Abstract

Tell Me Where to Look: The Lost and Alienated Manuscripts of West Indian Writers
Kenneth Ramchand

Making Connections: Stories from the UWI St Augustine Literary Archives
Lorraine Nero

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus Libraries hold the papers of several outstanding Caribbean writers such as C.L.R. James, Derek Walcott, Sam Selvon, Eric Roach, Earl Lovelace, Ian McDonald and Monique Roffey. Using these archives – and with particular emphasis on the collections of Derek Walcott, and C.L.R. James –, the paper presents some of the connections which have been discerned among some Caribbean writers. It demonstrates the benefits of using literary archives to enhance discussions on issues surrounding Caribbean literature.

Private Notes Made Public: An Essay
Monique Roffey

Most professional writers of fiction or poetry produce many drafts of their work en route to the final published copy. This includes a broad spectrum of early writing in many different modes; these modes include doodles, pictures, quotes of found language and literature, jottings of ideas and scribbled notes in notebooks, also drafts of manuscripts, sub-edited drafts, copy-edits, bound proofs and many long letters of enquiry and advice between editor and writer, all written before the final piece of work emerges, ready. While many writers are aware of this intricate process, few are aware that this process is of any interest to anyone but themselves, or that there exists well curated repositories for this early writing. Most of this writing gets lost or haphazardly stored at the writer’s home, often it is kept, collecting dust, for no reason other than the writer is, for good reason, very attached to it. However, these early modes of writing are valuable, especially to literary scholars, mostly because they are so intimately integral to the creative process of making any work of literature. In the Caribbean, a new bid has been made by the University of the West Indies to encourage writers to save and deposit early modes of their literary work to the West Indiana Collection at the Alma Jordan library, St Augustine, Trinidad. Having recently done so, in April 2014, this essay aims to explain how and why I came to collect my papers over the last ten years of my writing life, as well detail the process of making this transfer from London to Trinidad.

The Bibliographical Collections and Archives of the Fundación Alejo Carpentier, Cuba
Armando Raggi Rodríguez and Rafael Rodríguez Beltrán, translated by Par Kumaraswami

This article outlines the objectives of the Fundación Alejo Carpentier in Havana, Cuba, which owns and coordinates an important collection. It details the published material (primary and secondary) relevant to Carpentier, as well as his personal library, containing his fascinating notes and observations. The article also describes his record and sheet music collections
which are invaluable for musicologist studies of Carpentier. The main part of the article outlines in detail the composition and organisation of the manuscript collection which is notable not only for the family documents it contains but also for Carpentier’s handwritten manuscripts and personal and professional correspondence.

Placing Césaire: Some Considerations on Cartography and Enumerative Bibliographies
Alex Gil

This article examines the burgeoning genre of geo-bibliography as a form blending enumerative bibliography and digital cartography, and its particular use for understanding the body of work written about Aimé Césaire. The article begins by framing the question in terms of the fate of enumerative bibliographies after the rise of databases and advanced search mechanisms, and the concomitant infrastructural changes in the academy and private sector. Following the opening frame, the article revisits the history of this particular genre by focusing on its development around the bibliographic management software, Zotero. Finally, the article returns to the reception history of Aimé Césaire with a reading of two maps generated from a large bibliographic collection of his secondary sources. The running thread throughout the article is the oscillation between interface and analysis that characterizes geo-bibliographies and other forms of contemporary bibliographic visualizations.

Writing the Haitian Earthquake and Creating Archives
Rachel Douglas

Based on manuscript and rewritten versions of literary texts, the article asks how the thematics and representational forms of Haitian writing developed in the wake of 12 January 2010. It uncovers a tendency among writers to create a unique “aura” of archival documents in the very form of their books themselves. By examining how writers document the developing moment of the quake, the article shows that representation is wrested away from sensationalist media reporting about Haiti, transforming conventional modes of representation. Analysed here are the new narratives of Haiti created by these writers and their readers who reassemble multiple fragments.

Naipaul’s Letters Between a Father and Son (and Mother and Sister)
Nicholas Laughlin

The 1999 publication of Letters Between a Father and Son opened the archive of V.S. Naipaul’s early family correspondence to scholars and readers. The book’s complicated history — which includes two editors, a defective transcription, and a revised, expanded edition subsequently withdrawn by the publisher — offers a telling case study in the opportunities and dangers of publishing a literary archive. It may also illuminate the often concealed motives of inclusion and exclusion by which the archive helps shape an author’s public persona; and, vice versa, the ways an author’s sense of identity shapes his official archive.
“Refashioning Caribbean Literary Pedagogy in the Digital Age”
Leah Rosenberg

Digital technology has made the early twenty-first century a critical moment of opportunity and responsibility for scholars of Caribbean literature. On the one hand, digital archives and digital humanities are expanding the body of Caribbean literature in paradigm-shifting ways. On the other hand, the Anglo-American dominance of the internet and Digital Humanities has marginalized Caribbean literature and threatens its ability to endure. This article describes how one group of scholars, librarians, and students worked with the Digital Library of the Caribbean (www.dloc.com) to design a course that addresses this challenge and invites scholars to contribute to an open-access teaching and research commons to sustain Caribbean literature.

Of Libraries, Anniversaries and Archives: A Grenada Library Story
Merle Collins