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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean



CARIBBEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

- BACKGROUND

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PURPOSE

The Caribbean Documentation Centre began operation in January 1977 at the Economic Commission for Latin America, Office for the Caribbean, with the objective of supporting the development and co-operation activities of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee and promoting and facilitating optimum utilization of information resources available within and outside the Caribbean.

DOCUMENT COLLECTION

The documents held by the Centre reflect the subject areas of the CDCC work programme which are as follows:

- A. Technical co-operation among Caribbean countries:
 - * Co-operation in information
 - Development of a statistical data bank
 - * Elimination of language barriers
 - * Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
 - Caribbean Council for Social and Economic Development
 - Co-ordination in planning
- B. Agriculture
- C. Industry
- D. Social sector:
 - Social work programme
 - Socio-economic analysis and development planning
 - * Integration of women in development

N.B. Subject areas asterisked were designated priorities within the CDCC work programme at the third session of the CDCC held in Belize City, Belize, 12-18 April 1978.

- E. Public Health
- F. Education and culture:
 - * Caribbean enterprise for the production and distribution of printed and audio-visual materials
 - * Caribbean network of educational innovations for development
CARIFESTA
- G. Tourism
- H. Transport and communications:
 - * Maritime transport
Air transport
Postal services
Telecommunications
- I. Marine resources
- J. Coastal area development
- K. Regional co-operation:
 - Co-operation with SELA
- L. * International trade:
 - Caribbean Trade Information Centre
 - Review of world trade problems
- M. Natural disasters
- N. Energy and natural resources
- O. Statistical services and economic survey of Caribbean countries
- P. Co-operation in demographic analysis
- Q. Environmental management
- R. Transnational corporations

ACQUISITION POLICY

The acquisition policy of the Centre is geared towards the collection of:

1. General reference works, e.g. dictionaries: yearbooks.
2. Bibliographic/indexing tools, e.g. national bibliographies of Caribbean countries; abstracts and indexes; accession lists of libraries and documentation centres in the Caribbean and those abroad specializing in Caribbean and other development studies literature.
3. Monographs, e.g. conference papers; technical assistance reports; government documents.
4. Documents produced by the United Nations and some of its specialized agencies, as follows: - General Assembly - Official Records:
 - General Assembly - Documents
 - Economic and Social Council - Official Records
 - Economic and Social Council - Documents
 - Economic Commission for Latin America, Santiago (Headquarters) and Port-of-Spain (Regional Office)
 - Economic Commission for Europe
 - United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
 - United Nations University (UNU)
5. Serial publications and journals of Caribbean countries or relating to the Caribbean, and of regional and international organizations, e.g. CARICOM, IMF, World Bank.
6. Vertical file material: pamphlets and newspaper clippings from regional newspapers and the New York Times.
7. Professional literature journals, and monographs of interest to librarians and information scientists, including a collection of thesauri.

SERVICES

The Centre puts emphasis on provision of dissemination and referral services to ECLA staff and to planners, researchers and policy-makers in the region.

To facilitate this the Centre produces a monthly Current Awareness Bulletin which lists:

- recent accessions, arranged by the CDCC work programme areas listed above;
- recent documents prepared by the ECLA Office for the Caribbean;
- publishers addresses from whom the published items cited in the Bulletin can be obtained.

From time to time subject bibliographies concerning priority areas within the work programme are compiled. Those produced to date are: -

- Select Bibliography on Coastal Area Development and Environmental, Physical and Regional Planning in the Caribbean Region. October 1980. 9p. (CEPAL/CARIB 80/10)
- Select Bibliography on Energy. February 1981. iii, 18p. (CEPAL/CARIB 81/6)
- Grenada: a select bibliography. October 1981. iv, 37p. (CEPAL/CARIB 81/4)

Publications of the Centre may be obtained free of charge on application to the following address:

Caribbean Documentation Centre
United Nations Economic Commission
for Latin America
Office for the Caribbean
P.O. Box 1113
Port-of-Spain
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO Tel: 62-37308

The Centre is available for reference purposes and is located on the First Floor of Salvatori Building, Room 4, Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain. Documents can be lent to users through the library of their institution, government office, etc.