



Reportes anuales 2024





resiCaribbean Digital Scholarship Collective

Annual Report - Programs

January 1 to December 31, 2024

Create Caribbean Research Institute

Team lead: Schuyler Esprit

Create Caribbean Research Institute executed numerous programs throughout the reporting period and celebrated its 10th anniversary.

- **Research Community and Technology Internship:** CCRI hosted a new round of students for its RTC Internship, which exposed them to academic research, digital humanities, and community engagement. CCRI received 12 applications and admitted 6 students to its 2024 cohort for Dominica State College. CCRI ended the year by opening a new round of applications for its next cohort, which will start activities in January 2025.
- **RTC Symposia:** CCRI held its RCT symposium for the 2021-23 cohort, which was postponed the previous year but occurred early in January 2024. The RTC Symposium for the 2022-24 cohort took place in June 2024. Both events featured capstone and individual projects developed by the students during their training, showcasing the research and technical skills they acquired for their professional development. A [complete list of the projects](#) is available online. The interns also wrote updates about their projects, which are available on the [CCRI blog](#).
- **Summer Intensive Training for Community Partners:** CCRI hosted another round of Summer Intensive Training in May 2024. This year's partners included The University of West Indies, Mona (Jamaica), Solidarity Yaad International (Jamaica), The Hunter J Francois Library at Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (St. Lucia), Folk Research Centre (St. Lucia), National Archives Authority of Saint Lucia (St. Lucia), Historical and Archaeological Society (St. Lucia), Vertivert/Waitukubuli Artists Association (Dominica), and St. Francis College (United States).
- **Writers' Room:** CCRI organized several online writing workshops: Creative Non-Fiction - Writing about Place (Schuyler Esprit) with 28 participants, Poetry - Nommo/Making the Imagined Real (Vladimir Lucien) with 15 participants, Long-Form Fiction (Sharma Taylor) with 20 participants and Screenwriting (Mezan Ayoka) with 11 participants. CCRI also opened submissions for the inaugural issue of its upcoming journal, *The Nouvel: New Writing Emerging from the Caribbean*. The Journal aims to meet the demand for formal publishing spaces for emerging writers in the Caribbean region and provide feedback and visibility to learners of the writing craft in academic and alternative spaces. They received 53 submissions across genres by the end of 2024, and the first edition is planned for publication in March 2025.

- **Pelican Lab:** CCRI programming and extension in the Caribbean continue growing beyond Dominica. During 2024, CCRI focused on expanding its presence at The University of West Indies, Mona campus. As a result, the CCRI and UWI Mona inaugurated the Pelican Lab at the Main Library of the Mona campus. The Pelican Lab is the new hub for research, teaching, and community engagement for digital scholarship in the Caribbean. The lab offers workshops, lecture series, and open days for experimentation with software, tools, and equipment in a range of areas related to digital humanities, including digital storytelling, topic modeling, machine learning, augmented and virtual reality, 3D modeling and photogrammetry, and geographic information systems (GIS), among others.
- **The Caribbean Digital XI:** CCRI, in partnership with UWI, hosted this year's conference in Kingston, Jamaica.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

- By 2024, 14 undergraduate students from Dominica State College had completed the Research Technology and Community internship program coursework, which combined students from Dominica State College and The UWI Mona. This program has offered students valuable skills in project management, digital tools, and research. Reflecting on their internship, one student said:
"This internship has made me love learning again as I developed both my technical and analytic skills. Working on various research projects has given me a strong eye for detail and the ability to look at things more profound than just the surface. Being an intern at Create has also affected my personal life, as I have seen improvement in my organizational skills and time management."
 -Alisha Desiree
- 10 students from Dominica State College and 6 students from UWI are completing the Research Technology and Community internship program coursework.
- 6 graduate students are actively involved in the Graduate Fellows Program.
- As part of their Writers' Room project, CCRI awarded 74 certificates to participants in the online writing workshops.
- In addition, 8 self-paced courses designed by CCRI are available for students and community partners to complete. The courses are focused on writing skills and are available in [CCRI's portal](#).
- CCRI received 53 submissions for the first edition of *The Nouvel*, a specialized journal that promises to become an important outlet for Caribbean writers.
- 11 Caribbean institutions, from Dominica, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, and the continental United States, participated in the 2024 Summer Intensive program. Representatives of these organizations were introduced to digital methods and tools to amplify their work. All the participants received the program well. This cohort included library staff from The UWI Mona, which was particularly fruitful in strengthening CCRI's relationship with this institution.
- The new Pelican Lab opened new paths for support and collaboration with members of The UWI Mona community with training and advanced tools. Thanks to the lab, Schuyler Esprit could invest in immersive technologies for experimental humanities work, like



photogrammetry, virtual reality, and 3D printing. These tools helped support community partners to suit their unique needs in ways that were impossible in previous years.

Sustainability Plans

- CCRI continued strengthening its relationships with Dominica State College and The University of West Indies, Mona Campus, acquiring administrative and institutional support from higher education institutions to expand their work via dedicated spaces and tuition-based programs.
- One of the main goals of the Team Lead was to strengthen the CCRI presence in Jamaica and solidify its relationship with The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, to expand its outreach. A significant milestone was the founding of the **Pelican Lab**, which resulted from The UWI Mona Library's participation in the Summer Intensive Training. Under Schuyler Esprit's leadership, the lab is a dedicated space for consistent programming and project support, engagement with UWI students and faculty, and the possibility of long-term strategic goals. Three librarians from the Mona Library have already received training through this partnership.
- Aligned with the plans to create institutionalized training programs within higher-education institutions, Schuyler Esprit developed a Digital Humanities Minor at UWI that builds on the Caribbean Digital Studies Certificate previously developed at Dominica State College. The minor is expected to be submitted for adoption at the start of the 2025-2026 academic year.
- CCRI is planning to support emerging and established scholars by increasing its graduate fellowship intake to four students for 2024-2025; supporting Faculty Fellows at UWI who are currently working on digital humanities projects, including Professor Isis Semaj-Hall; and supporting a community fellowship for Dr. Lennox Honychurch, an independent Caribbean scholar, to digitally preserve intellectual work.
- The past three years have shown CCRI's rapid growth and potential to solidify its presence in the Caribbean as a hub for training and digital innovation. Continuous support from the Mellon Foundation and other funders will help strengthen this mission. CCRI will participate in a grant renewal with the Mellon Foundation and is also applying for different types of funding to secure sustainability beyond the life of this grant.

