CRL has long supported original research on Latin America and the Caribbean. CRL serves as the home of two programs that develop important collections and electronic resources for those studies: the Latin American Materials Project (LAMP) and the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP). CRL is also the repository of extensive collections of Latin American newspapers and government documents, and took an early lead in providing web access to those materials. The projects featured in this issue of Focus show some recent work in the field.

With new funding in 2016 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CRL is now engaged in “laying the groundwork for a self-sustaining international effort to provide electronic access to primary source materials for area and international studies (AIS) research.” The two-year development phase of that initiative focuses on source materials for the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is an opportunity to rethink CRL’s place in the global information supply chain, and we hope to apply the resulting framework of cooperation and practice to benefit the study of other world regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
President
In the last twenty years the documentation “supply chain”—the provisioning system that research libraries traditionally have relied upon for gathering and maintaining information—has changed radically, particularly for source materials produced outside of the developed world. Changes have been brought about by economic factors, the emergence of new digital production and distribution channels, and changes in user practices and expectations.

In the paper era, libraries occupied an important place in this supply chain. The provisioning system for libraries consisted of:

- Travel and purchase of local materials by acquisitions staff of major research libraries;
- In-region purchase by agents and vendors according to institutional “profiles”;
- Direct print subscriptions to newspapers and journals from in-region publishers;
- Supply of material through overseas offices of the Library of Congress;
- Microform publication of resources with limited print availability, through commercial producers (ProQuest, Brill, East View, etc.) and cooperative library microfilming (such as CRL’s Foreign Newspaper Microfilm Project);
- Deposit arrangements by inter-governmental organizations like the United Nations, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund.

These mechanisms were augmented by sharing collections through interlibrary loan and scholarly residencies. The system, broadly speaking, suited the needs and practices of researchers in area studies and related humanities and social sciences fields in the 20th century. But in the global information environment, these traditional provisioning activities are rapidly becoming obsolete.

21st Century Realities

New Users

Traditional region-based area and language studies no longer circumscribe the realm of area and international studies (AIS). To a large extent the globalization of university curriculum and research agendas is particularly evident in the professional schools: Law (trade and Intellectual property); Medicine (epidemiology and public health); Business (international/multinational trade and finance); Engineering (civil infrastructure and computer science); and Communications (broadcast and journalism).
New User Practices and Expectations
Researchers increasingly turn first (if not exclusively) to resources available in electronic form, in databases that are managed and maintained by publishers, aggregators, and other providers. Researchers expect that information and documentation should be available 24/7, often delivered in real time, and be easily navigable and highly functional. Many researchers use sophisticated computer programs and software to sift through, analyze, and visualize digital source materials, such as large bodies of text and large data sets.

New Economic Realities
Financial resources available to support collections for area studies and other specialized fields of research are dwindling, even as demand for international sources diversifies. Federal funding for international studies from the Department of Education has drastically declined, as has funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities for preservation of collections. Increasingly, library acquisitions are driven by the immediate needs of researchers and scholars, affecting the ability of libraries—individually and collectively—to build and curate collections with an eye towards future needs.

New Production and Market Practices
Publishing output continues to increase across the globe. Vast troves of content are widely available on the web, even as much information is still disseminated only in print (thus still requiring “traditional” library solutions for acquisition). National and state governments routinely post data directly to the web, but often lack the capacity and/or incentives to maintain such data for the long-term. At the same time, public domain content is being “productized” by commercial producers who offer highly functional platforms and analytical tools. News media have shifted toward web-first (or web-only) dissemination, enabling almost real time access to world events, but often “paywalls” restrict such accessibility.

