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Caribbean Libraries and Social Justice: a Call for Action

> Dr. Margo Groenewoud University of Curaçao ACURIL Conference 6 June 2022



Digital Heritage and Social Justice

- UN 'Plan of action for people, planet and prosperity'
- commitment to equality and inclusion
- commitment to innovation



How does Digital Humanities fit



Moving Beyond borders

Digital heritage and digital humanities support moving beyond spatial, social, national, cultural, linguistic and institutional borders. As such, they help overcome challenges characteristic to the postcolonial Caribbean.

postcolonial Caribbean

- transnationality and migration
- pluriculturality > creole languages
- silences in the archives



Projects & Courses Tools & Topics Institute Reflections Contributors About

Migration, Mobility, Sustainability





ARCHIPELAGOS



Heritage preservation in ABC



Publications part of Traveling Caribbean Heritage (TCH) project, funded by NWO



and a second second

- transnational > context
 Kingdom of the Netherlands
- inter-islandic cooperation (shared language)
- heritage preservation policies differs per island
 - inwards vs outwards



protective vs development

upcoming article

Groenewoud, Margo. 'Digital Humanities, Social Justice and the Pluricultural Realities of Dutch Caribbean Heritage Archives', in *Cultural Heritage, Nation-building and Nation-branding: Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao in a Comparative Perspective* [Leiden University Press, in print, expected November 2022]

main repositories

Aruba

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Bonaire



Curacao

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Call for Action

Strengths:

- 1. island pride
- 2. small vs large
- 3. tradition of oral history

Needs:

- 1. participatory methods
 - community-based approach
 - public history
- 2. new pedagogy



regional analysis

- not a 'single roadmap' for success
- smart use of large and small initiatives
- community involvement is key
- new pedagogy is crucial







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