Caribbean Digital Scholarship Summer Institute - University of Miami

Team lead: Kelly Baker Josephs

Program Execution

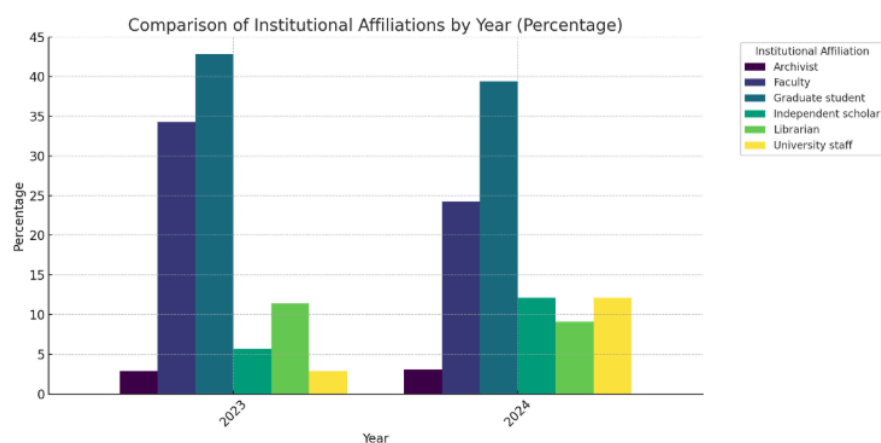
The University of Miami team completed the second round of the Caribbean Digital Scholarship Summer Institute and started preparations for the final iteration of the program in 2025.

- **Call for Applications:** Announcements for the program began at the end of 2024, and an Information Session was scheduled for January 17, 2024. Kelly Josephs and Gabrielle Jean-Louis held the session via Zoom, with 159 registered participants and 80 attendees.

- **Program planning:** Given the challenges in handling travel for participants through the University of Miami in 2023, the CDSC decided to keep the CDSsi travel funds at Yale and handle the payments with the support of the Grant Associate Director, Andreina Soto. In coordination with Josephs and Jean-Louis, Soto purchased all airfare and paid for accommodations, easing the participants' reimbursement process. The team also wrote letters of support for participants who needed travel visas and arranged deferrals for those who could not get visa appointments.
- **Evaluation:** The application period was open between December 2023 and January 2024, and received 104 applications. Given the high volume of applications, the team organized a two-step review process. During the first round, the six instructors and two outside evaluators read the assigned applications and ranked them based on the applicant's *need* and *preparation* for the course. Additional considerations included: Is this someone the instructor would like to have in the course? Do the applicants represent a solid pool of applicants from the Caribbean? Evaluators provided an Overall Rank of Applicant: 1-5, 1 being weak, 5 being strong. This round was completed by February 25, 2024. During the second round, two outside evaluators and the Director read the applications with the highest scores. This round was completed by March 15, 2024. The evaluation committee aimed to achieve diversity in institutional status and the representation of applicants from the Caribbean. The committee selected 30 participants, and the CDSC added 4 additional participants: one graduate student from UPR, one from the University of Miami, and two from Create Caribbean.
- **Summer Institute in Miami:** The program took place at the University of Miami from June 9 to June 15, 2024. The program hosted 34 course attendees, six (6) instructors, the CDSC Digital Curator Fellow, and Hadassah St. Hubert, external reviewer of the CDSC. Participants took a five-day intensive course in one of the three courses, which included “Minimal Computing” with professors Alex Gil and Schuyler Esprit, “Critical Digital Pedagogy” with professors Tzarina Prater and Dan Castilow, and “Building Digital Caribbean Archives” with professors Sonya Donaldson and Nicole Aljoe. The program also included a field trip to the Richter Library to visit the collection exhibition of Jacques Stéphen Alexis, a renowned Haitian novelist, essayist, and activist, and a visit to the library’s expansive Cuban diaspora cultural heritage collections. The field trip ended with presentations by Dr. Stephanie Chancy (about the recent efforts of the Digital Library of the Caribbean) and Dr. Lillian Manzor (about the Cuban Digital Theater Archive).
- **Post-event activities:** During the remainder of the reporting period, the team ran a program assessment with participants, finalized the reimbursement process, and paid the honoraria for instructors/outside lecturers. Given the challenges of securing some participants' visas in the past two years, the 2025 Summer Institute will now occur at The University of West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. The team initiated talks with UWI to secure lodging and classroom instruction and confirm instructors' participation. The Call for Proposals for next year’s institute was announced during The Caribbean Digital Conference on December 6, 2024.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

- 159 people registered for the Open House, and 80 attended the live session.
- 104 people submitted their applications to the program.
- The evaluation committee selected 30 participants for CDSsi 2024 based in the continental United States, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, the Bahamas, Canada, Denmark, and France. As shown in Graphic 1, participants included a mix of specialties and professional status, split between graduate students (39%), faculty (24%), independent scholars (12%), university staff (12%), librarians (9%), and archivists (3%). This year's cohort saw a significant increase in independent scholars and librarians compared to last year. The complete list of participants is available on the CDSC website <https://cdscollective.org/grantees-cdssi/>



