



Latin Americanist
Research Resources
Project
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Spring 2006
Number 6

Global Resources

A newsletter of the Global Resources Network
an initiative of



The Center
for Research
Libraries

AAU

The Association
of American
Universities



The Association
of Research
Libraries

Director's Message

The Global Resources Network has entered into its operational phase within the Center for Research Libraries. Since January 1, CRL has ramped up its capabilities to administer GRN activities and coordinate efforts with other activities such as at the [Area Studies Microform Projects](#), the [International Coalition on Newspapers](#), and other cooperative projects focused on broadening access to international resources.

On the administrative side, CRL has assumed responsibility for the GRN Web site. The new pages have been brought over to the Center and can be found via the GRN home page: <http://www.crl.edu/grn/index.asp>. Pages referencing the GRN are kindly asked to change their links.

We are pleased to announce that Elizabeth Darocha Berenz has been appointed Project Coordinator for the Global Resources and Area Studies projects of the Center for Research Libraries. In this role, she will work with the GRN director to provide support and direction for the GRN projects and overall activities. Elizabeth has been working closely with the GRN projects since November 2004.

On the programmatic front, CRL and the Global Resources Network convened a two-day workshop in February in cooperation with the Library of Congress and funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The workshop brought together the various Chairs of the Area Studies and Global Resources projects based at the Center to meet with division directors and senior Area Studies acquisition specialists at the Library of Congress to focus attention on the current and evolving models for acquiring, preserving, and disseminating source materials from emerging regions of the world. Presentations featured a variety of perspectives and innovative approaches undertaken by the Library of Congress, CRL and its sponsored projects, and a number of affiliated or external efforts.

The intent of the workshop was to identify a set of recommendations for improvements and enhancements to the international resources programs of CRL and its partners, and for linkages between and among those programs. The thoughtful and provocative discussion brought to light a number of consensus items relating to current challenges, recommended approaches, and desirable characteristics of GRN projects. Outcomes of the conference will be published shortly via the Web site, located at: <http://www.crl.edu/grn/workshop.asp>.

The main thrust of activity under the GRN continues to be the individual projects. This issue focuses on recent outcomes and successes of the [Latin Americanist Research Resources Project \(LARRP\)](#). The other veteran projects of the GRN continue to excel in their pursuits, and a variety of new initiatives are in varying states of development. As reported in the last issue of

continued on next page

Global Resources, the [German-North American Resources Partnership](#) recently concluded its negotiations for access to the DigiZeitschriften, the “German JSTOR.” More than 15 institutions now have access to this trove through their campus electronic resources.

The newest project under GRN auspices is the [Collaborative Initiative for French and North American Libraries](#). While still early in its formative stages, CIFNAL has already burst forward with several projects under development. The most promising to date is the work on the *Bibliothèque bleue* project. CIFNAL is collaborating with the Médiathèque de l’agglomération troyenne (MAT) and the Project for American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language (ARTFL) to add text-searching and analysis capabilities to its collection of the *Bibliothèque bleue de Troyes* manuscripts scanned by MAT. Full details of the project will be highlighted in a future issue of *Global Resources*.

And, in an example of a project growing beyond its original charge, the Japan Project announced in January that the [Global ILL Framework \(GIF\)](#) project has grown to a state in which it no longer requires the oversight of the Japan Project. Originally incubated under GRN funding, the GIF Project is a reciprocal agreement between North American and Japanese academic libraries and research institutes to provide North American researchers with access to materials not available through normal ILL channels such as OCLC and RLG Shares and Japanese researchers to materials not held in Japan. GIF now operates independently under the guidance of the Japan’s GIF working group and the North American Coordinating Council (NCC) on Japanese Library Resources’ ILL/DD Committee. As such, it has “graduated” beyond the GRN framework and now stands as an independent activity. The NCC will continue to oversee the development of strategies for resources sharing, but will no longer do so under the rubric of the “Japan Project.”

