

Number of Copies and Average Cost of Latin American Books Purchased by Seven U.S. Research Libraries

Country	Number of Books	Total Cost	Mean Cost
Argentina	7,127	\$140,132	\$19.66
Bolivia	2,164	\$26,310	\$12.16
Brazil	6,278	\$144,814	\$23.07
Central America	1,204	\$19,861	\$16.60
Chile	1,584	\$42,289	\$26.70
Colombia	2,394	\$44,723	\$18.68
Costa Rica	339	\$6,549	\$19.32
Cuba	319	\$4,650	\$14.58
Dominican Republic	348	\$9,424	\$27.08
Ecuador	2,244	\$27,031	\$12.05
El Salvador	284	\$3,118	\$10.98
Guatemala	323	\$4,652	\$14.40
Guyana	3	\$160	\$53.33
Haiti	29	\$555	\$19.14
Honduras	279	\$2,575	\$9.23
Jamaica	0	\$0	--
Mexico	8,296	\$203,904	\$24.58
Nicaragua	144	\$2,669	\$18.58
Panama	151	\$2,618	\$17.37
Paraguay	384	\$6,117	\$15.93
Peru	2,297	\$48,080	\$20.93
Puerto Rico	109	\$2,678	\$24.57
Surinam	0	\$0	--
Trinidad	0	\$0	--
Uruguay	1,647	\$41,918	\$25.45
Venezuela	2,225	\$28,195	\$12.67
Other Caribbean	810	\$18,620	\$22.99
Totals	40,982	\$831,642	\$20.29

Reporting Libraries: Library of Congress, New York Public Library and the University libraries of Arizona, Cornell, Illinois at Champaign/Urbana, Texas at Austin, and Wisconsin at Madison.

After a year's hiatus, caused by a computer failure at one of the contributing institutions, the compilation of Latin American books and their costs resumes for Fiscal Year 1994/95. Those familiar with the composite table will notice a change from the past, the addition of a Central American category. This is an attempt to capture an aggregate consistent with past years, despite having lost the capacity to track receipts from some Central American countries. The same principles apply to the last category, "Other Caribbean," which shows a number of items traditionally reported for individual countries but now subsumed under a single heading.

Research libraries continue to collect Latin American imprints at a high level. The 40,982 volumes reported in fiscal year 1994/95 is a solid 9% increase over FY 1993/94's 37,539 items and returns total acquisitions to the record levels achieved in 1992/93. Individual countries fluctuated more widely. For instance, contributors reported some 600 fewer Brazilian items collected over the two fiscal years, this largely attributable to the increase in the mean cost of Brazilian imprints from \$14.91 to \$23.07 (55%). The Mexican "peso crisis" had the opposite effect on acquisitions from that country, with the mean cost declining 39% and the number of titles increasing from 6,311 to 8,296.

Basic trends of the recent past continue. The average cost per Latin American book rose from \$18.33 to \$20.29, or 11%, over the two years. This represents an overall decline in the rate of materials prices which had been in double digits since the late 1980s. Yet despite the decline in mean costs increases, libraries continue to lose ground. While participating libraries raised their expenditures on Latin American monographs by over \$140,000, or 21%, those dollars purchased only 3,443 (9%) more volumes than two years earlier.

[David Block](#)

Cornell University Library
Ithaca, NY 14853