



# The MIGAN project

*an opportunity to link  
Caribbean archives on the Internet*

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- The MIGAN project - Caribbean network for a shared memory : a gateway to archival resources in the Caribbean that will federate the archival institutions and will allow distant research in the fonds of participating countries.
- MIGAN, a project of CARBICA, supported by the International Council on Archives, the European Union



## ➔ Context

- ➔ A Caribbean common history
- ➔ A historical heritage difficult to access

## ➔ Stakes

- ➔ The reinforcement of historical research
- ➔ An increasing public demand for history here and in the diaspora
- ➔ Archival institutions to be reinforced in their specific mission
- ➔ Insertion in the world wide trend of cultural digital content production



## ➤ Assessment

- A worldwide trend: online access to cultural heritage
  - Digital libraries: LoC, Gallica, Europeana...
  - European «national» initiatives: A2A
  - The former colonies and European countries : Awad, Mutual Cultural Heritage, Resgate...
- Since 2008, development of Caribbean digital libraries : DLoC, Manioc, Banque numérique des patrimoines martiniquais...
- CARBICA, a cooperation tool for archives in the Caribbean



## ➤ What makes MIGAN special

- Designed from a Caribbean point of view
  - MIGAN wants to link with other Caribbean initiatives and be in pace with Caribbean social demand and historical research
- Designed from an archivists' point of view
  - MIGAN should help archival institutions in their development scheme (particularly in capacity building)




## ➤ The Martinique example

# BN PM

Bienvenue sur la Banque Numérique du Patrimoine Martiniquais (BNPM).

À travers ce site, découvrez les documents d'archives mais aussi les traces laissées par les hommes au cours de l'histoire et qui sont aujourd'hui devenues des symboles de l'identité de l'île.

Explorez l'île






Découvrez des documents uniques

Photographies

(56 217)

Cliquez pour les visionner



TROUVER

•••••
OK

Créer un nouveau compte

Actualités

Titre de l'actualité

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

Lire la Suite

Titre de l'actualité

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Lire la Suite

LA BNPM
DÉCOUVRIR
RESSOURCES
ÉCHANGER
MON ESPACE



- Scope and content ?
- Overview of Caribbean archives centers, particularly national and local institutions: the Directory
- Sharing, via a common search engine, of the general lists of funds and collections
- Special attention on thematic entries, documenting the particularities and shared history of the Caribbean: slavery, migration, sugar industry, colonial regimes, family history...
- A training programme to sustain the webportal : best practices in archives



- Expected outcomes
  - The online directory
    - At least 30 descriptions of archival repositories
  - The search engine on collections
    - At least 7 general lists
    - At least 3 detailed finding aids per institution
- Capacity building : a full training programme on ICT for archivists
- The digitization programme on Caribbean thematic collections



- Risks and constraints at Caribbean level?
  - The issue of geographical fragmentation
  - The issue of multilingualism
  - The cost of digitization
  - The maintenance of equipment and website
  - Priority on material conservation before online access?



## ➤ How ?

- A methodology respecting the specific cultural heritage policies of each participant:
  - St Kitts as well as Trinidad: technical support and equipment adapted to each needs
- A governance model based on:
  - sharing of skills and competences,
  - contribution of each participants towards a consortium
- A strong link with other initiatives (Mutual Cultural Heritage, BNPM, Strabon, Manioc, DLoC)
- Technology based on opensource and open access :  
Implementation of ICA-AtoM,



- How would ACH benefit from MIGAN?
  - A tool for research
  - Better access to archival material for more comparative studies
  - A home for backpapers of the conferences?
  
- How would MIGAN benefit from ACH?
  - A community to help develop the programme
  - Contribution to thematic presentations for the wider public
  - Historians to advocate for archives
  - Network to identify private or endangered archives



## Conclusion

- Key for success: an active participation of the members
- Support from the community of historians, ICA, Caribbean governments, and from international cooperation organizations (ACS, Interreg)



Thank you for your attention  
and for your comments

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