



Reportes anuales 2023





Caribbean Digital Scholarship Collective

Annual Report - Program Narratives

January 1 to December 31, 2023

[See the grant overview](#)

Create Caribbean Research Institute

Team lead: Schuyler Esprit

Programs Execution

Create Caribbean Research Institute executed various programs throughout the reporting period. The Community Internship Program Recruitment Drive began on January 25 and lasted until March 3, 2023. The CCRI team visited high schools in Dominica, focusing on senior high school students. To start the recruitment process, the CCRI team held a session on preparing for higher education. Dr. Schuyler Esprit hosted an information session on 'Preparing your Child for Higher Education' via Zoom on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, and a follow-up session in March 2023.

The Research, Technology, and Community (RTC) Symposium for Cohorts 9 and 10, scheduled to be held annually in June, was postponed. At Dominica State College, the second semester of the Academic Year was delayed from January to March, which resulted in a late start for interns in the RTC program and CCRI's annual calendar of events. Students experienced extreme challenges during this period, and the quality and pace of their productivity were significantly affected. The 2023 Symposium was delayed until January 2024 to allow students time to adjust to the changes in their academic calendar and to have time to produce individual projects of quality for presentation.

In September 2023, CCRI welcomed a new cohort of eleven (11) interns to the RTC program, with students enrolled in Dominica State College and the University of West Indies, Mona Campus. The internship at The UWI Mona expands the partnership between CCRI and the Literatures in English Department, which began under the CDSC in 2022. The eleven university interns have worked collaboratively on foundational courses, shared projects, and other professional development experiences.

CCRI also hosted different online writing workshops. **Crafting Short Fiction**, led by Lisa Latouche, began in 2022 and ended in early January 2023. The next one, **Writing Through Change**, started soon after, with Dr. Esprit leading the activities focused on non-fiction writing. Participants learned about a story's structure, style, and elements in non-fiction writing. The theme invited participants to consider experiences, observations, and memories of transitions and transformations in their lives or sense of self. The next workshop, **Basics of the Publishing Industry**, occurred in March and was conducted by Polly Pattullo, founder of Papillote Press. The programming covered traditional publishing and independent self-publishing routes. In session 1, Pattullo gave insight into the industry in general, along with her experience as a writer turned publisher. The second session was a guide to publishing. The next event, **Poetry Writing Workshop**, was led by St. Lucian poet Vladimir Lucien. This six-week program started on April 18th and ended on May 24th, 2023. Novice and experienced writers explored storytelling through poetry using tone and feelings, strategically placed line breaks, tempo, and rhyme. The final event of the year was **Screenwriting Workshop**, led by award-winning Jamaican director and creative entrepreneur Kia Moses.

The second iteration of the Summer Intensive Training (SIT) for Community Partners was held between June 19 and 30, 2023, with a hybrid format in Dominica and online via Zoom. The SIT's goal



was to introduce the tools and methods of digital humanities to participants to assist their organizations with developing projects and programs around their areas of advocacy or research. Participants from organizations in Dominica and across the region were selected for the program: the Antigua and Barbuda National Parks; the University of the West Indies - Mona; the University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras; the Dominica Library and Information Service, National Archives; the Waitukubuli Artists Association; the Society for Historical Architectural Preservation and Enhancement (SHAPE); the Springfield Guesthouse and Archibald Research Centre; and the Waitukubuli Writers Association. After the SIT program, Community Partners began receiving technical and mentorship support, starting with an organizational assessment meeting with Dr. Esprit. Organizations were assigned intern support (based on intern interest and academic training) at the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year. The interns started supporting community partners in the following ways: 1) SHAPE is developing a digital architecture project that refreshes and reimagines traditional buildings by editing exterior architectural elements; 2) the Waitukubuli Arts Association is creating an interactive calendar of (past and future) art events in Dominica, linked to biographies and portfolios of artists; and 3) the Springfield Research Centre started cataloging and digitizing documents damaged during Hurricane Maria.

Partners

- CCRI solidified its relationship with the University of West Indies, Mona, and Dominica State College, supporting the professional development of college students.
- The Online Writing Workshop series enlisted renowned writers, creatives, and professionals, including Lisa Latouche, Polly Pattullo, Vladimir Lucien, and Kia Moses.
- CCRI continued strengthening previous relations with Dominican community partners participating in their 2022 Summer Intensive Training. CCRI recruited new local and regional participants for its 2023 summer programming. Partners included the Antigua and Barbuda National Parks, the University of the West Indies - Mona, and the University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras. Local organizations were The Dominica Library and Information Service, National Archives, Waitukubuli Artists Association, Society for Historic Architectural Preservation and Enhancement (SHAPE), Springfield Guesthouse and Archibald Research Centre, and Waitukubuli Writers Association.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

- The Community Internship Program Recruitment Drive recorded 42 registered participants, including parents and students from Dominica's high schools.
- Eleven (11) students were admitted to the Research Technology and Community internship program, which combined students from Dominica State College and the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. Including interns from UWI Mona is part of CCRI's expansion of its new partnership with the Literatures in English Department that began in 2022 and its efforts to expand its programming across Caribbean universities.
- Fifteen (15) certificates were awarded to participants in the online writing workshops.
- The second round of the Summer Intensive Training aimed to increase the number of partners and extend collaboration to other Caribbean countries. For this reporting period, CCRI worked with eight (8) community organizations from Dominica, Puerto Rico, Antigua and Barbuda, and Jamaica. Representatives of these organizations were introduced to mapping, storytelling, scripting, and analysis tools. Participants learned best practice techniques for digitization and digital preservation and discussed the ones best applied to their group's work. The program was well-received by all the participants. At the end of the training, one person said that it was



“Excellent in both the practical and lecture” aspects and that they favored the practical aspect “because of its wide use of applications.”

