Embedding Latin American Archives into Library Instruction and Practice

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SALALM LV Conference
Brown University
Providence, RI/USA
Embeddedness

- Embeddedness, the act of integrating library and archival services (literacy instruction, research & archival consultations, collection development, etc) into the fabric of our constituents’ academic life and needs
  - This is not something optional to do but a requirement in our profession today
Many Roles but just one Body

- My Subject Librarian and Liaison duties
  - Instruction and Consultations (anywhere, anytime)
  - Outreach and Promotion
  - Collection Development
  - Collaborations

- My Curator duties
  - Instruction and Archival Reference
  - Collection Development & Acquisition
  - Donor Relations
  - Outreach and Promotion
  - Collaborations

- All these roles can happen simultaneously
Library Mandate

From UConn Libraries 2009-2014 Strategic Planning

• “The Libraries’ path is clear: enhance the research process through direct support via our liaisons and collections and take on new roles of digital preservation, organization, and access.”
Latin American and Caribbean Collections at Dodd’s Center

- Latin American Newspaper Collection
- Puerto Rico Civil Court Papers Collection
- NACLAS Working Papers archives
- Rare books collections
  - Chile and Medina collections (Chilean books)
  - Arjona and Madrid collections Iberian books)
  - Puerto Rican collection (rare books and government publications)
  - Spanish Periodicals and Newspapers Collection
Librarians and archivists approach access from different directions

- Libraries—everything should be free and accessible
- Archives—want to offer free and accessible materials but it can’t be everything

Collaboration is one of the key to build bridges and bring archives into libraries and enrich the academic life experience of our users.
Instruction: Bringing archives into LibGuides

- Cuban history course, [http://classguides.lib.uconn.edu/cuba](http://classguides.lib.uconn.edu/cuba)
- The LibGuide includes
  - Information on our in-housed holdings
  - Links to free, authoritative, archival resources
    - LANIC
    - Internet Archives
  - Information on how to contact the librarian for more help
LibGuides and Archives

The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center houses an amazing collection of primary sources (first-person accounts, newspapers, personal and business papers, photographs) and rare books from Spain, Latin America, and the Caribbean. For a complete list of archival materials for Latin America and the Caribbean, please visit the Latin American & Caribbean Collection page. If you want to use these collections for your research, contact the curator, marisol.romas@uconn.edu for further information.

The Latin American Newspaper Collection: Finding Aid

Politics, commerce, social life, and other Latin American and Caribbean affairs of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are covered in the approximately 2000 titles of the Latin American Newspapers Collection. The collection is strongest for the late nineteenth century and contains newspapers from virtually every country of Latin America and the Caribbean. There is a good representation of Cuban newspapers for the early 20th century, mostly in Spanish, but a few in English.

North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA) Collection Finding Aid

1950s-1990s
135 linear feet
Photocopies, publications
Collection Number: MSS 1399-0119
Ephemera and serials relating to socioeconomic and political conditions in Latin America. Its principal strength is in primary sources such as serials, reports, pamphlets, posters, manuscripts, and correspondence. The most notable holdings occur for Central America, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Latin America and Nicaragua. This material is also available in microfilm in Level 3.

Primary Sources Available Online

Today, the web contains many archival and rare books materials that have been digitized and are freely available online. Below is a list of places and/or documents related with the history of Cuba written by diplomats, explorers and politicians that document the rich cultural and political history of Cuba.

- Castro Speech Database - LANCIC
  This database includes speeches, interviews, etc. by Fidel Castro from 1953 to 1996. All texts are in English. If you would like more recent speeches or texts in Spanish, please consult Discurso e intervenciones de Fidel Castro, which has texts in a variety of languages starting with 1999.

- Internet Archives
  The Internet Archives contains many primary sources materials, including travelogue accounts about Cuba, memoirs and other personal accounts useful for your research. You can use keywords such as "Cuba" "Spanish-American War" etc... Contact me for help to narrow your search.
Digital Project: Spanish Women’s Magazines:
http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/collections/spanwomen.htm

Future digital projects: Puerto Rican Civil Court Papers; Puerto Rican rare books. (Update 2014: Both projects were approved and there is a portal, Puerto Rican Digital Collections, http://classguides.lib.uconn.edu/PRDigColl) All are materials that can be used for instruction.

Outreach and Promotion:
• Show and Tell events: promote new acquisitions
• Publicize everything you do through blogs, email lists, newsletter, Facebook, etc.
Can you get “embedded” with Archives?

- Work with your archivist/curator to see how you can integrate your unique Latin American holdings into your practice.
- Take advantage of all the great digital material available online to enrich your library instruction.
  - LANIC
  - Internet Archives
- Go and get embedded!!