Who are our partners, and how do we foster these relationships?
The majority of our author-partners are UF affiliates seeking open access venues for interpretive projects that incorporate media and data. Nearly all recent projects encompass broader scholarly and community networks. For instance, while Migration, Mobility, Sustainability grew from a UF-hosted institute on Digital Caribbean Studies, the resulting work amplifies contributions from about 45 people at over 20 institutions. As the technical host for the Digital Library of the Caribbean, we see this work aligning with our mission to develop supportive infrastructure that empowers dLOC partners.

How have we defined the scope of our “publisher” role?
Like other library publishers, we have iteratively defined and redefined our team’s roles as editors and co-producers of digital publications. Our primary goal is not to build a project from the ground up or to commit to long-term development, but rather to add value to a discrete project through a “publishing layer” that will help it connect with its intended audience. Depending on partners’ expertise and available resources, this may include platform and accessibility training, copyright analysis, proofreading, peer review, data tidying, content ingest, and limited web and graphic design.

How are we addressing sustainability and stewardship?
We have focused on three strategies to help strengthen our publications without extending beyond our capacity: (1) Committing in our author contract to sustaining publications in current or comparable forms for 5 years; (2) Relying on software “out-of-the-box,” with only very minimal support for CSS, graphic design, or plugins; and (3) Planning upfront for an archiving or sunsetting strategy (e.g., annual web archiving and data deposit in appropriate repository). Professional development is key to our stewardship role, and we have found paid support for graduate students to contribute to nearly all of these publications.