- As of 2023, four (4) self-paced courses designed by CCRI were available for students and community partners to complete. The courses include training in Caribbean Studies, Digital Media, Computational Methods, and Introduction to GIS.

Sustainability & Next Year’s Plan

CCRI goals remain the same. CCRI programming and extension among the Caribbean beyond Dominica keeps growing.

Regarding sustainability, CCRI acquired various grants in 2023 to support its growth and long-term plans, including a \$75,000 grant from the Wikimedia Foundation’s Knowledge Equity Fund. They also secured a grant to develop open educational resources from the Digital Library of the Caribbean. These grants have allowed CCRI to expand the development of digital projects and the infrastructure of their research projects. They are in the process of applying for additional grants that will extend beyond the life of the CDSC.

Caribbean Digital Scholarship Summer Institute - University of Miami

Team lead: Kelly Baker Josephs

Program Execution

The first Caribbean Digital Scholarship Summer Institute took place in June 2023. Prospective applicants interested in learning skills and methodologies for digital scholarship that they could apply in their classrooms and research were highly satisfied with the program.

Prof. Kelly Josephs Baker (Summer Institute Director) and Gabrielle Jean-Louis (Assistant Director) held an Open House session via Zoom on January 17, 2023. The event gave an overview of the program and the application process and answered attendees' questions. All the questions were compiled into a FAQ section of their call for proposals, along with a recording session available to prospective applicants who could not attend the live session (bit.ly/3UYo8pK).

The application period was open between December 2022 and January 2023. The first call for proposals received one hundred and fifty (150) applications. Given the high volume of applications, the team organized a two-step review process between February and April 2023. The first round included ten (10) reviewers, split between members of the CDSC and the course instructors. The second round included two external reviewers and Dr. Josephs. The first round evaluation asked the committee to rank proposals based on the following criteria: *Rank 1-5 for each, 1 being “Not really” and 5 being “Absolutely.”* 1) Does the application indicate that this person needs this course? 2) Does the application indicate that this person is prepared to be successful in this course? *Additional considerations for positive evaluation:* 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 application. The second round of evaluation consisted of an extended meeting between the three evaluators to discuss the pre-selected candidates and to determine the final participants.

The committee tried to aim for diversity in institutional status (graduate students, librarians, TT professors) and accepted thirty-five (35) participants, including 5 additional participants with outside funding. They waitlisted eleven (11) applicants, four of whom were accepted due to original acceptances being declined/deferred. Between April and May, the UM team confirmed the course participants. They organized travel and housing logistics for 42 University of Miami campus participants, including thirty-five course attendees, six (6) instructors, the Summer Institute Director, and the Assistant Director.



The team wrote letters of support for participants who needed travel visas and arranged deferrals for those who could not get visa appointments in time.

The Caribbean Digital Scholarship Summer Institute occurred at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, between June 11 and 17, 2023. Participants took a five-day intensive course in a particular course. This year's offering included Minimal Computing, Critical Digital Pedagogy, and Building Digital Caribbean Archives. Participants and instructors attended archival visits in UM libraries and a lecture about the Cuban Heritage Collection/Cuban Theater Digital Archive.

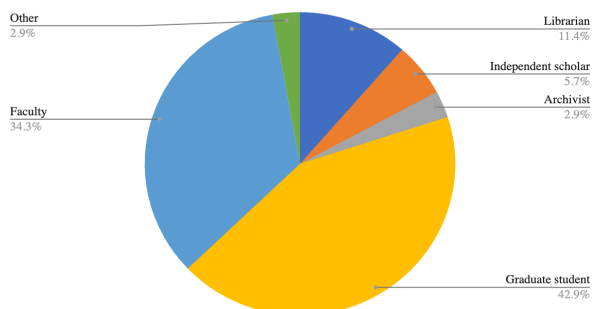
During the remainder of the reporting period, the team has devoted itself to post-event activities, including assessing the programs' success, managing the participant reimbursement process, and honoraria for instructors/outside lecturers. They started planning the 2024 Summer Institute by reserving space at the University of Miami for participant lodging and classroom instruction, securing instructors for next year's institute, and drafting and circulating the 2024 Call For Proposals, due January 31, 2024.

Partners

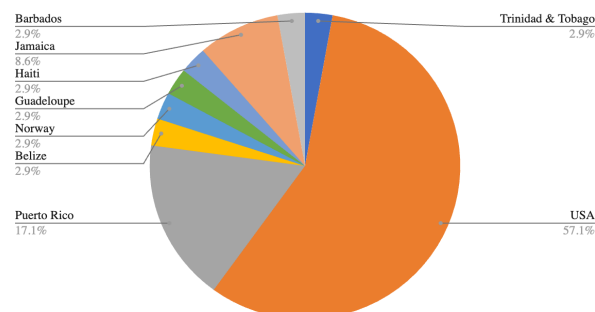
- Laurent Dubois (University of Virginia) and Tzarina T. Prater (Bentley University) were this year's external reviewers.
- CDSsi 2023 was supported by graduate students Gabrielle Jean-Louis and Diona Espinosa from the University of Miami.
- CDSsi 2023 Instructors were Nicole N. Aljoe (Northeastern University), Sonya Donaldson (Colby College), Schuyler Esprit (University of the West Indies), Alexander Gil (Yale University), Andreina Soto (Barnard College); and Halcyon Lawrence (Towson University).
- Lillian Manzor from the University of Miami was the CDSsi 2023 guest lecturer. She spoke about the Cuban Heritage Collection/Cuban Theater Digital Archive.
- This year's community partners were the University of Miami Libraries, Cuban Heritage Collection Archives, and the Kislak Center.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

- One hundred fifty-nine (159) people registered for the Open House, and 85 attended the live session. There were 35 selected participants out of 150 applicants for CDSsi 2023. Participants included a mix of specialties between librarians, archivists, independent scholars, graduate students, and professors. Most participants were university-affiliated faculty (34.3%) and graduate students (42.9%) who came primarily from Jamaica (8.6%), Puerto Rico (17.1%), and the continental United States (57.1%). See graphics 1 and 2.
- Attendees learned digital skills for building sites (Minimal Computing course), assessing and creating archives (Building Caribbean Digital Archives course), and methodologies for teaching Caribbean content and/or students (Critical Digital Pedagogy course). Participants could also network with each other and course instructors, which held the potential for future resources and collaborations. Some course attendees also submitted proposals for the 2023-24 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.



