



## Finding and Promoting Caribbean Open Access Audio Books, and Especially Caribbean Children's Audio Books

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### **Abstract:**

This is a proposal for a facilitated discussion among attendees to discuss how libraries, archives, and museums are providing access to audio books, and specifically to children's audio books. This proposal stems from a conversation at the fall 2017 Caribbean Studies symposium, and conversations led by Oonya Kempadoo.

The amount of Open Access material has grown enormously, and perhaps most substantively in textual and visual materials. Caribbean cultural and research production spans all material types, and patrons from around the world are interested in Caribbean audio books. The opportunity for Open Access audio books is tremendous, for further opening access for visually impaired readers to hear books, for new readers like children to learn to read with stories told in Caribbean voices, and for children and families connected with and outside of the Caribbean to hear the voices of home. Importantly, as the research by children's literature experts like Summer Edwards has shown, children's book lack diverse representation. The need for more diverse children's books includes a critical need for more children's books from and about the Caribbean. The need for more books naturally also extends to the need for more children's audio books.

Digital library technologies support audio, text, visual, and other material types. This facilitated conversation will ask participants to:

- Share how their institutions are supporting and sharing Open Access audio books
- Share on Open Access Caribbean audio book resources that they use
- Share on if they know of any Open Access Caribbean audio book directories for finding more audio books
- Share on what is wanted and how they would contribute to a directory or other community resource for making Open Access Caribbean audio books more findable and accessible

- Share on ideas for fostering the creation and dissemination of more audio books, perhaps in collaboration with radio stations.

This workshop relates to the conference theme and subthemes: “Innovation and Trends” and “Policy, Strategy and Advocacy.”