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HISTORICALLY AMERICAN.
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Organizing and Representing Digital Collections:

THEMATIC COLLECTIONS

Judith Rogers

University of the Virgin Islands

University of the Virgin Islands

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“It follows from the nature of digital content, much of which is online, that the organisation of digital content cannot be limited to the silos of individual institutions.”
(Peter Johan Lor 2008)

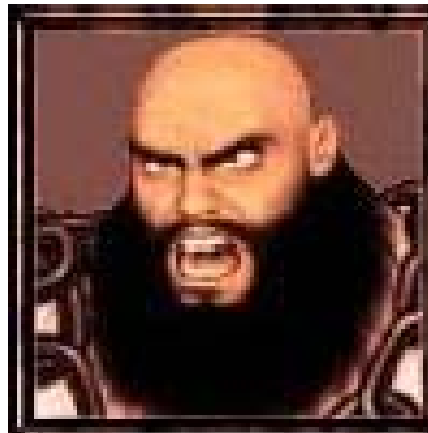
Research practices in 2012



Samantha



Olga



Professor Eduardo

University of the Virgin Islands

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The assignment

Choose a Caribbean island and describe the evidence of human experiences documented in historical maps of that island.

**Web site for the Digital Library of
the Caribbean (dLOC)**

<http://www.dloc.com>



- HOME
- MAP SEARCH
- ADVANCED SEARCH
- FULL TEXT SEARCH
- ALL ITEMS
- NEW ITEMS
- PARTNER COLLECTIONS**

Partner Collections

The following partners contributed to this collection:



The *Archives Nationale d'Haïti* is contributing photographic materials documenting the history of Haiti to the Digital Library of the Caribbean project from their extensive archives.

[Institution Collection](#) | [Browse All Items](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Web presence](#)



The *Biblioteca Nacional Aruba* is contributing materials to the Digital Library of the Caribbean project.

[Institution Collection](#) | [Browse All Items](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Web presence](#)



The *Bibliothèque Haïtienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit* is contributing materials to the Digital Library of the Caribbean project.

[Institution Collection](#) | [Browse All Items](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Web presence](#)



The *Bibliothèque Nationale d'Haïti* is contributing materials to the Digital Library of the Caribbean project.

[Institution Collection](#) | [Browse All Items](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Web presence](#)



The *Caribbean Community Secretariat* is contributing materials to the Digital Library of the Caribbean project. The initial resources selected document the history of the Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts [CARIFESTA].

[Institution Collection](#) | [Browse All Items](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Web presence](#)



The *Caribbean Studies Association* is contributing materials to the Digital Library of the Caribbean project.



HOME MODIFY YOUR SEARCH NEW SEARCH

Your search of *Digital Library of the Caribbean* for 'maps' anywhere resulted in 673 items in 628 titles.

Sort By: Rank

1 - 20 of 628 matching titles

PRINT SEND SAVE SHARE

NEXT LAST

BRIEF VIEW TABLE VIEW THUMBNAIL VIEW FULL VIEW

NARROW RESULTS BY:

Language

- English (283)
- Spanish (233)
- French (91)
- Dutch (23)
- Latin (13)
- German (9)
- Italian (6)

Publisher


- M. Nijhoff. (19)
 - F. Lucas Jr (12)
 - Didot (11)
 - Chez Didot (10)
 - J. Thomson & Co. (9)
 - Bellin, Jacques Nicolas (7)
 - Hydrographic Office, (6)
 - C. Blot (4)
 - F. Lucas, Jr. (4)
 - Hydrographic Office (4)
- Show More >>


Subject: Topic


- Maps -- Cuba (252)
 - Sugar -- Manufacture and refining -- Maps -- Cuba (251)
 - Sugarcane -- Maps -- Cuba (250)
 - Caribbean -- Maps (32)
 - Caribbean (22)
 - Periodicals -- Netherlands Antilles (19)
 - Periodicals -- Suriname (19)
 - Maps (18)
 - Maps -- Early works to 1800 -- West Indies (18)
 - Maps -- Early works 1800 to 1900 -- West Indies (13)
- Show More >>


Subject: Geographic Area


- Cuba (186)
 - Haiti (51)
- Show More >>

- 

Title: **A new & accurate map of the island of Cuba, drawn from the most approved maps & charts and regulated by astron. observations**
 Author: Bowen, Emanuel, d. 1767
 Publisher: [s.n.] (London)
 Format: 2 maps : ; 17.5 x 42.7. cm. on sheet 42 x 48 cm.
 Country: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Haiti
- 