Global Resources will be the subject of the upcoming CRL Council of Voting Members Annual Meeting on April 27–28, where we will be discussing in more detail the upcoming activities of the GRN. We invite your Council member to share his or her thoughts on CRL and GRN directions in the coming decade.

—James Simon
Director, Global Resources Network



Maps from *Royal Atlas*, 1861, courtesy David Rumsey maps at www.davidrumsey.org.

Message from the Chair

Scott Van Jacob

University of Notre Dame

Chair, LARRP Advisory Committee

The past few months have been very busy for the [Latin Americanist Research Resources Project \(LARRP\)](#). Besides preparing this issue of the newsletter, we exhibited at the [Latin American Studies Association](#) Congress and held our annual members meeting at the [Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials \(SALALM\)](#) meeting. Incidentally, both meetings were held in the Caribbean, providing those of us living up north with a few days of sun and sea.

The Latin American Studies Association Congress (LASA) is the largest meeting for Latin Americanists in the world. Held every 18 months, it is a gathering of over 4,000 scholars from a wide range of disciplines. Through the support of the Scholarly Research and Resources Section, librarians have gained a larger presence at the Congress. LARRP hosted a panel to update LASA members on its activities. This panel was sandwiched between two very informative panels also hosted by the Section where scholars and librarians talked about new digital and bibliographic projects, the use of library resources in the classroom, the difficulty of doing literary research in Cuba, and surveys of graduate students' awareness of online periodical indices.

The LARRP panel began with a review of a 1994 report that laid the foundation of the first Global Resources Network pilot projects, of which LARRP was a part. By and large, LARRP has met or exceeded most of the goals set out in that document. Mary Jo Zeter gave an overview of improvements with the [Latin American Periodicals Tables of Contents \(LAPTOC\)](#), while Kent Norsworthy talked about the [Latin American Open Archives Portal \(LAOAP\)](#) that will go live this spring. The panel finished with an overview of the recently posted Distributed Resources Project report. Since LASA has over 15 panels running concurrently, our task for LASA 2008 will be to find ways to utilize panels to connect with scholars. We might need to change our approach and embed LARRP participants into panels organized by other LASA sections or invite scholars to talk about using these resources, rather than have a single panel on LARRP.

For the first time at a LASA Congress the project had a booth in the exhibits area. Over two-and-one-half days, we spoke with some 60 scholars. We found that scholars from smaller institutions and from Latin American institutions were very pleased to know that they had access to free resources. We also received interest from individuals affiliated with Latin American institutions about participating in the Latin American Open Archives Portal. We plan to exhibit at LASA 2008 and are planning ways to attract more scholars to our booth in order to inform them about the resources we provide.

This year the LARRP participants who attended LASA island-hopped from Puerto Rico to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for the 51st meeting of SALALM. This annual meeting brings together Latin American Studies bibliographers for committee work and panel presentations/discussions. It also hosts the annual LARRP members meeting. At our two-and-one-half hour meeting we had a number of updates for the members, including:

- ❖ Overview of the project by Scott Van Jacob
- ❖ Update by James Simon on the transition of the Global Resources Network from the Association of Research Libraries to the Center for Research Libraries
- ❖ Update on the LAPTOC database by Mary Jo Zeter
- ❖ Update on the LAOAP Portal by David Block
- ❖ Review of the LARRP budget and the members fee.

We also considered two new activities for the project. First, the [Latin American Network Information Center \(LANIC\)](#) at the University of Texas, Austin, has created a Web site that provides access to born-digital Latin American official publications. Using the Heritrix Web

crawler created by the Internet Archive, LANIC harvests the content captured at Latin American national government Web sites. This information is then organized for scholarly use. LANIC has invited LARRP participants to review the harvested content in order to ensure they have captured the Latin American government publications they have targeted. Secondly, the membership agreed to investigate coordinating group purchases of expensive microfilm sets and databases. Hopefully, this “buying club” approach will lead to lower costs for members by working together.

Last but not least, Paul Losch of LARRP’s Serials Working Group gave a well-received presentation on LAPTOC during SALALM.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight two articles in this issue that I hope will become regular additions to the *Global Resources* Newsletter.