Graphic 1. CDSsi participants distribution by professional status



Graphic 2. CDSsi participants distribution by country of residence

- Our participants' concluding program evaluations gave CDSsi 2023 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. Participants found great value in our archival visits as well. The following testimonials reflect their overall satisfaction with CDSsi 2023:

"The course provided a great opportunity to acquire hands-on practical skills in DH production, framed through meaningful discussions on the theory and methodology of minimal computing in the context of our Caribbean scholarship." - Minimal Computing participant

"Dr. Lawrence created a classroom space that was decolonized; she made it clear from day 1 that the purpose of the course was to center our learning and pedagogical needs. We were collaborators rather than receptors of knowledge." - Critical Digital Pedagogy participant

"The visit to the Cuban Heritage Collection, the Richter Library (with its fantastic exhibit on Jacques Stephen Alexis), and the Center for Global Black Studies were very worthwhile." - CDSsi '23 participant

Sustainability & Next Year's Plan

The CDSsi goal is to train scholars interested in approaching Caribbean Studies and digital scholarship as organically integrated fields of inquiry and engagement remains the same. The Summer Institute's first iteration established this program's relevance and the need for training and mentorship for practitioners and researchers working in and for the Caribbean.

Throughout the grant period, the team has learned how to schedule steps to secure and evaluate CDSsi applications. This involves designing a two-step evaluation process to manage the high volume of applications and including members of the CDSC and external reviewers to guarantee the fair evaluation of all the proposals according to the program goals. The team has also learned how to navigate some of the University of Miami's difficult rules and regulations regarding spending grant funds, especially for overseas travel. One of the challenges encountered in this year's reporting period has been a difficult and slow reimbursement process for participant travel costs. The CDSsi has moved those funds to Yale University, hoping the process will be smoother. The Senior Grant Associate Director (now based at Yale)



will purchase airfare for participants to avoid handling reimbursements and ensure participants with limited resources do not have to use their personal funds to cover the summer institute travel.

Microgrant Program

Team: Alexander Gil, Andreina Soto

Program Execution

The Microgrant team supervised the completion of the first cohort of awardees for 2023 and launched a new call for proposals to select a cohort for 2024. Andreina Soto, Senior Grant Associate Director, managed the administrative process for disbursing the microgrant funds among the awardees. This required drafting an agreement and submitting the appropriate paperwork to comply with Barnard College policies. The awardees received funds between March and June 2023 and executed their projects within the estimated timeline. The team supervised awardees and attended to particular questions.

While the program was structured for awardees to select a mentor of their choosing, this proved difficult to execute. As a solution, the team hired Hope Cullinan (CUNY) as a microgrant mentor, given her experience in project management and digital tools. Cullinan supported most grantees who required additional help to complete their projects, met regularly, and found solutions to technical and budget issues. Other awardees also resorted to their institutions' libraries and digital scholarship labs for technical support.

The grantees completed a mid-year report in July 2023 and a final report in January 2024. One of the awardees, Anaridia Ramos Molina, organized a mid-year online session, during which the grantees had the opportunity to meet and discuss their projects with each other; this resulted in an important team-building activity that the team will implement in the next two rounds of awards. The 2023 awardees also presented their projects at The Caribbean Digital Conference X, which took place on December 7-8, 2023, at Yale University. It was an opportunity to showcase the diversity of projects and outcomes before announcing the 2024 cohort.

While the first cohort completed their funding period, the microgrant released the Call for Proposals for the second round in July 2023. The 2023 Call for Proposals required applicants to select a funding tier most suitable to their project needs and required level of technology. **TIER 1 (\$15,000 – \$20,000)** was for large projects requiring significant expenses. This tier was geared towards projects that imagine creating an artisanal tech solution that does not exist yet, such as an original cartographic interface or visualization, or projects with expensive labor and technology requirements. **TIER 2 (\$5,000 – \$15,000)** was for small- to medium-sized projects with readily available technology such as digital archives, exhibits built with Omeka or Wax, or maps created with Carto or Google Maps which need funds to pay for data curation, management, and training. **TIER 3 (less than \$5,000)** supported one or two individuals pursuing small to medium-sized digital scholarship and pedagogical or public humanities projects. The second round of applications was open from July 1 to September 15, 2023. During that period, the team held an information session on July 20 to explain the application and eligibility criteria, followed by a Q&A session. The recording was available to prospective applicants who could not attend the live session (<https://vimeo.com/850204011>). The team also offered 30-minute consultations for applicants to discuss their proposals and held fifteen meetings.