Title: **Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad**
 Author: Century Company
 Publisher: [s.n.] (N.P)
 Format: 1 map : col ; 27.5 x 38.5 cm.
 Country: Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti
 State: Trinidad
- 

Title: **Carte de l'isle de Saint Domingue, dresse au depot de cartes et plans de la marine, pour le service des vaisseaux du roy**
 Author: Bellin, Jacques Nicolas, 1703-1772
 Publisher: [s.n.] (Paris)
 Format: 1 map : ; 58 x 91 cm.
 Country: Haiti, Dominican Republic
- 

Title: **Geographical, statistical, and historical map of Hayti, Formerly Hispaniola, or St. Domingo**
 Author: H.C. Carey & I. Lea (Firm)
 Lucas, Fielding, 1781-1854
 Publisher: Carey & Lea (Philadelphia)
 Format: 1 map. : col ; 30 x 46 cm. on sheet 46 x 53.5 cm.
 Country: Haiti, Dominican Republic
- 

Title: **Carta particolare dell'isola Ispaniola es gioni nil' India Occidentale con l'isole intorno**
 Author: Dudley, Robert, 1574-1649
 Publisher: A.F. Lucini, Fece (a Florence Italy)
 Format: 1 map. : ; 48 x 76 cm.



HOME MAP SEARCH ADVANCED SEARCH FULL TEXT SEARCH ALL ITEMS NEW ITEMS PARTNER COLLECTIONS

All Items

PRINT SEND SAVE SHARE

Sort By: Title

1 - 30 of 9415 matching titles

NEXT LAST

BRIEF VIEW TABLE VIEW THUMBNAIL VIEW FULL VIEW

NARROW RESULTS BY:

Language

- English (13317)
- Spanish (8798)
- French (8073)
- Portuguese (4998)
- Papiamentu (296)
- Latin (107)
- Dutch (65)
- Haitian Creole (Kréole; Kreyòl ayisyen) (31)
- German (14)
- Italian (10)

Show More >>

Publisher

- Rodrigues & Comp. (4121)
- Imprenta de Rambla y Bouza (1886)
- Govt. print. off. (1449)
- [Govt. Print. Off.] (1168)
- G.P.O. (842)
- Lago Oil and Transport Co., Ltd. (836)
- Rambla y Bouza (759)
- Published by Authority (580)
- Josiah Ferris (525)
- D.M. Lee (354)


Show More >>


Subject: Topic


- Newspapers -- Haiti (9956)
- Caribbean (6931)
- Newspapers -- Port-au-Prince (Haiti) (6338)
- Newspapers -- Brazil (lcsb) (4058)
- Newspapers -- Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) (lcsb) (4058)
- Politics and government -- Periodicals -- Cuba (2890)
- Newspapers -- Cuba (2096)
- Newspapers -- Havana (Cuba) (2096)
- Politics and government -- Grenada (1168)


No. Title Date


1	"Ons Suriname" (2 items)	
2	\$185,000 collected from CARIFESTA	
3	(Various public notices : Insert - Star 6 & 13 April, 1968)	
4	ATM - A toda máquina!	1951
5	¡Baile mi rey!, Juanino	1951
6	¡Fíjate qué suave!	1947
7	¡Mis abuelitas nomás!	1959
8	¡Se acabaron las mujeres!	1946
9	¡Viva la soldadera!	1958
10	¿Avanzamos o retrocedemos? : reflexiones sobre temas educativos	2010
11	Que es la FMC?	
12	¿Qué pasó con Baby Jane?	1962
13	"This is London calling the West Indies:" Henry Swanzy, the BBC, and the development of Caribbean literature	2001
14	10 Days of Arts and Culture : Caribbean Arts and Culture -- Reflecting, Consolidating, Moving on!	2000
15	101 steps leading to Blackbeard's Castle	1918
16	14 i.e. Catorce de diciembre de 1951	
17	14th Infantry, Ft. Davis, Panama Canal Zone	April, 1930
18	1804-2004: The Bicentennial of the Independence of Haiti ; Année internationale de la lutte contre l'esclavage et son abolition (text on CD with selected images of items)	2004
19	1898 - Rough Riders	1898
20	1937 * Bahamas : Diary of daily activities	
21	1eres assises de la lecture publique en Martinique ; publication des actes vendredi 17 novembre 2000 : colloque sur la lecture publique en Martinique	2003
22	2 Caribbean masterpieces	1971
23	20 (i.e., Viente) rábulas en flux	
24	2002 opinion survey of U.S. Virgin Island commercial fishers and the marine recreational industry	


