us, 100 years later, take a look back on the impact of World War I on the people of the Caribbean. However, we are mostly looking to the future. The EC has worked with the Communications workgroup on the evolution of our website. Trinidad hosted the Diasporic Literary Archives Network Workshop which shed light on the situation of the records of our world famous authors, as well as on the possibilities to build strategies to locate and save them. The MIGAN project will also continue with another training session. The National Archives of Curacao has particularly worked on the description of their holdings to contribute to the project, as well as for their own progress. There are many other achievements that we are always happy to display in the newsletter as well as on the Facebook page of CARBICA which are to be commended!

Dominique Taffin, president of CARBICA

From our President....

2014 will be an important year for CARBICA as every four years, we will renew our governance team, by electing the members of the Executive Council. As the outgoing president, I will have the pleasure and the honour to host you for our General Assembly and the 10th conference of Caribbean archives in December in Martinique. That moment will give me the opportunity to look back on the teamwork we led during the past four years, and for you to express your expectations from our organization. Though this is a big event on which we foster much energy and resource, 2014 is a busy year in many other aspects throughout our region, as you will see from the contents of this issue. Some of us, 100 years later, take a look back on the impact of World War I on the people of the Caribbean. However, we are mostly looking to the future. The EC has worked with the Communications workgroup on the evolution of our website. Trinidad hosted the Diasporic Literary Archives Network Workshop which shed light on the situation of the records of our world famous authors, as well as on the possibilities to build strategies to locate and save them. The MIGAN project will also continue with another training session. The National Archives of Curacao has particularly worked on the description of their holdings to contribute to the project, as well as for their own progress. There are many other achievements that we are always happy to display in the newsletter as well as on the Facebook page of CARBICA which are to be commended!

Dominique Taffin, president of CARBICA

Upcoming Events:

- October 6-11, 2014: Saint Martin: MIGAN Steering Committee
- December 2-6, 2014: Martinique: General Assembly CARBICA
Beyond colonial geography and history, Caribbean webportals

Martinique - By Dominique Taffin

Summary of the paper presented at the Diasporic Literary Archives Network Workshop, Port of Spain, March 26, 2014

The DLAN workshop and Caribbean literary records

The Diasporic Literary Archives Network aims at gathering scholars in literature or history, archivists, librarians, and even writers or critics to seek out how to preserve and make accessible research on literary archives, such as writers’ or publishers’ records. The first three workshops were held in the U.K., Italy and France. The Caribbean island of Trinidad was the host of the 4th workshop, and was a very vivid experience of the issues and solutions for keeping Caribbean literature archives. We have world famous writers in the Caribbean, such as V.S. Naipaul, Derek Walcott or Aimé Césaire, and all of them have deeply rooted their work in their island. But what about their papers? Where are they and who cares about them?

The papers presented at the conference were a very significant contribution to the shaping of strategies and policies to collect and to give access to the records of literary creation in the region. The workshop was also an opportunity to network across the region and across the Atlantic and to foster cooperation to save these endangered and scattered archives.

CARBICA was well represented in the audience as well as on the podium as Helena Leonce, Cheryl Sylvester and Dominique Taffin spoke from their Caribbean perspective of the challenges and tools available.

Caribbean webportal initiatives: an opportunity to re-locate scattered archives

Martinique - By Dominique Taffin

I was invited to expose the current initiatives to relocate and share a scattered documentary heritage in the Caribbean region, by highlighting two case studies at two different scales: an island-scale with the example of the Banque numérique des patrimoines Martiniquais (Martinican cultural heritage digital bank) and a Caribbean-scale, with the case of the MIGAN project, an initiatives led by CARBICA, the Caribbean branch of ICA.

We all know our context that leads to a diasporic, or rather, de-located or poorly accessible documentary heritage: records kept in the former « metropoles », poor condition of local archives, young and small archival institutions scattered and isolated, poor governmental concern for the documentary heritage and, for private records such as most literary archives are, the difficulty to have them recognized as a community
or national asset.