The Global Collections Initiative
Given these developments, what does cooperative collection development look like in the 21st century? And how can CRL promote such cooperation? In 2016 CRL was awarded funding by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to lay the groundwork for a scalable, ongoing program that can support access to source materials for research on regions outside North America, the United Kingdom, and Europe. The goals of the Global Collections Initiative (GCI) are to:

- Dramatically expand conversion of paper-based resources from those regions to digital format;
- Forge an international partnership at the national level to develop, license, and acquire new digital resources for AIS research in North America, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

The geographic focus of the development phase of the program is Latin America and the Caribbean, and the diaspora communities emanating from those regions. Partners will identify and ensure the survival of endangered source materials, combining the preservation of primary evidence and data in digital and physical form with its exposure and delivery to research communities. These activities will produce a framework of cooperation and practice that can be applied to other world regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia.

CRL is working with an international set of partners in the United States, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Latin America. This effort will expand the
existing CRL network of libraries and consortia into a more agile, global community that cooperatively mines and exploits the vast legacy holdings of research libraries, while capturing and developing new digital resources for scholars.

The development phase of the GCI involves three separate but related streams of activity that run in parallel for the duration of the grant period.

1. Digitization of existing library collections

Primary source materials, i.e., newspapers, non-academic journals, government publications, statistical data, central bank reports, etc., are of central importance for international studies. An enormous latent body of such materials, much of it neither cataloged nor digitized, is held by libraries in North America, Europe, and in the regions of study (Latin America).

Unlocking those materials should have a positive impact on scholarship. Yet, much of the most valuable primary source materials for AIS were produced within the last seventy-five years. These have potential copyright restrictions that put them outside the scope of many programs like HathiTrust and the World Digital Library that focus on public domain materials.

Latin American materials to be digitized under the GCI include materials requested by scholars for interlibrary loan from CRL, as well as materials identified by CRL-affiliated groups: LAMP and LARRP, and GCI partner libraries. Special priority will be given to materials of value for multi-regional research and the study of timely topics such as migration, environment, security and conflict, governance and civil society, international relations, economic development, and other “over-
arching” themes. Priority also will be assigned to “at-risk” material endangered by political suppression or other external factors.

Finally, CRL will explore partnerships with commercial publishers (along the model of the World Newspaper Archive) to expose historical content currently “locked” in print and microform vaults of commercial providers including Brill, ProQuest, and East View.

2) Licensing of global datasets and collective dealings with publishers

CRL has begun to assemble an international working group to undertake collective negotiations with publishers and other aggregators of key databases for international studies. A particularly problematic category of research resources is produced by commercial organizations for which libraries are not the principal market. Such resources include news, financial and economic data, demographic and public opinion information, and government information.

Priorities will be guided by the interests of participating institutions and will depend upon the willingness of providers to consider transparent baseline terms and pricing for multi-national licenses. Multidisciplinary interests will receive special consideration, in addition to databases and related content deemed at risk due to technical obsolescence or unstable platforms. CRL is also exploring potential partnerships with university-based non-profit efforts that aggregate and make available census and opinion data, news broadcast content, and health and agricultural data.

3) Evaluation of web harvesting and alternatives

Finally, CRL has begun an independent assessment of current strategies for capturing born-digital materials relevant to AIS. This will determine how well selected web archiving initiatives currently serve the needs and practices of researchers in the area and international studies fields. It will assess the intrinsic suitability of the archived data/content to the specific needs and practices of those researchers.

The study will examine alternative approaches to preserving web-based materials, such as the use of LOCKSS to mirror and capture websites like the Museum of Dissidence in Cuba, created by Luis Manuel Otero and Yanelis Nunez Leyva but now imperiled. It will also consider more systematic harvesters of web information like the BBC Monitoring Service.

Sponsoring organizations during the development phase of the GCI project are CRL, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), and the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft or DFG). Participating institutions include CRL member libraries as well as universities and research institutes in Germany, the United Kingdom, and Latin America.

Fundamentally altering the way libraries provision and preserve resources for AIS research is a formidable task. To accomplish it CRL will draw upon the long and distinguished legacy of cooperative area studies preservation projects. Those projects served the humanities and social sciences well for five decades, and have prepared the groundwork for collective action to provide for future scholars.
Following the independence of Latin American countries in the early 19th century, the periodical press played a decisive role in political activity and in the development of cultural and national identity. The press was instrumental in the diffusion of knowledge and the spread of such concepts as liberalism, nationalism, federalism, citizenship, and modernity.