- 14  Publisher: J. Thomson & Co. (Edinburgh)
Format: 2 maps on 1 sheet. : col ; 51 x 62 cm.
Country: Dominica, Martinique


- 15  Title: **West India Islands**
Author: John Thomson & Co, f.1813-1869
Publisher: J. Thomson & Co. (Edinburgh)
Format: 2 maps on 1 sheet. : col ; 51 x 62 cm.
Country: Martinique, Dominica

- 16  Title: **Carte de la Gonave dressée sur les opérations géométriques sites en 1787**
Author: Lieudé de Sepmanville (François Cyprien Antoine de), 1762-1817
Publisher: Depot de la Marine (Paris)
Format: 1 map : col. ; 59 x 88 cm.
Country: Haiti
State: Ouest

- 17  Title: **GVIANA sive Amazonvm Regio**
Author: Hondius, Hendrik, 1597-1651
Publisher: [s.n.] (Amsterdam. Hondius)
Format: 1 Map. : col ; 38 x 49 cm.
Country: Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana

- 18  Title: **Carte du Canal de Bahama**
Author: Bellin, Jacques Nicolas, 1703-1772
Publisher: Didot (Paris)
Format: 1 map ; ; 21.2 x 31.4 cm. on sheet 25.1 x 32.2 cm.

- 19  Title: **Culiacanae, Americae Regionis, Descriptio. Hispaniolae, Cubaee, Aliarumque Insularum Circumiacientium, Delineatio**
Author: Ortelius, Abraham, 1527-1598
Publisher: Ortelius (Antwerp)
Format: 2 maps on 1 sheet : ; 36 x 50 cm.
Country: United States, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, Cuba, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Guadeloupe, Martinique
State: Florida

- 20  Title: **Geographical, statistical, and historical map of Hispaniola, or St. Domingo**
Author: Lucas, Fielding, 1781-1854
Publisher: H.C. Carey & I. Lea (Firm) (Philadelphia)
Format: 1 map. : col ; 46.4 x 31 cm.
Country: Haiti, Dominican Republic

Collections





Collections

Collections include newspapers, photographs, archives of Caribbean leaders and governments, official historical documents, and historic and contemporary maps. Future collections will feature numeric data for local ecosystems, oral and popular histories, travel accounts, literature, and musical expressions. The study of Caribbean culture is incomplete without an understanding of the various languages spoken in the region. dLOC is committed to building a collection of resources for teachers and students of Caribbean linguistics.

Partner Collections can be browsed and searched individually through [the partner collection pages](#).

- Agriculture
- Economic Development
- Education
 - [Teaching Guides \(primary and secondary\)](#)
- Environment
- Geography
 - [Caribbean Maps](#)
- History
 - [Jamaica Unshackled](#)
 - [U. S. Virgin Islands History & Culture Project](#)
 - [US Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- Government Documents
 - [Gazettes](#)
- Law
- Language and Literature
 - [Cuban Imprints](#)
 - [Haitian Creole](#)
- Medicine, Health, Disease
- Migration
- Music & Arts
 - [Carifesta](#)
 - [Motion Pictures](#)
- Newspapers
- Oral Histories
- Partner Collections
- Politics, Government
 - [Eric Williams Memorial Collection \(University of the West Indies; St. Augustine, Trinidad\)](#)
 - [Haiti: Une île lumineuse](#)
 - [Panama and the Canal](#)
- Race/Class/Gender
- Religion
- Slavery and Resistance

Maps doc type

Caribbean Map Collection

HOME ADVANCED SEARCH FULL TEXT SEARCH ALL ITEMS

PRINT SEND SAVE SHARE

All Items

Sort By: Title

1 - 20 of 702 matching titles

NEXT LAST

BRIEF VIEW TABLE VIEW THUMBNAIL VIEW FULL VIEW

NARROW RESULTS BY:

Language

- English (244)
- Spanish (199)
- Latin (104)
- French (75)
- German (11)
- Italian (8)
- Dutch (3)

Publisher

- F. Lucas Jr (12)
- Didot (11)
- Chez Didot (10)
- J. Thomson & Co. (8)
- Bellin, Jacques Nicolas (7)
- Hydrographic Office (7)
- Biblioteca Nacional (6)
- Direccion de Hidrografia (6)
- Hydrographic Office, (6)
- J. Bellin (5)