Graphic 1. Comparison of Institutional Affiliations, CDSsi 2023 vs. 2024

- 4 additional students affiliated with other CDSC programs had the opportunity to participate in the program and benefit from sharpening their digital skills.
- This week-long program gave participants valuable experience building foundational skills for pedagogy and research, having learned the basics of building sites and collections (Minimal Computing course), assessing and creating archives (Building Caribbean Digital Archives course), and new methodologies for teaching Caribbean content and/or students (Critical Digital Pedagogy course). Participants also worked together while completing their assignments and networked with peers and instructors, which held the potential for future resources and collaborations.
- Some course attendees included awardees from the Microgrant program, who used their time at CDSsi to learn valuable skills to develop their projects during the funding period. Other participants submitted proposals for the 2024-25 Microgrant Call for Proposals, showing how the preparation in the Summer Institute gave them the tools to plan and execute a digital scholarship project with promising results.
- In a post-program evaluation, 17 participants gave the CDSsi 2024 a 100% satisfaction rate when rating their overall experience. They particularly praised the knowledge and

skill of our instructors as well as the opportunity to network across the cohort. One participant of the Minimal Computing course said:

– During the week together, I built out the first draft of a website for my community-driven archival project with the Maui Puerto Rican Association. I left feeling grounded in coding and website development basics and am eager to continue growing my skillset and developing the website. The course opened my eyes to the possibilities of digital humanities to contribute to community and applied projects. We were encouraged to work as a team, and that is exactly what happened. I am pleased with the after-class group working sessions and the chance to connect with amazing scholars. The cohort was nicely diverse by age and experience and types of practitioners. I didn't find the class too difficult due to the emphasis on repetition. I personally enjoyed learning about the history of the computer and metaphors used to help us grasp the concepts. Conceptually and practically, I would have liked feedback on how to go beyond a standard archive collection with the tools to really engage with digital humanities.

Another participant from the Building Caribbean Digital Archives said:
The course was very relevant to my current work. It made me rethink the focus of the work I am doing in very productive ways. I left with many ideas on concepts and how to develop projects. The reading content was challenging in a very good way. They led to great discussions in class. I think a highlight was that the people in class had a broad range of interesting takes on the readings, and were very willing to share them. I got a lot from these discussions. I feel the amount of readings was just right, and the selection was excellent.

Sustainability & Next Year's Plan

- The Summer Institute's second iteration solidified the program's relevance and the need for training and mentorship for practitioners and researchers working in and for the Caribbean.
- Given the University of Miami's complex rules and regulations about spending grant funds, especially for overseas travel, Andreina Soto, Grant Associate Director, handled the Summer Institute's travel expenses at Yale University, and will continue next year. This facilitated the purchase of airfare for participants and the management of reimbursement for minor expenses like ground transportation. This also benefited the participants since they did not have to incur significant costs, like airfare, and wait for a cost reimbursement, which caused delays and issues in the last round.
- Given the program's high success, renewal plans for the CDSC grant include transferring the Summer Institute to Yale University and partnering with institutions like The University of West Indies to host the program in locations outside the US. Hosting in other Caribbean countries would be particularly beneficial as it would ease visa processes for attendees, which take considerable time depending on the nation of origin and can affect participation.

Microgrant Program

Team leads: Alexander Gil, Andreina Soto

Program Execution

- Second Cohort:** The Microgrant team supervised the completion of the second cohort of awardees for 2024. Andreina Soto managed the administrative process for disbursing the microgrant funds following the new procedures of the new grant institution, Yale University. The awardees received funds between March and June 2024, executed their projects within the estimated timeline, and completed a mid-year report in July 2024 and a final report in January 2025. The 2024 awardees also presented their projects at The Caribbean Digital Conference XI in a short video showcasing their progress and outcomes. The full video is available [online](#).
- Microgrant mentor:** The team sought to strengthen the support network for the awardees. A new microgrant mentor, Mila Aponte-Gonzalez, was hired early in 2024. The mentor was instrumental in fostering a sense of cohort among the awardees, helping them complete their projects and comply with the microgrant requirements. The mentor also organized ad hoc meet-ups to discuss metadata curation, copyrights, and digital project management. These sessions provided much-needed support for the awardees, discussing common topics and fostering team-building. Other awardees also resorted to their institutions' libraries and digital scholarship labs for technical support.
- Call for Applications:** The microgrant released the Call for Proposals for the third and final round in June 2024, while the second cohort completed its funding period. The 2024-25 Call for Proposals continued the evaluation methods implemented in the previous round, e.g., applicants had to select a Funding Tier based on their budget, size, and technological needs. The second round of applications was open from July 1 to September 15, 2023. Soto and Gil held two information sessions –one in [English](#) and one in Spanish– and met with prospective applicants and answered questions via email.
- Evaluation:** This year's round received 131 submissions –a 12% increase compared to last year. Given the many applications, Soto and Gil divided the evaluation process into two parts. During the first screening, Soto and Gil disqualified 14 applications, leaving 117 valid submissions. A committee of six specialists reviewed applications during the second round. Each application was read by two members, who scored applications on a scale from 1 to 10 (with 1=poor and 10=best) based on scholarly intervention to Caribbean digital scholarship, uses of digital methods and tools to advance research, teaching, learning, and/or public engagement; execution plan and expected deliverables; and budget costs. The committee met to select the finalists from among the highest-scoring applications. Soto and Gil contacted the finalists to discuss minor changes in their budget and scope to maximize time and resources, which also helped increase the number of awardees.
- Third Cohort:** The committee selected 12 projects, representing 10% of the applications. The disbursement of funds followed the Tier 1 system, assigning one awardee for Tier 1 (the highest amount), four for Tier 2, and seven for Tier 3. While the previous year saw a significant investment in mid- and small-scale projects, most of the funding for this year was invested in large and mid-scale projects. A public announcement was made on December 6 during The Caribbean Digital Conference XI in Kingston, Jamaica.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