Initially geared toward intellectuals and the “cultural elite,” journals published an array of articles, stories, serialized novels, poems, and cultural reviews. Many journals sought a readership beyond the local population, publishing articles by and for the elite in other Latin American and European countries. Often they took strong political positions, evoking success or repression depending on the winds of political change. As a result, many controversial journals were short-lived or changed names and editorship frequently.

These journals have experienced a resurgence of scholarly interest as primary source material in recent decades, fueled by growing digital accessibility of numerous titles previously available only in print to a limited audience. National libraries and academic and specialized research institutions in Europe, the United States, and Latin America are now preserving and digitizing these cultural resources, facilitating new analysis and interpretation.

CRL, largely through the expertise and focus of the Latin American Materials Project (LAMP), has collected many of these journals over time, and is now expanding access through digital delivery to scholars at CRL institutions as well as participants in the Global Collections Initiative. The following is a representative selection of Latin American journals digitized by CRL. Additional digitized titles and extended holdings in print and microform may be found through CRL’s online catalog.

Selected Titles

- *El Argos de Buenos Ayres* (Argentina) began in 1821 as a periodical covering political, literary, and other news from the province and beyond. This weekly was edited by members of the Sociedad Literaria and devoted particular attention to culture, theater, and literature. However, its principal contribution (along with those of contemporaries like *El Ambigú de Buenos Aires*) was its liberal support of federalism and the establishment of a republic—consistent with the incumbent Rivadavia government of the province—and its push for an enlightened citizenry engaged in political discourse to help form a unified state.

- In Chile *El Correo Literario* first appeared in 1858 as an independent literary magazine publishing political, literary, scientific, and opinion articles. Its active

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**Latin American Cultural & Political Journals: a Digital Selection**

**James Simon**

*Vice President, Collections and Services*

*Center for Research Libraries*
concern with political affairs and opposition to the conservative government of Manuel Montt are revealed in critical articles and illustrations. In December of the same year, *El Correo Literario* met its early demise when a state of siege suspended publication of opposition newspapers. The journal resurfaced in 1864 and again in 1867, both times with short runs.

- Like many early literary journals of its kind, *El Gráfico* (Bogotá, Colombia) sought to fill a void in the availability of literary content for the cultural elite in Bogotá. *El Gráfico* maintained a sizable readership for much of its long run (1910–1941) due to its mix of literary contributions, political and cultural news, and a variety of illustrations and photographs.

- Embodying the spirit of modernism that emerged during the end of the 19th century, *El Cojo Ilustrado* first appeared in Caracas, Venezuela in 1892. The journal published stories and poems as well as articles across a range of the arts, sciences, history, intellectual life, and current affairs. *El Cojo Ilustrado* was also a pioneer in photojournalism, publishing more than 3,000 photographs during its 23-year run. While maintaining a balanced, pro-governmental stance, *El Cojo Ilustrado* still employed indirect social critique through the use of humor, allegory, and satire.

- The modernization of Mexico and growth of literacy during the Porfiriato led to an explosion of new magazines, journals, and newspapers. *El Hijo del Ahuizote*, founded in 1885 by independent journalist Daniel Cabrera, was notable for its strong critique of the regime of Porfirio Diaz through the use of satire and caricature. Under a regime where dissent was quickly suppressed, the paper stood out for its support of the Mexican liberal ideology and as a staunch defender of the freedom of the press. Despite political pressure and more than one forced closure (and Cabrera’s imprisonment in 1893 and 1900), the paper managed to survive until 1903 when—under the increasingly partisan editorship of anarchists Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magón—it was forced into permanent closure by the Porfiriían government.

- In the 20th century much of the literary and political press gradually evolved toward the pursuit of broader audiences, publishing a range of articles on topics of cultural and general interest including arts, fashion, cuisine, and the cinema. In Chile, *Zig-Zag*, founded in 1905 by publisher Agustín Edwards Mac-Clure (publisher of the newspaper *El Mercurio*), was produced as an illustrated weekly. It made extensive use of photographs, illustrations, and reproductions employing state-of-the-art printing techniques. Many of Chile’s most prominent writers and artists were featured in the magazine, which continued for nearly sixty years.

