



When Cooperation is the Key

An Introduction to the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC)

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DLOC Operations

- **University of Florida Administrative and Technical Operation Center**
 - Partnerships and Affiliations (non-partners we work with)
 - dLOC website (<https://dloc.com>)
 - Uploading, Digitization, Training, Digital Preservation
- **Florida International University Public Outreach Center**
 - Social media
 - Newsletter and Announcements
 - Manage public mailing list

Who We Are

- International cooperative of partners
- Established July 17, 2004
- Nine Founding Partners

Three Librarians & An Idea

- Judith Rogers, University of the Virgin Islands
- Catherine Marsicek, Florida International University
- Erich Kesse, University of Florida

“A cooperative digital library among partners in the Caribbean and circum-Caribbean” that would give “users access to cultural, historical and research materials held in archives, libraries and private collections”

Conference Proceedings Association of Caribbean University Research and Institutional Libraries, May 2004, Trinidad and Tobago

dLOC Mission

To be a cooperative body of partners who come together to serve an international community of scholars, students, and people with an interest in the Caribbean

How we do it - Our Partners



How we do it - Partnerships

Four criteria to be considered for partnership

Have content pertaining to the Caribbean or Caribbean diaspora and willing to share it openly

Adhere to copyright laws

Follow digitization standards for preservation

Appoint administrative and technical contacts

Shared Governance

Every partner has a voice

Elect Executive Board members

Board members are dLOC partners

Executive Board votes to admit new partners

Consulted when something could affect the entire cooperative

Post Custodial Collection Building

Partner keeps ownership of their materials

Nothing on dloc.com belongs to dLOC

Post-Custodial approach most recognized aspect of our work

Establishing relationships of trust

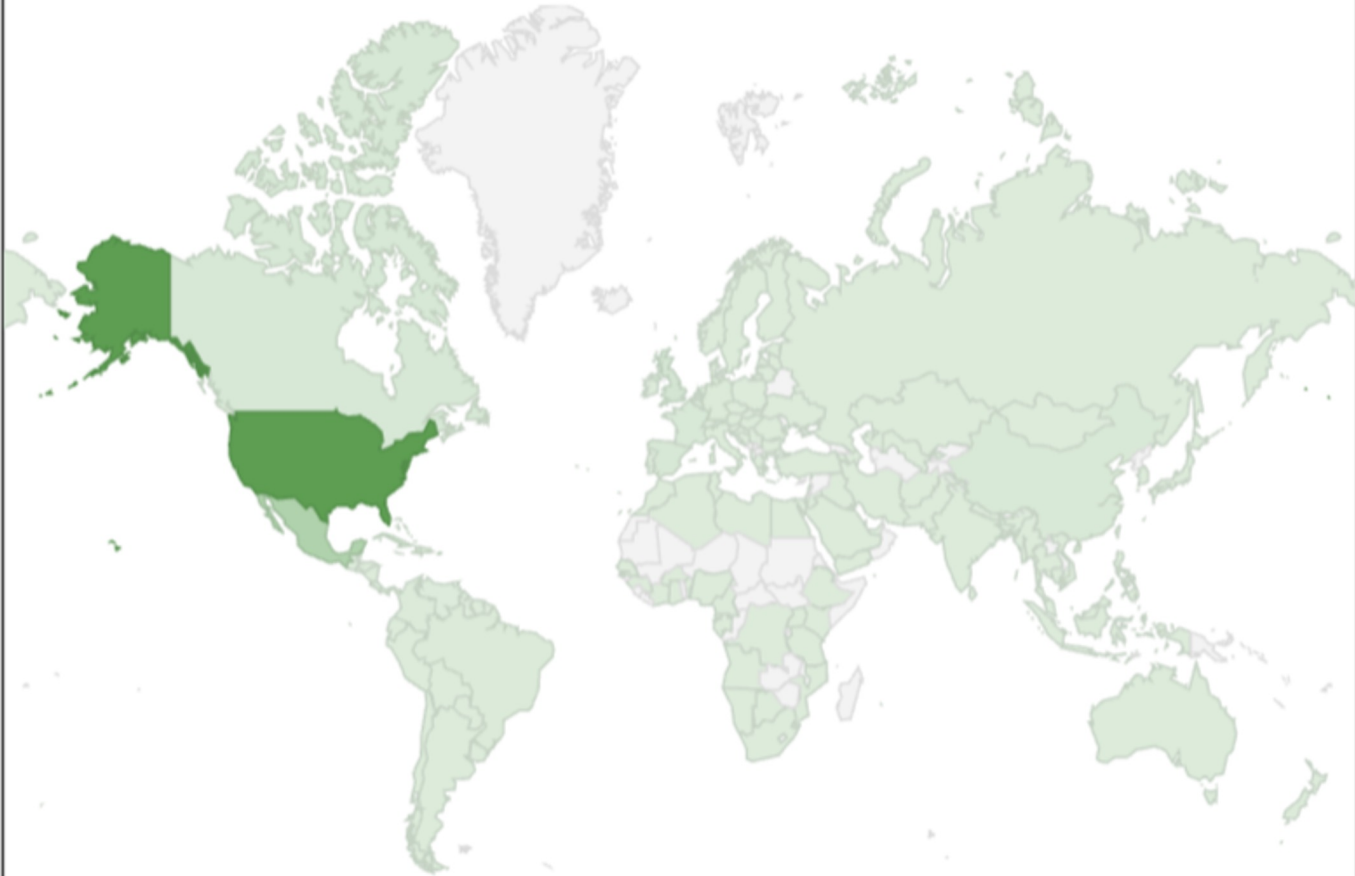
What We Do

Preserve and provide open digital access

For many partners dLOC is their digital archival repository

Users not charged for use

Our Users



A Collection of Collections

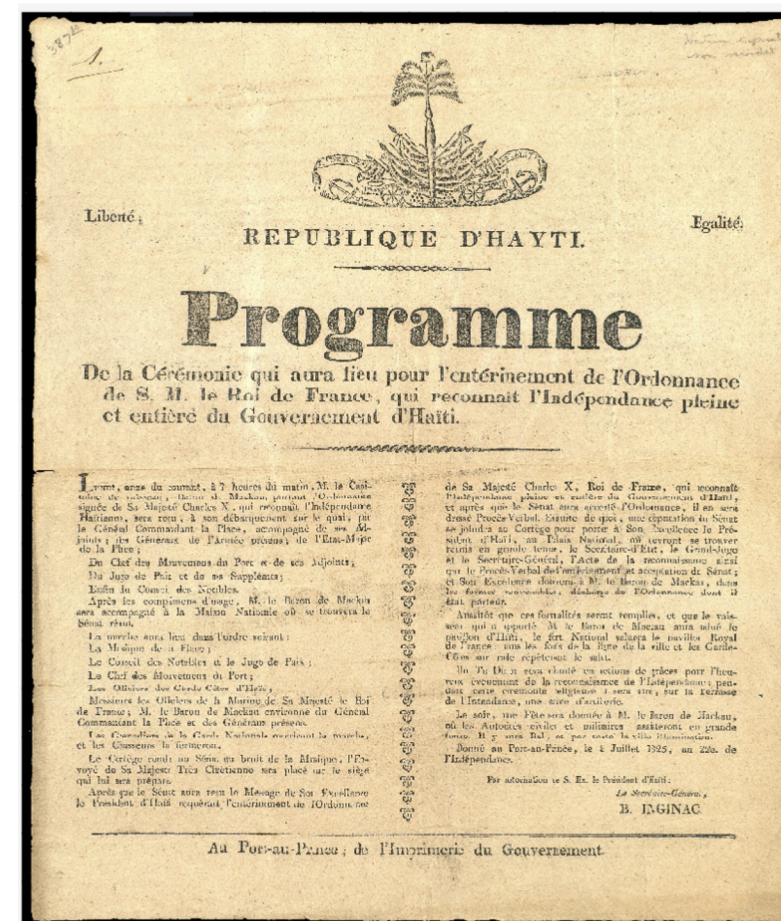
- Strengths
 - Cuba
 - Haiti
 - Puerto Rico
- Developing collections from the Dutch Antilles