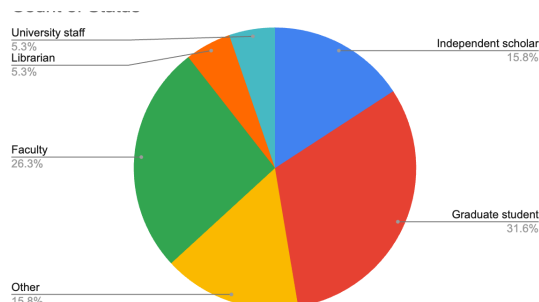
- The CDSC disbursed \$79,009 for the 2024 cohort and allocated \$100,045 for next year's grantees. The additional funds for the 2025 cohort will be covered with rollover funds from the previous year.
- The second round of microgrants yielded important results in advancing initiatives centered on Caribbean digital scholarship. The following testimonials reflect the overall satisfaction of previous microgrant awardees:

The micro-grant was integral for getting our project ready to launch in 2025. Without it, we could not have hired a web developer and start discussions on site design. We have also benefitted from the connections we've made in the process. In November 2024, project leads Camille Cordier and Carrie Glenn invited a group of scholars, including Mila Aponte Gonzalez, to review a blueprint of our website design. Because of the suggestions we received, we pushed back the launch of our website to the first half of 2025. Participants had questions about accessibility, which we have been able to address since then. Feedback on the current site's content prompted us to significantly revise and expand the informational pages on streetsoflecap.com –The Streets of LeCap project

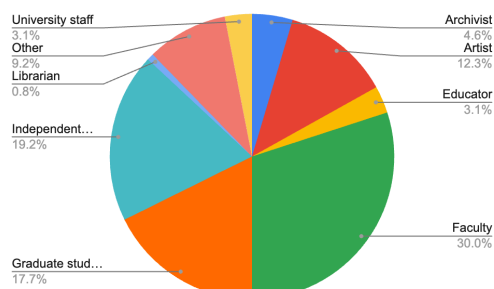
Overall, the micro-grant program helped us to advance this project with support needed to fund and complete the research and development of the archives and website. This project continues through CAISO, and the project team will continue building both collections. Such careful documentation is testament to the long histories of Caribbean LGBTQI+ community-building, and this Queer Archives of Trinidad and Tobago builds upon this commitment and makes a timely contribution to Caribbean Digital Scholarship. – The Queer Archives of Trinidad and Tobago project

- All awardees completed their project milestones, achieved good results during the funding period, and secured other funding and partnerships to continue their work. Sophia Monegro (UT Austin) secured a small grant from the Humanities Institute at UT Austin to develop her digital collections using Omeka. She also began collaborating with the Digital Library of the Caribbean to house a digital copy of her project. Leonardi Rodriguez (independent researcher) started a partnership with the Biblioteca del Banco de la República in Colombia, which provided critical digital materials to expand the collections and educational resources for his project.
- To secure training and resource allocation for our beneficiaries across different programs, awardees Nicole Rodriguez (“The Maui Puerto Rican Archive”) and Kris Ali (“Deaf Stories of the Caribbean”) participated in the 2024 Caribbean Digital Scholarship Summer Institute. They leveraged their training in minimal computing methods and principles to create the prototypes of their microgrant projects.
- In 2024, the number of applicants increased from 104 in 2023 to 131 in 2024 (a 12% increase), reflecting a growing interest in the program. Applicants represented a rich mix of professional statuses. As in previous years, most submissions came from university-affiliated faculty, staff, and graduate students (See Graphics 2 and 3). Compared to last year, applications increased from independent scholars (19% in 2024 vs. 15.8% in 2023), librarians, artists, archivists, community organizations, and archivists (26% in 2024 vs. 21.1% in 2023). The most significant number of applicants were in the

continental United States, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, Canada, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia.



Graphic 2. Distribution of submissions by professional status, Microgrant, 2023



Graphic 3. Distribution of submissions by professional status, Microgrant, 2024

- The evaluation committee selected 12 projects coming from researchers and collaborative teams working on queer communities, Afro-Caribbean and Indigenous identities and traditions, land and community sovereignty, mapping, and digital preservation. The list of 2025 awardees and a project summary are available on the CDSC [website](#):
 - Kwynn Johnson (Trinidad and Tobago): The 3canal Collection [1994-2024]. Amount awarded: \$18,000.
 - Ronald Bancroft Cummings and Linzey S. Corridon (US Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Canada, and the United States): Cliff Lashley and Caribbean Studies: Remembering a Queer Pioneer. Amount awarded: \$12,427.
 - Claudina Sarahe Eusebia Gorashi (Dominican Republic): La Tierra de Lagunas / The Land of Lagoons. Amount awarded: \$12,158.
 - Alexandra P. Gelbard (Cuba and the United States): The Cabildo de Regla Digital Archive. Amount awarded: \$11,000.
 - Siobhan Meï and Jonathan Michael Square (United States): Revolisyon Toupatou: Developing Open Educational Resources in the Public Digital Humanities. Amount awarded: \$11,675.
 - Marie-France Guilaume and Wandred Pierre (Haiti). Cleanup, Catalog, and Digitalization Project in Haiti. Amount awarded: \$5,000.
 - Marie Cruz Soto and Alexandra Connelly Reyes (Puerto Rico). Imaginando futuros viequenses: A Digital Exhibit of the Viequense (Is)Land and Community. Amount awarded: \$5,000.
 - Melanie Y. White and Nicole Ramsey (Belize, Nicaragua, and the United States). The Black Central Americas Project. Amount awarded: \$5,000.
 - Dextrall Peters and Philip Morgan (Jamaica). The Greater Caribbean Map Project, ca. 1450-1850. Amount awarded: \$5,000.
 - Sophia Kitlinski, The Caribbean in Early American Newspapers: A Digital Anthology. Amount awarded: \$4,990.