Literary and cultural journals continue to be a fertile source for researchers across the globe. The *Latin American Journals Project* at Cornell University was established to provide a “hub” for access to literary and cultural journals from Latin America published during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The project has supported the digitization of over 20 historical journals and seeks to extend the use of these materials through natural language processing and other text and data mining techniques. CRL supported the project by digitizing an extensive selection of journals from its collection—aside from the titles listed above—and providing files to Cornell for further processing and study.

In the area of popular magazines, CRL’s Global Collections Initiative partner, the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI) in Berlin, has embarked on an ambitious program of acquiring and digitizing Latin American cultural periodicals from the late 19th to the early 20th century. With support from the German Research Foundation (DFG), the IAI will enlarge its already extensive holdings of popular
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literature by purchase and digitization of periodicals from selected countries—including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, and Puerto Rico. Subject to permissions, digitized content will be available locally, nationally, or to the international community for research. Recent additions soon to be accessible include Tía Vicenta, the most important political satire magazine of the second half of the 20th century in Argentina, and several 19th century magazines not listed as held by any library in the U.S. or the national libraries of Argentina or Uruguay (for example, Noticioso—Buenos Aires 1854).

Expressing Opposition – La Protesta and the Anarchist Movement in Argentina

Founded in 1897 by militant workers in Argentina, La Protesta is an anarchist newspaper that served for many years as the unofficial voice of the Argentine Regional Workers’ Federation (FORA), the nation’s first national labor confederation. La Protesta is the longest running of the many anarchist and libertarian titles published in Argentina during the 20th century, and is a key resource for the study of the workers’ movement in Argentina.

A significant run of this title (1903–41) was microfilmed by IDC Publishers in the “Latin American Anarchist and Labour Periodicals” series (recently converted by Brill into an online resource). Members of the Latin American Materials Project (LAMP) first identified the title as an important primary source in 1998, initiating a project to identify gaps in the IDC collection and extend the run of this publication on microfilm. However, finding sufficient holdings hindered the progress of this effort.

In 2012 LAMP worked with the organization Centro de Documentación e Investigación de la Cultura de Izquierdas (CeDInCI) in Argentina to locate holdings available in collections in Argentina to assemble as complete a run as possible. Horacio Tarcus, Director of CeDInCI, personally directed the project, sourcing content from CeDInCI’s own collection as well as from the Biblioteca Nacional Argentina (BN), Federación Libertaria Argentina (FLA), and the Biblioteca Popular “José Ingenieros” (BPJI). LAMP committed to digitize the holdings from print originals where possible or from microfilm held by the BN.

The end result of the project, completed in 2015 and brought online by the Center for Research Libraries in 2016, is a virtually complete run of 405 issues of La Protesta covering 1935–2012. Many of the issues are scanned in full color.

Argentina’s anarchist movement lost much of its strength in the repression following the military coup and dictatorship of the 1930’s, and the unionization of workers during the Peron era. La Protesta began to publish more sporadically (no issues were published between October 1943–September 1945, nor between July 1976–June 1983), and the publication has weathered various attempts at closure by the government over time. Even in its diminished role, La Protesta represents an important symbol of the anarchist movement and the dissemination of its ideals.

LAMP’s preservation effort recently yielded an unexpected benefit. In 2017 the offices of CeDInCI suffered an electrical surge that damaged the hard drives upon which their digital copy of La Protesta were stored. LAMP was able to provide a copy of the digitized files to the organization to restore access through CeDInCI’s digital portal for Latin American publications of the 20th century.
Legal and Government Resources for Latin America in LLMC Digital

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The LLMC Digital database (hosted by LLMC, formerly the Law Library Microform Consortium) significantly increased its offerings of historical Latin American legal sources during the past year. As part of CRL’s effort to expand electronic access to Latin American documentation through the Global Collections Initiative, CRL will add up to 2,000 volumes of historical Latin American legal publications to LLMC Digital over the next three years (2018–2020).1

These new digital resources, with particular strengths in Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, and Chile, will augment LLMC’s “Haiti Legal Patrimony Project” and a similar effort for Cuba in partnership with the Digital Library of the Caribbean, which have already digitized a significant body of historical and current material for the study of those two countries.