We believe that there have been many successes with the Distributed Resources Project (DRP). One way to let others know about these successes is for participants to write about them. Karen Lindvall-Larson presents her experience in collecting materials on Latin American elections at the University of California, San Diego and the role that the DRP played in this effort. This collection is rapidly becoming unique among North American libraries for its depth and breadth.

The second article brings the LAS scholar’s view of collections to the newsletter. Carmen Diana Deere (University of Florida) and Louis Pérez Jr. (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), both members of the LARRP Advisory Board, gave overviews of emerging disciplinary trends and collecting needs within Latin American Studies at the December 2005 board meeting. Those presentations have been summarized here in order to give LAS bibliographers needed information that will help with collecting efforts. Our challenge will then be to collect in these new areas of study and to address deficiencies identified by these scholars. ❖



Latin American Studies: Trends in the Field

This article was compiled from discussions at the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project's Advisory Committee meeting in December 2005.

The LARRP Advisory Committee met in Austin, Texas in December 2005 and, among other business, welcomed two established scholars to the committee: Louis A. Pérez, Jr. of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Carmen Diana Deere of the University of Florida. The participants asked for their observations and thoughts on emerging trends in the field that Latin American Studies bibliographers should carefully monitor.

Louis A. Pérez, Jr.

*J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor of History
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*

Pérez opened with a summary of the historiography of Latin American Studies, characterizing it over time as a progressive evolution from “modernization to dependency theory, to state formation, to nationalism, to identity, and to a new cultural history.” Today’s theories and trends in the field, he observed, will continue the progression and be replaced by tomorrow’s theories and methodologies.

He highlighted several significant subjects that should be collected within Latin American Studies, specifically citing gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexual identity studies. He identified environmental studies as an emerging field in Latin America, and a topic that continues to grow in importance as Hurricane Katrina brought to the surface social, cultural, economic, and racial inequalities that had previously been overlooked and understudied. Micro-studies of Latin America are increasing as a reaction to globalization, and micro-histories are also popular in the field. Counterfactual studies are a growing concern when used by scholars attempting to dismantle accepted political interpretations by positing alternatives to historical radical deviation.

Pérez recommended essays in the Fall 2005 issue of the *LASA Forum* that bring to our attention the term “interdisciplinarity.” This approach argues for disciplines to share and utilize one another’s methodologies in order to approach problems and issues that disciplines have not been able to adequately address with their own analytical and theoretical tools.

Pérez highlighted a number of research topics and themes that were presented to the American Council of Learned Societies review committee, including topics that offer shifting perspectives on gender studies and masculinity; intra-Caribbean migration; disease and illness; citizenship in Latin America; and rural education. For collection development considerations the perspective on such topics could emphasize materials with an impact on everyday life and people, and on “local materials” that stress neighborhoods, municipalities, and so on.

Carmen Diana Deere

*Director, Center for Latin American Studies and
Professor of Food and Resource Economics and Latin American Studies
University of Florida*

Carmen Diana Deere began her discussion by describing the 2006 *LASA* program as an indicator of current and emerging trends within Latin American Studies. The topics covered reflect issues that libraries will want to track and collect over the next five years. She focused on five topics that may present collection challenges for libraries.

First, the ongoing urbanization of Latin America and the impact on it of urban crime, violence, judicial reform, gangs, corruption, and police brutality. Deere views the mega-metropolis as a fact of life in many Latin American countries, and sees them as largely ungovernable due to their size, complexity, and rapidly changing nature. To facilitate research in these areas she suggests that librarians collect government documents issued by city governments, as well as studies on Latin American urbanization.

Related to governing Latin American cities are the Latin American criminal, civil, and commercial codes. Collection of these resources has been inconsistent, Deere observed, and stressed the importance for scholars to have access to recent codes (the 1990s and more recent), as well as the full historical record. She suggested that LARRP's member libraries consider intersecting with law libraries on collecting these sorts of materials, and speculated that LARRP institutions could benefit from similar intersections with law schools, business schools, and Latin American Studies programs. Deere's institution, the University of Florida, offers a joint program based on Juris Doctor and Latin American degrees.