This year's round received one hundred and four (104) submissions. The committee selected fourteen (14) projects, representing a significant increase of 153% from the 2022 round of applications, whose cohort comprised seven (7) awardees out of forty-one (41) applicants. The evaluation committee scored each application on a scale from 1 to 10 (with 1= poor and 10=best) based on four questions: 1) Does the proposal offer an important intervention to Caribbean digital scholarship? 2) Does the project use digital methods and tools to advance research, teaching, learning, and/or public engagement? 3) Does the proposal present a clear plan of execution and expected deliverables for the grant term? and 4) Does



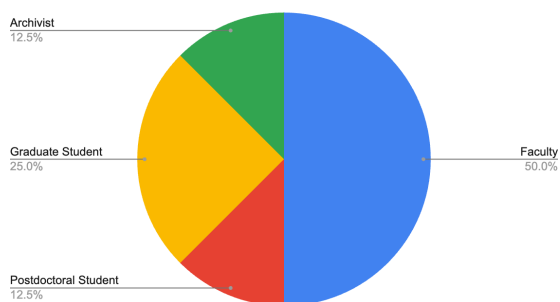
the budget include reasonable costs to achieve deliverables? The committee also prioritized independent scholars and applicants in the Caribbean to allocate greater resources to beneficiaries outside the continental United States. The committee met twice to discuss the evaluation process and select awardees. The microgrant team also contacted the selected awardees to discuss small changes in their budget and scope to maximize time and resources, which also helped increase the number of awardees for next year's round.

Partners

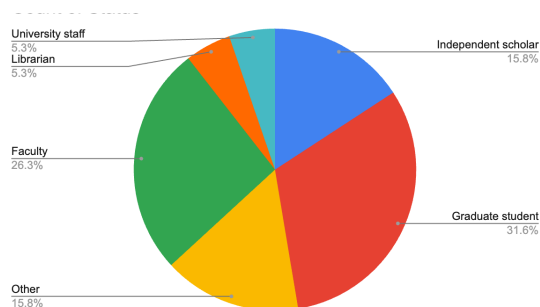
- This year's Micro-Grants 2023 application evaluation committee included Kaiama L. Glover (Yale University) and Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann (University of Connecticut).
- Hope Cullinan (CUNY Graduate Center) was hired as a microgrant mentor and supported awardees with digital and project management skills to fulfill their project goals.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

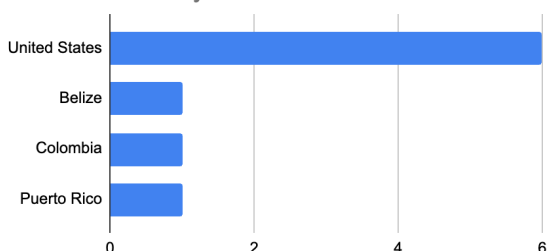
- The CDSC disbursed over \$50,000 for the 2023 cohort and allocated \$85,010 for the 2024 cohort. The additional \$5,000 for this year's round will be covered with rollover funds from previous years, which the CDSC will repurpose for the microgrant program.
- This year's number of applicants increased from 41 in 2022 to 104 in 2023, reflecting a growing interest in the program and an effort to increase its visibility among the target communities. The committee selected 14 awardees representing a rich mix of university-affiliated students (31.6%), faculty, staff (26.3%), independent scholars (15.8%), and librarians, artists, and activists (21.1%) across the Caribbean and the continental United States (See Graphics 3 and 4). The committee also aimed to distribute resources to collective projects and place-based organizations. This resulted in teams in different international locations than the previous year when most awardees were in the continental US (See Graphics 5 and 6).



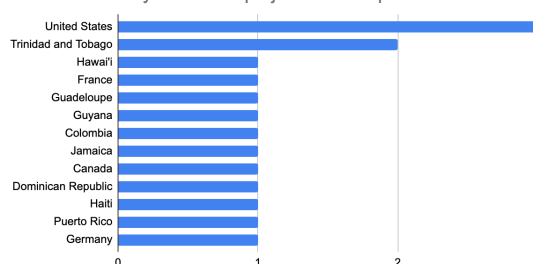
Graphic 3. Distribution of the 2022 cohort based on professional status



Graphic 4. Distribution of the 2023 cohort based on professional status



Graphic 5. Distribution of the 2022 cohort based on location



Graphic 6. Distribution of the 2023 cohort based on location

- The selected projects include Caribbean podcasts, oral history preservation multimedia platforms, digital mapping, digital exhibitions, and archives, showing the broad spectrum of digital humanities and digital scholarship projects. They also constitute significant steps to visualize the histories of underrepresented communities, with initiatives centering on disability and LGBTQ+ communities in the Caribbean. The list of 2024 awardees and a project summary are available on the CDSC website (<https://cdscollective.org/microgrant-recipients-2023/>).
- The first round of microgrants yielded important results in advancing initiatives centered on Caribbean digital scholarship. The following testimonials reflect their overall satisfaction from previous microgrant awardees:

“This project would not have been possible without the support of the Caribbean Digital Scholarship Collective microgrant, which allowed us to create the project, host it, hire local historians, and share our results.” –Atlantic Seascapes Project, 2023

“From working on this project throughout the year to our fall grant recipients meeting and attending the Caribbean Digital X conference, the micro-grant program has nurtured my desire to engage with other digital and Caribbean scholars, enhance my critical sensibilities, and has helped me advance my scholarship.” –The Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars’ Digital Archive project, 2023

“My project would still be an idea in my head were it not for the CDSC microgrant and the careful guidance I received from Alex Gil and Andreina Soto. I am now much closer to making my “Smallpox and Slavery Database” available to students, teachers, and scholars around the world.” –Smallpox and Slavery Project, 2023

Sustainability & Next Year’s Plan

The program’s initial goal of distributing awards to support Caribbean DH projects remains the same. The CDSC is currently discussing the program’s future and financial sustainability. As the numbers show, we have learned that there is a growing widespread interest and need for the program. However, continuing this initiative after the life of the CDSC grant requires sustained financial support from sponsors like the Mellon Foundation. In the meantime, the team wants to increase the funds available for the third and final round using rollover funds from the previous reporting period to increase the number of awardees and beneficiaries.

The team will implement some changes in the workflow to guarantee proper guidance for our awardees. The team hired a new microgrant mentor, Mila Aponte González (UPR-RP), who has



previously worked with the sub-recipients in Puerto Rico as a DH Fellow. Her expertise and multilingual approach will significantly benefit the 2024 awardees. They will also implement team-building activities via Slack and two virtual meetings.