Show More >>

Subject: Topic

- Maps -- Cuba (252)
- Sugar -- Manufacture and refining -- Maps -- Cuba (251)
- Sugarcane -- Maps -- Cuba (250)
- Caribbean -- Maps (31)
- Maps -- Early works to 1800 -- West Indies (17)
- Maps (16)
- Caribbean (13)



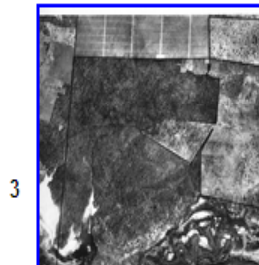
1

Title: **Accurate map of the island of St. Christopher, vulgarly called St. Kits, containing all the towns, parishes, forts &c.**
 Author: Bowen, Emanuel
 Publisher: nmys et al
 Country: St. Kitts and Nevis



2

Title: **Advertencias que facilitan el Conocimiento de los Cayos del Oeste dela boca de canal de Bahama que median desde el nombrado de Huesso inc. basta principio de Cayo Largo**
 Publisher: Biblioteca Nacional ([Madrid Spain)
 Format: 1 map ; ;



3

Title: **Aerial Photograph of Lote de Monte Situado al Sur de la Finca Ingenio Francisco**
 Format: 1 map ; ; 25 x 22 cm.
 Country: Cuba

THUMBNAIL



Click on Thumbnail to Recenter Image

Title: American Virgin Islands

CITATION MAP IT! ZOOMABLE MAP IMAGE

PRINT SEND ADD SHARE

Navigation icons: zoom in, zoom out, pan, rotate, etc.

ST CROIX

DITHS FANCY

ST JOHN

GREAT PRINCESS

LITTLE PRINCESS

GOLDEN ROCK

BELLE VUE

RICHMOND

CHRISTIANSTED

ST CROIX Skolefabrik

Protestant Cay

WELCOME

ALTONA

BOETZBERG

SHOYS

SOUTHGATE FARM

COAKLEY BAY Skole

GREEN CAY

FYR

ST PETERS

SIGHT

Seven Hills

MT WASHINGTON

COTTON GROVE

RECOVERY HILL

ELIZAS RETREAT

SPRINGGUT

SALLY'S FANCY

PETRONELLA

GREAT POND

Store Salt ponds

Great Pond Bay

MUNSTER

CASTLE NUGENT

FAREHAM

SRBINGS

LONGFORD

CORNHILL

HUMBUG GRANARD

RETREAT

CANE GARDEN

Manchinil Bay

Vagthus Pynt

PUERTORICO



HOME MAP SEARCH ADVANCED SEARCH FULL TEXT SEARCH ALL ITEMS NEW ITEMS PARTNER COLLECTIONS

Collections : Carifesta

ABOUT HOME **COLLECTIONS** OUTREACH DIGITIZATION TRAINING NEWS CONTACT

Carifesta

The Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts (**CARIFESTA**) is a regional festival which has been held in various CARICOM countries since its establishment in 1972. CARIFESTA is an occasion when artists, performers and other persons in the field of culture meet and exchange ideas through presentations of music, dance, drama, exhibitions on art, sculpture, poetry and symposia. The CARICOM Secretariat through the Council on Human and Social Development (**COHSOD**) has since been involved not only in the shaping and preservation of CARIFESTA but also in promoting a coordinated approach to cultural policy development as embodied in the CARICOM regional cultural policy which is currently under review. Matters in relation to culture come under the purview of this Council. The Regional Cultural Committee (RCC) which consists of Directors of Culture or Senior Officials is responsible for culture in Member States and Associated member states.

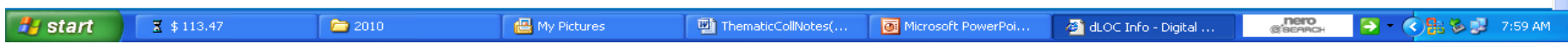
The CARICOM Secretariat was invited in 2004 to participate in the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) along with other regional partners from libraries, archives and institutions. This invitation was readily accepted since it was felt that we could contribute our CARIFESTA collection to this cooperative resource of historical and cultural Caribbean materials which would be useful for research. We commenced digitizing in 2006.

