

Report of the  
**Information & Technology (IT), Academic Libraries, & Special Libraries  
Special Interest Groups (SIG)**

ACURIL XL – June 6-12, 2009, Santo Domingo, DR

**Chair, IT SIG– Judith Rogers (University of the Virgin Islands)**

The work of the IT-SIG for the past year began with the web conference held August 4, 2009, in which 16 persons participated from Guadeloupe, Martinique, Trinidad & Tobago, Puerto Rico, Florida and the U. S. Virgin Islands. The topic: Using a Course Management System (CMS) as an Information Literacy Hub for the Academic Community: report of the Blackboard CMS Pilot at the University of the Virgin Islands presented by Tanisha Mills & Elroy Richards, University of the Virgin Islands, had been planned for the ACURIL conference 2009, but could not be accommodated. The webinar was a successful demonstration of the possibilities for continuing education for ACURIL members throughout the year. It was presented in English with translated materials and translators on-hand to allow Spanish and French attendees active participation. Based on lessons learned, future web sessions will be presented to each language group separately for increased benefit.

Presentations of the IT-SIG continued with a two-part workshop on Monday, June 7, 2010 under the Theme: Administration of Information Units. The first workshop presented by Mark Sullivan, University of Florida, covered the topic: Research on Metadata standards including Dublin Core, METS, MODS, VRA Core, and open-source metadata creation tools such as the dLOC toolkit. There were 19 participants at this session where they had an opportunity to understand the requirements, differences and similarities of each standard for managing digital information.

The second workshop presented by Laila Miletic-Vejzovic, University of Central Florida, covered Metadata research and application in the management of digital collections. There were 31 participants at this session which explained why metadata is necessary for effective development of digital collections. The session included an exercise for participants to assist in creation of metadata for a new document in a digital collection.

On Tuesday, June 8, 2010 the IT-SIG sponsored its third meeting with a panel discussion under the theme: Organization and Representation of Information. This session consisted of three panelists presenting as follows:

Applying Emerging Standards in Developing a Caribbean Newspaper Digital Library by Laurie Taylor, University of Florida

Organizing and Representing Thematic Collections Through Evidence-based practices by Judith Rogers, University of the Virgin Islands

Surveying Best Practices in Disaster Response: Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative by Brooke Wooldridge, Florida International University.

There were 16 attendees at this meeting. Participants received details of the new digitization project for preserving and presenting Caribbean Newspapers online, evidence that supports the practice of organizing digital resources through broad themes or subject areas, and a status report of the dLOC project called Protecting Haitian Patrimony which has been raising funds to support libraries responsible for preserving patrimonial resources in Haiti.

The IT-SIG thanks all the presenters and participants for their interest and participation in the meetings of ACURIL XL. We look forward to presenting webinars throughout the next year, and invite your recommendations for topics and your offers to present in the online format.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Judith V. Rogers  
Chair, Information Technology SIG