- Fidel Rodríguez Velásquez and Oliver Antczak (Venezuela, Brazil and the UK): Gente de Mar: The Guaiquerí Archive. Amount awarded: \$4,900.
- Orlando Deavila Pertuz and Jameelah Imani Morris. Memorias de Resistencia: archivo digital de liderazgos afrodescendientes y mujeres en la transformación urbana de Cartagena durante la segunda mitad del siglo XX. Amount awarded: \$4,895.

Sustainability & Next Year's Plan

The CDSC continues to discuss the program's future and financial sustainability. As the numbers show, there is an ongoing need and interest in the program across the region. However, continuing this initiative after the life of the CDSC grant requires sustained financial support from sponsors like the Mellon Foundation. In preparation for a grant renewal, the CDSC team is evaluating the program's results and assessing alternatives to make the program sustainable.

The Caribbean Digital XI

Team: Alexander Gil, Kelly Baker Joseph, Kaiama L. Glover, Andreina Soto

Program Execution

This year was the 11th iteration of The Caribbean Digital, which occurred on December 6 and 7, 2024, in Kingston, Jamaica.

- **Planning:** The planning for [The Caribbean Digital XI](#) began in March 2024. This year's conference was held in collaboration with Create Caribbean Research Institute and The University of West Indies, Mona campus. The planning committee met several times to determine the event's structure, the activities, and a list of desired panelists. The team in Jamaica identified local partners to handle event logistics. Since this year was by invitation only, the committee contacted agreed-upon interlocutors in the following months. In the fall of 2024, the committee confirmed the panelists, updated the TCD website, and began arranging travel and accommodations for all participants.
- **Conference:** The Caribbean Digital XI took place in December 2024 with a two-day program. On Thursday, December 6, Alex Gil and Schuyler Esprit offered a two-hour workshop on Minimal Computing for the UWI Mona community. On December 7, the colloquium hosted two panels and a keynote dialogue, with discussions centered on data, slavery, and reparation in the Digital Age. To celebrate CCRI's tenth anniversary, one of the panels discussed the trajectory and future of institutions that advocate for digital preservation and training for the Caribbean. The event ended with a showcase of the 2023-2024 microgrant projects and the announcement of the upcoming cohort. The complete program is available on the [TCD XI website](#).
- **Speakers:** This year's TCD speakers included experts in the US, the Caribbean, and Europe: Jessica Marie Johnson (Johns Hopkins University), Dexnell Peters (The

University of the West Indies, Mona), Celia Naylor (Barnard College), Matthew Smith (University College London), Luam Stephenson (Create Caribbean Research Institute), Stephanie Chancy (University of Florida), Julian Cresser (The University of the West Indies, Mona), Sonjah Stanley Niaah (The University of the West Indies, Mona), Alexandre White (Johns Hopkins University), and Stanley Griffin (The University of the West Indies, Mona). The day ended with a presentation of the 2024 Artist in Residence, Zoe Osborne, and a conversation with members of the Caribbean Cultural Fund.

- **Other collaborations:** Kelly Baker Josephs coordinated a partnership with Kellie Magnus from the Caribbean Cultural Fund to showcase the work of this organization in supporting Caribbean creators. Two of their beneficiaries, who were working on digital projects, participated in the evening reception: Weizman Seide (Haiti), who spoke about his project “The Caribbean Culinary Community,” and Idris Veitch (Jamaica), who talked about his project “Heritage Preservation: Digitizing Historical Artifacts for Virtual Conservation.” This partnership with CCF shows the potential of TCD in serving as a space of dialogue between Caribbean artists, creators, and scholars.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

- Overall, the two-day event was a resounding success. In line with the TCD’s goal to create a single dedicated global space of exchange for Caribbeanist-focused digital scholars, selected presenters came from various institutions and community organizations across North America, the Caribbean, and Europe, including specialists in Caribbean DH and creators supported by the Caribbean Cultural Fund. The space created through TCD allowed participants to network, share their work contributions, and foster a community centered around Caribbean digital scholarship.
- The program featured 14 speakers from various institutional affiliations. The bios of our presenters are available in a shareable document ([TCD XI BIOS](#)).
- 20 people participated in the Minimal Computing Workshop led by Alex Gil and Schuyler Esprit.
- Continuing with the showcase model implemented in the previous conference, this year’s event featured projects funded by the CDSC microgrant program. The grantees made 3-minute-long videos presenting their projects and outcomes. The conference recording and the microgrant showcase are available on the UWI Mona YouTube page ([The Caribbean Digital XI](#)).

Sustainability & Next Year’s Plan

The TCD’s initial goal has not changed: to ground the cross-institutional ecosystem the CDSC seeks to foster by creating an annually designated collaborative space that will serve as a vehicle for the discussion and presentation of work emerging from the various CDSsi, micro-grants, and greater Caribbean DH scholarly community.

