Scholarly Publishing in the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC)

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1 IN THIS CHAPTER

Theme

Collaboration to develop a platform & system to digitize, curate and publish archival and original material

Highlighted Service

Hosting & management of archival materials, journals and other resources

Resources

Examples of and references to robust tools and methods of digitization & online publication management

The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) began in 2004 as a cooperative international digital library to provide open access and preserve materials from partner institutions. dLOC established a Scholarly Advisory Board to inform ongoing growth and activities. Over the years since its founding, dLOC has grown to include 35 content-contributing partner institutions, over one million user views per month, and over 1.8 million pages of all types of historic through current materials, including museum objects, archival documents, photographs, rare books, maps, scholarly journals and books, data sets, videos, and more.

dLOC developed stronger and richer connections to the scholarly community, resulting in new forms of digital scholarship now being

published through dLOC. dLOC was able to become a publisher of new digital scholarship because of a strong governance model with a clear mission and vision, robust technologies, and clear communication among constituents.[1] With those supports in place, when scholars approached dLOC with ideas for new scholarly publications, dLOC was able to provide a clear response, laying the groundwork for future publications which thus far have included online versions of previous print-only journals (e.g., *MaComère* and *Jamaica Journal*), curated online exhibits (e.g., *About Face* and *Island Luminous*), curated edited collections or archives (e.g., *Vodou Archive*), digital acquisition and publishing of archival materials (e.g., *Planters' Punch*), teaching resources (e.g., lesson plans and bibliographies), digitized versions of previously printed materials, and more.

About the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC)

The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) officially began in 2004 at a meeting focused on a solution to a longer planning process revolving around preservation and access to materials held by institutions across the world with importance for Caribbean studies. At the 2004 meeting, the founding partners (Archives Nationale d'Haïti; Caribbean Community Secretariat; National Library of Jamaica; La Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo; Universidad de Oriente, Venezuela; University of the Virgin Islands; Florida International University; University of Central Florida; and University of Florida)[2] developed plans for creating, governing, and sustaining a shared digital library program that focused on preservation, access, capacity building among all partners, and leveraging of all work for future growth and enhancements (Rogers & Wooldridge, 2011). Prior to 2004, the founding partners and other institutions in the Caribbean had undertaken many collaborative initiatives, often coordinated with the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL). The founding partners were informed and able to create a governance model and plans that were equitable and that supported all partners for both immediate needs and future goals. The robust governance model includes dLOC partners as "full participants in governance, formulating collection policy, and addressing membership and sustainability issues" (Rogers et al., 2011).

In 2005, the dLOC partners were awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant provided four years of funding to create dLOC as the central hub infrastructure for creating, growing, and leveraging digital projects and collections focused on the Caribbean. As a socio-technical hub, dLOC is comprised of the technologies, people, and organizations that all support the effective and appropriate development and use of technologies in service to the overall programmatic goals and mission. Together, the dLOC partners developed the technology for the SobekCM Digital Content Management System and related tools for digitization, digital curation and publishing, online publishing tools, digital library tools for libraries to create and manage collections, and digital library tools for users to use materials with feature-rich tools.[3] This socio-technical hub with the SobekCM open source repository software, open source software for digitization, onsite expert training with materials developed for partner workflow needs, and partner collaboration was all part of the overall system that

brought together collections from various institutions in a single space, meeting immediate needs for preservation and access, while building capacity in terms of technologies as well as local experts to perform needed work and to lay the foundation for new opportunities in the future (Wooldridge, Taylor, & Sullivan, 2009; Sullivan & Ochoa, 2009; Renwick, 2011).[4]

> **The partners created a sustainability plan to leverage capacity, minimize ongoing costs, develop a full business model, and create funding plans to ensure dLOC could continue with minimal funding and could best utilize all funding available.**

