Expanding digital access to literature by Black Canadians

Chad Crichton, Benjamin Walsh, Jeff Newman, Eva Jurczyk

Background

Making a Case for the Black Digital Humanities (2016)

- The printed word is no longer the primary medium of knowledge production or distribution
- Digital tools increasingly used to study human culture and society require rich digital collections
- In the United States [and Canada], Black writing is underrepresented in digital collections
- The digital humanities are unable to equitably serve Black studies or interpret Black experience

This project is grounded in the writing of Kim Gallon, Associate Professor of History at Purdue University. She argues that "…the project of recovering lost historical and literary texts should be foundational to the black digital humanities."

"Technology of recovery"

"Recovery rests at the heart of Black studies, as a scholarly tradition that seeks to restore the humanity of black people lost and stolen through systemic global racialization."

2019 - Rinaldo Walcott published *The End of Diversity*

- "Make no mistake about it, current logics of antiracism, equity, and even social justice have as their other the Black subject. We never collectively benefit from their institutional performativity. The benefit is reserved for those closest to whiteness — white not only as phenotype but as an instituted antiblackness and thus white supremacist logics (Walcott 2019:402)"

2019 - Rinaldo Walcott published *The End of Diversity*

- "Those [EDI] movements have been incorporated into the existing logics and structures of late modernist capitalism, reaping benefits for only a few but producing the assumptive logic that such benefits, recognition, rights, and so on are extendable to all." (Walcott 2019:401)
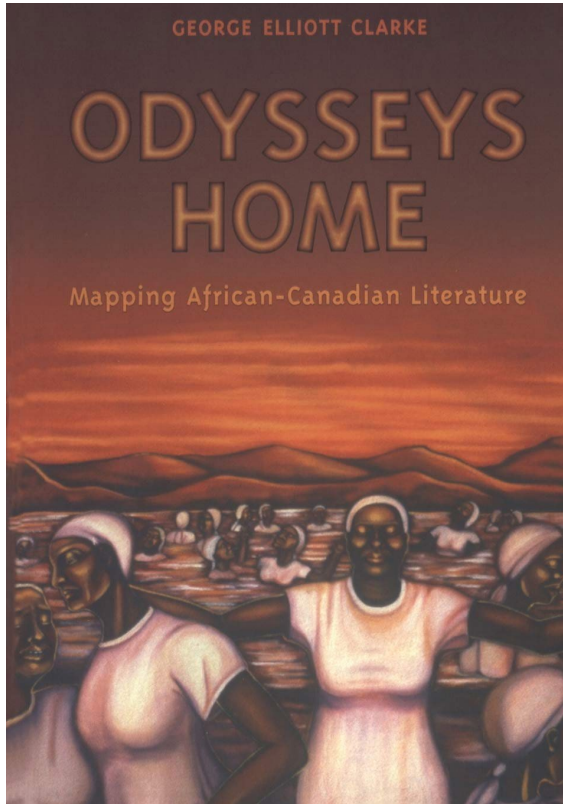
Our activities

Our starting point

GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE

ODYSSEYS HOME

Mapping African-Canadian Literature

A foundational bibliography:

"Africana Canadiana: A Select Bibliography of Literature by African-Canadian Authors, 1785–2001, in English, French, and Translation" in
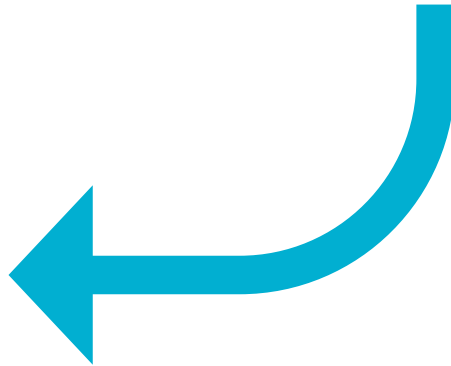
George Elliott Clarke

The role of Zotero

- OCR'd + clean up text of Odyssey's *home*

- Ran text through anystyle.io to convert references into structured .RIS file that could be imported into Zotero

- Once in Zotero we conducted a holdings analysis

  - Stats
    - 2113 entries
    - 900 owned by UTL in print
    - 132 owned electronically
    - 7 owned in microprint

Scholars Portal hosting

Identified publishers that appeared frequently in the bibliography but did not have commercially available ebooks

Digitized from print copies or purchased PDFs. Improved file accessibility, created metadata, and sent to Scholars Portal for upload

Other interested institutions in Canada can license this material from the publishers and receive access via Scholars Portal

Open Access

Where publishers were willing, licensed the materials to be distributed under a CC-BY-NC 4.0 via Scholars Portal

UofT paid an elevated price per title to make materials immediately Open Access, and Scholars Portal facilitates this access

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Elias Nassief: Triumph Over Tragedy

