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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.

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À propos de CARBICA
La mission du Conseil international des archives (ICA) est de promouvoir la conservation et l'utilisation des archives dans le monde entier. Dans la poursuite de cette mission, l’ICA s’efforce de protéger et de valoriser la mémoire du monde et d’améliorer la communication tout en respectant la diversité culturelle. La Direction régionale des Caraïbes (CARBICA) est responsable de l'exécution de la politique et des programmes de l’ICA dans sa région, où elles sont pertinentes pour les membres de CARBICA

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Upcoming Events:
• MARCH 16-19 2020: “Caribbean Conversations in Conservation”, by the Caribbean Heritage Network, At The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, BARBADOS
• JUNE 9-10 2020: “Jamaica: Reshaping RIM for the 21st Century”, by Government of Jamaica’s Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and Jamaica Archives and Record Department, Kingston Jamaica
• SEPT 28-Oct 2 2020: “Memory, human rights and good practice in university and research archives” International Council on Archives/Section for University and Research Institution Archives, Bogota Columbia
Celebrating ‘Overnight Success’!

A mentor of mine recently told me, ‘It takes 20 years to become an overnight success’. Quite a paradox, isn’t it? The glitz and glamour of professional and institutional achievements so often overshadow the steady commitment and sweat-equity of those who spent years lobbying, harassing, grant-writing, and even praying for their realities. Fortunately, the efforts of our colleagues, past and present, are finally bearing fruit.

We are so pleased to share with you, in this edition of CARBICA News, the successes of our membership in recent months. From Antigua to Suriname, there have been lots of training and investment in the care and preservation of our documentary heritage. In Curacao and Jamaica, we celebrate the accomplishments of the first homegrown generation of Caribbean archival professionals, a dream that has taken the proverbial twenty years to realize.

However, the work is not finished. There is still much to do and learn. Collaboration among heritage interests, another long-held dream, is increasing and the upcoming gathering of the Caribbean Heritage Network to discuss Conservation in the Caribbean will bear much fruit (hopefully in less than 20 years!). The several other upcoming events will also give opportunity for interaction and engagement. Please be sure to participate and keep working steadily. May 2020 be an overnight success for you and yours!

Bless,
Stanley,
Chair, Communications
From our President

My fellow CARBICAns, it is wonderful to connect with you once again and to share news of our activities. I wish firstly to congratulate Dr. Stanley Griffin and Mr. Max Scriwanek who both celebrated milestones in the education of new professionals in the field during this past year. November 2019 saw the graduation of the first cohort of students of the Master’s in Archives and Records Management at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus as well as the culmination of the Bachelor’s in Archives and Records Management Program of the Inter-Continental University of the Caribbean in collaboration with the National Archives of Curacao. I was extremely pleased to see the success of these programs which augurs well for our profession in the region.

Over the last few months, CARBICA has been working to strengthen the Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network (CARBICA-CHEN) and has actively pursued partnerships with regional and international bodies with similar or related mandates. Executive Council (EC) and CARBICA-CHEN Steering Committee member, Halcyon Wiltshire’s participation in the course “First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAC) 2019” held 11 November to 5 December, 2019 was supported by both ICCROM and CARBICA. Coming out of this collaboration with ICCROM we hope to make similar training more widely available to the region. CHEN was also represented by one of its Co-Chairs, Mr. Max Scriwanek at the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency’s (CDEMA) 11th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) held in St. Maarten from December 2 - 6 2019. Most recently, CARBICA-CHEN was invited by UNESCO to take part in a conference held in San Jose, Costa Rica on “Understanding Risk Central America” (URCA), which took place on 12 to 14 February 2020. EC member, Mr. Kevin Montero (our Spanish speaker) represented us at this event.

Finally, happening this month in Barbados is the Caribbean Heritage Network (CHN) conference entitled “Caribbean Conversation in Conservation” carded for March 16-19, 2020. CARBICA has partnered with CHN and will be hosting a workshop and panel discussion at the conference. I urge all CARBICAns to make every effort to attend this conference which will feature some excellent workshops and presentations on Disaster Management. It is hoped that through all these initiatives CARBICA-CHEN will be able to provide the necessary support to you, our members, in your time of need.