Next year’s TCD will take place at Northeastern University in partnership with our Early Caribbean Digital Archive Project Team colleagues leading the organizing committee. This

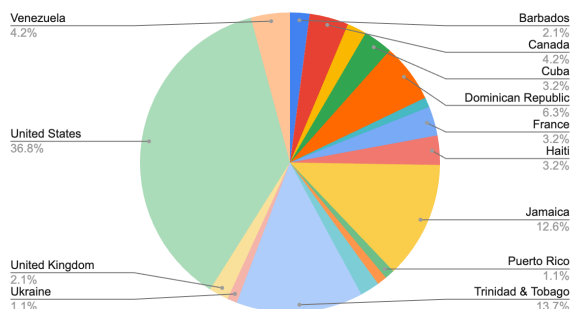


partnership is outside the bounds of the CDSC. It constitutes a first step in including other collectives and institutions with the means to host the conference and expand the outreach of this important space for conversation and dialogue.

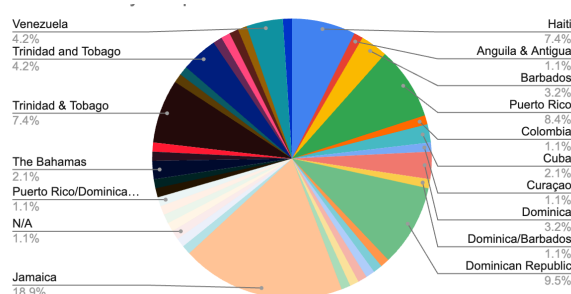
The Caribbean Digital Artist in Residence

Team: Kaiama L. Glover, Kelly Baker Josephs, Andreina Soto, Alice Yard

- **Call for Applications:** The TCD committee launched the third round of the Artist-in-Residence program, and the application period was open until April 15, 2024.
- **Evaluation:** The CFP generated ninety-five (95) submissions, representing a 38% increase in this year's pool of applications compared to 2023, when the program received sixty-five (65) proposals. Graphic 4 shows that the highest percentage of applicants were based in the United States (36.8%). Applicants from other countries slightly increased: Trinidad and Tobago (13.7% in 2023 vs 9.2% in 2024) and Jamaica (12.6% in 2024 vs. 6.2% in 2023). The program also received applications from artists from the Dominican Republic, Canada, Haiti, and Venezuela. Applicants were requested to indicate their Caribbean country of heritage, which revealed that several applicants had ties to Caribbean diasporic communities, especially Jamaica and Puerto Rico (See Graphic 5). A committee formed by CDSC and Alice Yard members met twice to discuss the applications and designate the awardee.



Graphic 4. Distribution of participants by country of citizenship.



Graphic 5. Distribution of participants by Caribbean country of heritage.

- **Selection:** The committee selected artist Zoe Osborne from Barbados. Ms. Osborne, who began her virtual residency in mid-June 2024, proposed a project that explored grandmotherhood through the lens of Caribbean architectural narratives. Specifically, she intended to use dreamlike animations to look at “matriarchal roles in the household, homesickness, and escapism through digital memory.” (Osborne, 2024). Although her project, in many ways, stayed true to its initial conception, her focus ultimately shifted to the investigation of Chattel houses in Barbados and throughout the region, becoming an exploration of the implications of movement and the impermanence of habitat and how this may be viewed in parallel with the experience of the Caribbean diaspora.
- **Residency:** Ms. Osborne met with Alice Yard members Chris Cozier and Shannon Alonzo via Zoom every 3-4 weeks throughout her residency (a total of 8 meetings) to provide mentorship,

guidance, and practical/logistical support during the process. The initial weeks of the process were spent building connections supporting this research. Ms. Osborne was introduced to Canada-based Trinidadian artist Joshua Lu, whose work deals with historical preservation, and curator Julie Crux at the AGO (Art Gallery of Ontario). Ms. Osborne was then able to access the Caribbean photography archives at the AGO, which significantly impacted the trajectory of the work moving forward. She comments that the documentation she encountered at the AGO allowed her to delve into mapping the Chattel houses she reinterpreted in her work. Subsequently, she was introduced to Bajan writer and art historian Allison Thompson, who connected her with artist Michael MacMillan and photographer Bob Kiss, practitioners who have approached Chattel houses in their work. Ms. Osborne notes that these connections were highly fruitful in developing her project, particularly in shaping the conceptual underpinnings of her animations.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

- During her residency, Ms. Osborne created four animations, which she presented with her research at The Caribbean Digital conference in Jamaica in December 2024. She commented that it was an enjoyable experience overall; however, she wished that she had more information in advance about the space she'd be presenting in and what type of set-up/ equipment she would have access to.
- Ms. Osborne continues conversing with the Alice Yard team; she is slated to show her work in Trinidad in the summer of 2025. She has expressed an interest in pushing her digital work further by considering in greater detail the format and scale in which she shows it. Ms. Osborne notes that one of the most significant benefits of the residency was the freedom to allot time and energy to a deeper and more focused period of research into her areas of interest. In conversation with Shannon Alonzo from Alice Yard, Ms. Osborne said:

“One of the biggest takeaways from my residency was hearing Chris Cozier point out the change in perspective that my artwork brings as it moves past the observation of the exterior of homes by showing the interiors and inviting the viewer to have a relationship with the inhabitants.” She further remarked: *“Working with Chris Cozier studio has pushed me to have a larger view of the experience of Caribbean people as we move through the diaspora and contemplate how to share the nuances of these shared experiences.”*

- Alice Yard has continued its collaboration with the two previous artists-in-residence, demonstrating the significance of this program in generating spaces of exchange among Caribbean artists. Ruben Cabenda (2023 Resident) had two virtual studio visits – one each with artists Deepa Jaruwan (based in India) and Makseans Dennis (based in Haiti) – both of which he found to be extremely useful in unpacking and developing his practice further. Ruben will visit Alice Yard in the summer of 2025, where he will further develop and present the work he began during his residency. Marinna Shareef (2022 Resident) had a successful studio visit with artist Suchitra Mattai (based in the US) and continues to work closely with the Yard on various projects.