Andre, Irving W.
Pont Casse Press, 2012

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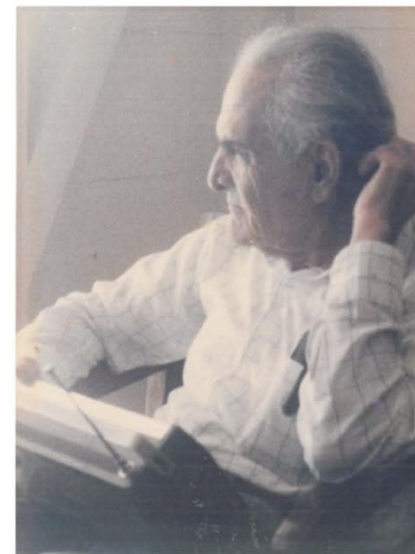
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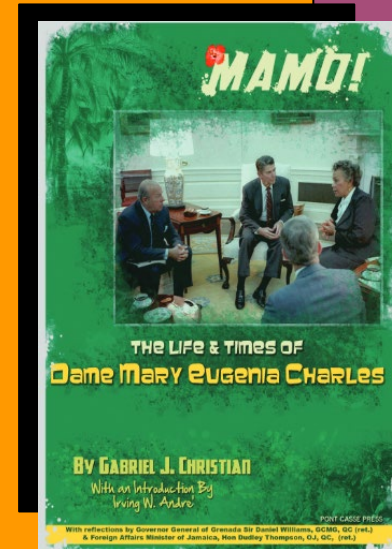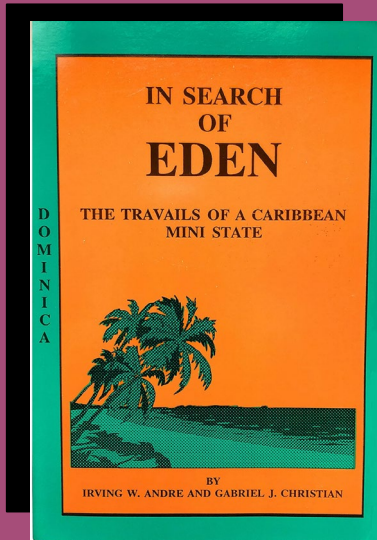
ELIAS   NASSIEF

Triumph Over Tragedy

BY: DR. IRVING ANDRÉ

What does the collection include?

First agreement
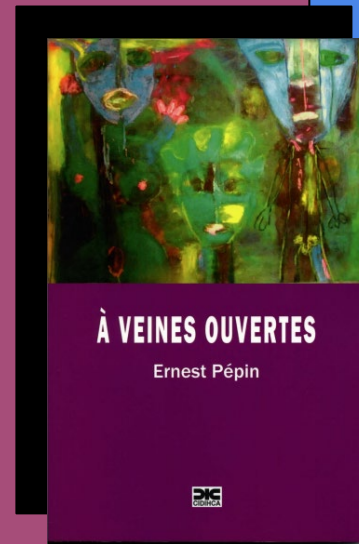
IN SEARCH OF EDEN — THE TRAVAILS OF A CARIBBEAN MINI STATE — DOMINICA — BY IRVING W. ANDRE AND GABRIEL J. CHRISTIAN

Rain on a Tin Roof — GABRIEL J. CHRISTIAN

MAMO! — THE LIFE & TIMES OF Dame Mary Eugenia Charles — BY GABRIEL J. CHRISTIAN

Largest agreement

UNE BRÈVE HISTOIRE DES COMMUNAUTÉS NOIRES DU CANADA

FRANTZ VOLTAIRE

CIDIHCA

MICHÈLE VOLTAIRE MARCELIN

La Désenchantée

CIDIHCA

À VEINES OUVERTES

Ernest Pépin

CIDIHCA
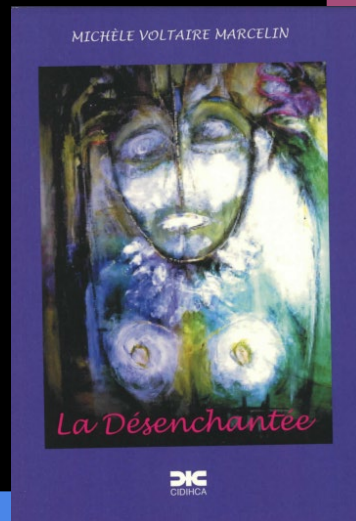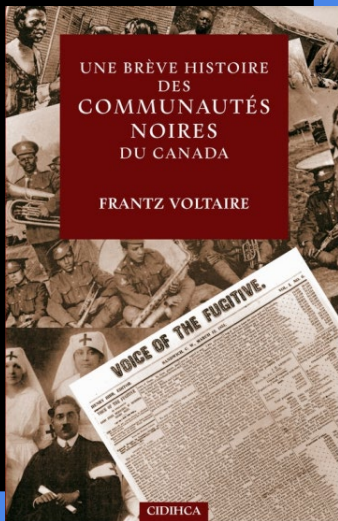
Commercially available ebooks

