

# LIBRARIES AS DIGITAL SCHOLARLY PUBLISHERS: CURATING CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

Perry Collins (with Marta Fernández  
Campa, Alison Donnell, Ivette  
Rodriguez, and Robert Vives)

University of Florida/dLOC





# Caribbean Literary Heritage

Defining the project



## Recovering the past and safeguarding the future...

By fostering conversations between academics, authors and archivists we have been working to increase awareness about lesser-known or overlooked aspects of the Caribbean's rich literary history. Through interviews, case studies, research on forgotten figures, maps of literary archives and commissions for new writing inspired by the archives, we are hoping to bring forward a fuller



# Project overview

## Aims and goals

- » Focus (but not exclusively) on Anglophone Caribbean and Diaspora literature
- » Promoting awareness of often-neglected or lesser known authors of the 20th century and beyond
- » Encouraging today's writers to recognize the value of their own author archives

## Who's involved?

- » Project led by Alison Donnell (University of East Anglia) with major grant from Leverhulme Trust
- » Large, collaborative, international team of scholars, students, writers, and librarians
- » At UF, included librarians affiliated with dLOC and graduate students



# Library as Publisher

Drawing on our strengths to  
collaborate

# Building on past work

Experimenting with library support for digital publications

» Grant will conclude in 2022, so one goal was to have a **stable, attractive website** with minimal maintenance and lots of different content. How could we bring together so many deliverables?

» **Authors A-Z** delves into the work of forgotten or lesser known writers through short bios. How could we add value to this feature and highlight related online resources to engage readers?

» **Caribbean Authors' Papers** is a starting point for locating manuscripts, correspondence, etc. across international collections. How could we turn a spreadsheet into a navigable data source?

# Sharing in abundance

## Project highlights

Forgotten authors A-Z

Writer interviews

Archive your work

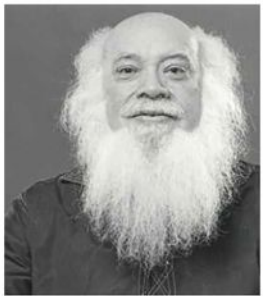
Find author papers

Thematic timelines

Aims & partners

Project blog

## From the blog



## Caribbean Authors' Papers

Search for an author or browse collections across the Caribbean, North America, and Europe.



[Browse author papers](#)

Caribbean Literary Heritage is a project funded by the Leverhulme Trust that promotes literary and archival preservation in the Caribbean and the diaspora, as well as bridging connections between the literary past and present with an interest in exploring the new challenges and possibilities of born digital initiatives.

Tweets by @CaribLiteraryH

Caribbean Literary Heritage Retweeted  
Jacqueline Bishop @ja204  
Very much looking forward to this talk! Join us.



Apr 7, 2022

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

UEA  
University of East Anglia

LEVERHULME TRUST

LP UF LIBRARY PRESS UF  
AN IMPRINT OF UF PRESS AND  
GEORGE A. SMATHERS LIBRARIES  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

# Building on past work

Experimenting with library support for digital publications

- » Grant will conclude in 2022, so one goal was to have a **stable, attractive website** with minimal maintenance and lots of different content. How could we bring together so many deliverables?
- » **Authors A-Z** delves into the work of forgotten or lesser known writers through short bios. How could we add value to this feature and highlight related online resources to engage readers?
- » **Caribbean Authors' Papers** is a starting point for locating manuscripts, correspondence, etc. across international collections. How could we turn a spreadsheet into a navigable data source?



# Authors A-Z

## G is for Beryl Gilroy (1924–2001)

Although **Beryl Gilroy** is probably known to most readers of Caribbean literature for her fictional works published in the 1980s and 1990s, her commitment to writing and to Caribbean readers dates back to the 1960s and is also testimony to her life-long work as an educator. Born in Skeldon Village, Guyana, in 1924, Gilroy obtained a teaching diploma in Guyana before migrating to the United Kingdom in 1951, where she completed a degree in English and Psychology and later attained a doctorate in Counseling Psychology. Part of the Windrush generation, whose experiences are poignantly articulated in her writing, Gilroy initially struggled to find work on account of racism,

Gilroy's novels capture life in both the Caribbean and in Britain with a particular focus on the lives of black women, children and the elderly, as seen in first novels *Frangipani House* (1986) and *Boy-Sandwich* (1989) both published in the Heinemann Caribbean Writers series. In 1991, the novel *Stedman and Joanna: A Love in Bondage* and the poetry collection *Echoes and Voices* were published with Vantage. Her novels *In Praise of Love and Children* (1996), *Inkle and Yarico* (1996), *Gather the Faces* (1996), and *The Green Grass Tango* (2001) were published by Peepal Tree Press, together with her autobiographically-informed story collection, *Sunlight on Sweet*

## More about the author



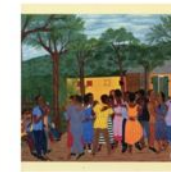
A podcast episode of *The Dead Ladies Show* dedicated to Gilroy's legacy.