The microgrant team will disburse the funds for the second cohort in 2024 and supervise grantees' progress during the next reporting period. They will also release their final CFP mid-year. The main challenge ahead is to disburse the funds in accordance with the policies of its new primary institution, Yale University, which operates differently than Barnard College. The Senior Grant Associate Director is in conversation with the appropriate administrative office to guarantee the funds are disbursed by May 2024.

The Caribbean Digital X

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

Program Execution

This year was the 10th anniversary of Caribbean Digital, so the team wanted to do something special and celebratory. Following months of planning and preparation, TCD X was held on December 7 and 8, 2023.

This year's speakers were selected using a combination of invited speakers and an open call. We received a total of 43 proposals, from students, faculty, and independent scholars based in the continental US (22), Puerto Rico (5), Trinidad and Tobago (2), Germany (1), England (2), Dominica (1), Canada (1), and Brazil (1). The selection committee tried to accommodate as many as possible within the scope of a two-day event at Yale University, the grant's new home institution. Given the diversity of the proposals, which included a mix of projects-in-development and significantly developed research questions, the committee combined traditional panels and showcase presentations. Criteria for inclusion in the showcase followed our traditional model of evaluating for intellectual impact in Caribbean Studies, design, stewardship, and collaboration. The panel presentations were selected based on a scoring model that considered intellectual impact in Caribbean Studies and the above considerations when relevant.

Because this was a special celebration, the team revisited various historical themes, for which they organized five (5) panels, each with its own general theme: "Archives," "Collaboration," "Theory," "Pedagogy," and "Practice." Each panel had between three (3) and four (4) presentations. The program included two showcase sections where participants could briefly introduce their digital projects. One for the showcase section featured the 2023 Microgrant awardees, while the other promoted the work of the larger Caribbean Digital community. Selected presenters introduced the audience to cutting-edge projects, such as digital auto-ethnographic blogs, multi-media digital archives, virtual reality platforms, podcasts, and digital exhibits. The showcase of the 2023 CDSC microgrant awardees ranged from creating massive digital repositories to designing mapping projects centered on the Caribbean.

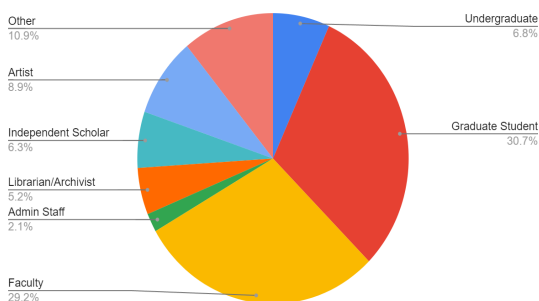
In pursuit of our collaborative ethos and community-centric efforts, this year's programming offered a keynote dialogue between Natasha J. Lightfoot (Columbia University) and Nicole Aljoe (Northeastern University) instead of the traditional keynote speaker(s) model. The theme of the keynote dialogue was "Challenges in Caribbean DH," and it served to close the first day of activities. Full details of the conference programs are available on The Caribbean Digital X website (<https://thecaribbeandigital.org/2023/schedule/>).

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

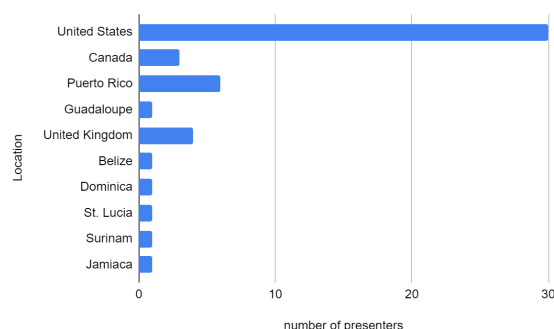
- Overall, the two-day event was a resounding success. The program featured nearly fifty (50) presenters and moderators from various institutional affiliations, including undergraduate students and community organizers. The bios of our presenters are available in a shareable document (<https://bit.ly/3IQLTsG>).



- During the showcase sections, 10 projects were introduced to the audience. The showcase model was an important format for presenting new scholars and emerging projects led by undergraduate and graduate students and junior scholars.
- A total of one hundred and ninety-two (192) people registered for the event, with 31.3% registered for in-person attendance and 68.8% registered online. The team had reserved a room that usually seats eighty (80) people for the event. However, throughout both days, the conference had an excess of attendees, with standing room depending on the hour of the day. See graphics 7 and 8.



Graphic 7. Distribution of Attendees Institution Affiliation



Graphic 8. Distribution of Invited Presenters based on Location

- 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. This space allowed participants to network, share their work contributions, and foster community. The program also included microgrant awardees, summer institute participants, UPR students and faculty, and long-standing members of the TCD community. The event also showed the wide variety of digital humanities and digital scholarship programs students and professionals are developing about Caribbean-centered themes.

Partners

- Our students Clifton Sorrell (CDSC Digital Curator Fellow), Gabrielle Jean-Louis (CDSsi Assistant Director), and Kim Lifton (PhD Candidate, Yale University) were instrumental in ensuring the conference's success.

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.

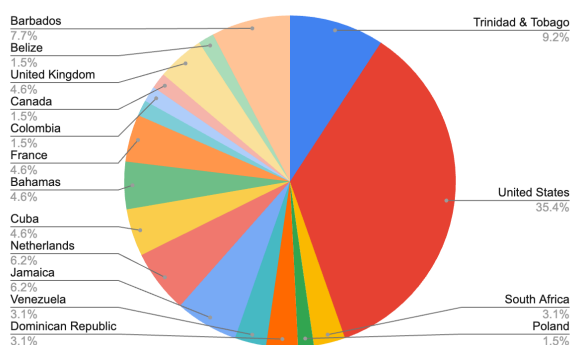
To expand the conference's outreach, the committee wants to include new partners in the planning of future iterations of the conference. Next year's TCD will take place in Kingston, Jamaica, and will consist of a partnership with the University of West Indies, Mona Campus. They started conversations with colleagues from the Early Caribbean Digital Archive Project Team at Northwestern University, who have shown interest in planning the conference in 2026.