I will end as I started, on a congratulatory note. Congratulations to Mrs. Nolda Kenepa, former President of CARBICA and former Director of the National Archives Curacao who, on the recommendation of CARBICA, was named a Fellow by the International Council on Archives (ICA) at the 2019 annual conference in Adelaide, Australia.

Members are encouraged to share your ideas for the future of CARBICA by sending e-mails to the President or the Secretary. Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for opportunities to actively participate in your association and to learn more about our activities.

Avril Belfon
President CARBICA- avril.belfon@archives.gov.tt
#CultureCannotWait: First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis

By Halcyon Wiltshire-Busby, Barbados

Sixteen (16) individuals were brought together from different parts of the world from fourteen (14) countries (Chile, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Honduras, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Spain, South Sudan, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States) to participate in the course, the First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis, organized by the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). The programme had persons from the cultural heritage sector, humanitarian aid, disaster and risk assessment, architects and engineers, all of whom made tremendous contributions to the course.

The purpose of this course is to bring awareness to mitigation strategies that can be implemented to prevent damage to cultural heritage, as well as give needed assistance post crisis to ways in which cultural heritage can be salvaged post event. This course is almost a calendar year long, in that it is done in three phases. The first phase of the course participants were assigned mentors based on their respective regions. They helped with the facilitation of the pre-course modules. This took place in the period September- November 2019. These modules included introduction and concepts of cultural heritage, disaster risk management, risk assessment, international frameworks, First Aid to Culture (FAC) Framework and post disaster humanitarian response.

Norcia onsite simulation exercise group work, documenting the damage to an "Art gallery".
The Second Phase of the programme took us to Italy where we had lectures and carried out simulation exercises on dealing with crisis situations. This part of the course was very intensive wherein we had long days of classroom and practical exercises. Nonetheless it was all worth it, these classroom sessions in some regards were a significant learning curve for participants as we were introduced to fields not in our remit. The simulation exercises were carried out in town of Norcia in preparation for our final exercise in Rome. Norcia was severely impacted by significant earthquakes in 2016 that impacted the lives of its residents and its infrastructure. There we learnt the basics of engineering techniques, how to deal with the authorities in crisis situations and the ways in which you deal with members of communities in the aftermath of a crisis.

The course emphasized the importance of community relations in times of disaster, in many instances their social interactions and businesses would have borne the brunt of catastrophic disasters displacing people, their livelihoods and their families. The FAC 2019 cohort then resumed class sessions in Rome and the final simulation was carried out.

At present we are in the third phase of the course which involves First Aiders carrying out a project in their respective territories. This is done with the guidance of the mentors; my goal is to use this third phase as a catalyst for change in the region regarding emergency response as it relates to heritage. Therefore, under the auspices of CARBICA and their Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network (CHEN) initiative we are in the process of creating a network that will aid our regional counterparts in the heritage sector in times of crisis.

Halcyon Wiltshire participated on behalf of CARBICA / CHEN at the ICCROM training in Rome

Introducing our CARBICA EC Floormember:

Name: Halcyon Wiltshire-Busby

CARBICA EC Position: Floor Member

Position: Assistant Archivist at the West Indies Federal Archives Centre/Cave Hill Campus Archives

Your hopes for the 4 yr. period: I sincerely endeavor to generate awareness among my counterparts with regard to the importance of disaster preparedness in heritage institutions such as archives. We live in the era of climate change and most of our group are small island territories that are vulnerable to many a disaster. Safeguarding our documentary heritage is of paramount importance. Therefore, I hope to execute the objectives espoused by CARBICA, especially with regard to disaster mitigation and recovery in the region. CARBICA has certainly led the way in embarking on a Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network (CHEN) initiative. My aim is to promote the First Aid to Cultural Heritage (FAC) training I recently received from the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and highlight the significant threat our documentary heritage faces in times of disasters.

Personal Interests: As an Archivist and having done my studies in culture as well, I have come to realize archives and culture are inextricably linked. Records dealing with our past and informing on our future leaves an indelible mark on our societies. On the other hand, I am also a “carnivalist” I enjoy all aspects of carnival celebrations.

