

**Kaiama L. Glover**  
**Alex Gil**

This special issue is, ultimately, a love letter to librarians. Seven years into our archipelagos project, we pay tribute to those whose mandate has been to create possibilities for knowledge production — to build and render imminently accessible a historical record that serves the needs of researchers and educators working in the present. this issue is meant to make these phenomena explicit — to take a sweeping look at the “back-end” ...

how in putting together this special issue Perry and Hadassa have modeled the very “best practices” discussed by the various essays. the diversity of contributors — seniority, professional role, institutional affiliation, national origin, etc

navigating multiple players, multiple relationships, both within and beyond the academy; well aware of the breadth of audiences that are served by open access digital collections; putting these different entities into conversation in ways that are adamantly decolonial, committed to social justice, reflective of shared values across borders of nation and language — de facto modeling the role of our community's most dedicated and ethical librarians

## Kaiama L. Glover

Kaiama L. Glover is Associate Professor of French and Africana Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University. She is the author of *Haiti Unbound: A Spiralist Challenge to the Postcolonial Canon* (Liverpool UP 2010), first editor of *Marie Vieux Chauvet: Paradoxes of the Postcolonial Feminine* (Yale French Studies 2016), and translator of Frankétienne's *Ready to Burst* (Archipelago Books 2014). She has received awards and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Mellon Foundation, and the Fulbright Foundation. Current projects include forthcoming translations of Marie Vieux Chauvet's *Dance on the Volcano* (Archipelago Books) and René Depestre's *Hadriana in All My Dreams* (Akashic Books), and the multimedia platform *In the Same Boats: Toward an Afro-Atlantic Visual Cartography*.

## Alex Gil

Alex Gil is the Digital Scholarship Librarian at Columbia University Libraries. His research and practice focuses on digital humanities, epistemic design, minimal computing, and Caribbean literature. He is co-founder and moderator of Columbia's Group for Experimental Methods in Humanistic Research, and coordinator of the Butler Studio at Columbia University Libraries.