Described below are some of the major strengths of the Latin American collections in the LLMC Digital database.

Legislative Documents

LLMC’s Latin American holdings are strongest in legislative publications, particularly for the countries listed above. Laws and decrees, conventions and treaties, and a variety of official administrative announcements were usually published in the order in which they were issued, often disseminated through official gazettes (“diario oficial”) to announce—and often as a requirement of law, effectuate—their implementation. Legislative decisions were also often compiled into official volumes (usually annually—though in practice often more sporadically due to political, financial, or other constraints). Given the difficulty in using these sources to study legal developments across multiple years, from time to time laws would be recompiled into indexes, digests, and annotated forms.

LLMC has sourced a wide variety of these publications from partner institutions and continues to add new titles and assemble complete runs as copies are identified and acquired. Some examples available as full-text resources include:

- Brazil. Coleção das leis… (1808–1889)
- Chile. Recopilación de leyes y reglamentos [por orden numero] (v. 1–55, covering 1893–1970)
- Cuba. Compilación ordenada y completa de la legislación cubana (1899–1934)
- Peru. Indice de leyes y resoluciones legislativas (1886–1929).

1. Note: links cited to content in LLMC Digital are accessible to researchers at any institution having an LLMC or CRL membership.
Legal Codes
Under Spanish rule, Latin American countries were governed by a mixture of old Spanish codes, royal decrees, orders, and local legislation developed over the course of three centuries. Emerging independent countries set out to undertake a new codification of civil, judicial, and criminal law and procedure, heavily influenced by the tradition of Civil Law. This effort frequently resulted in competing factions and multiple failed attempts as legislators sought to balance laws previously in force with the traditions, customs, and local practice of each particular nation.

LLMC has assembled texts of hundreds of legal codes across the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Materials available span 150 years and incorporate a variety of published material, including civil, penal, commercial, military, and rural codes. Recent additions include:

- Argentina: Civil and penal codes from the 1930s to the 1970s, many from the Peron era. Provincial legal materials (e.g., 1938 and 1942 criminal procedure codes from Buenos Aires) are also now available.
- Mexico: Commercial codes from the late 19th to the late 20th century, as well as a variety of state-level sources, including Mexico City, Baja, Yucatán, and Jalisco.
- Peru: Civil, penal, labor, and social security codes from the early to late 20th century.
- Uruguay: Civil, military, and rural codes, and descriptive texts spanning 1865 to 1976.

Judicial Proceedings
The judicial systems established following independence took numerous forms in Latin America, where degrees of judicial independence and authority varied from country to country. However, the basic organization of the Latin American judiciary is governed by constitutions, with higher and lower courts established to apply rulings based on the relevant codes and laws created by the legislature or by executive decree. Many of the higher courts (Corte Suprema, Corte de Casación, and appellate courts) published official proceedings that documented important decisions.

Recently, LLMC made significant additions to its collection of Argentinian Supreme Court Rulings (Fallos de la Suprema Corte), now spanning 1865–2000. Additional examples of judicial proceedings in LLMC include:

- Brazil. Revista do Supremo tribunal federal. (1914–1925)
- Peru. Anales Judiciales (Series 1, 1871–1898; Series 2, 1905–1978)

Additionally, LLMC has begun digitizing an interesting collection of historical court briefs and propaganda involving legal matters from mid-19th century Chile, many contemporary with the 1851 Revolution. The subject matter is varied, including intriguing materials involving slander, corruption, kidnapping, fraud, and inheritance.