Sustainability & Next Year's Plan

The Artist-in-Residence goals remain the same. Adding Shannon Alonzo to the Alice Yard team was extremely helpful in completing the programming and connecting the artist-in-residence with other experts who could provide feedback and support their work.



UPR Caribe Digital

Team leads: Nadjah Ríos Villarini, Mirerza González Vélez

Program Execution

UPR successfully completed its annual programming during the reporting period, which included various educational and outreach activities:

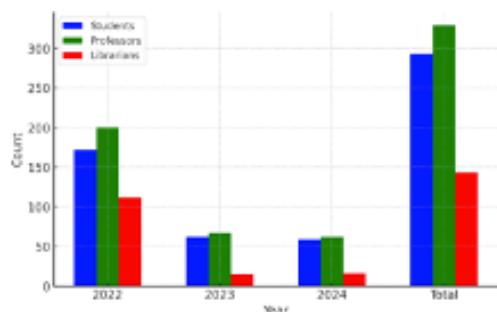
- **DH Fellowship:** The second DH Fellow, Professor Rafael Capó García, finalized its tenure in the Spring of 2024, having completed keynote lectures and education tools in two main areas: [digital cartography](#) and [critical pedagogy](#). After a thorough search, a new DH Fellow, Prof. Victor Rodriguez, was selected for the academic year 2024-2025. Rodriguez is a long-standing member of UPR Caribe Digital and is well known among the CDSC members –having worked as the Instructional Designer for UPR Caribe Digital and participated in the 2023 Caribbean Digital Scholarship Summer Institute. During his Fellowship, Rodriguez will focus on sound production, digital project design, and basic principles for coding. He started a new series of seminars and lectures in Fall 2024: “[Documentary Practices in Sound Media](#)” and “[Critical Approaches to the Sound Recording of the Landscape](#).” In Spring 2025, he will teach the seminars “Sound Editing with Reaper” and “Basic Design Principles with Figma and HTML for Beginners.”
- The [lecture series](#) (2022-2025) was recorded and transformed into asynchronous modules. Once the modules are completed, participants receive a score and a certification via email. As part of the Training Academic Experiences Program, all graduate students admitted to other UPR programs can attend these conferences and receive contact hours.
- **Digital Humanities Scholars-in-Residence:** the program continued training undergraduate students at the Río Piedras Campus in research, archiving, digital preservation and dissemination, digital curation, basic programming, and ethical aspects of digital humanities. The [second cohort](#) of students who participated in the 2023-2024 academic year finished their project in the Spring with the support of mentors and community leaders. Digital projects included two exhibits in Google Arts and Culture ([25 Años de Andanza](#) and [Revolución del Amor en 3 Actos](#)), a photo exhibit to celebrate 10 years of [ACirc](#), an interactive map to showcase six community projects under [Bosque Modelo](#), and a webpage for [COSSAO](#), a community-based hospital in the mountain region. A new cohort of students was selected for the academic year 2024-2025 and began working in the Fall. The students were chosen from a pool of 25 applicants based on academic progress, a letter of recommendation, and previous community work.
- **Community partners:** The UPR team has established successful relationships with different community organizations in Puerto Rico, extending the reach of their work to partners outside San Juan. The new cohort of DH Scholars in Residence cohort began

working in Fall 2024 with five newly selected partners: Archivo Histórico de Vieques, a community-based archive devoted to documenting the Vieques' struggle against military practices in the island, Kilometro 0, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting human rights, Archivo Santaliz, an archive about Puerto Rican LGBT playwright Pedro Santaliz, la Calle Loiza a recognized organization that protect and preserve arts and culture in Cangrejos, and the Foro Permanente del Performance, a transdisciplinary platform to disseminate performance in Puerto Rico. These organizations present a broad spectrum of community-based organizations focused on protecting and disseminating the island's cultural heritage.

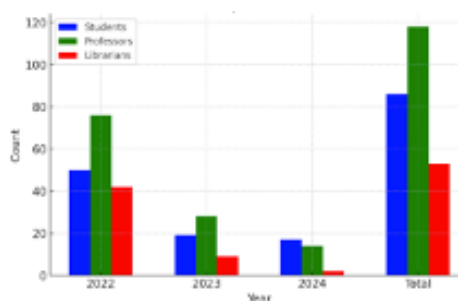
- **DH Minor:** The proposal for creating an undergraduate minor in Digital Humanities is in its final stages. On February 27, 2024, the UPR-RP Academic Senate approved the proposal, and it will now be presented to the UPR VP of Academic Affairs for final approval. The team expects to begin the minor's academic offering in August 2025, offering students majoring in Communications and Information Sciences training in Digital Humanities. So far, two courses have been designed and piloted, and one will be submitted for formal creation and inclusion in the undergraduate catalog on or before December 2025, titled "Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Digital Humanities."

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

- The DH Fellow Lecture Series has become an important means of introducing the UPR community to general topics on digital humanities. These lectures had in-person and online participants. The UPR team estimates that these events impacted more than 1,022 participants, including graduate and undergraduate students, community leaders, professors, teachers, archivists, and librarians from various UPR system campuses. The third DH Fellow, Prof. Victor Torres, began his lecture series in October 2024, which attracted 137 attendees. Post-event surveys show the popularity of these events, which had over 80% approval. Participants have expressed that the tools and topics discussed in the seminars were highly relevant to their professional development and research (see Graphics 6 and 7).



