

# Expanding digital access to literature by Black Canadians

**Chad Crichton, Benjamin Walsh, Jeff Newman,  
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# Background

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## 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.”

Making a Case for the Black Digital Humanities (2016)

# “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.”

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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)

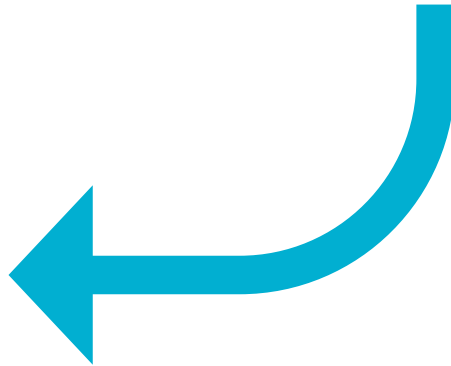
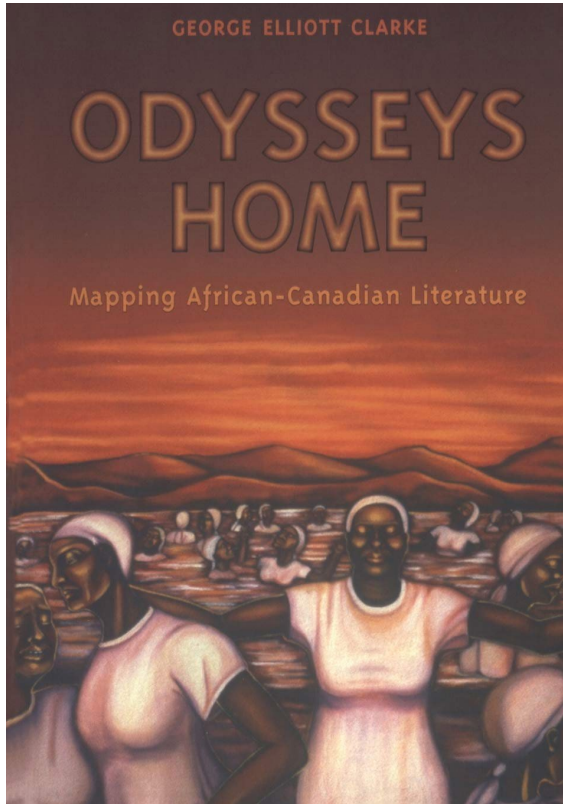
# Our activities

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## Our starting point

## 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

**AnyStyle**  
Parses academic references in no time!  
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Title	Creator	Date	Publisher	Publication
▶ Rhythm an' Hard Times	Allen	1982	Domestic Bliss	
▶ Ring Ding in a Tight Corner: A Case Study of Fund...	Ford-Smith	1989	Women's Program, ICAE	
▶ Riot	Moodie	1997	Sciocco	
▶ Riverlisp: Black Memories	Ward	1974	Tundra Books	
▶ Rivers and other blackness between us: (dub) poem...	D'bi.young	2015	Women's Press	
▶ Rivers Have Sources, Trees Have Roots	Brand and Bhaggiya	1986	Cross-Cultural Communicati...	
▶ Rocking in Paradise	Elliott and Riv-Ves	1984	Centaur Theatre Company	
▶ Root for the Ravens: Poems for Drum and Freedom	Roach	1977	NC Press	
▶ Roots an' Culture	Haughton	1983	Domestic Bliss	
▶ Roots, Resistance, and Redemption: The Rise of R...	Bryant	1997	African Story Press	
▶ Rouge cueillaison: Poemes	Suprice	2000	Humanitas	
▶ Rousseau, musicien des Lumieres	Dauphin	1992	Louise Courteau, editrice, inc	
▶ Rude: Contemporary Black Canadian Cultural Criti...	Walcott	2000	Insomniac Press	
▶ Running Risks	Issajenko	1990	Macmillan of Canada	
▶ sad dances in a field of white	Smith	1985	Is Five Press	
▶ Salmon Courage	Philip	1983	Williams-Wallace	
▶ Salwater Spirituals and Deeper Blues	Clarke	1983	Pottersfield Press	
▶ Sang de betes, Ventre d'hommes	Tardieu-Dehoux	1968	Lex Editions de Sainte-Marie	
▶ Sankofa	D'bi.young et al.	2015		
▶ Sans Souci and Other Stories	Brand	1988	Williams-Wallace	
▶ Sans souci and other stories	Brand	1998	Women's Press	
▶ Sapodilla: The Sister Vision Book of Lesbian Poetry	Silvera and Martin	1999	Sister Vision Press	
▶ sary of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Ab...	Goler			
▶ Savanes: Poeme	Rosiers and Joel	1993	Triptyque	
▶ Save the Last Dance for Me: And Other Stories	Carew	1976	Longman	
▶ Save the World for Me	Tynes	1991	NS Pottersfield	
▶ Scratching the Surface: Canadian Anti-Racist Feminist...	Robertson and Dua	1999	Women's Press	
▶ Sea Drums in My Blood	Carew	1981	Diego Martin	
▶ Searching for Safe Spaces: Afro-Caribbean Women ...	Chancy	1997	Temple University Press	
▶ Searching Soul Down Inns Southern Africa	Kwamdela	1998	Deep Roots Books	
▶ Seeing Ourselves: Exploring Race, Ethnicity and Cul...	James	1989	Instructional and Human Re...	
▶ Seek the Truth: A Story of Chatham's Black Comm...	Robertson and Robi...			
▶ Seek the Truth: A Story of Chatham's Black Comm...	Robinson and Robin...	1989		
▶ Seh Wah? Poetry in Jamaican Dialect (Patois)	Watkis	1990?		
▶ Select Bibliography of Literature by African-Cana...	Brathwaite			
▶ Selected Poems	Bennett	1982	Sangster's Book Stores	
▶ Selected Poems	Goodison	1992	University of Michigan Press	
▶ Selected Slips	Davis and Davis	1980	Williams-Wallace International	