Mawenzi House

Kwame Dawes **Duppy Conqueror**

New and Selected Poems

Edited by Matthew Shenoda

La dot de Sara

Marie-Célie Agnant

les éditions du remue-ménage

MÉMOIRE D'ENCRIER

Yvonne Vera

NEHANDA

a novel

INTRODUCTION BY
M G VASSANJI
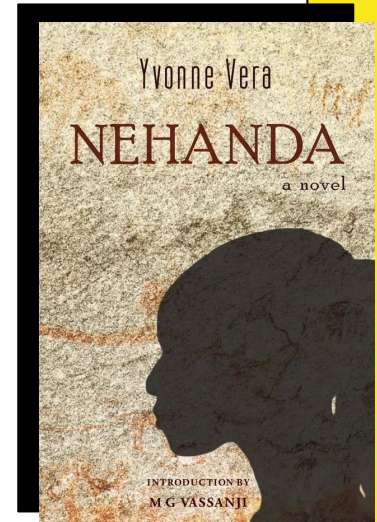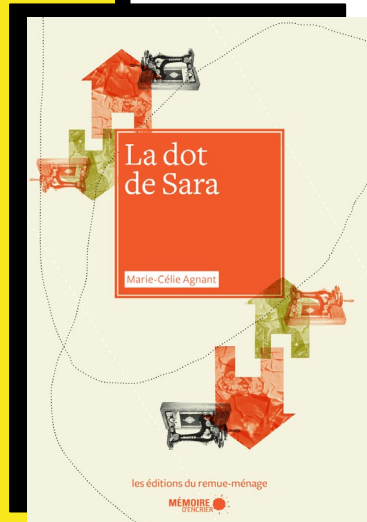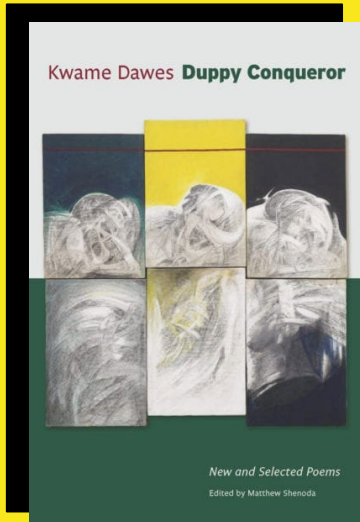
Other new relationships

Spolrusie publishing

Dubbin Monodrama Anthology I
Black Masculinities in African Diaspora Theatre

Edited by d'bi.young anitafrika and Christopher Oliver

OCHUN
WATAH ANTHOLOGY OF POETRY
• BOOK I •

EDITED BY KANWAL RAHIM
FOREWARD BY D'BI.YOUNG ANITAFRIKA

Wormhole
(and other stories)

Alexandra Sproule
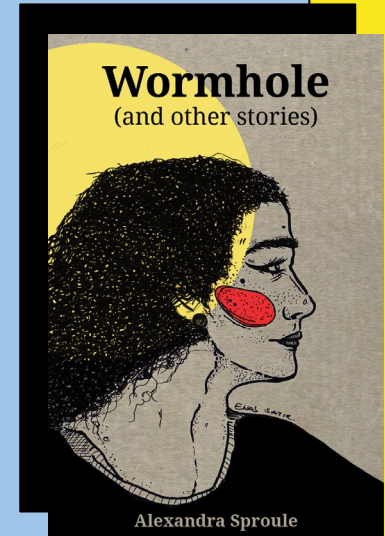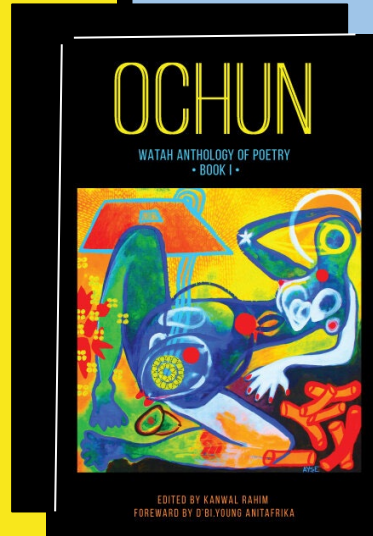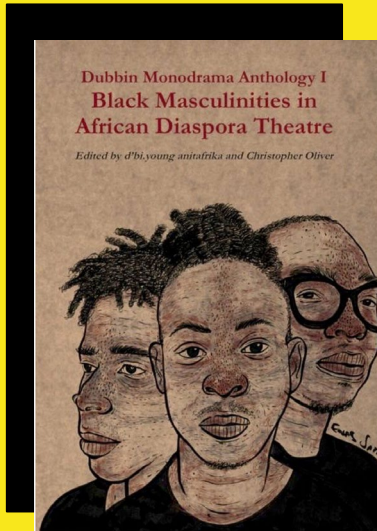
Expenditures to date

Expense	Cost to date
SLA OR GSLA - 267 hours at 27.32 and 4% vacation pay	$7,586.22 (12,785.76 requested)
Backfill of commercially available ebooks 100 titles at $120 per title (estimated) and HST 13%	$9349.83 (13,560 requested)
Acquisition of small press backfiles – Pont Casse and CIDHICA 200 titles @ $ 72.00 per title (estimated) and HST 13%	$13967.73 (16,272 requested)
Total	$30,903.75

Questions?

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