The Caribbean Digital Artist in Residence

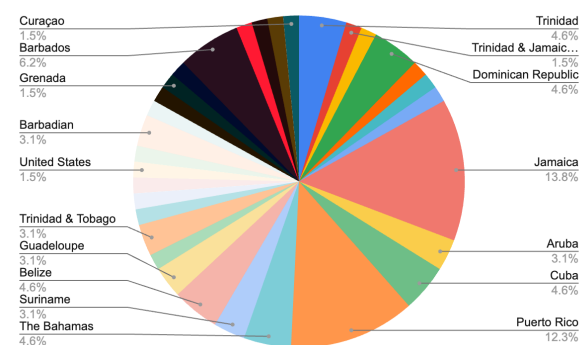
Team: Kaiama L. Glover, Kelly Baker Josephs, Andreina Soto, Alice Yard

Program Execution

The TCD committee launched a second iteration of the Artist-in-Residence program, and the application period was open until April 15, 2023. The CFP received sixty-five (65) proposals, representing a 71% increase in this year's pool of applications compared to 2022, when the program received thirty-eight (38) proposals. As shown in Graphic 9, the highest percentage of applicants from the United States (35.4%), Trinidad and Tobago (9.2%), Barbados (7.7%), and Jamaica (6.2%). Applicants were requested to indicate their Caribbean country of heritage, showing a wide range of applications from artists with ties to Caribbean diasporic communities, especially from Jamaica and Puerto Rico (See Graphic 10). A committee formed by CDSC and Alice Yard members met twice to decide the awardee.



Graphic 9. Distribution of participants by country of citizenship.



Graphic 10. Distribution of participants by Caribbean country of heritage.

The committee selected artist Ruben Cabenda from Suriname, who began his virtual residency in mid-June 2023. Cabenda's residency focused on the intersection between language, identity, and segregation. Using the biblical story of the Tower of Babel as a visual and ideological anchor, Cabenda explores, through animation, the impact of suppressing the native tongues of enslaved peoples and their descendants in the Caribbean. In conjunction with this, he questions the influence of the internet in creating new languages that empower people to shape and redefine their identities. Cabenda notes that the original concept of his project remained largely intact. However, his approach to working developed considerably during his residency.

Cabenda transformed his artistic practice during the residency by acquiring an iPad to create his work. The residency allowed him to work more spontaneously in various locations. He also commented that his approach was more traditional during this period, with a shift back to 2D animation. He states: *"I first started with stop motion animation because for me at that time it was fascinating that you can create an illusion with photos that an object can move by itself.... when I saw that I was blown away and it made me dive deeper into digital art. I went from stop motion to 3D animation and now it's more 2D animation. With 2D animation I can draw, paint and still hold on to that traditional feeling."* Cabenda would begin his process by creating several sentences, each translated into a drawing. This became the basis for the animation, with shifts throughout the process in composition or content where necessary.



Cabenda also credits discussions with mentor Christopher Cozier for shifting his approach to color in the final animation. Initially, he envisioned the animation in full color; however, he eventually left it predominantly black and white, with only the most significant elements colored for the most outstanding visual and conceptual impact. As a result of his residency, Cabenda created the animated work 'Tongo Sondi' (or 'things about a tongue'), which he presented in person at The Caribbean Digital conference on December 7th, 2023.

Partners

- This year's evaluation committee included Kaiama L. Glover, Kelly Josephs from the CDSC, and Christopher Cozier and Nicholas Laughlin from Alice Yard.
- The CDSC continues its partnership with Trinidadian artist collective Alice Yard to execute the virtual residency.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

The residency offers a unique opportunity to generate a space for creativity and skill-building for Caribbean-based artists. As a result of his residency, Ruben Cabenda created the animated work 'Tongo Sondi' (or 'things about a tongue'), which is the starting point for future steps in his career. Cabenda noted that the experience of presenting his work during The Caribbean Digital Conference in New Haven was highly fruitful, as it was the first time he could show his work in this format, gleaned several insights from his interaction with the audience. Cabenda explains that he wanted to begin his presentation in Saramaccan, a Creole language from one of the six Maroon peoples of Suriname. His intention in asking the audience to repeat his words, thus engaging with a foreign tongue, was to begin the dialogue around language hierarchies and how these have historically been used to maintain power structures.

Since presenting his work, Cabenda has continued his conversations with Christopher Cozier to develop his project further. He intends to organize a physical exhibition centered around 'Tongo Sondi,' which will be shown in Suriname and at Alice Yard's premises in Trinidad and Tobago. The artist, under the guidance of Christopher Cozier, is beginning the initial conceptualization of the exhibition, which includes an installation with several television screens, each playing clips of the animation stacked to reference the Tower of Babel.

Sustainability & Next Year's Plan

The Artist-in-Residence goals remain the same. Alice Yard hired Shannon Alonzo, an artist based in Trinidad and Tobago, who will support the residency's planning and implementation in 2024 and 2025.