The materials digitized have been drawn from the ten CARIFESTAS which have been held in the region to date. Guyana hosted the most recent festival in 2008. The collection consists of consultants' studies; papers; press releases; articles indexed from journals; pamphlets; tourism brochures; posters advertising all of the various CARIFESTAS; programmes detailing events; and newspaper clippings. Most of the news clippings were sourced from the Guyana National Library. Our Collection was supplemented by further contributions from the Directorate of Human and Social Development through its Culture desk which liaises with the various Directors of Culture in the region.

Today we boast a total of 1,500 images which we have digitized and added to Digital Library, although only 795 items are currently accessible to viewers. The CARICOM Secretariat is firmly committed to the dLOC project and sees our participation as sharing and preserving information that is not easily accessible regionally and internationally.

The Digital Library of the Caribbean's teaching guides include guides on [Carifesta Murals](#) and [Carifesta](#).

CARIFESTA	YEAR	COUNTRY	THEME
CARIFESTA I	1972	Guyana	The artist in society, with special reference to the third world
CARIFESTA II	1976	Jamaica	A hallmark of cultural extravaganza
CARIFESTA III	1979	Cuba	A rainbow of people under one Caribbean sun
CARIFESTA IV	1981	Barbados	Living images of the sun
CARIFESTA V	1992	Trinidad & Tobago	Togetherness is strength
CARIFESTA VI	1995	Trinidad & Tobago	The world's best cultural mix
CARIFESTA VII	2000	St Kitts & Nevis	Caribbean arts and culture...reflecting, consolidating, moving on!
CARIFESTA VIII	2003	Suriname	Cultural Diversity



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“It follows from the nature of digital content, much of which is online, that the organisation of digital content cannot be limited to the silos of individual institutions.”
(Peter Johan Lor 2008)



References

- Dempsey, Lorcan. “Libraries and the Long Tail Some Thoughts about Libraries in a Network Age.” D-Lib Magazine12.4 (2006)
- Lor, Peter Johan. “Digital Libraries and Archiving Knowledge: Some Critical Questions.” South African Journal of Library & Information Science74.2 (2008): 116-128.

ACURIL XL – June 6-12, 2010
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

IT-SIG Presentation
Sub-Theme 3. Organization and Representation of Information

Organizing and Representing Thematic Collections through evidence-based practices
By
Judith Rogers, University of the Virgin Islands

[slide one] In this presentation, I will examine some practices in organizing digital collections around thematic areas and identify two reports as some evidence from the literature for effectively getting users to your digital resources. The first report is from an article by Peter Lor called : Digital libraries and archiving knowledge: some critical questions. This article revisits the access issues for digital collections and the question of why we digitize in the first place. The second report is in the article by Lorcan Dempsey called Libraries and the Long Tail. This report makes the case for aggregating collections and users to enhance use.

As we were told in the opening presentation this morning, presenters can only hold the attention of the audience for 20 mins. As I am at about the 20 minute threshold, I will use a storytelling format for this presentation and ask you to visualize or imagine with me the experiences of users in navigating digital collections.

Finally, I will examine the articles by Lor and Dempsey as evidence supporting thematic applications for digital libraries.

[slide two] We'll begin with this quote from Peter Lor's article: "It follows from the nature of digital content, much of which is online, that the organisation of digital content cannot be limited to the silos of individual institutions." (Peter Johan Lor 2008) speaks to the reason for opening up access to collections. Keep this in mind as we work through the presentation.

[slide three] The year is 2012 – I would like to introduce you to Samantha and Olga, the 19 year-old college students enrolled in a SSC 100 course during their second semester in college. The SSC 100 course provides students with an understanding of Caribbean social, economic, physical and cultural experiences. After introducing the students to the areas that would be covered in the course, Professor Eduardo gave their students their first assignment

[slide four – choose a Caribbean island and describe the evidence of the human experiences in historical maps of that island.]

The year is 2012 and like most of their friends, Samantha and Olga begin every assignment by logging onto their favorite search engine, typing in a few keywords and reviewing the first three pages of results. For this assignment, however, the professor requires that students use the collection of maps organized and presented through the digital library of the Caribbean (dLOC). **[slide five]** This is restricting their style, it is not Yahoo, she moans - at least the assignment allows me to go online, she

says, logging on to her computer. As is also typical, Samantha has scheduled her research time with her friend Olga. Although it was not a group project, Samantha and Olga are energized by the social contact achieved through MSN chat as they work through the web pages.

