



Center *for* Research Libraries  
GLOBAL RESOURCES NETWORK

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## The Post-custodial Model for Preserving At-risk Archives in Latin America

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THE *NEW*  
GLOBAL  
RESOURCES  
SUPPLY  
CHAIN

## Post-Custodial Theory of Archives

“The idea that archivists will no longer physically acquire and maintain records, but that they will provide management oversight for records that will remain in the custody of the record creators.”

- Society of American Archivists (2005). *Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology*. Available at: <http://www2.archivists.org/glossary>.

# Post-Custodial Archiving at LLILAS Benson

1. Archives remain locally accessible
2. Archival and digital capacity building
3. Collaborative, horizontal relationships among partners
4. Digital technologies for preservation and access
5. Focus on human rights documentation

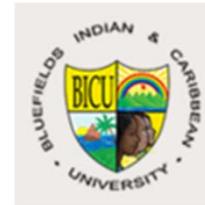
# Guatemalan National Police Historical Archive

- Physical archive discovered in 2005
- 80 million pages of archival material
- Documentation from Guatemala's internal armed conflict
- Digital archive currently hosts 10 million documents and will continue to grow as more material is digitized
- <https://ahpn.lib.utexas.edu/>

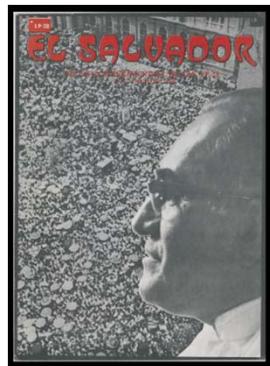


## Mellon Foundation Pilot Project Partners

1. Centro de Investigación y Documentación de la Costa Atlántica – CIDCA (Bluefields, Nicaragua)
2. Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica – CIRMA (Antigua, Guatemala)
3. Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen – MUPI (San Salvador, El Salvador)



# Mellon Foundation Pilot Project Collections



# Latin American Digital Initiatives (LADI)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Latin American Digital Initiatives (LADI) website. At the top, there are two small circular icons: one with a stylized 'n' and 'ñ' and another with a 'P'. To the right of these is a logo consisting of the words "LATIN AMERICAN" and "DIGITAL INITIATIVES" stacked vertically, separated by a thin horizontal line. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for "HOME", "COLLECTIONS", "BROWSE", and "ABOUT".

**Welcome to the Latin American Digital Initiatives**

Latin American Digital Initiatives (LADI) is a collaborative project between LLILAS Benson and Latin American partner institutions that digitally preserves and provides access to unique archival documents from Latin America, with an emphasis on collections documenting human rights, race, ethnicity, and social exclusion in the region. [Read more about our work.](#)

A large, stylized illustration of a hand holding a rifle is overlaid on a map of Mexico. The map shows the outline of the country with state names like "MEXICO", "JALISCO", "GUERRERO", "MICHIGUA", "COAHUILA", "SAN LUIS POTOSI", "SAN JUAN DE LOS REYES", "QUERETARO", "GUANAJUATO", "HIDALGO", "VERACRUZ", "TABASCO", "CAMPECHE", "YUCATAN", "QUINTANA ROO", and "BOLIVIA". The hand is gripping the rifle's barrel, and the background is a textured red and blue.

Source: Colección Conflicto Armado del Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen

## Institutionalizing Post-Custodial Praxis

1. New projects in Brazil, Colombia, & Mexico
2. Integration of scholars into project design and implementation
3. Ethical description of sensitive archival materials
4. Robust digital infrastructure for preservation and access
5. Blueprint for sustainable staffing structure & resource allocation
6. Use of collection materials in classroom teaching and digital scholarship

## LLILAS Benson Post-Custodial Team

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