

cTrinidad and Tobago
National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS)

Annette Wallace, Executive Director

Annual Report to CDNL 2007 - 2008

The WAN infrastructure was expanded to include five (5) additional branch libraries. A total of seven libraries are now connected to the National Library utilizing fiber line network. This expansion facilitated the successful implementation of the automated circulation system in these libraries.

Digitization

To coincide with the hosting of the Cricket World Cup in March 2007, 4,478 cricket activities were digitized and entered into the Retrospective database.

Special collections and Information Files were exported to Greenstone to enable public access to digitized artifacts via the NALIS website. Three thousand, seven hundred and eighty four items were digitized and these images can be viewed at our website www.nalis.gov.tt.

The number of records in the collective databases increased from 15,761 to 25,502 representing an increase of approximately 9,741 database records.

Caribbean Digital Libraries Workshop

In conjunction with UNESCO, NALIS hosted the *“Caribbean Digital Libraries and Digital Repositories: Recent Initiatives and Future Developments Workshops”* during the period July 10 – 13, 2007. One hundred and fifty information professionals from the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean participated in this workshop, which was designed to raise the level of awareness of the diverse issues associated with digitization. It also examined areas of

possible cooperation in developing digital collections and provided a forum on discussions on the development of a Caribbean Digital Library initiative and participation in the World Digital Library Project. Topics included Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standards, Encoded Archival Description (EAD), Encoded Archival Context (EAC), Text Encoding Initiatives, DSpace Open Source Software and El Dorado Virtual Library. Over 16 international and five (5) local experts presented papers at this Workshop.

One Book, One Community

This year the nation read Earl Lovelace's, *The School Master* for NALIS's nationwide reading campaign, *One Book, One Community* reading project. Approximately 2,350 persons participated in this project.

Exhibitions

Ten exhibitions were launched during this period. Of these the most significant was the exhibition, "*Step Forward, Look Back*" in commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the British Abolition of the Trade in Enslaved Africans to the Caribbean. The Sankofa bird an Akan symbol used for this exhibition, symbolized the philosophy of stepping forward into the future while looking back at the past.

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