Guides and Bibliographies
LLMC has digitized a variety of secondary source materials to serve as guides to the political histories and governmental structures of many countries. Contextualizing sources are usually found in the “Treatises” sections of the database for the various countries. Examples include:
• The important historical series (1947) of guides to the law and legal literature of various Latin American countries produced by the Law Library of Congress (Latin American Section).


LLMC reports that a larger collection of historical, commercial, corporate, and banking codes from a variety of Latin American countries will be available online in the near future. CRL is also reaching out to member libraries and partners for recommendations on additional priority materials, such as executive branch material (Mensaje Presidencial), legislative proceedings (Anales del Senado...), and judicial reports (Gaceta Judicial). Researchers can expect LLMC Digital’s online Latin American offerings in these areas to increase significantly.
LAMP and LARRP: Complementary Approaches to Collaborative Preservation and Access

Cooperation among research libraries serving scholarship in Latin American Studies has been the founding and enduring value of the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP) and the Latin American Materials Project (LAMP), two projects supported by CRL under the Global Resources umbrella. LAMP and LARRP have supported the work of scholars studying all areas of Latin America in a variety of disciplines. LAMP’s focus on the preservation of rare materials about Latin America complements LARRP’s goal of promoting free and equitable access to resources important to the study of Latin America.

Evolving digital technologies have widened opportunities for preservation and access over the last decades, benefitting both librarians and scholars. Digital preservation projects may enhance access, and digital projects meant to increase access may have a preservation component. While the two contribute to one another, they are not synonymous. The histories of LAMP and LARRP illuminate how each supports research on Latin America in its own way.

Latin American Materials Project

LAMP held its first meeting in 1975 with sixteen member libraries. In “The Latin American Microform Project: The First Decade” (1986) Carl Deal recounts the first years of LAMP’s work. Efforts to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Latin American collections throughout the United States and to identify prospects for collaboration led to strong emphases on materials from Mexico and Brazil. Projects built upon the professional connections between LAMP members and individuals at institutions in these countries. LAMP’s enduring mission to preserve “materials in danger of being lost or becoming inaccessible” helps guide current selection and standards in much the same way it informed the consortium’s early challenges and accomplishments. Recent projects preserve newspapers from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico as well as archival materials from Puerto Rico, Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico.

Microfilm has historically been the most cost-effective and stable preservation technology. Deal’s article, and a 2004 article by James Simon “Treinta Años de LAMP—A Brief Look Back,” document the advantages and pitfalls of this preservation medium. In 1994 CRL was awarded a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to digitize LAMP’s collection of Brazilian government publications,
Cooperation among research libraries serving scholarship in Latin American Studies has been the founding and enduring value of the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP) and the Latin American Materials Project (LAMP) . . .

preserved earlier on microfilm in cooperation with the Biblioteca Nacional do Rio de Janeiro. This $225,000 grant started LAMP’s transition to digital projects. The Brazilian Government Documents Digitization Project sought to facilitate scholarly access to a set of historical documents, while enhancing discovery through bibliographic references and structured indexing. It was an early effort to refine a process for deriving digital image files from preservation microfilm and to articulate tools, operations, and standards for digital representation and metadata. Most importantly, it relied heavily on deep collaboration.

With the success of the Project and the interest of scholars in working with digital materials, LAMP members have made more digital proposals for consideration by LAMP. LAMP has responded by implementing rigorous guidelines and additional requirements for digitization. For a digital project to be approved, it must provide for long-term sustainability and preservation, either at the institution digitizing the material or on deposit at CRL.

A recent LAMP initiative illustrates how preservation can play an important role in digital projects. LAMP provided funding to the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries to digitize and make freely available its holdings of El Diario de Pernambuco (Recife, Brazil) from November 1825–September 1922. This title is critical for research on early Brazilian commerce, society, politics, family life, slavery, and other topics. It contains numerous announcements of maritime movements, crop production, legal affairs, and cultural activities. The University of Florida had the only holdings in North America, but its copy of the microfilm was at risk because of frequent consultation by scholars. In order to ensure the longevity of the content, Florida proposed that this title be digitized. In turn, UF Digital Collections committed to support comprehensive, long-term digital preservation including redundant digital archives, adherence to proven standards, and rigorous quality control methods.