Then, how can we build capacity through co-operation to strengthen archival institutions? How can we relocate, without locking access to documentary heritage? How can we encourage historical research within the Caribbean, especially in the field of literature and publishing?

Focusing on some features of the exemplified webportals, I tried to show how digitization and the spread of the Internet gave an impetus to multilateral cooperation between bigger and smaller cultural institutions and that significant outcomes were in progress, such as cooperative projects for collecting and digitizing records (for instance the audiovisual archives initiative between the Archives of Martinique and the French Audiovisual Institute or the French National Library).

But also that we have to take into account true technical constraints, and the different contexts of each partner, which makes it sometimes difficult to manage a shared project with common timelines and resources. In the MIGAN project, we have soon focused on training on archival standards for description and for producing digital contents, as a first step to the setting of a webportal with significant contents from the Caribbean partners.

In conclusion, a step-by-step approach, maybe with less striking achievements, without losing sight of the bigger picture, may serve better our goal as Caribbean institutions, to meet the cultural needs of our community and at the same time to move towards larger Caribbean integration.

**OPEN ACCESS?:** Addressing the challenges of access to public data in the Caribbean region 10th conference of Caribbean Archives, Martinique, Dec. 2-6

**Martinique - By Dominique Taffin**

**A key issue for archival institutions**

In 2014, in Martinique, the issue of « access to records and public data » will be the lead of the 10e Caribbean Archives Conference, in a world where transparency, freedom of information and privacy have to balance; where the public demand for history required for a more peaceful collective identity has to link with the development of the “economy of knowledge” based on open data and technological advancement.

Workshops and key note speeches designed for Caribbean archivists and records managers

The programme of CARBICA X will then be composed of:

- an opening conference, during which international experts will discuss the issues and trends which shape the future of access to archives : democratic governance, open data and privacy. The principles of access to archives, approved by the General Assembly of ICA in August 2012 in Brisbane, will be the basic document for discussion. The target audience of the conference is, beyond archivists and records managers, government officials and senior managers in charge of developing the management of records an of access to public data,
as well as information professionals and ICT officers.

- Workshops for best practices will allow attendees to acquire the tools they need to implement policies and procedures for access in their institutions: legal issues and disclosure rules, framework to set up a policy for the re-use of records, physical access to documents, paper and online finding aid.

These workshops will also offer an opportunity to show the existing know-how in Caribbean archival institutions (through case studies) and to underline the benefits from common initiatives of CARBICA to give easier access to archives (the MIGAN project).

Our General Assembly Meeting
Finally, the governance meetings, including the election of the Executive Council of CARBICA, will take place during that week. Through “poster sessions”, each institution will present their activities, holdings and concerns to the other members of CARBICA.

Pre-registration already open!
Pre-registration forms have been sent to the members. The conference is also open to non-members, so you can circulate among your network. A special rate for CARBICA members gives you access to the full professional programme, including coffee and lunch breaks, but also to the social and cultural programme to discover Martinique, the French creole island and birthplace of Aimé Césaire.

More info: csylvester@sgu.edu; bonjean@cg972.fr, and coming soon, dedicated pages on Carbica website: www.carbica.org

**News from ICA:**

**Towards a renewed strategy, but a much discussed status for the branches**

**Martinique** - By Dominique Taffin

ICA has significantly renewed its governance over the past two years. A new constitution was voted in 2012, and Mr David Fricker, Director of the National Archive of Australia was elected president in April this year. Now any local archival institution has the right to vote and to give its input to the international community of archivists and records managers.