A second topic of importance for collection professionals is the field of Latino Studies, and how it fits into Latin American studies. Latin American scholars are increasingly engaged in studies of Latin American migrants studies in the US. The publications from these studies may fall between Latino Studies and Latin American Studies, leaving them vulnerable to being overlooked and uncollected by libraries.

A third area of interest to Latin American scholars is the environmental sciences, a field that has grown and proliferated over the last 15–20 years. Materials relating to this field in Latin America have also been falling through the cracks, as responsibility for collecting these materials is unclear. Should these materials be acquired by the science or social sciences library?

A fourth topic of interest is the emerging study of masculinity in the field of gender studies. The concept of masculinity is receiving greater attention as seen by the number of LASA panels addressing this topic. Deere voiced concern that publications that take a broader view of gender may not be included on current collection development lists.

Deere concluded with an overview of Latin American tourism and how it is expanding into new markets to meet emerging demands. She specifically cited two tourism types that are experiencing growth in Latin America—architectural and ecological—and a third, sexual tourism, which intersects with child exploitation research. Heritage tourism, for Latinos and African Americans who return to the land of their ancestors, is also growing rapidly.

LARRP benefits from having two established scholars on the project's advisory committee. Louis A. Pérez, Jr. and Carmen Diana Deere have presented some of the challenges that will face Latin Americanist librarians over the next several years, as they seek to keep their libraries collections current with the changing scholarship of the field. ❖



Cooperative Collection Development: A Success Story

Karen Lindvall-Larson
Latin American Studies Librarian
University of California, San Diego

The election-related teaching and research interests of faculty members in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego, began to expand into Latin America in the mid-1990s. The difficulties I experienced in locating statistical information led me to pursue a research grant in 1997 to develop a “framework for a categorization of election statistics on Latin America.” I also began to actively search for any materials I could find on the topic. In 1998 I completed a Web-based guide to elections in El Salvador at the municipal, departmental, and national level since independence. I also began to speak with Dan Hazen, coordinator of LARRP’s cooperative collection-building component, about participating with a subject focus in what has come to be known as the Distributed Resources Project. In July 1999, Dan announced “newly strengthened coverage” for the Project with UCSD’s intention to “make every effort to collect all the information [Karen] can locate on elections in Mexico and Central America for all periods, regardless of imprint date.”

From the beginning of UCSD’s participation in the Distributed Resources Project I have focused on building a collection that pulls together unique materials to support the research activities not only of scholars at UCSD but also of those at other institutions participating in the Project. The great benefit of this cooperative effort is that it allows me to divert funds to building exceptional collection strength in Latin American elections, a major focus on my campus, because I know other participants in the Project will be building collections of mirrored strength at their institutions in subject areas that may not be a central focus at UCSD but that will be available to this campus’s scholars as needed. With this in mind I have been able to develop collections and support extensive blanket orders for materials on elections in Mexico and Central America that have brought us books, serials, government publications, videos, microform, campaign posters, election fliers, sample ballots, and even bumper stickers!

In the summer of 2005 I added the ninth country volume to my Web site on Latin American elections. While the first volume, on El Salvador, was less than eighty pages long, the volume on Nicaragua is over 400 pages. This reflects not only the huge increase in publishing on Latin American elections in the last ten years but also, as most of the materials cited are at UCSD, is a clear demonstration of the support we have received from “libreros” in our efforts to track down materials for the library collection. [Latin American Election Statistics: A Guide to Sources](#) averages over 6000 hits a month, provides access to the collections we have acquired in support of the Distributed Resources Project, and in turn has led to donations of additional materials from authors who have seen the Web site. The Latin American political campaign ephemera collection in UCSD’s Mandeville Special Collections Library contains over 300 pieces and continues to grow with each election. We have added a number of videos about elections in Latin America, all microfilm reels of the “Princeton University Latin American Pamphlet Collection” on politics, and, with the assistance of Fred Morgner of “Literatura de Vientos Tropicales,” we have added a collection of campaign posters from Nicaragua dating back to the 1984 election. A recent acquisition was the 112-reel collection “Civil war, society and political transition in Guatemala: the Guatemala News and Information Bureau Archive, 1963–2000,” which provides extensive information on elections.