During the early years, dLOC partners frequently discussed the need to ensure ongoing sustainability with the awareness that the purposes for scholarly work require that scholarly communications and publishing is permanent, or as close to permanent as possible. The partners created a sustainability plan to leverage capacity, minimize ongoing costs, develop a full business model, and create funding plans to ensure dLOC could continue with minimal funding and could best utilize all funding available. The sustainability plan has been operational since 2011 (Wooldridge et al., 2011).
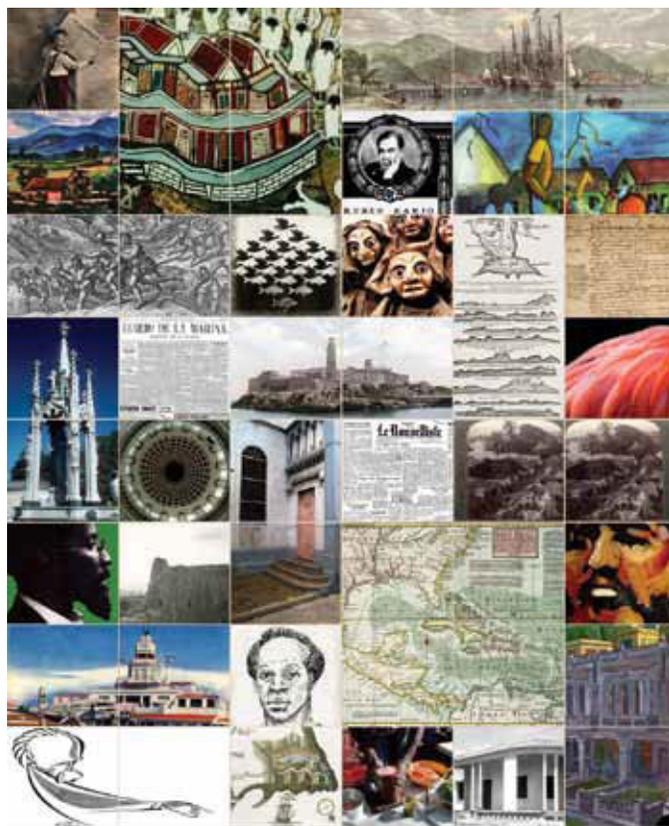
The dLOC model supports all partners participating fully in governance and retaining all rights to their materials, and only granting permissions to dLOC. The equitable nature of the dLOC model supports partners and conversations with publishers, authors, and other rights holders about having their materials available as open access in dLOC. Similarly, partners collaborated on the technical infrastructure which supports branding and recognition for all materials in the citations and metadata, wordmarks images for partners that display to the left of the item when items are viewed, and customized collection interfaces for partner collections that have full search and other capabilities to showcase contributions for each partner. Partners collaborated on the development of these technical supports to maintain their needs for recognition and attribution. dLOC partners have found these to also be of great value for supporting collaboration with authors, publishers, affiliated institutions, and other rights holders.

With the strong central infrastructure in terms of technologies, people, and policies, dLOC partners digitize materials in their holdings, curate born-digital materials, and collaborate with publishers and scholars to digitize, curate existing digital materials, and support the creation of new works of digital scholarship.

dLOC Publishing Overview

With dLOC partners representing different types of institutions, including libraries and many others, dLOC partners support multiple types of publishing. To publish in dLOC, the rights holder (often a publisher or author) completes a grant of permissions[5] to allow dLOC to display the work as open access and to preserve the work. With permissions in place, dLOC partners support publishing the work by digitizing materials from print, curating born-digital materials, and collaborating for new scholarly works using various technologies. The four major publishing areas for dLOC are:

1. Publishing digitized and curated born-digital materials from partner holdings

2. Publishing re-born digital print publications where the print versions are not held by partners (often done with journals and newspapers where the publishers contribute the materials for inclusion in dLOC), which is also a process for digital acquisition with the digital files acquired and the materials then made open access

3. Supporting the creation of scholarly curated digital collections and exhibits, with these similar in many ways to print scholarly editions, edited collections, and exhibit guides with physical exhibits

4. Creating new, alternative scholarly works

Re-born Digital Publishing and Digital Acquisition

When dLOC partners collaborate with publishers to publish journals online in dLOC which have previously only been published in print, some appear immediately and others after an embargo period to support publisher needs in adapting business models. Journals published in print with added online publishing in dLOC include *MaComère*, *Jamaica Journal*, *Sargasso,* and others.

In addition to journals, dozens of newspaper publishers publish their newspapers through dLOC's *Caribbean Newspaper Digital Library*. For this publishers send born-digital printer files for newer newspaper issues. Publishers also submit digital files of older and historic newspaper issues, with those

DIGITAL LIBRARY OF THE CARIBBEAN
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354

files created through digitization conducted by the publishers. dLOC then serves as the digital publishing venue and archive for the newspapers, supporting publisher needs as well as the greater benefits of online archives for these publications.

In some cases, institutions and others with physical materials are unable to cover costs for digitization of materials. dLOC partners have collaborated on projects that utilize traditional library acquisition budgets to cover the cost of digitization, with the resulting digital files being a digital acquisition where the materials are then available as open access in dLOC.

Scholarly Curated Digital Collections and Exhibits

In addition to publishing specific titles (like journals, newspapers, and other serial and monographic publications), dLOC's robust technical infrastructure supports specialized collections, with this required for partner collections and also supporting thematic collections, curated collections, exhibits, etc. dLOC's central infrastructure, shared training, resources, and collaborative network provide the necessary support and capacity for publishing scholarly curated digital collections and exhibits.

One example of a curated digital collection is the *Vodou Archive.* This scholarly curated digital collection stems from Hebblethwaite's work on Haitian Creole. Hebblethwaite et al. (2012a) collected primary resources and translated them into English for scholarly research. He needed a way to support access to additional resources as he continued his research and collected resources. Hebblethwaite realized that dLOC offered the desired print-style functionality for context and curatorial control, and that dLOC offered many enhancements over a print edition. Hebblethwaite collaborated with dLOC partner institutions to begin developing the collection, which initially held materials he had created that could not be included in the book. With a functioning collection, Hebblethwaite was awarded an NEH Collaborative Research grant for the "Archive of Haitian Religion and Culture: Collaborative Research and Scholarship on Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora" (2012b). With the grant underway, Hebblethwaite is collaborating with a diverse project team of scholars, students, librarians, archivists, and other researchers in developing the collection.