In October 2014, in Girona (Spain), the General Assembly of ICA will have to discuss and approve the strategy that will lead its activities for the next 4 years (2014-2018). The Executive Board of ICA proposes to keep the general orientations decided in Kuala Lumpur (2008), which proved to be relevant throughout the world. They will focus on raising awareness of the role of archives in the society on responding to the challenges of information technologies and on building capacity among archivists and records managers. However, one important issue remains pending, that of the status of the regional branches, which do not seem so crucial to the progress of ICA, whereas they are the body of ICA which represents the best diversity within the organization. Our Caribbean branch is one of the most active among the 13 existing. We must continue to show how important it is to work together on a regional basis, to meet the challenges we share. More information on www.ica.org and by subscribing to the ICA listserv (for members of ICA only)

Archives of Martinique: the great gathering of WWI memorabilia

The Archives of Martinique has launched in April a call to gather and share private documents and memorabilia on WWI. This ventured backed by Europeana is entitled, 1914-1918 – untold stories & official histories of WW1 initiative (more at: www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en). During the week of April 7, 2014 to April 12, Martinicans have been greeted by a team of professionals, archivists and photographers, trained to record memories, collect, describe, and digitize the documents they brought. The documents submitted by individuals could be either donated or deposited to ensure long term preservation at the Archives, or just lent to be digitized by the Archives staff. A selection has been published on the Europeana portal. But most of all, there was material on which could be shared to "life stories" associated with them.

During that campaign we collected photos, military documents and newspapers or published items. The initiative also attracted people with Second World War souvenirs.

It will be renewed in October-November, at the time when the Archives deliver online the digitized army enrolment registers on the Banque numérique des patrimoines martiniquais.
2014 is a significant year in the history of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) as this year marks its achievement of ten years since its inception in 2004. To date, UTT has delivered tertiary education to over seven thousand graduates. As the National University, it has as its mandate the education and training of all nationals in its attempt to enhance the growth and development of the country.

In this regard, UTT will be hosting a series of events throughout the year at various campuses in commemoration of this important milestone. These celebrations officially commenced in the form of a Media Launch on Friday 31st January, 2014 at the UTT Pt. Lisas Energy Campus, Couva. The Pt. Lisas Energy Campus is the site of the first UTT Campus. It was therefore decided that the celebrations should begin at that venue.

Throughout the year other events for this 10th year Anniversary Celebrations will be the paying of tribute to many of our national icons, for example, the Mighty Sparrow. It is felt that these icons have paved the way before us, and have brought this great nation to where it stands today. They have also left a wonderful legacy for the young people of today, and have created a strong foundation for their future.

In support of these celebrations, members of staff continue, by sharing their experiences on the Intranet with the rest of the online community.
At the invitation of Mrs. Helena Leonce, Past President of the Caribbean Archives Association (CARBICA), archivists Ms. Cheryl Sylvester of Grenada and Ms. Karla Hayward of Bermuda agreed to participate in an initiative to establish an archive and documentation centre in central Trinidad. Mrs. Leonce, Ms. Hayward and Ms. Sylvester, all members of the CARBICA Executive Committee, were to provide professional oversight of a project to rescue an important at-risk collection of records documenting the final years of the sugar industry in Trinidad. The CARBICA team recognized that this collection of records (of the state-run Caroni 1975 Limited) were not only of local interest but also supported CARBICA’s objectives in building a thematic web portal (the MIGAN project) documenting significant threads of Caribbean-wide history.

Arriving in Trinidad at the end of July 2013 and with less than a month to complete the groundwork, Ms. Sylvester and Ms. Hayward immediately launched a survey of over a thousand feet of salvaged records held in a facility on the grounds of the Sugar Heritage Village (SHV), formerly the compound of the British-owned Tate & Lyle sugar company, Caroni’s predecessor. The Archives itself was located nearby in the former Tate & Lyle medical dispensary. Outfitted with security, air conditioning and racking, a team of six temporary staff were on site to carry out basic cleaning and sorting of the damaged files.