Significant Collections

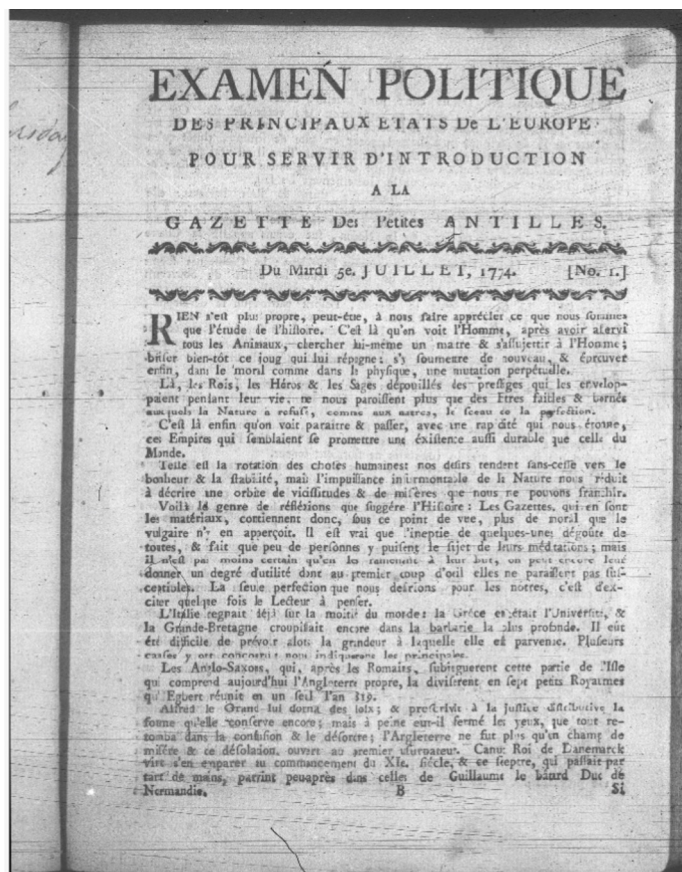


Caribbean Maps: 1650, University of Miami, Digital Library of the Caribbean, <https://dloc.com/aa00063658/00001>

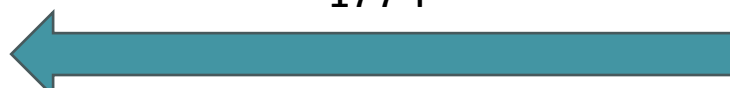
Caribbean Law: 1825, Bibliothèque Haïtienne des Spiritains, Digital Library of the Caribbean, <https://dloc.com/aa00063658/00001>



Largest Collection – Caribbean Newspapers



Oldest: Gazette des Petites Antilles, 1774



Most Recent: Caribbean Today, March 2026



Where We Are Today

Then

- **2004:** 9 Founding Partners
- **2006:** 373 users

Now

- **2026:** 107 Partners
- **March 2026:** Over 6 million users

- Between October 2006 and April 2026 over 56 million views (an item was opened)
- Over 7 million queries (someone searched for something)
- Over 480,000 items available for use

Where We Are Going

- 2022-2026: Multi-year, \$2 Million grant Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for *Revitalizing the Digital Library of the Caribbean*
 - 30 new Open Education Resources created
 - 6 Handbooks published
 - Foster and fortify relationship with partners
 - Learn about our capacity
- **Future Sustainability**
 - More Partner participation in the cooperative
 - Sharing expertise and knowledge



Why is this Important



Thank you

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**@dlocaribbean on Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram and
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