OCLC’s WorldCat Collection Analysis has provided an exciting new tool for analyzing the strength of collections in specific call number areas. In the subdivision of political science labeled “Political institutions & public administration—Mexico. Central America,” UCSD has a total collection of 2859 individual titles classed together in the Library of Congress classification JL 1200-1659. Of these, 365 (12.77 percent) are held only at UCSD, with 874 titles (30.58 percent) held by five or fewer libraries. Looking specifically at titles added to a large extent since UCSD began participating in the Distributed Resources Project, there are 1486 cataloged titles

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in this subdivision published between 1995 and 2006, with 17.43 percent unique to UCSD and 40.24 percent held by five or fewer libraries. For titles added in the last six years, there are 743 titles published between 2000 and 2006, with 19.52 percent unique to UCSD and 42.53 percent held by five or fewer libraries. These statistics do not include the many titles added in the JS 2101-2219 classification on municipal elections in Mexico and Central America, the titles on electoral reform in the K classification, and the many country histories including information on elections in the F classification.

I have been involved in efforts to devise cooperative collection development schemes since my appointment as Latin American Studies Librarian at UCSD in April of 1975. LARRP's Distributed Resources Project has been a resounding success for UCSD's elections collections at the institutional, county, state, and national levels. Faculty members and graduate students are proud of the collections and make extensive use of them, including using them to recruit new faculty and students to the campus. We are able to share our collections with academic institutions in the county through the Circuit (San Diego Library Consortium), in California through Melvyl, and throughout the United States through WorldCat. At UCSD, the fact that we are developing the Mexican and Central American collections on elections in support of LARRP has given a special cachet to my requests for funding, for special processing, and for housing of materials in special collections. Key to this success is the acknowledgment that we are building a unique collection that supports not only the research needs of our own community, but also those of all researchers interested in Mexican and Central American elections. ❖



Latin American Library Partners, Part I

Gayle Williams

Librarian for Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies

Emory University

Director's Note: This is the first in a series of profiles intended to highlight the people, institutions, and contributing partners that make LARRP a dynamic and growing network with a shared vision and expanding array of services and resources.

The Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP) began in the mid-1990s as one of several projects using new technologies to enhance resource sharing of foreign research material. The initial LARRP membership consisted of U.S. academic libraries with sizable collections of Latin American imprints. Their willingness to experiment led to the creation of LAPTOC, the [Latin American Periodicals Tables of Contents](#). In the pilot phase of formation, LAPTOC brought in citations to more than 80,000 articles in over 400 scholarly journals from Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. While the latter three countries represent regions most heavily studied in Latin American Studies programs in American colleges and universities, LARRP participants also recognized the eventual need to expand the database to include representative journals from the remaining regions of Latin America.

LARRP received funding with the 2000–2002 U.S. Department of Education Title VI Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) grant that made it possible to expand LAPTOC under the grant's Latin American Partners portion. A part-time librarian was hired to identify potential library partners in Latin America and the Caribbean, and then eventually to make a site visit to provide training for inputting in LAPTOC. Grant funding provided financial incentives for chosen Latin American partner libraries who received a computer, printer, scanner, document delivery software, and payments for number of records input. By the grant's end, the seven partner libraries added 300 journals published in 27 Latin American and Caribbean nations. This original expansion was followed by U.S. member libraries also expanding journal coverage from these new countries so that today LAPTOC contains citations to over 300,000 articles from some 900 journals published in 29 countries. This article profiles the Latin American partner libraries since they may be less well known to Global Resources Network members outside of LARRP.