UPR Caribe Digital

Team leads: Nadjah Ríos Villarini, Mírerza González

Program Execution

During the reporting period, the UPR Caribe Digital team has worked with two Digital Humanities Fellows. The 2022-2023 DH Fellow, prof. Mila Aponte González (Universidad of Puerto Rico) developed a series of activities articulated under five impact areas: Community Engagement, Mentorship, Consultancy, Curriculum Development, and Scholarship. Prof. Aponte-González offered a workshop series between January and May 2023 titled "Development of Digital Humanities Projects: Do It Yourself!" which included an introduction to digital humanities and practicum-style experiences for the design and implementation of digital humanities projects using open-access digital information and communication technology (ICT). The course offering includes **How to Create an Interactive Timeline with Timeline JS** (<https://bit.ly/4a66S6q>), **How to Create an Interactive Map with StoryMapJS**



(<https://bit.ly/3wZE8xN>), **How to Create Digital Exhibitions with Omeka** (<https://bit.ly/4cf4MTy>), **How to Create a Visual Relationship Map with Onodo** (<https://bit.ly/3PehhoH>), and **How to Create a Non-Linear Interactive Narrative with Twine** (<https://bit.ly/3v7j4VH>). The workshops were offered in group sessions of thirty (30) participants with three (3) hours of contact per workshop in partnership with the Center for Academic Excellence (CEA) at UPR-Río Piedras. Prof. Aponte-Gonzalez's fellowship ended in the Spring of 2023.

The second DH Fellow, Professor Rafael Capó García, started his tenure in the Fall of 2023 and developed a work plan following two areas of interest: digital cartography and critical pedagogy. He offered two keynote lectures: Introduction to Digital Cartography on September 13, 2023 (<https://bit.ly/3IzksUb>), and Decolonization of Education on October 18, 2023 (<https://bit.ly/3v9r5JM>). The DH Fellow Lecture Series from both years (2022-2023) is available as a self-directed module for students and professors. For this purpose, both fellows drafted multiple-choice assessments for each conference, from which participants get a score and a certification via email once the modules are completed. Shortly, all graduate students admitted to our programs will be able to attend these conferences and receive contact hours as part of the Training Academic Experiences Program.

The Digital Humanities Scholars-in-Residence continued throughout the reporting period to train 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 first cohort of students who participated in the 2022-2023 academic year finished their project in the Spring. They created two digital repositories, a web page, one exhibit, visualization tools, and an oral history repository.

Ten participating students enrolled for the 2023-2024 academic year in a research course led by Dr. Nadjah Ríos Villarini, where they are creating a digital project conceptualized by a community group. Throughout the academic year, students will meet with mentors and the UPR Caribe Digital team to design and develop a digital humanity project grounded in the mission and needs of the community organization they have been assigned. Students are working with community partners in San Juan and other vicinities. The students are currently working with the following community partners: Casa Pueblo (<https://casapueblo.org/>) in Adjuntas, ACirc (<https://en.acircpr.com/>) in Old San Juan, Andanza (<https://www.andanzapr.com/>) in Santurce, Cossao (<https://www.facebook.com/cossaooutuado/>) in Utuado, and Cabachuelas (<https://cabachuelas.org/>), a community organization from Bosque Modelo (<https://bosquemodelopr.org/>) in Morovis. Because students must visit community organizations regularly, the funding allocation was increased from \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 for this second cohort to cover per diems and transportation. Visiting these community projects is critical to develop engagement and social commitment among students, mentors, and community leaders.

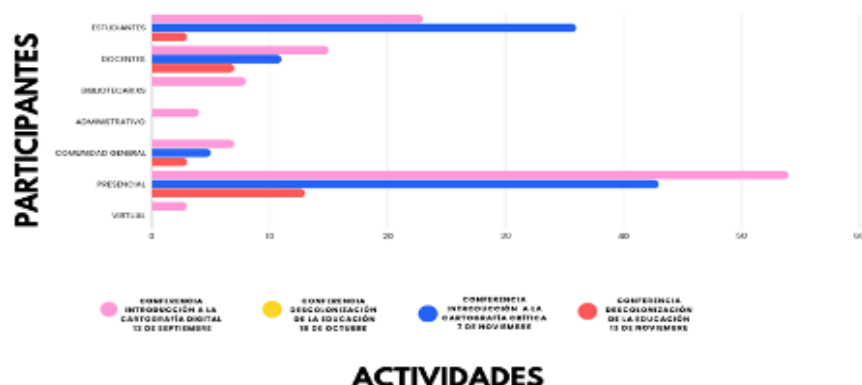
UPR Caribe Digital completed the first draft of the academic proposal for a minor in Digital Humanities (12 credits). The minor will be part of the academic offerings of the Intercultural Studies program at the College of Humanities. Given that several institutional actions are needed to approve the minor, we expect the new academic offering to be available and fully operational by January 2025. The minor includes three required courses and one elective course that students will select from a list of active undergraduate offerings in topics such as digital objects, digital culture, the concept of data, digital preservation, and data analysis. The three required courses will be divided into a) Theoretical Aspects of Digital Humanities; b) Action-based Research of Digital Humanities Projects in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and its diasporas; and c) Planning and Execution of a Digital Humanities project. The courses were already planned and designed as interdisciplinary experiences. The lead team is revising their intended learning outcomes, topics, contents, structures, and learning activities to address digital humanities scholarship.

Partners

- The team worked with two DH Fellows, Mila Aponte Gonzalez and Rafael Capó García.
- Victor Torres Rodríguez continued his role as the team's Instructional Designer.
- Anaís Morales Díaz and Maria Cristina Ríos Pérez worked as research assistants and managed all UPR team social media accounts.
- The team started working with the Center for Academic Excellence at UPR-Rio Piedras.
- This year's community partners included Taller Comunidad La Goyco, Fundación Juan Mari Brás, Waves Ahead, Casa Pueblo, ACirc, Andanza, Cossao, and Bosque Modelo.

