

Title: **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2012**

Name of Country: Trinidad and Tobago

Name of Library: National Library and Information
System Authority (NALIS)

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General overview

The National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS) is a corporate body established by the NALIS Act No. 18 of 1998 to administer the development and coordination of library and information services in Trinidad and Tobago. As a statutory authority under the purview of the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism, NALIS is governed by a Board and managed by an Executive Director assisted by a Deputy Executive Director and Directors of its various divisions. NALIS is responsible for not only the Heritage Library but also 25 public libraries and the staff in primary, secondary and special libraries in government ministries and other departments.

The National Library of Trinidad and Tobago, located at Hart and Abercromby Streets in Port of Spain, is the administrative seat and focal point of NALIS' libraries and information service centres in Trinidad and Tobago. Since its establishment, NALIS has developed policies and pursued strategies aimed at providing thriving public libraries in communities, ensuring the preservation of and global access to the nation's Heritage collections, and as far as possible equipping all library personnel, including those assigned to schools and special libraries, with the skills necessary to transform library services.

New developments in creating and building collections.

NALIS acquired a Zeutche OS 12000 overhead book scanner for scanning large and oversized books, as well as bound newspapers and posters. The **DocWorks(e) Software** was acquired in 2011 to digitize both books and newspapers. It therefore allows NALIS to preserve rare and fragile materials while at the same

time providing access to the information they contain in electronic format. At present, the focus is on digitizing newspapers since the use of DocWorks(e) also eliminates the need for clipping and mounting individual newspaper articles, thereby saving on storage space.

The learning curve for DocWorks(e) has been a bit steep. Members of staff have been digitizing newspapers for practice, both to learn the quirks of the software as well as to fine tune the work flow. The process of digitizing one newspaper takes approximately half an hour.

Current Digitization Projects

Trinidad and Tobago yearbooks 1900-1916

Scanning and editing 1962 Independence newspapers

NALIS Calendar collection

Folkstories collection – renamed Folk tales, fables and legends.

CALYPSO LYRICS DATABASE

In December 2008, the Heritage Library Division began digitizing their calypso lyrics collection. The collection represents the work of local and regional calypsonians and was sourced from newspaper clippings, calypso magazines, websites, books and periodicals. The Heritage Library Division frequently receives queries for calypso lyrics and this database has already become an essential tool in fulfilling these requests. The database spans many themes, from pre- independence to present and contains just over sixteen hundred (1608) calypsoes. In October 2012 NALIS will launch the calypso lyrics database. This will coincide with the national celebration of Calypso history month.

Restoration of the historic Old Public Library Building to house collections of former Presidents and Prime Ministers.

A decision has been taken by the State to restore the historic old Public Library Building which was built in 1901, to house collections of former leaders. The building is to be restored retaining its early 20th century façade. The interior however, will be modified to suit the demands of 21st century usage. At the present time, the memorabilia and papers of past Presidents and Prime Ministers are scattered in many places, such as college and university libraries, homes and offices. The hope of this project is to gather all of these diverse sources in a central location where they can be preserved and displayed and accessed.

Collaboration between NALIS and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums)

The National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS) collaborated with the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) in hosting the **Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (Salalm) LVII** at the Trinidad Hilton and Conference Centre from June 16 – 19, 2012. The theme of the conference was: **“Popular Culture: Arts and Social Change in Latin America”**.

SALALM's primary mission is the control and dissemination of bibliographic information about all types of Latin American and the Caribbean's publications and the development of library collections of Latin Americana and the Caribbean in support of educational research. This year's conference focused on popular culture as a critical component of the field of cultural studies and an emerging expression in multiple formats (film and television, popular music and art, performances, graphic novels, artisan and artist's books, the internet and social media and many others). The conference provided NALIS with an excellent opportunity to share the Trinidad and Tobago experience and document NALIS' use of popular culture to encourage the use of library and information services. It also brought to the fore challenges associated with special collection development in Trinidad and Tobago.

Preservation and Conservation Laboratory

The equipping of the Preservation and Conservation Laboratory continues. Approximately 95 different types of preservation and conservation tools and equipment were acquired in the past year.

PAC Staff started research on the newly acquired material and equipment of the Laboratory. This has been a very good teaching method of acquainting staff with the various items. Their findings are compiled into a ***Material and Equipment Reference Dictionary*** where information about origin, uses and key chemical or physical characteristics can be easily accessed.

Over the past year, approximately *8,500 items* have been treated for insect presence using the Wei T'o Book Dryer and Insect Exterminator (BDIE). The items have been from library collections both internal and external to NALIS. In order to meet increasing demand a second BDIE has been ordered and should arrive in 2012.

In light of NALIS' role as the Preservation and Conservation Centre for the English speaking Caribbean, NALIS intends to invite libraries of the English speaking Caribbean to a training workshop on document preservation and restoration in the forthcoming year.

Memory of the World (MOW)

In 2011 the Constantine Collection, held at the Heritage Library was inscribed on the MOW Regional Register for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International MOW Register. The Constantine Collection consists of personal papers/speeches, manuscripts, hand written notes, extensive correspondence on cricket and photographs. It also contains radio transcripts penned by and/or acquired by Lord Constantine.