Halcyon Wiltshire participated on behalf of CARBICA / CHEN at the ICCROM training in Rome
Unlocking Caribbean Memory: UWI DLIS hosts 1st Symposium on Archives and Records

The Department of Library and Information Studies held its first symposium on Archives and Records at the Mona Jamaica Campus of The University of the West Indies on the 29th to the 31st of October 2019. The Symposium was a collaborative effort of the Department and the Caribbean Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA). Under the theme, Unlocking Caribbean Memory: Uncovering New Records, Discovering New Archives, the symposium was first gathering focusing on the records and archives of the Caribbean since the pivotal September 1965 Caribbean Archives Conference. The symposium celebrated the academic accomplishment of the Department’s first graduating cohort of the Master of Arts in Archives and Records Management as well as the launch of the edited text “Decolonizing the Caribbean Record: An Archives Reader”, which not only chronicles the archival history of the Caribbean but sheds light on the unique re/definitions and articulations of Caribbean records and record keeping practices. Additionally, it signalled the fulfilment of the ultimate purpose of
the Archival Studies programme to provide a “dedicated space for the academic analysis of Caribbean memory and record keeping practises which are emerging out of the reality of the Caribbean experience.”

Insightful and Engaging

The symposium had plethora of international and regional expert and professional presenters engaging the audience in providing very insightful and creative presentations. Zoom Technology, was used to host presenters, participants and students. Divided into eight (8) panels, presenters and participants mused “Rethinking Public Archives”, “New Texts for Old”, “Curating Caribbean Creators”, “Towards the Profession's Future”, “Forms and Voices”, “Tangible Formats”, “Curating Collections” and “Performance as/in the Archive”. From Jamaican Twitter to Trinidadian Stamps, Antiguan oral records, Canadian Indigenous experiences and cricket grounds to Barbadian Dancing, Chorale singing to Archival Jametry, geo-interpretative photographs to archival stones, curating Jamaican art to digitizing Belizean memory, the symposium uncovered the Caribbean archival record that are all around us.

Thought-Provoking Feature Presentations

The three-day symposium boasted several feature presentations:

• Dr Etienne Joseph (UK) Project Lead - Decolonising the Archive/Archives Manager - Hackney Archives, gave an intriguing multimedia presentation on the multiple ways in a community can decolonize its archives, by ‘praxervation’—preserving by practice—in his presentation, “Gone But Not Forgotten: Living Memory as Decolonial Praxis”.

• Dr Tania Sutherland (Hawaii, USA), Assistant Professor, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, presented a fascinating study on Black women’s resistance in colonial Guadeloupe in the Archives Nationales de France, particularly one named Solitude, focusing on the archival sources have been used and can be used to construct (counter) narratives of resistance in her paper, “Searching for Solitude: Black Women and Resistance in the French Colonial Archives”.

• Professor Jeanette Bastian (USA), Professor Emerita of Archival Studies, Simmons University, shared her thoughts as the lead editor at the book launch. Her talk entitled “A Caribbean Archival Gaze: Making the Case” suggests that nurturing and building local archives with their Caribbean gaze that offer counter narratives to the colonial one (while co-existing with it) is the task of the Caribbean archivist.

• Professor Patrick Bryan CD, Professor Emeritus of History, UWI Mona, gave a titillating review of the text Decolonizing the Caribbean Record: An Archives Reader at the book launch, titled, Future of the Past. He notes, “The authors challenge the traditional notion that government archives are the complete essence of the archival discipline. They seem happier with the concept of the Caribbean Record, which can more flexibly embrace the oral, as much as the written record, and can record the voice of the folk, who have been silent in the metropolitan archives that had methodically recorded the administrative and the prejudicial outlook of the metropolitan/colonial regime.”

• Professor Donna Hope, Professor of Culture, Gender and Society, UWI Mona, delivered the DLIS’ First Distinguished Lecture in Archives and Records. Under the theme, “Engaging New Frontiers in the Preservation of Caribbean Memory: The
The Dancehall Archive", Professor Hope illustrated how “spaces, like the internet, social media and attendant portals are transformed into archives, upon and through which select visions of the past, present and future collide. These archival visions of Caribbean memory are curated and historically rendered on a singular timeline by ordinary citizens busily engaged in making and re/making history”. The Dancehall Archive and Research Initiative is moving beyond the traditional archival space to preserve and make available post-independent Caribbean cultural memory.

