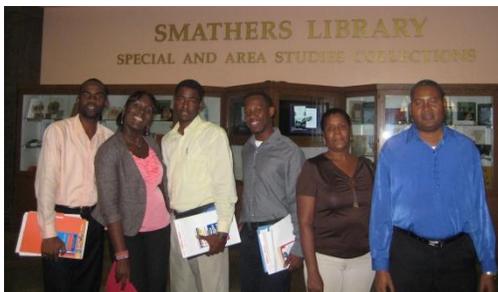


The Digital Library of the Caribbean (www.dloc.com) Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative (PHPI), organized by the Florida International University (FIU) Libraries and the FIU Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC), continues to provide much needed assistance to the heritage libraries and historical archives in Haiti. The two principal activities from PHPI since the last update include a two week training of dLOC Haitian partners in Florida in July 2011 and the delivery and installation of equipment provided by the US Embassy in Haiti and the Pan American Organization for History and Geography in Haiti in February 2012.

dLOC sponsored the training of six staff from the Haitian partner libraries in July 2011. The directors of our partner institutions selected key members of their staff to participate in a two week intensive



Bernado Alexis, Mickerlange d'Haiti, Luc Steve Honore, Fenton Charles, Marie Lubin and Volvick Noel

digitization training at the University of Florida (UF) and site visits and presentations at Florida International University (FIU). The training at UF focused on digitization theory, image editing, quality control, metadata creation and tracking as well as equipment usage and maintenance. In addition, the participants shared experiences with representatives from several departments in the UF Libraries including Preservation, Conservation, Special Collections and the Latin American Collection. Special visits to the Florida Museum of History and the Harn Museum on Art enriched the overall training experience. Before returning to Haiti, several participants shared with the students of the

FIU's Latin American and Caribbean Center Haitian Summer Institute and attended a lecture by the curator of the Smithsonian led Cultural Recovery Center working with the Ministry of Culture in Haiti to preserve works of art. Pre and post tests administered to the participants showed significant gains in both practical and theoretical knowledge and this investment in the future leaders of these important institutions is already showing great returns.

Early in 2012, dLOC representatives Brooke Wooldridge and Mark Sullivan were joined by Bradley Coleman, a US representative to the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), to deliver and install equipment purchased with a grant from PAIGH. During the training at UF last July, the National Archives staff identified a specific need to acquire equipment to digitize endangered film negatives. This collection of over 5,000 black and white negatives, dating from 1918 to 1945, includes the period of the first U.S.



Bradley Coleman and Jean Wilfrid Bertrand signing the equipment agreement.

occupation. It contains images of public buildings before and after restoration, public works, monuments, and visits of U.S. Presidents and other government officials. Under the direction of Bradley Coleman, PAIGH provided an \$8,000 grant that enabled the purchase of the necessary equipment to digitize and process these images. During a one week visit from January 30 – February 3, this equipment was delivered, installed, and a group of digitization staff from the National Archives, National Library and Brothers of Christian Instruction Library were trained to operate the equipment.



Light table and camera provided by PAIGH to support preservation at the National Archives.

In another ongoing project, the U.S. Embassy in Haiti partnered with dLOC in 2009 to assist Haitian libraries in the digital preservation of and increased access to Haitian patrimony. The Embassy purchased a CopiBook scanner, ideal for the digitization of large format and brittle materials, and sponsored two training workshops in 2009. In that first year, the Embassy supported an intern who worked with dLOC partners and digitized hundreds of pages of content. However, use of the equipment has waned in the last two years. As the traffic around Port-au-Prince has increased, travel to the Embassy to digitize materials has become even more difficult in the last two years. After several meetings with relevant partners, the stakeholders agreed that a location downtown would increase the usage and impact of this vital equipment. During the February 2012 visit, dLOC representatives met with the new director of the National Library, Emmanuel Menard, and finalized the installation of the CopiBook scanner in the National Library of Haiti, a centralized location providing easier access to all dLOC's partners in Haiti.



Installation of the CopiBook at the National Library of Haiti in February 2012.

2012 will be a great year for libraries and archives in Haiti. The annual conference of the Association of Caribbean University Institutional and Research Libraries (ACURIL) will meet June 4-8 in Petionville, Haiti. This will be a great opportunity for interested parties to see firsthand these important cultural institutions. We hope many of our followers will consider attending this conference being held for the first time in Haiti. In addition, library and archive staff have benefited from many training opportunities over the last two years. Multiple training initiatives are still underway across the libraries and archives. These new skills will certainly strengthen the skills of the library staff serving these collections. However, these patrimonial institutions still face many challenges as they work to protect their collections and serve their constituencies.

Access to the public research collections in Port-au-Prince continues to improve. The National Library of Haiti and the Brothers of Christian Instruction / Saint Louis de Gonzague Library have both been open to the public for nearly one year. The Fathers of the Holy Spirit Library built a small library with outside support and hopes to reopen this year. The Civil Archives section of the National Archives has developed many new services including the regional delivery of documents. The Historical Section of the National Archives remains closed to the public but the digitization team is working to preserve and make some key documents available online.

The libraries and archives still need your support so that they can protect their collections and ensure they are available to the public for years to come. Please contact the project coordinator at dloc@fiu.edu if you would like to contribute resources to this important work in Haiti.

Funding, especially for preservation and digitization, is very limited. Please consider organizing a local fundraiser or making an online donation here: <http://dloc.com/dloc1/haitianlibdonate>.

PHPI Expenses

First Response Requests	\$3,830
Emergency supplies (National Library), Compensation for food for volunteers helping to recover documents immediately after the earthquake (National Archives), Building Repair (Saint Louis de Gonzague Library)	
First PHPI Shipment	\$3,500
35 Computers from Florida International University College of Business; 1,500 Archival Boxes from Hollinger Metal Edge and others from Florida State University, The Jim Moran Foundation, the University of Florida and the University of Miami (value \$30,000)	
10 Day Intensive Partner Training for Haiti Partners	\$7,770
Equipment for National Archives – OAS Pan American Institute for Geography and History	Final report pending – approximately \$8,000

PHPI Haiti Partner Photographs



Clockwise: University of Florida Smathers Library Special Collections with dLOC Haiti partners; Meeting with historians in Haiti during February 2012 visit; Mark Sullivan training dLOC partners at the National Archives to operate the new equipment



Above: Historical Archives at the National Archives of Haiti



Top: Jean Wilfrid Bertrand, Director of the National Archives; Emmanuel Menard, Director of the National Library of Haiti; Brooke Wooldridge, Digital Library of the Caribbean; Bernado Alexis, Digitization Director, National Archives of Haiti

Bottom: Fr. Ernest Even, Director of Brothers of Christian Instruction Library; Brooke Wooldridge, Digital Library of the Caribbean; Jean Wilfrid Bertrand, Director of the National Archives of Haiti



Above: Preservation Section restoring documents at the National Archives of Haiti.



Above: Select images from the UF digitization training: Fenton Charles editing video; Bernado Alexis and Paul Losch reviewing the UF microfilm collection; Lunch with the Haitian Student Organization and a presentation by John Freund from the Preservation Department.