In the last five years LAMP added an additional layer to its evaluation process for digital proposals. All proposals are evaluated initially by volunteers from among the membership with demonstrable knowledge of best practices in digital archiving. LAMP digital projects must now include metadata created to facilitate access to specific images or text files as well as interoperability with the OAI-PMH (Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting). This requirement expands the opportunity for scholars to find and use this material and aligns LAMP’s goals more closely with those of LARRP.

Latin Americanist Research Resources Project

The Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP) was launched in 1994, originally supported by the Global Resources Program of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Founded almost 20 years after LAMP, LARRP’s goals were different but complementary. Rather than focusing on preserving unique and scarce materials, LARRP sought new approaches to acquiring Latin American materials and providing greater access to the materials libraries already held.

One of LARRP’s earliest efforts, the Distributed Resources Project (DRP), demonstrates how diversifying local collections can benefit scholars across the country. LARRP members participating in the DRP redirected seven percent of their Latin American collections’ budgets to a self-declared area of focus, which often coincided with areas of institutional strength or local faculty interest. By reducing funds spent on core collections replicated at other institutions, the DRP encourages cooperation among research libraries serving scholarship in Latin American Studies has been the founding and enduring value of the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP) and the Latin American Materials Project (LAMP) . . .
LARRP members to enhance coverage of ‘non-core’ materials to support an interconnected network of collections.

Another of LARRP’s early projects aimed to index Latin American journals that were not included in existing indices to provide greater discovery and accessibility. The Latin American Periodicals Table of Contents (LAPTOC) was started in 1996 and relied on volunteer indexers at LARRP member institutions throughout the Americas to add bibliographic data for assigned serials to the LAPTOC database. By 2009 LAPTOC included 975 academic and research journal titles published in 29 countries in the region, and provided bibliographic references to more than 340,000 articles in the area’s major languages.

LARRP continues to work on innovative approaches that support diverse and accessible research collections. LARRP’s work is guided by its mission to provide access to information that supports all forms of scholarship, to promote free and equitable access to these resources for the global scholarly community, and to actively cooperate with institutions that contribute to the flow of information. In 2012 the LARRP Advisory Committee created a “Strategic Directions” document to guide future LARRP activities, identifying three areas of programmatic activity for particular attention: 1) enhanced access to primary sources through digital initiatives; 2) collections analysis with an emphasis on utilizing data to inform and shape national collecting trends (including through the Distributed Resources Project); and 3) promoting of visibility of Latin American content in various tools, including indexes and web-scale discovery solutions.

Programmatically LARRP is best positioned to work in concert with LAMP in collection digitization, employing techniques similar to those successfully implemented by LAMP, including international collaboration and in-kind contributions from LARRP members. LARRP provides funds for digitization projects with well-established infrastructure, including the cooperative Digital Library of the Caribbean and Princeton’s Digital Archive of Latin American and Caribbean Ephemera. More recently, LARRP provided support to Tulane University to digitize a small selection of Cuban-American radionovelas, produced between 1963 and 1970 and to the University of Southern California for digitization of sociolinguistic audio interviews from Santiago, Chile, and Southern California.

LARRP prioritizes projects that work within existing systems, rather than building new infrastructure. It favors projects that adhere to open access principles, support scholarship in a variety of disciplines, provide models for future collaboration, involve institutional partners within Latin America whenever possible, and provide added value to the research community as a whole.

Conclusion

LAMP and LARRP continue to pursue separate but increasingly entwined primary goals. LAMP continues to preserve at-risk materials. LARRP continues to focus on enhancing access and discovery. New opportunities afforded by technology have blurred the lines between preservation and access. However, the possibilities offered by these technologies also bring opportunities for LAMP and LARRP to work together to support scholarship more effectively. CRL’s Global Collections Initiative, which builds upon the Global Resources and Area Materials programs based at CRL, may serve as a unifying framework for LAMP and LARRP to expand electronic access to primary source materials and data for area and international studies. ✷
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