- Mr John Isaza, California-based attorney, CEO of Information Governance Solutions featuring Virgo™, conducted the DLIS-CARBICA One (1) day Master Class, Implementing Digital Records Management and Information Governance. Over 56 physical and online participants engaged in a very useful and engaging instructional experience. Mr Isaza made the concepts interesting, relevant, and practical.

Recognizing Support

The DLIS also seized the opportunity to publicly recognize Professor Jeannette Bastian, John Aarons CD, the Archives Assistants of the UWI Archives, retiring part-time lecturer and course designer of the Managing Sound and Visual Media in the Caribbean course, Ms Maureen Webster-Prince, for their unwavering support in establishing Archival Studies in the Department.

With over 200 participants attending all the day and evening events, the Symposium was also aired on the UWI Tv, the university’s cable network and the Jamaican Public Broadcasting Commission (PBCJ). The Symposium Blog, https://dlisuwmona.wordpress.com/, is still active with details about the book, extracts of chapters, and will showcase future Archival/Information Studies activities at the DLIS.
From Broad Concepts to Nuts and Bolts: the CARBICA-DLIS Symposium Master Class

By Mrs Gayan Facey
Campus Records Manager
UWI Mona Campus, Jamaica

John Isaza, in his Master Class on Digital Records Management and Information Governance, took us from the broad concepts to the nuts and bolts of digital records management and information governance using the concept of the rotten record syndrome. He explored how information governance is driving the clean-up of the toxic record management environment using digital records management technologies. Isaza also demonstrated how information governance can leverage the technologies to ensure the reliability, authenticity, security and accessibility of records. His presentation also provided a macro perspective on information governance best practices and its relevance in achieving compliance, maintaining data privacy, mitigating risks and achieving operational efficiency.

Isaza addressed the concept of digital records management and outlined how electronic records management systems (ERMS) and electronic content management systems (ECM) fit into the modernization strategy of records management programmes. He also provided an overview of the current ECM and ERMS technologies and key considerations for selection. Crucial advice and insight on how to avoid pitfalls in selection were offered before he delved into practical examples relating to implementation.

The issue of managing cultural changes in order to cement records and information management processes was also highlighted. Using the Information Governance Reference Model (IGRM), Isaza demonstrated how the model provides a more all-encompassing approach to information governance in order to influence behavioural change. He showed us how organizational culture can also be used as a spring board for the development and promotion of sound recordkeeping practices. He
provided real-world illustrations how the model provides a framework for understanding the business value of records and information and the role of key stakeholders in ensuring legal compliance and defensible disposal.

The high point of Isaza's presentation was demonstrating the Virgo Retention Scheduling Software. We saw the convergence of the theoretical concept of retention scheduling and its practical application using a software. He demonstrated how the software simplifies management and control of information retention and governance rules. Isaza took a deep dive into some of the software's capabilities such as unified data, built in compliance, intelligent archiving and advanced analysis. It was amazing how the software integrated business classification scheme with retention scheduling making the decision to dispose much easier.

Co-hosted by Ms Sonia Black and Ms Helen Rumbolt, DLIS adjunct lecturers in Records Management, Isaza did a marvellous job in not only presenting the content but he also encouraged participation. Overall, an excellent Master Class.

*Pictures of the Masterclass with above: Facilitator John Isaza and last under: Sonia Black*
Breaking Barriers, Blazing Trails: Reflections from the 1st UWI Archival Studies Graduating Cohort

By Desaray Pivott-Nolan, Trinidad and Tobago

As a member of the 1st cohort graduating class of the Master of Arts in Archives and Records management Programme 2019 it is safe to say that the adage “the race is not to the swift but him who endureth till the end” truly applies here. Being the first programme of its kind in the Caribbean, The University of the West Indies and the Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS), it has been breaking barriers in many senses of the word not only for its subject content but also for its mode of delivery.