A workflow was established to allow processed records to be transferred from the holding area to the Archives’ repository for further arrangement and description. Of the thousand feet of records surveyed, some sixty-five of textual records, forty-five feet of blueprints, four hundred and twelve videocassettes and an unspecified number of photographic negatives were transferred to the Archives, additional to seventy feet of textual records of the Human Resources Department already in the repository.
Publications from the former Caroni Research Library were consolidated, where possible and Ms. Sylvester began the work of recreating the Technical Library with a view to generating a working catalogue. As this initial phase of the project was treated as a disaster recovery exercise, formal disposition scheduling for all of Caroni’s corporate records will be ear-marked for a later stage, when further time and resources are allocated.

A preliminary classification taxonomy for the archival records was prepared to provide the architecture for further detailed arrangement and description. A model ISAD-G finding aid based on the discovery of corporate structure was developed for the governance records.

The finding aid included an administrative history, select series description and item lists with basic indexing and authority control developed as part of the model. The system consistent with ICA standards will be compatible with the requirements of the CARBICA web portal and it should be easy to migrate into the ICA’s open-source software AtoM, which is being used for the MIGAN portal development.

Initial examination of the collection revealed, not unexpectedly, significant problems with mould & vermin stemming from direct exposure to water and tropical climate conditions over a period of years. An integrated pest management system will be introduced but perhaps the single-most beneficial undertaking for the collection as a whole would see the installation of an HVAC system to maintain environmental conditions conducive to the long-term preservation of the records.
Building conservation environments is an expensive undertaking and we were pleased to learn of the support of the National Archives, who will serve on the SHV Planning Committee going forward.

Much has been accomplished during the past year in setting up an archival infrastructure and in rescuing the core collection from destruction but the work remaining to be carried out should not be under-estimated.

We felt enormously privileged to have been invited to assist with this project and take pride in the work that we accomplished in such a short time. Mrs. Leonce, in bringing together CARBICA archivists from the region to work on a local programme, demonstrates her understanding of the power of our international organisations to effect results at the grass-roots level. The Sugar Heritage Village Committee, in particular Chairman Professor Brinsley Saramoo, should also be commended for their vision and dedication in launching the archives initiative.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not recognise the contributions of Mr. D. Jagroo CEO of Caroni and Mr. A. Muradali, Caroni site supervisor, along with the temporary staff who assisted us (Ancil, Bob, Sherlize, Alice, Andrea and Jonathan) for their support, interest and enthusiasm.

It actually does seem to take a village!

**MIGAN practical digitalization workshop in Suriname**

**Suriname** - by Rita Tjien Fooh

From 26 – 28 February 2014 the National Archives of Suriname organized a digitization workshop ‘Digitization in practice: Fundamental technical and quality requirements for a digitization project’. This workshop is part of the MIGAN- project (Memory of the Island Gateway for Archival Networking) and although intended for the partners in the MIGAN- project, it was also open for other CARBICA members to attend.

The instructor was Mr. John Taylor (representative of ICAM Archive Systems from the United Kingdom) and assisted by Effendy Karto and Stuart Hofwijks (both staff members from the National Archives of Suriname.)

The objectives of the workshop were for attendants to understand the terms that the technical quality of the digital images must meet, gain insight into the entire digitalization workflow and technical performance of different recording, manage digitalized archives in a sustainable and reliable way and last but not least, gain knowledge about the hardware and software of the equipment.
The Minister of Home Affairs, the Honourable Soewarto Moestadja (now former Minister) welcomed the participants on behalf of the Surinamese government. In his speech, he mentioned that the MIGAN-project was a great initiative from the CARBICA, because through the MIGAN web portal, researchers, students and other interested citizens in the Caribbean will gain access and insight of the various collection of Caribbean archives organizations. The Minister was very impressed of the work done so far by the CARBICA, especially in the field of providing training (various aspects of archival training) for its members. In his closing statement he thanked the Director of the National Archives of Suriname for organizing the workshop.