Use my changes to train the parser!

CSL-JSON BibTex XML

- 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

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

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**Lundahl, Mats**

Éditions du CIDIHCA, 2018

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**Andre, Irving W.**

Pont Casse Press, 2012

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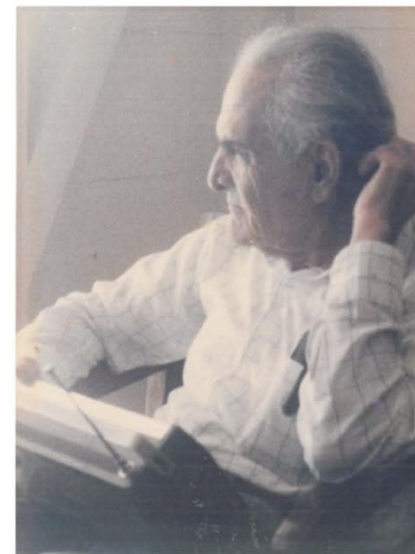
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## ELIAS NASSIEF

Triumph Over Tragedy



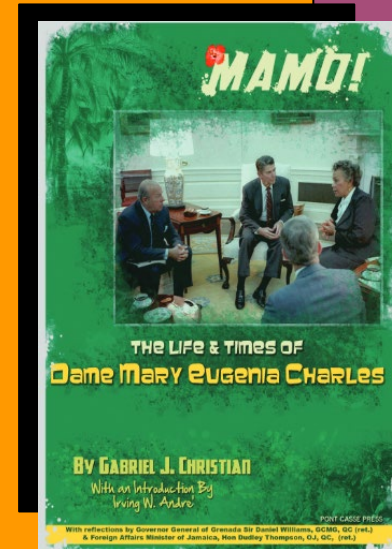
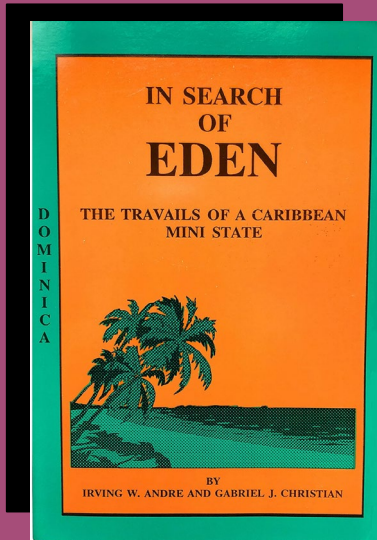
BY: DR. IRVING ANDRÉ

**What does the collection  
include?**

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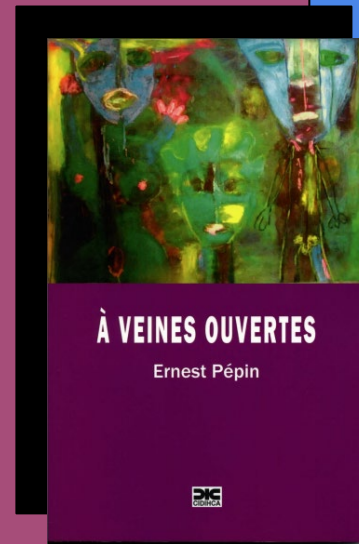
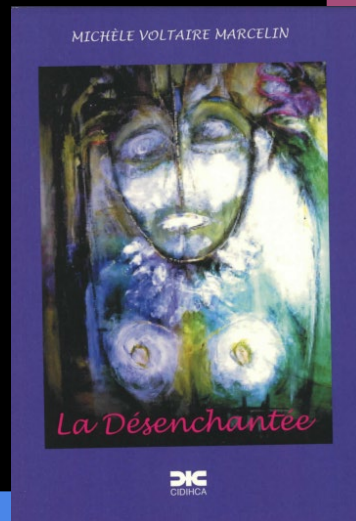
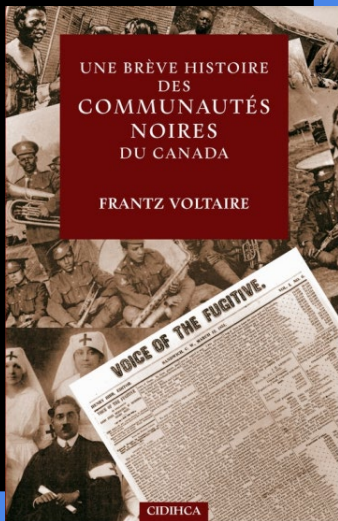
# First agreement

