

## 2.4 Caribbean

### Technology and Caribbean Libraries and a Case Study of the University of the West Indies

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#### Historical Background

The wider Caribbean is generally known as the large group of islands of varying sizes bounded on the north by the southern coast of North America, on the east by the Gulf of Mexico, and on the south, by the northern coast of South America. The islands of the region are divided into three main groups – the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, and the Lesser Antilles. The Bahamas is a group of 700 islands north of the Caribbean Sea; the Greater Antilles include Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic); while the remaining islands, stretching from Puerto Rico to the coast of South America are known as the Lesser Antilles. These islands, tropical in climate, were first colonized by the Spanish in the late fifteenth century and then later by the French, Dutch, and the British. Discussion in this chapter will focus on the English-speaking islands.



Figure 1: Map of Caribbean<sup>1</sup>

1 Wikipedia 2012.