The participants were Hernandez Steve (Belize), Charles Raymond (Dominica), Patrick Freeman (St. Lucia), Henery Johnell (Guyana), Rambajan Christine (Trinidad & Tobago), Alexis Malachi (Trinidad & Tobago), Deborah Best (Trinidad & Tobago) and last but not least Francis Ramazan (Curacao).

The CARBICAns were very eager to learn and gain insight in the digital equipment and during the hands on workshop they were able to take digital images. Although, not all the archive institutions owned modern, digital equipment yet, the workshop was very informative and provided them with the necessary knowledge to set up their own digital lab.

At the end of the session, they received a certificate and also a publication regarding the West Indian Indentured Labour (a publication from the National Archives of Suriname).
In January 2014, the National Archives, St. Kitts launched a new initiative called Gems from the Archives. This involved a weekly email highlighting an item from the Archives and giving information as to why it was created and the history associated with it. Appropriately for the season in St. Kitts, the first item was a photograph of the masquerades dating from around 1920. The hazy image showed the traditional costumes of masquerades at that point in time and the background against which they stood highlighted the changing landscape of Basseterre. This was followed by a scan of the first known map of St. Kitts and then with a small item showing a former enslaved man bidding for land that had previously belonged to the French. To the date of writing this item, the National Archives has shared 25 items which varied from letters, reports, newspaper items, wills and a variety of images. Many of these items have generated discussion and in the case of more recent ones, memories and an interest in family and community history.

Dissemination is initially through email. We have however been very lucky in enlisting the interest of the Department of Culture, Their Facebook page has been carrying the Gems on a weekly basis. The St. Christopher Trust has also been sharing them with their membership. Since the start of the project, we have had requests from individuals to be added to the list of persons receiving the emails and we have also been asked to start...
We knew the interest was there

sending them to St. Kitts-Nevis on-line discussion groups. This has meant that the audience has grown significantly over the weeks and we have had suggestions that an actual publication should be considered.

The purpose of the exercise was twofold. We wanted to assist Kittitians and Nevisians to learn more about their history. We knew the interest was there but we also realized that most people were not likely to attend lectures or even read detailed history books. The brief histories and comments that accompany each item reached people in their own home at their own leisure and are more easily digested by a wider audience.

We can do a lot more ...

We also wanted to show that we have a great deal of historical material that needed proper looking after. While at the National Archives we do our best to preserve what is in our care, we know that we can do a lot more given the proper environment and resources. We also wanted to highlight the fact that we have the responsibility to look after the records that are being created at the moment as these will document the achievements of an independent St. Kitts and Nevis. All this we hoped would help us make the case for a purposely built archive.

We cannot quantify the impact of the Gems initiative but slow progress is being made towards the erection of a new home for the National Archives. We hope that it continues and that we will be able to share lots of gems that are not as yet in our collections.
The National Archives of Suriname celebrating the International Archives Day

On June 9, 2014 the National Archives of Suriname celebrated the International Archives Day. This year, an Open Day was organized whereby visitors received the opportunity to have a look at the various sections of the organization such as the restoration and digital lab. Visitors were able to ask their questions about the work of staff members from all the sections of the Archival institution. Furthermore an exhibition was organized to highlight the archival holdings. The objective of the Open Day was to create public awareness regarding the importance of archives and the work of archivists. Students, researchers, politicians, journalists and the public in general should consult the archives (records) more often in their day to day work.