Being ordered within the DLIS at both the face to face and online mode of teaching presented a plethora of unforeseen obstacles and opportunities that allowed the programme to be as flexible as it needed to be, while staying true to its initial purpose.

Awareness of the programme was presented in a variety of ways inclusive of word of mouth and email correspondences. The attractiveness of its Caribbean focus as well as its online availability attracted the members that would become the first cohort of the programme. Stemming from various Caribbean countries such as Antigua and Barbuda (Stephen Butters) Barbados (Antonia Charlemagne-Marshall), Jamaica (Carol Francis) and Trinidad and Tobago (Janelle Duke and Desaray Pivott-Nolan),

“There is so many untapped resources in our archives across the region and I thought that it would be better to learn about the craft from people who have experience with Caribbean archival records.” – Janelle Duke

“I interviewed and got accepted to intern at UNICEF at the United Nations Headquarters in New York at the end of the programme” – Janelle
ott-Nolan), each member, even though fully employed, decided that embarking on studies that can help further their current field of work or provide a new field of knowledge or enhanced qualification was worthy of the challenge.

Despite the teething pains expected with a new programme, inclusive of administrative woes, connectivity issues, time differences and the occasional inclement weather, both students and lecturers persevered and gained not only foundational knowledge, but also unearth new information that would benefit not only future students of the programme but also the field at large. In addition to this, memorable opportunities and experiences were gained. Of these opportunities included the options to conduct practicum studies in home and neighbouring territories: Trinidad, Tobago, Jamaica, Suriname and St Lucia. These practicum experiences opened doors for further internship experiences.

Overall the experience has been fruitful seeing each member of the cohort receive awards and accolades within and external to the programme inclusive of departmental awards such as the records management prize awarded to me in 2016-2017 and the Ideal Record Keeper prize for an outstanding practicum awarded to Stephen Butters. Regional awards for CARBICA New Professionals were presented again to Stephen Butters and myself during the course of the programme; Janelle

“These opportunities included the Digital Initiatives intern at the Smithsonian Archives of American Art in Washington D.C, the Junior Professional Archivist at UNICEF Headquarters in New York and the Archives Management Support Intern at the UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Office. I also interned at the Barbados Museum and Historical Society.” - Antonia

“All things considered, the programme has adequately prepared me to work in any archival and information environments.” - Antonia

“I realized how limited my knowledge was and how much more information I need to learn about Archival Studies.” – Stephen Butters
Duke received the ICA New professional award which afforded us all the opportunities to attend and be active in the respective conferences and Antonia Charlemagne-Marshall was graced with the Harold T Pinkett Award from the Society of American Archivists (SAA). Compounded to these achievements was the awarding of each member of the cohort degrees with Distinction upon its completion.

I speak on behalf of all of us when I say we hope the programme continues to grow from strength to strength and promote the value of archives and records management to not only the region but also to the information bank already existent within the field, we expect that more stakeholders would become involved in helping the programme to grow, and we expect the future students to carry on the mantle of success that we have laid before you. So in the famous words of our illustrious lecturer, supervisor and instrumental player in the existence of this programme Dr. Stanley H. Griffin, ‘Fret not thyself’ because this is just the beginning of greater things to come.
“Redefine and Redesign”: National Archives Curacao hosts Anniversary Symposium

By: Max Scriwanek, Curacao

In collaboration with the Inter-Continental University of the Caribbean (ICUC), the National Archives of Curacao organized the final study days of the Bachelor’s Archive and Records Management Program set up by the Ministry of Governance, Planning and Public Service. Under the title Redefine and Redesign the role of Information and Archiving in Curacao, this symposium took place from 27 to 29 November 2019. This symposium was open to everyone.