Universidad de Puerto Rico-Río Piedras Campus

The Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPR) at Río Piedras became one of LARRP's two partner libraries supplying Caribbean journals in languages other than English in 2001. UPR was founded in 1903. The Río Piedras campus remains the largest in a system of 11 campuses in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Student enrollment at UPR-Río Piedras is 17,702 undergraduates and 4,053 graduate students. Major programs include Hispanic Studies, History, Education, Psychology, and Physics/Chemistry.

The UPR-Río Piedras Library System (Sistema de Bibliotecas) holds 1,381,068 titles. The Regional Library for Caribbean and Latin American Studies (Biblioteca Regional del Caribe y de Estudios Latinoamericanos), the Puerto Rican, and Genaro Cautiño Collections are part of the library's branch libraries and special collections that collect Caribbean journals. The UPR-Río Piedras library offers interlibrary loan, microfilm collections, library instruction, and a computer lab for its users. Evangelina Pérez, MLS, is the Acting Director of the Library System and Almaluces Figueroa, Director of the Biblioteca Regional del Caribe y de Estudios Latinoamericanos, coordinates LAPTOC inputting. Dr. Víctor F. Torres Ortiz, Head of Collection Development, notes that their participation in LARRP and LAPTOC is important since "it has significantly increased our access to resources available in Spanish that deal with Latin America and the Caribbean. The language and geographic focus of LARRP is relevant to the needs of our students and researchers."

The University of the West Indies Library, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Library in St. Augustine, Trinidad, and Tobago focuses its LAPTOC inputting with English-language journals of the Caribbean. UWI-St. Augustine was created in 1960 to form a trio of campuses with the first founded in 1948 in Mona, Jamaica. The Cave Hill, Barbados campus was created in 1962. Today the UWI comprises the three main campuses: the Centre of Hotel and Tourism Management in the Bahamas, the Institute of Business at St. Augustine and Mona, as well as 11 non-campus centers situated in other Caribbean countries. The enrollment for the academic year 2003 to 2004 for St. Augustine was 6,480 undergraduate students and 2,184 graduate students.

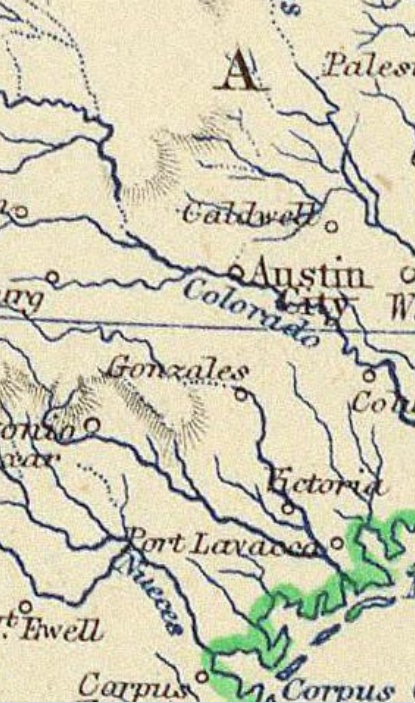
The UWI-St. Augustine Library contains some 400,000 volumes exclusive of the special collections. The most notable collection is the West Indian and Special Collections Division. This is a research collection of material about the West Indies by West Indians and published in the West Indies. The collection contains books, serials, newspapers, theses, manuscripts, maps, photographs, prints, rare books, and special archival collections. There are two sections to the Collection, the Main section and the Special Collections. The latter constitutes a separate category of materials within the division. These are unpublished source materials (personal papers, archival materials and manuscripts) as well as books and other special items. The Collections vary in size and importance and are subject to special conditions regarding access and use. This section also holds the Rare Books Collections. Additional services in the library include an Information Commons that provides study, reference, and research access on a 24/7 schedule. There is also the Oral and Pictorial Records Programme (OPReP) that collects oral histories for the region. Dr. Margaret Rouse-Jones heads both the St. Augustine Campus Libraries and the University Libraries. Floris Fraser coordinates journal inputting to LAPTOC. She notes the importance of LARRP because "Access to regional information plays a crucial developmental role to the University, consequently St. Augustine's involvement with LARRP ensures that researchers have wider access to the regional information provided through this project."