Besides the Open Day, the National Archives of Suriname took the opportunity to inaugurate the new part of the building. It took more than two years for Suriname to build this new part which is meant to house the audiovisual section of the Institution (on the ground floor) and also offices for other staff members/archivists (first floor). The Surinamese government financed the extension of the building and the purchase of equipment whereas the Dutch Government provided funding for training and workshop for the staff members. With the Institute of Image & Sound in Hilversum/ Netherlands, a Cooperation was signed to assist the National Archives of Suriname in setting up the Audiovisual Section.
The new Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Edmund Leilis also attended the Open Day and delivered a speech, mentioning the following “As Minister responsible for the archives in our country, it is a great pleasure to be present at the National Archives. It is also my first visit to this important archival institution, which manages the historical heritage of our Nation in a competent and professional manner. In celebration of International Archives Day, which is celebrated annually by the international archival community, we will look at the importance of archives for policy makers as well as the overall society. I am thinking of the role/importance of archives /records in pursuing a transparent government as one of the important aspects of a democratic state.”

After his speech, Minister E. Leilis together with the Director of the National Archives Mrs. Rita Tjien Fooh, officially inaugurated the new part of the building.

Overall, the Open Day (and exhibition) was a great success; the National Archives of Suriname received more than 80 visitors, who were very impressed about the work done by the staff members.

On June 11th, also a lecture/presentation was organized by the National Archives of Suriname; the theme of this lecture was the Archives of the Land Registry of Suriname. The architect Philip Dikland consulted this archive in order to conduct his research in the plantation history.

The West Indies Federal Archives Centre (WIFAC) at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, is celebrating its 10th Anniversary (2004-2014). The mandate of the Centre is to acquire, preserve and make available records of The West Indies Federation (1958-1962) and to locate, preserve and make accessible records of other movements of regional co-operation dating as far back as the late 19th century. In addition to the Federal Archives fonds, the Centre houses the papers of notable international statesman and West Indian Federalist Sir Shridath Ramphal, the records of the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH) and the British West Indies Airways (BWIA) Collection.

As part of the activities to celebrate the anniversary, WIFAC participated in the National Career Showcase of the Barbados Association of Guidance Counsellors at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre on 12th February 2014. Over one hundred and fifty (150) students from approximately ten secondary schools visited the WIFAC booth. At the booth, students were given oral presentations on the role of the archivist, they examined a specially designed poster entitled, ‘Exploring a Career in Archives’ and were encouraged to participate in demonstrations on how to carry out basic conservation techniques such as saving a water-logged book.
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.

An Anniversary Public Lecture was held on 22nd May at 7.00pm at the 3W’s Pavilion, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus to celebrate the milestones of the WIFAC and Barbados Department of Archives (BDA). The BDA is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year (1964-2014). The featured speaker, Sir Woodville K. Marshall, Emeritus Professor of History and Chair of the Federal Archives Advisory Board and Barbados National Archives Advisory Committee gave a riveting and informative lecture entitled, “Reflecting on Archives: My 55-Year Journey”. The event included a small display of archival documents and artefacts from WIFAC and the BDA as well as the showing of archival footage on the Federal period from the Barbados Government Information Service (BGIS).

Upcoming Plans and Events

A significant part of the planned activities for the celebration is the hosting of an international conference that covers all aspects of The West Indies Federation (1958-1962). This conference will include recognised historians, integrationists, political scientists, economists and other researchers from the region and beyond. A special focus will be on sharing information from researchers who used the Federal Archives fonds. The Conference is scheduled to place in early 2015.

The Archives staff will also be producing an updated version of a photographic magazine into a coffee-table book in celebration of ten years of the Centre. Additional photographs and text will be added in the revised edition. WIFAC continues to work in conjunction with the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI) on the Federal Oral History Project. The Educational Media Services department of the Campus is assisting WIFAC with preparing a five-minute trailer with extracts of interviews and images captured in order to garner funding to continue the work of the project. This trailer will be used to complement funding proposals to relevant bodies towards the completion of the final phases of the project.

Please visit the revamped website of the Centre at www.wifac.org where recently released archival footage has been added to the Gallery page.

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and cleaning small artefacts. The Cave Hill UWI STAT Ambassadors toured WIFAC on 7th February 2014. The students viewed key documents, participated in a Federal Q&A session. They were shown how to use WIFAC’s archives database and watched a film from the Federal period.