After locating the dLOC web site, Samantha and Olga saw the link for partner collections in the group of tabs at the top of the page. This should be easy, says Olga. There cannot be that many documents on a web site called the Digital Library of the Caribbean, and how many of those documents would contain historical maps anyway.

[slide six] So they began by reviewing links to the partner collections. Do you realize that there are over 50 partners contributing to this project? Let's use the advanced search feature to see how many of the collections include maps. There were over 1,000 documents described with the maps document type.

[slide seven] Wow, this is impressive, Samantha says. I think this will take much longer than we thought, if we can't find a simpler method for refining this search. When I used the **all items** tab, it shows over 1,500 unique titles, and some of these have over 50 items under one title. There could be over 2 mil pages of documents on this site. **[slide eight]** Surely there's a way to browse all these documents by subject areas as we do with Yahoo and Alta Vista.

At that moment Olga spotted the Collections link on the bottom of the page. **[slide nine]** Bingo, she wrote on her chat page. I just located the solution to our dilemma. The collections page organizes the partner collections using 40 broad themes and sub-themes. **[slide ten]** There is a heading called Caribbean maps in the Geography area, I've already found a historical map of St. Kitts and of the American Virgin Islands. **[slide eleven]** The map of the Virgin Islands includes Danish, French, and Dutch place names. **[slide twelve]** Professor Eduardo had explained how changes in governments and languages played a critical role in framing the human experiences of residents of any area.

Samantha and Olga were well on their way in successfully completing their assignment.

Come back now to the reality of 2010. This particular website does not yet have the depth of themes and topics to make it the research tool that would yield results such as those experienced by Samantha and Olga, but it has the beginnings. With continued effort, dLOC partners can achieve that 2mil record mark and full thematic collections by 2012.

[slide thirteen] The CARICOM Carifesta collection is one of the resources that's well on its way towards that goal.

But what does this scenario say about the organizational standards and professional practices that should drive digital resources? To answer these questions, we must re-examine the purpose for creating a digital library in the first place.

[slide fourteen] According to Peter Johan Lor in his article: Digital libraries and archiving knowledge: some critical questions, there are two primary reasons for creating digital collections, aggregated access and enhanced access. Aggregated access refers to the bringing together of resources under one umbrella for delivery through a single interface. Enhanced access refers to promotion gained as a wider

audience becomes aware of the resources and the creation of finding aids or search engines for effective retrieval.

Bringing resources together (aggregating) is a major factor in achieving enhanced access. It is much easier to find a shoe in the haystack than it is to find the needle. It is this effective retrieval that is significantly impacted through the development of the topical divisions for organizing collections. Lor's statement that the organization of digital collections cannot be limited by displaying them solely under the banner of the owning institution captures the critical reasoning for integrating collections within a digital library. In other words, it's not enough to simply digitize your collections and place them online. If all our institutions did that we are simply maintaining the silos in which these collections already exist. If we aggregate them within a collection without facilitating further integration, the power of the technology is wasted as some of the segregation still remains.

Organizing the collections by subject or topical categories takes aggregation one step further. Best practices dictate that contributors to digital collections take that next step and identify the categories of documents existing within digital resources placed online. If we are removing barriers, then remove the barriers completely.

Evidence on which practice of aggregating access is based is everywhere in the literature. The Peter Johan Lor article addresses this issue as well as others such as the lifespan of digital collections not discussed in this presentation. The Libraries and the Long tail article by Lorcan Dempsey applies the long tail argument of how the aggregation supply and demand impact usage, and also provides data to support improving access through integration. It is not enough to get users online to your collection – you must also reduce costs. Time is a cost in this case that we don't often consider. Samantha and Olga in our scenario were not prepared to spend too much time digging around dLOC to find those maps. If some success didn't happen for them within the first 5-8 minutes they were ready to look elsewhere and forget Prof. Eduardo. The behaviour in the futuristic scenario is supported by the evidence in articles such as Dempsey and Lor.

The vivid imagery of students attempting to execute a research assignment and questioning the usefulness of library resources sends shivers through any dedicated librarian. When all is said and done, libraries want resources used. This is true for traditional collections, it's true for online collections. The ultimate goal in building and organizing online resources is to enhance access. Organizing by topic is one way to accomplish that. The research scenario is set in 2012 because we are not there yet. Perhaps the plight of the Samanthas and Olgas among our users will be sufficient motivation to perform the difficult the time consuming process of applying themes to our collection. We look forward to seeing greater development of topics from partners of the Digital Library of the Caribbean Collection or any other collection serving up Caribbean materials.