants expressed concern about their readiness to deal with these pieces of legislation but agreed that the workshop improved awareness and provided some practical guidelines for setting policies in their Archives.

A vital part of the activity leading up to the Conference workshops was the completion of an on-line survey designed by CARBICA for its members. The aim of the survey was to examine and assess the current status of information rights legislation in the region and the impact of that legislation on Caribbean archival institutions. The survey can still be accessed on the website of CARBICA at http://www.carbica.org/News/Events/CARBICA-X/Survey. Members who have not yet completed the survey are encouraged to do so at their earliest convenience.
CARBICA X

Conference and Panels

Opening Conference and Panels: from left to right: David Leitch, Secretary General of the International Council on Archives, Dominique Taffin, National Archivist of Martinique, Josette Manin, President of the General Council of Martinique.

Presenters: Trudy Peterson Huskamp, former National Archivist of the United States and “Archival busy Bee” presented a lecture “The right to Know: Principles of Access and Legislation - no closure without disclosure”. She also presented the workshop “Access to Archives”. Charles Gibson, former National Archivist of Belize - acting minister of Public Service and Elections and Boundaries of Belize presented the lecture “Effective Recordkeeping for Good Governance” at the opening Conference.
From left to right: Charles Gibson, minister of Belize; Sharon Alexander-Gooding, moderator, presenter of the Copyright Workshop and University Archivist of the West Indies Federal Archives Centre (WIFAC) of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados; Rita Tjien Fooh, National Archivist of Suriname and Max Scriwanek, National Archivist of Curacao together presented “Access to Archives: a case study of the Dutch Caribbean” (Suriname and Curacao). To the right: Silvia Ninita de Moura Estevão, who presented: “The Brazilian Law on Access to Information; Deployment and Implementation”.

From left to right: M. Hervé Lemoine, National Archivist of France, presented “Open Data and Archives”; the moderator for the afternoon programme; Avril Belfon, National Archivist of Trinidad and Tobago presented “Open Data Initiative in Trinidad” (on behalf of Vashti Guyadeen) and M. Gaël Musquet, chargé de mission TIC, Paris, presented “Open Data, What for? New Uses, New Challenges”.

The final presenter was Jacques Dumond, Historian and Professor at the University of Guadeloupe (not on this picture) who presented: “the Historian and the records: relations, stakes and territories”
I was privileged to have participated in an internship at Archives Department of Martinique between 2nd and 5th December, 2014. This internship was arranged by an agreement between West Indies Federal Archives Centre (WIFAC) of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados and the Archives Department of Martinique. The purpose of the internship was mainly to enhance my knowledge of paper conservation because I am seeking to train in this area as a staff member of WIFAC. The theme of the internship was, “Introduction to Paper Conservation”.

On the first day on my visit to the Archives Department, I meet with Conservator, Ms. Celia Pacquit, who gave me an introduction tour to meet the staff and also a tour of the storage rooms. She also gave a small presentation on conservation and bookbinding where I was able to see how most of the work was done restoring books, maps, pictures and different types of paper. In the afternoon of that day, I was able to get some practical work on the Basics of Paper Restoration. I dismantled the back of an old book and started working on the restoration of the first two pages.

On day two, I met with other staff members to get a better idea of how the Archives functioned. I met with persons who were in charge of the Private Archives and staff who had to go to auctions in order to buy and collect pieces of historical value. I found this interesting as this was the first time I was aware of this type of activity in an Archives. I was told that they were even in competition with private buyers who also wanted to collect the same pieces which had much historical value.
On day three, I was able to get a tour of the Reading Room and also meet the Reading Room President who was responsible for researcher management. I must also note that every afternoon after my meetings with the staff members, I was able to get in some practical work on the repair of the pages which I began to work on the first day.

On my last day, I met with the staff who dealt with exhibition displays, both the authentic and virtual types. My last meeting was with the staff of the digitizing room where I was given an overview of the digital archives system and the digital life cycle. In the afternoon of my last day, with the help of Ms. Celia Paquit, I was able to do the final repairs of the pages I was working on and also gain much more knowledge of new and modern ways to repair records.

I was very pleased to have had this experience. I wish to thank Ms. Dominique Taffin (Director) and her staff for their hospitality. Most of all, I am very grateful to Celia for the time she took to show me the rudiments of conservation. I was impressed that even though English is not her first language, Celia was able to present the information in a very effective and interesting way and I learned a lot from her and the staff in a short space of time.
Karla Hayworth, Rita Tjien Fooh, Helena Leonce, Cheryl Sylvester, during Conference

ICA Secretary General, David Leitch presenting during the General Assembly

Minister Charles Gibson, from Belize

Rita Tjien Fooh, Dr. Herman Byrd, Avril Belfon

Poster Presentations

CARBICA president Rita Tjien Fooh with the staff from the Archives Departementales of Martinique

Max Scriwanek at the Panels

Dominique Taffin during Island Tour
Martinique Island Tour

CARBICANS at the Habitation Pecoul on Saturday December 6th Island Tour.
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.