

Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC)
Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative (PHPI)
Update – November 2010



The Digital Library of the Caribbean (www.dloc.com) Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative (PHPI), organized by the Florida International University (FIU) Libraries and Latin American and Caribbean Center, continues to provide much needed assistance to the damaged libraries and archives in Haiti. The dLOC partner libraries and archives in Haiti have made significant progress and continue to work to repair their facilities, restore their collections, and work to reopen to the public.

The libraries and archives still need your support so that they can re-open their doors and begin serving the public. As the country faces the challenges of rebuilding, the Haitian heritage libraries and archives hold many answers for today's leaders. And, when the young people of Haitian descent who grow up through this rebuilding begin to look for answers, they will need these heritage collections to be available.

As you consider where to make your holiday donations, please consider supporting these important libraries and archives. You can make online donations here: <http://dloc.com/dloc1/haitianlibdonate>.

PHPI Support for the Libraries/Archives

When established just after the earthquake, the PHPI Initiative established three goals: to encourage collaboration, coordinate technical and in-kind assistance and raise money to support recovery and preservation projects in Haiti. PHPI has provided support for the libraries as they worked to protect their collections and we will continue to provide support moving forward into the preservation phase. *To date, PHPI has raised over \$12,000 in donations and delivered computers and archival boxes valued at \$30,000.* Donations, from a few dollars to a few thousand dollars, have come from individuals and libraries across the United States and the Caribbean. Below are three examples of how institutions are organizing to fundraise for the Haitian libraries and archives.



Elizabeth Chin, a Katherine Dunham specialist from Occidental College, and University of Florida students performed traditional Haitian Dance at the UF Hand in Hand Benefit Concert.

The **University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies** organized a benefit concert on October 22, 2010, featuring music and dance performances celebrating the African Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to a wonderful public performance and Haitian dance workshops in the local schools, the concert raised over \$2,000 to support PHPI. Several groups in Gainesville, Florida, also supported the event, including: the Brazilian Cultural Arts Exchange (BCAE), the African American Studies Program, the Center for African Studies, UF's George A. Smathers Libraries, the UF School of Theatre and Dance, and Studio Percussion.

The **CARICOM Secretariat** in Guyana, a dLOC partner, has organized local libraries to sell PHPI bookmarks for \$5 each. To date, CARICOM has raised \$240 and continues to sell bookmarks to support the Haitian libraries and archives.

Florida International University and the **University of Miami** plan to host a joint benefit for the libraries/archives at the Little Haiti Cultural Center on February 17, 2010. Please mark your calendars!

Fundraising efforts continue to develop. Please consider organizing a local fundraiser to support the libraries/archives. Contact the dLOC coordinator at dloc@fiu.edu if you would like to plan a local event.

PHPI Shipment and Checks Arrive to Haiti

The first round of money disbursed to the Haitian libraries totaled \$3,830 and covered emergency supplies, compensation for food for volunteers helping to recover documents immediately after the earthquake, repairs to shelving for the National Library, National Archives and the Saint Louis de Gonzague Library respectively. PHPI sent its first shipment of in-kind donations, valued at approximately \$30,000. The donations, which included 35 computers from the FIU College of Business, over 1,500 archival boxes donated from the Society of Florida Archivists and Hollinger Metal Edge and a generator and books provided by the Haitian Heritage Museum, were delivered to the National Library of Haiti on October 21, 2010. In addition to the archival boxes from Hollinger, Florida State University, The Jim Moran Foundation, the University of Florida and the University of Miami contributed surplus archival supplies to send to Haiti. Donations of \$3,500 covered the shipping costs to deliver in-kind donations that valued \$30,000.



Sobe Export employees preparing the shipment for Haiti. August 2010

PHPI anticipates sending a second shipment of supplies to Haiti in early 2011, so please contact the project coordinator at dloc@fiu.edu if you would like to discuss a possible contribution.

Preservation Supplies and Training

Preservation of the archival collections continues to be an important objective of dLOC and PHPI. In July, a three person preservation team from the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica, provided a five day preservation workshop for the libraries and archives in Haiti. UWI, dLOC and interested conservators are working together with the Haitian counterparts to extend this training. In addition, through collaboration with Bradley Coleman, Command Historian, US Southern Command, the University of the West Indies, the National Archives in Haiti and dLOC, the National Archives has received \$8,000 of support from the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History for equipment to continue document preservation and digital preservation efforts. dLOC and PHPI continue to seek funding and volunteers to support for library and archival preservation work in Haiti.

Promoting Awareness of the Needs

PHPI presented the situation of the heritage libraries at several conferences this fall:

Latin American Studies Association Section on Scholarly Research and Resources

October 6-9, 2010

Holly Ackerman, Duke University, Gayle Williams, Florida International University, Brooke Wooldridge, dLOC, led a discussion on the role of LASA in disaster assistance to libraries.

Haiti and the Americas Conference, Florida Atlantic University

October 21-23, 2010

Gayle Williams, Florida International University, presented the case of the Haitian heritage libraries.

The Haitian Studies Association Conference

November 11-13, 2010

Haitian Libraries Today and their Role in Creating a Stronger Future was moderated by Dominique Coulombe, Brown University, included Elizabeth Pierre-Louis, FOKAL, Ted Widmer, John Carter Brown University and Brooke Wooldridge, dLOC. Francoise Thybulle, Director of the National Library of Haiti, was scheduled to participate but had a schedule conflict.

Updates of other Library/Archive Collaboration Efforts

- The Smithsonian / US Blue Shield project is fully functional with assistance to art/museum collections.
- The International Blue Shield has secured a donation of books/shelving from Swiss libraries. Agreement in place for a rescue center to be developed.
- The American Library Association has able to successfully fundraise for the Petit Goave municipal library, Pyepoudre community library and the Saint Martial Library.
- FOKAL has funded repairs at the Saint Louis de Gonzague library.
- Libraries without Borders should finish building a computer lab for access to international databases for university students.
- The French Foreign Ministry is funding the construction of a 100 square meter library from Saint Martial.
- dLOC has raised monetary support (\$12,000) and secured donations of computers and archival boxes to the libraries/archives (\$30,000).
- OAS Pan American Institute for Geography and History to provide \$8,000 in equipment to the National Archives.
- US National Archives and Records Administration will provide \$5,000 in materials/equipment support to the National Archives.
- The National Library and Archives of the Dominican Republic have provided donations of needed materials and supplies.
- The John Carter Brown raised funding for the Saint Martial collection.
- Haiti Union Library catalog - Funding in development
- The University of the West Indies, Mona, has provided training in Haiti and Jamaica for the National Library.
- Other Caribbean Libraries have provided training to Haitian library staff as well.

Haiti, An Island Luminous Exhibit

dLOC is working not only to preserve the history in Haiti, but also to promote an understanding of the complexity of Haitian history through increased access to research resources. A new online exhibit of 500 years of history in Haiti is in development. The exhibit, entitled *Haiti, An Island Luminous*, is currently under development and will launch in the Fall of 2011. With contributions from current scholars and students, as well as excerpts from past publications, and direct links

providing free access to books, manuscripts and newspapers, this “guided tour” will pair expert commentary and original documents to introduce users to five hundred years of Haitian history!

The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) is a cooperative of partners within the Caribbean and circum-Caribbean that will provide users with access to Caribbean cultural, historical and research materials held in archives, libraries, and private collections. dLOC comprises collections that speak to the similarities and differences in histories, cultures, languages and governmental systems.

*** This report should have followed a third visit to Haiti by PHPI sponsored by the FIU Hope for Haiti Task Force however that visit has been postponed until early in 2011.*