The tailor-made Curriculum was recognized as a Bachelor Education Program by the Minister of Education in the month of November 2019. The first 2 students of this course received their (pre) diploma during the Symposium. Various local and international specialists in the field of information management and archives gave a presentation during these days. Among the speakers were:

- drs. Sean de Boer, Central Bureau for Statistics Curacao
- Prof. Gilbert Cijntje, Inter-Continental University of the Caribbean
- drs. Marens Engelhard, director of the National Archives of the Netherlands
- Dr. Stanley Griffin, PhD, Lecturer in Archival Studies University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica
- drs. Maartje van de Kamp, public viewing advisor, National Archives of the Netherlands
- drs. Maximilaan Scriwanek, director of the National Archives of Curacao

The CARBICA board was represented by Avril Belfon, president, Rita Tjien Fooh, immediate past president, Stanley Griffin, secretary, and Max Scriwanek, vice president. 
- drs. Rita Tjien Fooh, director of the National Archives of Suriname
- Luz Celeste Johannes, MBA Head of HRO Curaçao
- drs. Wim Nijdam, RE CPA CFE, project leader digitization archives Tax Receivers Office.

The program was organized in such a way that both plenary and simultaneous lectures were given. Participants had the choice to put together their own program.

The new timeline website of the Curaçao history was presented during the symposium: [www.curaacaohistory.com](http://www.curaacaohistory.com) (click on the blue link) with a beautifully designed timeline and short texts in English. This site can also be visited via the website of the National Archives.

The symposium ended with a guided historical city tour at the Otrobanda site of the Capital and a guided bus tour to the West of the island.

Because there were 4 CARBICA EC members present, a provisional priority list for the coming management period was discussed.

*Above: Plenary session at the Symposium.*

*Right: Bustour*

*Page 19: Presenters and facilitators*
"Those who do not see themselves reflected in national heritage are excluded from it."

~ Stuart Hall (2002, 65)
In honor of its 50th anniversary, the National Archives Curacao organized an exhibition entitled Images of the Past. Eight figurative artists and seven students of the Instituto Buena Bista (pre-training art academy) have been asked to represent an event from the Curacao history for this exhibition. Because the works of art of the students are less figurative, or even abstract, their creations contrast strongly with that of the figurative artists. By exhibiting the works combined, an interesting and exciting interaction has occurred. All participants in the exhibition have been invited to the archive and have thus been able to prepare for their creative process. The exhibition is well worth a visit for both those interested in local history and art lovers. The archives mainly hope is to interest young people in the history of Curacao.

One of the most impressive works on the exhibition was made by the student Ragnar Prinsen. He has chosen the unrest of 30 May 1969.
What started at the end of May ’69 as a labor conflict at the Shell refinery turned into a call for respect and recognition. During the riots 60 buildings were burnt down in the center of Willemstad and about 100 shops were seriously damaged and looted.

The older generation still sees 30 May as a turning point in the history of the island. The short film of Prinsen shows that young people are now thinking differently about this. He says the following about his work of art: “This work illustrates my views on what happened on 30 May 1969 and its consequences. Nada no a Kambia (nothing has changed). Racial barriers were partly broken down, but are still present in the head of both parties (white and black). And in all other aspects, Curaçao has stagnated or even fallen back into old habits”.

The work Sundown Curaçao on July 26th 1499 by artist Phillip Rademaker is a fine example of a realistic representation of an event from the history of the island. In the geographically correct setting, he displays an Indian that sees the first ships from Europe arriving. The setting sun, depicted in dramatic shades of color, is undoubtedly a reference to the fate of the original population of Curaçao.

The exhibition was made in collaboration with Instituto Buena Bista and Kas di kultura. Without the financial contribution of the Netherlands’ representation in Willemstad and the Prince Bernhard Culture Fund Caribbean, this exhibition would not have been possible.
The National Archives of St Kitts and Nevis (NA-SKN) proudly announces the completion of conservation work on the Original Register of Slaves 1817. This volume was the first complete census of the enslaved populations of St. Kitts. It records the name, age, sex, colour, place of origin, and occupation of the individuals and groups them together under the name of the person for whom they worked. It is an invaluable resource for historical research and is part of a Memory of the World inscription. In 2017, the volume went on special exhibition at the National Museum to commemorate the 200 years of its compilation. This often emotional event highlighted the value of the Register and of the other volumes that came after it.
The NA-SKN does not have a conservation lab but through the efforts of Nerys Rudder, we were given access to a conservator. Anne Bancroft who not only worked on the volume but ensured that we were aware of the conservation work that was being performed on it. Ms Bancroft’s first project with us involved the Journals of Special Magistrate Ralph Cleghorne. This was financed through a project with UWI, spearheaded by Dr Tara Inniss of the Department of History in Barbados. The success of the conservation work on the Journals encouraged local interest. A number of individuals who recognize the value of heritage for education, culture, tourism and national identity made it possible. The National Archives would like to thank His Excellency Sir Tapley Seaton, Governor General for his intervention in finding the resources to conserve the Register and to ensure its safe travels. Dr. Robertine Chaderton, Chair of SIDF facilitated the financial backing. Dr Kevin Isaac, High Commissioner for St. Kitts and Nevis in London, ensured the safe transportation of the volume. We are also very grateful to the National Museum for the exhibition that helped us make this project a reality.