Other scholar-curated digital collections in dLOC include thematic and topical collections, to which many scholars contribute. In some cases, they are curated by specific scholars. In other cases, they are curated by the dLOC Scholarly Advisory Board, as with the *Teaching Guides & Materials Collection.*

Scholar-curated digital collections focus on adding materials to the collection as well as the scholarly critical apparatus. Scholarly-curated online exhibits focus on a limited set of materials presented with the exhibit narrative and substantive design elements. These exhibits may be connected directly to specific digital collections, as with the *Efrain Barradas Mexican and Cuban Film Posters Collection* and *Exhibit*. The exhibit features a selection of materials in the collection through 2009, whereas the collection continues to grow as new materials are acquired and digitized.

Conclusion: Digital Scholarly Publishing and Alternative Scholarly Works

Scholar-curated digital collections and exhibits as well as new and alternative scholarly works published by dLOC enrich and expand on the resources in dLOC. dLOC also supports new forms of digital scholarship and several new experimental or alternative scholarly works are in development.

dLOC supports the technical and editorial review processes for digital publishing to ensure the quality of published materials.[6] Editorial review for improvement is supported through review and recommendations from the Scholarly Advisory Board, dLOC team experts, partner experts, scholar curators, and the full dLOC scholarly community network. In addition to review for improvement, scholarly publications also undergo peer review for validation.[7] dLOC partners are currently developing a process to ensure robust peer-review support is in place and available for any work published by dLOC.[8] This is needed to ensure that scholars are not disadvantaged for their work simply because they select a format that is less traditional or an alternative scholarly form. Full and equitable support reflects dLOC's core value and goals.

> Acting as both a digital library and digital publishing system provides an exponentially greater return on investment, enriches and expands library collections, expands opportunities for scholar collaboration and engagement...

dLOC's digital publishing shows how a digital library, when designed with the necessary technical and social supports, can expand to support new opportunities in digital publishing. Acting as both a digital library and digital publishing system provides an exponentially greater return on investment, enriches and expands library collections, expands opportunities for scholar collaboration and engagement, and promotes core values, including the value and importance of open access publishing by academic libraries.

End Notes

[1] For governance and communication, see http://www.dloc.com/dloc1/bylaw; and for technologies, see http://www.dloc.com/sobekcm and http://www.dloc.com/dloc1/digit.

[2] For all current dLOC partners, see http://dloc.com/partners.

[3] For more about the SobekCM Digital Content Management System software and related tools, see http://www.dloc.com/sobekcm. For more on how SobekCM supports the digital scholarship lifecycle, see http://www.dloc.com/sobekcm/lifecycle. For more on how SobekCM supports broader impacts by

supporting outreach, promotion, and integration with scholarly publishing and teaching, see http://www.dloc.com/sobekcm/broader.

⁴ For more on the dLOC training, see http://www.dloc.com/info/training.

⁵ Template documents for the grant of permissions are available in dLOC: http://www.dloc.com/AA00004147. Also, the *dLOC Manual* includes an appendix *Guide to Permissions & Copyright/Public Domain Review* that provides an overview of the permissions model and process for requesting, receiving, and tracking permissions: http://www.dloc.com/AA00002865/00004/pdf. Also, the *dLOC Manual: Introduction* provides an overview of permissions and rights: http://www.dloc.com/AA00002865/00014/pdf.

⁶ Technical review follows standard reviewing practices for the appropriateness of technologies in terms of fit, best practices for technologies in terms of standards compliance with the use of the selected technology, and best practices in terms of digital access and preservation with selecting technologies that are standard based using open standards and so can be guaranteed to be supported in the future for long-term access and digital preservation.

⁷ Editorial review processes are currently less formalized and are tailored for specific projects and needs. A full system is in development for application across all projects.

⁸ For more information on the full, systematic review process in development, see http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/committees/fprc/

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Appendix: dLOC – Links to Collections, Exhibits, and Publications Mentioned

Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC), www.dloc.com

dLOC, Scholar Curated Digital Collections:

Caribbean Newspaper Digital Library in dLOC, http://www.dloc.com/cndl

Efrain Barradas Mexican & Cuban Film Posters Collection in dLOC, http://dloc.com/filmposters

Efrain Barradas Mexican & Cuban Film Posters Exhibit in dLOC, http://dloc.com/exhibits/carteles

Teaching Guides & Resources Collection in dLOC, http://dloc.com/teach

Vodou Archive in dLOC, http://www.dloc.com/vodou

dLOC Online Exhibits:

About Face: Revisiting Jamaica's First Exhibition in Europe, http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/aboutface/

Haiti: An Island Luminous, http://dloc.com/exhibits/islandluminous

Journals Digitally Published and as Digital Acquisitions in dLOC:

Jamaica Journal, http://dloc.com/UF00090030

MaComère, http://www.dloc.com/AA00000079

Planters' Punch, http://dloc.com/AA00004645

Sargasso, http://www.dloc.com/UF00096005