Graphic 6. DH Fellow: Conference Attendance
2022-2024



Graphic 7. DH Fellow: Workshop Attendance
2022-2024

- A cohort of 10 students benefited from participating in the 2023-24 DH Scholars in Residence program, which continues solidifying as a space to introduce students and community organizations to digital humanities tools and the creation of valuable means to digitally share the local histories of communities in Puerto Rico. The UPR team implemented pre-, mid-, and post-evaluation to measure students' progress during the DH Scholars in Residence program. Participants indicated a gradual improvement in developing various professionalization skills, especially competencies related to digital humanities research. The projects developed by the 2023-24 cohort are [available online](#).
- 15 new students were selected for the 2024-25 DH Scholars in Residence and began working in Fall 2024.
- 7 students who participated in the DH Scholars in Residence were selected for competitive internships and graduate programs, showing the potential of the DH Scholars in Residence in providing opportunities students can leverage to further their professionalization and training:
 - Najelis Sambolín De Jesús (DH Scholar 23-24), Internship at the Rutgers Puerto Rican Archival Collaboration, August 2024
 - Pat Santalices Torres (DH Scholar 22-23), Internship at the Rutgers Puerto Rican Archival Collaboration. Acceptance into a Doctoral Program at Columbia University in New York, August 2024
 - Valeria Acevedo Argüelles (DH Scholar 22-23), Internship at John Hopkins University PATHS. She also participated in the Rutgers Puerto Rican Archival Collaboration, July-August 2024
 - Angely Díaz Torres (DH Scholar 22-23), Archivist at Casa Pueblo. Soon to go on an exchange to Granada to obtain a certificate in Digital Humanities, January - December 2024



- Juan Roque Giraud (DH Scholar 22-23), Internship at the Whitney Museum in New York, June - July 2024
 - Elena Ramos (DH Scholar 23-24), Internship at the Digital Research and Archival Center in Afrodescendence (PRAFRO), August 2024
 - Alondra Rodríguez Ruíz (DH Scholar 23-24), Latino Museum Studies Program Undergraduate Internship at the National Museum of the American Latino of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, August - November 2024
- The UPR Caribe Digital team participated in different local events and international conferences to showcase the work students, professors, and community organizations have developed through their programs:
 - S. Sahir Santiago-Díaz and Adriana Morales-Díaz (UPR Caribe Digital Team), paper presentation, Caribbean Without Borders of the Graduate English Department at the University of Puerto Rico - Río Piedras Campus, March 2024
 - Noraida Domínguez Flores (Mentor 2022-2023), poster presentation, Digital Archive of Waves Ahead at the American Library Association in California, June - July 2024
 - Dr. Mirerza González Vélez, paper presentation, 42nd Annual Conference on West Indian Literature, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, October 2024
 - Dr. Nadjah Ríos Villarini, paper presentation, IASA Conference, Valencia, Spain, September 2024
 - Prof. Víctor Torres (DH Fellow 24-25) and Adriana Morales-Díaz, led the workshop "Exploring Digital Storytelling using Twine," Undergraduate Internship Program at the National Museum of the American Latino of the Smithsonian Institution - Washington, DC, October 2024
 - Ana Arroyo Vega (DH Scholars 22-23), paper presentation, 2do Encuentro Puertorriqueño de Gestión Cultural, University of Puerto Rico - Río Piedras Campus, Noviembre 2024
- Their team also published in peer-reviewed journals:
 - Jeanmary Lugo González (Mentor 2022-2023), Archipelagos Journal (May 2024)
 - Mila Aponte-González (DH Fellow 22-23) and S. Sahir Santiago Díaz (Graduate Research Assistant), Revista Acceso: "Digital Humanities Glossary @ UPR Caribe Digital" (September 2024)

Sustainability Plans

- UPR Caribe Digital's goals of creating and sustaining a comprehensive pedagogical program for Digital Humanities in Puerto Rico are advancing successfully. In 2024, the team moved the project from CRiiAS to the Center of Academic Excellence (CEA),

which gave them strong administrative support that has been instrumental in facilitating the management of the sub-award in Puerto Rico.

- A significant milestone for UPR Caribe Digital was securing funding from the Office of the President at the Mellon Foundation. In 2025, they received a \$ 250,000 grant to initiate the planning of a Digital Humanities Hub on the UPR campus, a state-of-the-art research, training, and innovation space for the Puerto Rican community. This grant will provide resources for ongoing capacity-building work and help them develop research methods promoting self-management and community engagement. This grant will also fuel their goal to include graduate students from the master's programs in Communication and Information and Cultural Management and Administration in their projects.
- UPR Caribe Digital is working with other colleges on campus to create professionalization opportunities for graduate students after the life of the Mellon grant, including faculty from graduate schools, librarians, and memory workers that are part of "GLAM DCM-PR: Digital Collections Management in Puerto Rico" project –an IMLS funded initiative. This collaboration between GLAM and UPR Caribe Digital shows the rapid expansion of different digital scholarship groups in Puerto Rico and their common efforts to strengthen Digital Humanities praxis on the island. Other CDSC members have confirmed their support of this initiative and will continue working with the UPR team by participating in conferences, workshops, evaluations, and consultations to advance these goals.
- The Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Network received funding from the Mellon Foundation to support four in-person workshops on campus within the next three years. The first workshop is already scheduled for May 28-30, 2025. Under the topic of Oral History, 30 participants from local communities will have training opportunities guided by Cristina Fontanez Rodríguez (Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños at Hunter College). DPOE-N included a budget to offer mini-grants to support participants from other campuses.
- In tandem with the UPR's academic calendar, the team leads will finalize their programming in the Spring of 2025. During the rest of the year, they will continue evaluating the work accomplished during the funding period, hosting international events, and expanding their work through its different initiatives and collaborations. UPR Caribe Digital recruited two external evaluators for this task: Dr. Laurie Taylor and Dr. Joshua Ortiz Baco. This evaluation process is scheduled for August 2025.