Pont Casse Press



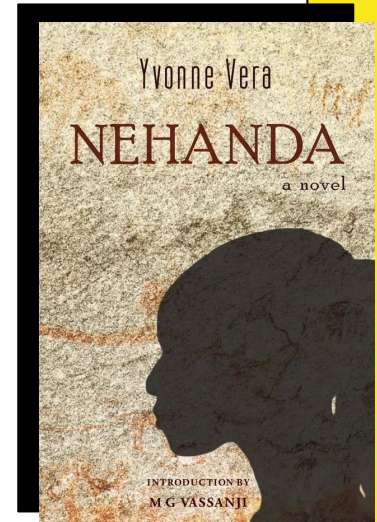
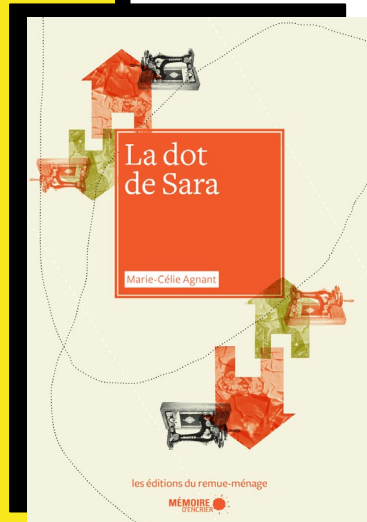
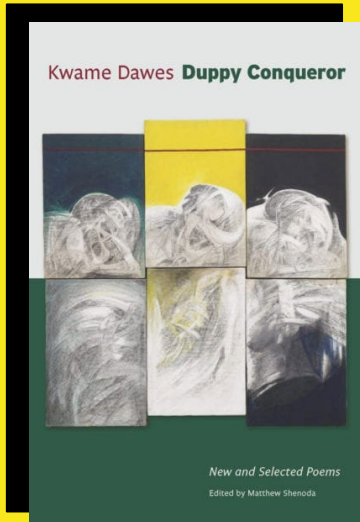
# Largest agreement

Editions du CIDIHCA



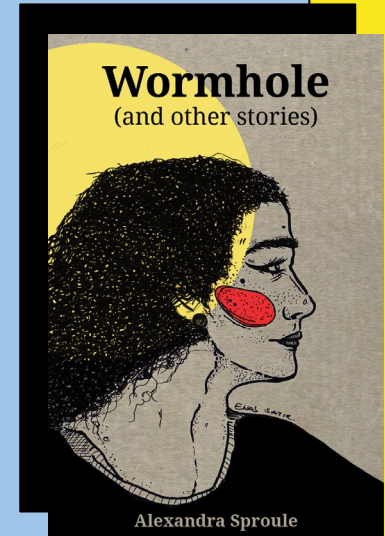
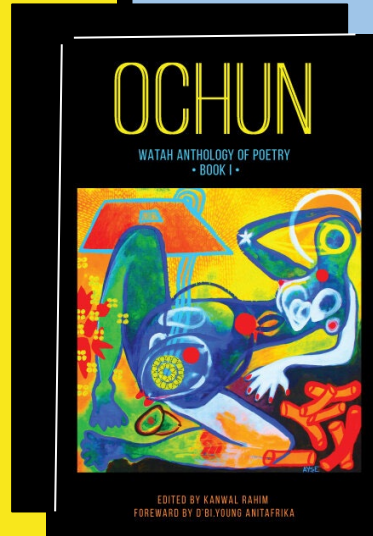
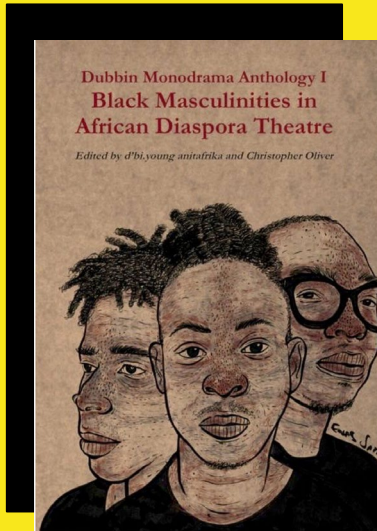
# Commercially available ebooks

Mawenzi House



# Other new relationships

## Spolrusie publishing





# 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 <u>ebooks</u> 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?**

**Project Team: Chad Crichton, Benjamin Walsh, Jeff Newman, Eva Jurczyk, Nelly Cancilla, Lo Humeniuk, Khaleel Grant**