benefitted to over 20 people from 8 countries (Martinique, Oct.22-25).

- Privacy versus open access in the digital age were discussed at the ICA annual conference in Brussels by our colleagues from the West Indies Federal Archives Centre and the UWI Mona Campus.

From our President ....

Should we have to prove that archivists and records managers keep their eyes wide open to the challenges and changes our societies have to face? Only a few examples among the activities CARBICA was involved in during this last semester would show it.

This issue of our newsletter will shed light on initiatives and achievements of CARBICA members and on the partnerships that we try to develop. Some of these are:

- The issue of managing reliable and sustainable digitization projects in our Caribbean institutions was the topic of our latest bilingual MIGAN training, which

Upcoming Events:

- February 2014: Suriname: Digitization Training. Further details will be provided.

- March 2014: Meeting of the Executive Committee in Trinidad & Tobago. Further details will be provided.

- The West Indies Federal Archives Centre 10th Anniversary Celebrations (2004-2014) will include a Federal Conference, open days, exhibitions and other special events. Further details will be provided in the New Year.

Happy Holidays
Continued from page 1

- Good recordkeeping for good governance was the main theme of the 3rd week of Franco-phone archives (SIAF3) in Port au Prince (Haiti, Dec. 8-13)

- In Haiti as well as in Mona (Jamaica, Sept. 9-10), the question of how to set up education programmes in records and archives by using e-learning opportunities, was discussed and proposals were drafted with the support of several organizations, such as UNESCO, ICA, Simmons College, IRMT and the AIAF (International Association of Francophone Archives).

This main concern for all countries of our region, where access to initial education as well as to continuing training in our field always is challenging, will be dealt with by our CARBICA community for the next months, and presumably for the next years.

These inspiring directions should not let us forget that our initiatives need the contribution of each of us, Carbicans. Although financial constraints have affected our budgets, it is of utmost importance that institutional and individual members keep their membership updated, insuring us a minimum income to fund our current activity at your service.

It also is important that we try to optimize, by sharing information and experience, the invaluable resource that each professional has by him/herself. We sometimes do not suspect how much a member can benefit from knowing how his/her neighbour deals with an issue which occurs in his/her own context.

So please use our communication tools, Google group, Facebook page, newsletter to ask and get answers to your questions, as well as to let know your achievements!

A great event will be the General Assembly of CARBICA in Martinique together with a conference and workshops, at the end of 2014, which will give the opportunity to share our experience, but also to discuss together, our strategic plan for the next 4 years. This will be the place to be!

My season’s greetings to you will also be a tribute to the late Nelson Mandela, “none of us, acting alone, can achieve success” he used to say, and this refers so strikingly to the motto of Haiti, the first black Republic, here, in the Caribbean: “L’union fait la force”!

Happy and successful 2014!

CARBICA pays tribute

to the late, great Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, and philanthropist.

Visit Nelson Mandela’s Digital Archives at

http://www.nelsonmandela.org
It was a privilege to be able to attend and participate in the inaugural Annual Conference of the International Council on Archives (ICA) held in Brussels from 23 to 24 November 2013. The chosen theme for the Conference, “Accountability, Transparency and Access to Information” was very relevant given the current challenges faced by archivists and other records professionals in managing records in the digital world. I was also happy to have been awarded a bursary from the ICA that enabled me to travel to Brussels to attend this historic event in the world of archives. As a result of my attendance, I was able to experience the Conference in the most complete way. I worked as a volunteer behind the scenes with the speakers, a presenter on an exciting panel and a participant networking with other archivists and records professionals from around the world.

The keynote addresses on the first day of the Conference were high in quality and were a fitting opening to the proceedings. The speakers began by providing some insight into the themes of accountability and transparency in recordkeeping, highlighting the importance of our role as archivists and record-keepers in these issues. The speakers even alluded to the fact that we could actually save lives and protect human dignity when we properly execute this role. The programme selection was interesting, informative and topical covering a range of sub-themes many of which were legal in nature under the main theme. Some of the presentations under these sub-themes included, ‘The Tip of the Pyramid: Governance and Trust,’ ‘More than a Seat at the Table: Archivists at the Heart of Open Government,’ ‘Fear and Loathing (of Ar-
The choice of the beautiful city of Brussels by the ICA to conduct its first Annual Conference was ‘a master play’. It is at the centre of Europe and serves as the capital of the European Union which gives an official undertone to any meeting held therein. The city is rich in history and has pleasant mix of old world charm and modernity. There were enough attractions and sites for participants which added some depth to the visit. The Brussels Meeting Centre where we met was testament to its diversity in modern architecture and served as an excellent facility for the Conference.

Ultimately, the first ICA Annual Conference 2013 can be considered a major success which was evidenced by the number of participants who attended from every corner of the globe. I sincerely wish to thank the ICA for this unforgettable experience.
Spoken Word Open Day at University Archives, UWI, Mona

Jamaica - by John Aarons

In November 2013, for the first time, the University Archives, UWI, marked UNESCO’s World Day for Audio Visual Heritage by having an Open Day. The Archives participated in activities observed around the world as it had recently become a major repository for audio visual material with the transfer to it of the collection of the ‘Library of the Spoken Word’ of the Radio Education Unit (REU). This collection comprises approximately 10,000 items consisting mainly of audio tapes (reel to reel and cassette), CD’s and gramophone records.

The REU was established in 1954 and was responsible for producing radio programmes which were used in Jamaica and distributed within the Caribbean. As one of the early units of the new University College of the West Indies (UCWI) and in particular the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, the REU was a unique channel of adult education, with its radio programming on social, political, cultural, historical and academic import.

The production output of the REU formed the nucleus of the LSW, a collection of audio recordings on a wide range of themes and topics and even more importantly, by the many great social, cultural, academic and political luminaries of the Caribbean.