The volume can be viewed by appointment at the National Archives, Government Headquarters.

“CARBICA offers congratulations and best wishes to Viki on her retirement”.
Preserving Antigua and Barbuda’s Pre- and Post Emancipation History Through Archival Training and Digitization: National Archives of Antigua and Barbuda

Submitted by
Ms. Zemilia Samuel, Assistant Researcher
Ms. Narisia James, Assistant Records Manager
Ms. Keniesha Joseph, Office Assistant
Mr. Raheem Fleming, IT Technician

The National Archives of Antigua and Barbuda benefited from a British Library Endangered Archives (EAP) Project, submitted by Dr Natasha Lightfoot of Columbia University. The project, entitled ‘Preserving Antigua and Barbuda’s Pre-and Post Emancipation History Through Archival Training and Digitization’ has five major goals:
(1) To catalog and determine the status of the material the archive holds from the colonial period.
(2) To conduct a pilot digitization of the wills and deeds, which are in various stages of disrepair.
(3) To train the local staff in digitization techniques so that they can continue the process after this first phase ends.
(4) To lay the foundations for a major EAP grant if the pilot proves feasible.
(5) To raise the public awareness of the contents and value of the archives.

A major component of this project is the recently held Digitization Workshop. The objective of this weeklong workshop was to provide participants with an in-depth concept of digitization and digital

Minister of Education, Hon Michael Brown, Dr Susan Lowe and facilitator Mr Miguel Asencio speaking with a participant.
on training for use of the digitization equipment (camera, rotating table, software, etc.).

At the opening of the workshop, the Hon. Michael Browne, Minister of Education, Science expressed “his delight in the workshop being held as it will kick start the very long awaited digitization of the vital records held at the Archives”. Dr. Susan Lowe, Columbia University and Friend of the Archives spoke on the digitization process to be undertaken and introduced the facilitator Mr. Miguel Asencio, Director of the Digital Library of the Caribbean and training facilitator. Mr. Asencio gave an overview of what he planned “to discuss, talk about and thrash out - if necessary - on digital preservation and digital equipment during the next four days of the training.

There were eighteen (18) participants, representing National Archives of Antigua and Barbuda, National Public Library, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Museum of Antigua and Barbuda and local researchers.

The records digitized were the Wills and Deeds (1781 – 1912) Collection at the Archives. Wills and deeds are essential records for scholars working to understand the social production, economic life and physical movement of people in our society. In the Caribbean, wills and deeds reveal the intricacies of the relationship between slave owners, slaves, and free people of colour. The financing of plantation economies more broadly builds from the dynamics of the individual property transfers that both types of document chronicle. These records open a window into the legalities and customs that defined master – slave relation, provide information and the ideological and financial changes that ushered in emancipation and add to our understanding of the post emancipation period. Open access to these documents will help develop an understanding among academic and popular audiences, within and beyond this important outpost of the British Empire, of important cultural, political and economic shifts from slavery through emancipation. The material is thus both nationally and internationally significant. The physical items (wills – 32 volumes and deed – 14 volumes) to be digitized is 46 volumes and average of 365 pages for a total of 12,562 electronic files (images) estimating 400 gigabytes of material.

The training concluded on Friday 18th October 2019. The staff and other participants expressed their heartfelt thanks to Mr. Miguel Asencio for his patience and insightful knowledge shared with us and for the practical experience. All participants were issued a certificate of participation presented by Dr. Susan Lowes, Dr. Natasha Lightfoot and Mr. Asencio to signify the completion of the workshop.