Outcomes and Beneficiaries

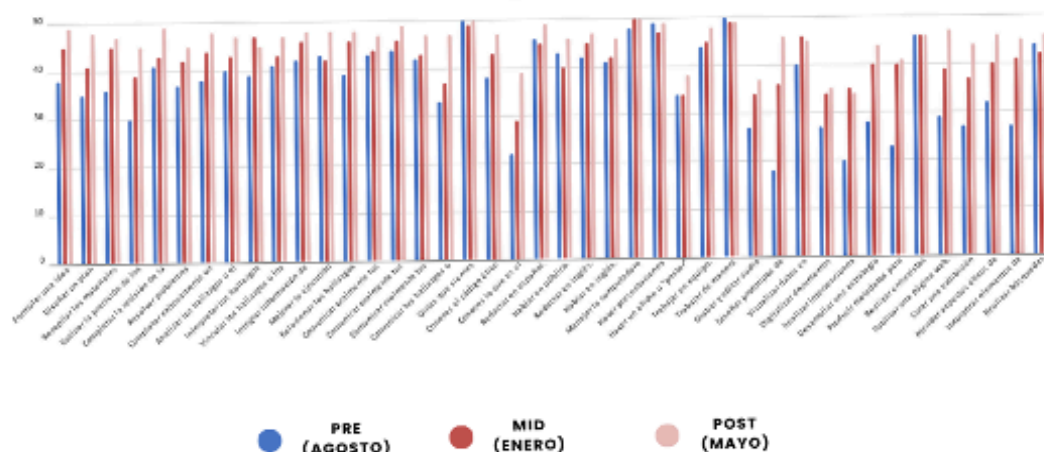
- The DH Fellow Lecture Series has become an important means of introducing the UPR community to general topics on digital humanities. The second DH Fellow, prof. Rafael Capó García, presented the lectures in Fall 2023. These lectures had sixty (60) in-person and fifteen (15) online participants per session, and as of March 2024, they have had one hundred and forty-nine (149) and one hundred and forty-three (143) views, respectively. The UPR team estimates that Prof. Aponte-Gonzalez's workshop series impacted more than one hundred (100) participants, including graduate and undergraduate students, community leaders, professors, teachers, archivists, and librarians from various campuses of our university system (UPR-Rio Piedras, UPR-Bayamón, UPR-Carolina, and UPR Medical Science Campus).



Graphic 9. Rate of participants for UPR Caribe Digital (in-person and online)

- The DH Scholars in Residence program has become a meaningful way to introduce students and community organizations to digital humanities tools and design projects tailored to their needs. This has proven to be a successful way to create a means to teach the local histories of communities in Puerto Rico. The first cohort of students and mentors who participated in the first DH Scholars in Residence presented their final digital project in several activities in Puerto Rico, some of them organized by the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, and others in international events. The projects were featured in interviews and academic journals. Some participants also benefited from showcasing their projects at The Caribbean Digital X Conference in New Haven, CT. Their projects are available on the UPR Caribe Digital site (<https://bit.ly/3uW4q3G>).
- In Fall 2023, the 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 management of computer equipment, data collection and analysis, teamwork, project execution, and prototype design (see Graphic 8).



Graphic 10. DH Scholars in residence. Students self-assessment, Fall 2023.

- The UPR Caribe Digital is developing a comprehensive website to feature all the resources and projects created throughout the grant to expand knowledge for Spanish-speaking audiences. In addition to the modules and quick guides to several tools designed by Prof. Aponte-González and Victor Torres Rodríguez, Instructional Designer. UPR Caribe Digital has published two DH products to support the development of academic discussions and projects. The first is the DH bibliography (<https://bit.ly/4cyCeEU>) created by graduate student Adriana Morales-Díaz, which provides references on topics such as Archives and Collective Memory, Information Architecture, Minimal Computing, Digital Curation, Inclusion and Gender, Metadata, Digital Cultural Practices, Critical Digital Pedagogies, Digital Preservation, Information and Communication Technologies, Theorizations on Digital Cultural Heritage, among others. The second is the DH glossary (<https://bit.ly/43wv003>), conceptualized and created by Mila Aponte Gonzalez and graduate student Stephanie Santiago-Díaz. The glossary includes definitions, references, and a section on recommended sources to expand the user experience.
- UPR Caribe Digital launched its official website (uprcaribedigital.org) in November 2023. Since then, the website has had over a thousand page views (1875), four hundred and six-four (464) site sessions, and three hundred eighty-two (382) unique visits, with visitors from Puerto Rico, the USA, Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Portugal. They also launched a comprehensive social media marketing strategy with three social media accounts run by research assistants: Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. These accounts had a combined follower count of one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine (1,769) and an average weekly outreach of two thousand five hundred and thirteen (2,513).

Sustainability & Next Year's Plan

The goals of UPR Caribe Digital of creating and sustaining a comprehensive pedagogical program for Digital Humanities in Puerto Rico remain the same. The team has made changes within the functioning of their programming to maximize resources and outreach within their campus. In 2024, the team will move the project from CRiiAS to the Center of Academic Excellence (CEA), giving



much-needed administrative support, projection campus-wide, and a more extensive scope for action. The annual programming for the next reporting period will include activities led by the DH Fellows, educational programs for the DH Scholars in Residence, work with community partners, and implementation of the DH Minor. Overall, UPR Caribbean Digital has been a practical project that has generated a diverse, dynamic, and multigenerational community of practice. Participants remain connected to the project through conferences, workshops, and other opportunities.

A significant challenge for the UPR team has been achieving a stable administrative structure with part-time administrators. The additional compensation plan has yet to be functional for the program's needs since the eligible personnel pool is very limited. The team is identifying rollover money from the previous reporting period to create a full-time position for the remaining time of the grant execution.

In 2023, UPR Caribe Digital established 3 meaningful collaborations with academic projects in United States institutions funded by the Mellon Foundation: Archivo de Respuestas a Emergencias Michigan State University, Digital Preservation Outreach Education-Network, PRATT Institute School of Information and the High Impact Scholars Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin. The team also supports research initiatives related to digital preservation in cultural heritage institutions (GLAM) thanks to the collaboration established with the UPR-RP library system and Center of Academic Excellence. These initiatives have allowed them to expand their academic programming and work with renowned professors, scholars, and artists.