Universidad de San Andrés, Victoria, Argentina

In 2002 the Max von Buch Library of the Universidad de San Andrés (Saint Andrew's University) became a Latin American partner library when the library director of that period expressed interest in LARRP activities. San Andrés is a private university founded in 1988 with ties to the prestigious St. Andrew's Scots School established in Buenos Aires in 1838. It numbers 800 undergraduate students and 1,466 graduate students. Major academic programs include economics, management, political science, and international affairs. English is the language of instruction.

The Max von Buch Library contains 50,000 volumes of books and 1,050 volumes of periodicals. It contains a variety of materials in its special collections on Argentine history, including the Miguens Archive (public opinion), the *Standard* (historic English language newspaper of Buenos Aires), and a variety of archives of individuals, institutions, and businesses. The Max von Buch Library prides itself on providing access to electronic journals and databases from North America, virtual reference service, microfilm readers, interlibrary loan, and document delivery. Mariela L. Frías is the library director. Andrea Saladino, Periodicals Librarian, serves as LAPTOC coordinator. She notes that being a library partner "expands our possibilities to find articles for our patrons, and in the same way, gives us the possibility to help other libraries. There are so many journals in Latin America that are so difficult to get, so that LAPTOC is a big tool in searches." ❖

Additional Latin American partners will be profiled in future issues.



Latin American Government Documents Archive

Carolyn Palaima

Kent Norsworthy

Latin American Network Information Center

University of Texas at Austin

Collecting print government documents from Latin America calls for perseverance, relationship building, and luck. As more and more official documents are born digital and disseminated via government Web sites, a new challenge has emerged to collect these materials before they disappear from the Web. This also provides an opportunity for new collection strategies incorporating the emerging technology of Web crawling. The [Internet Archive](#) developed its Web archiving service—[Archive-It](#)—to serve this emerging need of libraries and universities to capture and preserve Web-based materials.

The University of Texas Libraries, the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, and the [Latin American Network Information Center](#) (LANIC) joined forces to participate in the Archive-It pilot that ran from September to November 2005 to develop the Latin American Government Documents Archive (LAGDA) and to expand the collection following the official launch of Archive-It in February 2006. LAGDA seeks to preserve and facilitate access to government Web sites containing the annual reports (informes, memorias, etc.) and the plans and programs of presidents and national level ministries in Latin America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean. Content in the Archive includes the full-text versions of official documents, as well as original video and audio recordings of key regional leaders.

Under the Archive-It subscription, a partner enters up to 300 “seed” URLs to be crawled for a total of up to 10 million documents (URLs) captured per year. The subscription charge to Archive-It is \$10,000 per year, which allows institutions to build, manage, and search their own Web archive. LAGDA is publicly accessible free of charge.

In managing the LAGDA Archive-It collection two key curatorial task areas were identified. One is quality of capture as monitored and managed through the application backend. This includes seeding the crawls, reviewing crawl status, and verifying completeness of crawls. Problems in capture can arise from robots.txt blocking and other structural impediments. LANIC is managing this area.

The other is to verify capture of identified collection documents for ongoing collection needs. If a desired document is not captured successfully, a seed URL can be modified or added as needed. Sometimes this may be a matter of contacting the site’s Webmaster about an exemption to a robots.txt block. This is a large undertaking, but does lend itself to collaboration and is under consideration by the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP). The Benson Collection is coordinating this effort.

To assist in this process, LANIC instituted an ongoing “Quality Control” program aimed at verifying the quality of material crawled and archived under the project. Using a protocol supplied by LANIC for each archived site, those participating in quality control can select “no problems,” or should they encounter difficulties, can pick one of seven possible error messages from a pull-down menu. The quality control procedures aim to systematically identify crawling errors or issues so they can be corrected or addressed in subsequent crawls over the course of the subscription period, and to provide meaningful feedback to the Archive-It team for incorporation into their ongoing service improvements and application upgrades.

Through quality control and public access LAGDA seeks to build an archive of government documents for the community of Latin Americanist scholars and researchers. ❖



Global Resources Network

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