[Learn more](#)



A *Guardian* review of the 2021 edition of Gilroy's 1976 memoir, *Black Teacher*.

[Learn more](#)



Peepal Tree Press offers a profile of Gilroy and selection of her books.

[Learn more](#)



An interview with Gilroy, by Sandra Courtman and Susheila Nasta, published in *Wasafiri*.

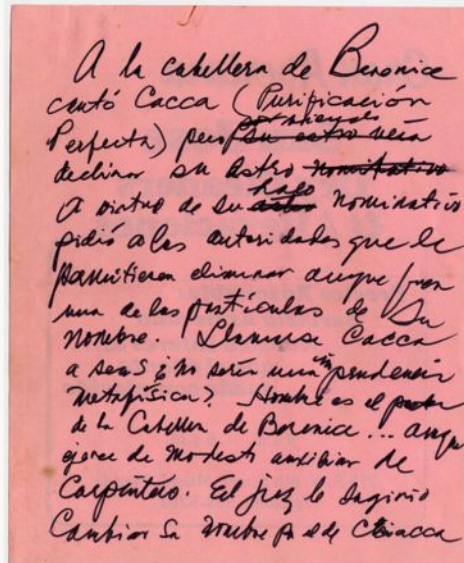
[Learn more](#)

# Building on past work

Experimenting with library support for digital publications

- » Grant will conclude in 2022, so one goal was to have a **stable, attractive website** with minimal maintenance and lots of different content. How could we bring together so many deliverables?
- » **Authors A-Z** delves into the work of forgotten or lesser known writers through short bios. How could we add value to this feature and highlight related online resources to engage readers?
- » **Caribbean Authors' Papers** is a starting point for locating manuscripts, correspondence, etc. across international collections. How could we turn a spreadsheet into a navigable data source?

# Finding Authors' Papers



## Caribbean Authors' Papers

This resource has been created as an open-access search tool to facilitate access to and awareness of the many literary archives of Caribbean writers that can be found in repositories (archives, libraries and institutes) across the Caribbean, US, UK, and other locations.

### Available papers

[Browse by author](#)

[Browse by collecting institution](#)

[Browse all papers](#)

### About the project

The research for the creation of this location register was funded by the Leverhulme Trust as part of the work of the [Caribbean Literary Heritage](#) research project. It is fittingly hosted by the [Digital Library of the Caribbean](#), the home to Caribbean digital scholarship and

## The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus. Sidney Martin Library, Special Collections

Item

Institution or collection name The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus. Sidney Martin Library, Special Collections

Location [Sidney Martin Library, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados](#)

[Barbados](#)

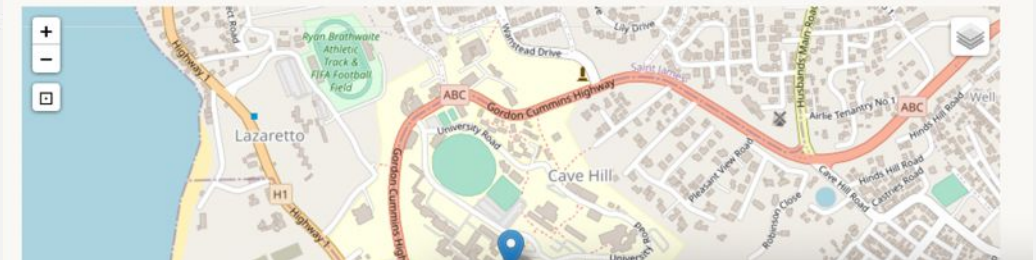
Website <https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/mainlibrary/search/special-collections/west-indian-collection.aspx>

Item sets [Collecting Institutions](#)

### Available papers

Title

[The George Lamming Collection](#)



# Reflections

## Recommendations

- » Building trust means acknowledging everyone's expertise
- » Start as early as possible to strategize, even if library won't join until later
- » Set parameters and document roles and responsibilities
- » Including students often means taking extra time, but can enrich the project

## Next steps

- » External review, feedback, and revision
- » Continuing outreach to researcher, writer, and student audiences
- » Documenting plan for long-term preserving and archiving
- » Building on this case study for current dLOC grant



**Caribbean  
Literary  
Heritage**



**dLOC**  
DIGITAL LIBRARY OF THE CARIBBEAN



**LIBRARY PRESS @ UF**

**AN IMPRINT OF UF PRESS AND  
GEORGE A. SMATHERS LIBRARIES**

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

***Thank you!***

Perry Collins  
perrycollins@ufl.edu  
Twitter: @perrycollins  
caribbeanliteraryheritage.com