Transfer to the Archives

This collection was transferred to the University Archives with the closure of the REU on the 31 July 2013 and has resulted in a dramatic increase in the Archives’ holdings. They cover not only a greater proportion of the university’s activities but encompasses a wider variety of formats. This will undoubtedly lead to a broadening of our service base.
With the acquisition of the collection it was felt that World Audio Visual Heritage Day provided a timely opportunity to showcase to the university community and to the wider public some of the gems from this collection.

**Live Broadcast**

The Open Day had two main components: A live broadcast from 9 am to 12 noon from the University Archives of the radio programme "STRAIGHT UP" from the radio station (News Talk FM 93) located on the University campus. This is a talk show and the whole focus of the discussion was on audio visual materials especially those from "Library of the Spoken Word". Persons interviewed included past and present members of staff and researchers who have used the collection. Excerpts from some of the historic recordings were also played.

The second component was a small display on the significance of the occasion, mounted in the Reading Room and tours of the Archives facility especially the Media Digital Laboratory where historic tapes were played throughout the day. The occasion was widely advertised and persons came from the University campus, and other organizations such as the National Library of Jamaica, the Jamaica Archives and the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO.

The occasion was really a national one in that among the persons interviewed was the Audio visual librarian at the National Library of Jamaica and the Director of the African Institute of Jamaica/Jamaica Memory Bank. It was truly a celebration of the country’s ‘spoken heritage’. Members of staff of the Archives also participated in radio interviews on other programmes both before and after the day, this ensuring wider publicity to the holdings of the Archives.
Medical Officer Mapleton described her as “very stupid and very deaf” and did not complain of anything else except a pain in her bowels. Persons affected by untreated syphilis could expect growths inside their bodies as well as mental disorders. Poor Sarah seems to have had both. Her solution was to make herself vomit. She continued to vomit incessantly even after she was prevented from putting her finger down her throat, which should have been a clear indication that something was seriously wrong. The report states that “for nearly a week before her death she was fed entirely by injections into the bowels of milk, beef, tea, brandy, egg. That alone kept her alive up to the present.”

One wonders!!

Based on a document in the National Archives, St. Kitts - Inquisition taken on view of the body of one Sarah Samuel. Filed Sept: 16th 1889, F. S. Spencer Wigley (transcription by Ruth Case)
Nevertheless, today’s generation is deprived of evidence and landmarks that witness the greatness of our contempted nation for over 200 years. Still, the traces of this old history are hidden scattered, not yet available but still threatened with destruction, fueling rumors and legends that historians find hard to dismiss.

The whole Haitian 19th century is marked with mysteries, secrets, unknown and untold.

How can this be overcome? And will the same apply to the contemporary history of the country since the National Archives of Haiti have not received regular archives transfers from the government agencies since the 1950’s?

A Contemporary Haitian Memory to share, a double challenge

Haiti - by Jean Wilfrid Bertrand

There is indeed a historical memory that Haiti shares with the world particularly the Caribbean and Latin world. The attempts of some to tarnish this image, and also our internal struggles could not erase the major historical fact that Haiti was the champion of antislavery and freedom recovered for all.
Two new challenges arise:
-what can be done to recover these often not inventoried archives fonds, which may be destroyed in whole or in part goes without control?  
-how to ensure a better understanding of the contemporary history of Haiti whereas our history books do not go beyond 1950? Will the youth of the next generation experience the same gap as the rest of us today?  
The youth of today is already so much cut off from its most recent roots that some young Haitians start repeating to whoever listens that our predecessors have done nothing. Our duty of memory requires us to pull ourselves together in time not to drop down in oblivion everything we lived from 1950 to today.

The records management program initiated in 2000 is one of the immediate responses to this worrying concern. The January 12 earthquake came to rekindle the flame.

Then, the intervention of the Prime Minister’s Office through the Office of Management and Human Resources (OMRH), joint to the National Archives of Haiti (ANH), came to provide a glimmer of hope. In 2012, a seminar on the “Good recordkeeping for good governance” toolkit organized by the International Council on Archives was immediately followed by a forum of Chief Executive Officers on document management.

Most recently, on Dec. 8-14, 2013, the International Francophone Archives Week was organized to consolidate the achievements of the first seminar on the RM toolkit, and to encourage Haitian archivists to use the resources of the International Francophone Archives Portal (PIAF), a training program freely available online (http://www.piaf-archives.org/).

The Executive Officers trained on the job need full basic training in records management. As we are in great need of “records managers”, we plan to train them by a curriculum at the National School of Public Administration (ENAP), but also to have some following the curriculum of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica.

Come help us, CARBICA colleagues, as saving our memory is also of your concern!
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.

Report on Digital Archiving

Jamaica - by Stanley Griffin

In July 2013, Dr Stanley H. Griffin, Assistant Archivist University Archives, UWI Vice Chancellery, had the opportunity to visit the Digital Collections & Archives, Tufts University, Boston, USA and the Archives & Special Collections, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. This visit formed part of a programme for Study Leave.

It was an interesting experience to visit these two departments. Both started off as small units in the Office of the Provost (at Tufts) and the Library (Manitoba), with a 3 member staff complement and have grown to include at least 8 professional staff members, with postgraduate archival studies student-workers. It was fascinating to learn of their experiences and strategies for the development of archival services, especially that of digital archives, to their respective university communities. Additionally, several members of staff are involved in ground-breaking work in the archives profession, such as Digital Archival Specialist Certification and web-based open-source archival management systems. The Tufts Archives is also a test site for developing a new international archival processing standard that will radically shift the way archival collections are managed, processed and accessed. It was a privilege to observe these initiatives at work and to see the possibilities of a fully operational digital archival and records management programme even within limited reach of resources and funding.

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