Mr Joseph Prosper, Director National Archives of A&B (2nd from right) with facilitators and participants.
Developing Disaster Management Plan for Heritage institutions in Suriname

By: Rita Tjien Fooh, Suriname

From 24 to 28 February, the National Archives Suriname organized a training on ‘Developing an Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Plan for Heritage institutions’. The focus of the training was on risk assessment/mitigation, disaster plans and supplies, disaster team planning, salvage priorities, response techniques, recovery efforts and resources.

Representatives of the twenty heritage institutions (archives, museum, libraries and built heritage) will be able to formulate a basic disaster management plan and know the basic techniques for response and recovery, identified threats to collections; prioritize collections and applied response and salvage techniques to wet materials; acquired an understanding in ways to minimize potential damage (risk assessment) and gained knowledge in writing or updating a disaster plan. The training was led by Emilie Gagné Leumas, PhD, CA, CRM, chair of the International Council on Archives Expert Group on Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness.

With the assistance of the Surinamese National Coordination Center for Disaster Management and the Fire
Department, the heritage institutions will finalize their Plan within two months.

It is expected that all the plans from various institutions will be integrated in one document (“The Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness Plan for the Cultural Heritage sector in Suriname”) and that this document, after being reviewed by the National Coordination Center for Disaster Management, will be added to Suriname’s National Plan for Disaster Management.

The training on Developing an Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Plan for heritage institutions was funded by the Prince Claus Fund and the Gerda Henkel Stiftung.
The UWI/ OAS Caribbean Heritage Network (CHN) will host its inaugural conference “Caribbean Conversations in Conservation” Conference at the Sagicor Cave Hill School of Business and Management at The University of the West Indies (UWI) in Barbados next month, March 16-19, 2020. The hands-on workshop-oriented conference for heritage professionals including archaeologists, architects, engineers, archivists, and museum professionals is a milestone capacity building exercise for the region’s professionals to gain knowledge and experience in the area of conservation. Workshops, sessions and field-based study will be integrated into this 4-day conference.

This conference will allow heritage practitioners to share their expertise while enhancing policymakers’ understanding of the unique threats, challenges and opportunities for heritage conservation in the region. Another expected outcome of the conference is to help protect, conserve, and interpret the region’s outstanding heritage from the built environment to endangered collections and documents, and to work towards the establishment of viable multidisciplinary initiatives and regional partnerships to provide mutual support.

A special focus of the conference will be on Climate Change, disaster risk preparedness and first aid to cultural heritage in emergencies. Conference organizers welcome the collaboration of a number of practitioners from leading preservation organizations in North America, the United Kingdom and Europe as well as from the Caribbean. The opening workshops on March 16 will be “Keeping History Above Water: Caribbean Workshop” hosted by the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning and the Newport Restoration Foundation in collaboration with the Barbados Institute of Architects (BIA). It will explore
how Climate Change and sea level rise affects vulnerable coastal urban landscapes and what built environment practitioners can do to plan and adapt.

The other opening workshop, which is hosted by CARBICA and the Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network (CHEN) will focus on “Disaster Preparedness for Heritage Institutions” including museums, libraries and archives. CARBICA will also host a panel discussion on March 17th on “Caribbean Heritage After Irma and Dorian: Building Resilience through CARBICA and CHEN”. These sessions received the generous funding support from the Gerda Henkel Foundation. There will also be a number of sessions, including a workshop by V&A Museum Senior Book and Paper Conservator, Anne Bancroft, looking at the relationship between conservation and digitization.

CHN Director, Dr. Tara Inniss, remarks “This conference is potentially a game-changing approach to heritage conservation in the Caribbean. We need to change our thinking that someone from outside of the region is going to value our heritage more than ourselves. We have a latent heritage industry waiting for innovative and strategic investment that can stimulate the creative industries we all talk about, but need to do more to promote regionally as part of our economic development. Conservation is at the heart of this conversation. We have to protect and maintain what we have now before we lose it forever.”

The CHN is a network of heritage professionals (individuals and organizations) from around the region and further afield who are committed to the promotion and protection of the Caribbean’s heritage resources. For more information about the conference visit https://www.caribheritage.org/CCC2020.