



Chapter 12

The Role of the Library Associations

SALALM, THE SEMINAR ON THE ACQUISITION OF LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY MATERIALS: THE EVOLUTION OF AN AREA STUDIES LIBRARIANSHIP ORGANIZATION

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The Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) celebrated its 53rd annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, May 30–June 3, 2008. What started as a one-time meeting about the acquisition of Latin American materials evolved into a central forum to consider all types of issues that impact Latin American librarianship. The organization's constitution states that SALALM's purpose is:

To promote the improvement of library services in support of study and research activities in Latin American and inter-American Affairs; to provide an association for study programs in which scholars, librarians and others interested in book and library resources relating to Latin American and inter-American studies can discuss problems, and carry out programs of common interest; and to promote cooperative efforts to achieve better library services as a means of encouraging and advancing international understanding of the Western Hemisphere.¹

This essay examines SALALM's history and the changes the group experienced during the past 50 years. The first half recounts SALALM's first 25 years, including its foundation and early history, incorporation and subsequent development, major activities, and early collaborations with other organizations. The second half of the essay describes SALALM's

growth and organizational development over the last 25 years including collaboration with groups that share a similar interest and its various activities to reach out to colleagues in Latin America and promote library development in the region.

Background

The post-World War II era witnessed the United States' emergence as a major global power. Within the ivy covered walls of American academia, a new generation of scholars perceived a general lack of knowledge about the developing world and harbored concerns about the status of foreign area studies inside the university. For libraries, this raised issues centering on the question of how to collect foreign language materials needed to support research in these emerging fields. Against this backdrop, a group of librarians and Latin American specialists decided to take concrete action.

First SALALM

A Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials convened at Chinsegut Hill, an estate belonging to the University of Florida located in Brooksville, Florida, on June 14–15, 1956. This assembly was principally organized by the tireless efforts of Marietta Daniels Shepard, the head of the Organization of American States' Library Development Program. The seminar sought to address three central problems of Latin American library material acquisition: "How to know what has been or is being issued; how to get what is needed for the particular library; and how to process and preserve the material acquired."² Thirty-two participants represented major research universities, United States government and international libraries, and private and public libraries, as well as an international book dealer.³ The first seminar consisted of five sessions that considered 16 working papers dealing with material selection, book purchase and exchange, nonbook materials, periodicals, and government documents.⁴ A final session allowed for a summary of the discussions and the adoption of resolutions for further action. One resolution called for the seminar to become an annual meeting.

Later Events

Because the seminar was intended as a one-time event, there was no forethought about the need for a formal governing mechanism.⁵ Early SALALMs adopted a very basic organizational structure. Marietta Daniels

Shepard of the Organization of American States (OAS) was selected as SALALM's first permanent secretary, a position she occupied until 1973. Additionally, an organizing committee was selected to assist in the planning of the annual meeting and other administrative functions, but, in reality, Marietta took it upon herself to create the agendas and run the meetings.

In this early period, SALALM had no members in the traditional sense, and there were no membership dues during the organization's first 12 years. Payment of the conference registration fee was paid by the attendee's institution and is the closest approximation of membership at the time.⁶ SALALM participants received a copy of the *Final Report and Working Papers* and an invitation to attend the next seminar. The annual meetings proved to be self-supporting, even producing a profit that meeting attendees would normally vote to share with the institution hosting that year's meeting and the OAS.⁷ Attendance at SALALM's annual meeting grew dramatically during the 1960s. The number of participants increased from 47 at the 6th SALALM in 1961 to 121 at the 12th SALALM in 1967.⁸ As attendance grew, the new participants no longer exclusively represented the prestigious research universities with large Latin American collections.

Incorporation

By the late 1960s it became apparent that the group needed a more formal structure to administer and coordinate all SALALM activities. This infrastructure would also provide a more stable financial basis than the pay-as-you-go annual meeting. In 1967, SALALM decided to incorporate. At the 13th SALALM (1968) in Lawrence, Kansas, the membership adopted a constitution, bylaws, and approved articles of incorporation.⁹

The constitution provided for an executive committee of four officers: president, vice president, executive secretary, and treasurer who have the responsibility to take urgent administrative measures, in addition to their defined duties.¹⁰ The constitution also provided for a larger executive board whose duty is to administer the affairs of the organization. The executive board consists of the four members of the executive committee and other elected and ex-officio officers.¹¹

The bylaws provided for dues and created three types of membership: personal, institutional, and special. Personal membership is divided into four categories: regular, student, honorary, and emeritus.¹² The bylaws also distinguish between dues-paying members and participants in the annual meeting.¹³ Membership figures for SALALM became available in 1968–1969. For the first time, the seminar had 201 members of which 143 were personal members, and 58 were institutional ones.¹⁴

The bylaws also created a formal basis for the organization's committee structure. A set of *Basic Documents* was adopted in 1968 that outlined committee responsibilities and procedures.¹⁵ SALALM has two types of committees executive board committees whose job is to maintain the organization, and the substantive committees (including the subcommittees) that have achieved many of the organization's most notable accomplishments.¹⁶ SALALM's committees have been an important part of the organization since its founding in 1956. Much of SALALM's work has been conducted through its committees. The number of committees has varied over time depending on the needs and interests of the membership. A hallmark of SALALM is the high degree of involvement of its members in the organization's activities. One study showed that for 1977–1978, almost 40 percent of SALALM's membership held committee appointments.¹⁷

Changing Times

The formal incorporation and continued growth of SALALM increased significantly the secretariat's workload by the early 1970s. Long-time SALALM executive secretary Marietta Daniels Shepard's primary job duty was to direct the OAS's library development program, and it proved increasingly difficult for her to balance all of her responsibilities. The day had arrived when SALALM would have to consider moving the secretariat from the OAS.¹⁸

After a great deal of discussion, SALALM's executive board mailed out over 400 letters to different institutions seeking proposals to host the secretariat in 1973.¹⁹ The executive board accepted a proposal from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, to host the secretariat for a period of three to five years. The University of Massachusetts offer included a half-time work release of SALALM's new executive secretary, Pauline Collins; the provision of clerical support, offices; and storage space. SALALM paid for the move of the secretariat and cover its recurring postage, telephone, and printing costs. After a three-year stay in Amherst, the secretariat moved to the University of Texas at Austin in 1976.²⁰ SALALM marked another significant milestone in the late 1960s and early 1970s when the organization sought to expand its international presence and began to hold its annual meetings outside of the continental United States on a regular basis. SALALM 14 (1969) met in San Juan, Puerto Rico; SALALM 15 (1970) was held in Toronto, Canada; and Puebla, Mexico, played host to SALALM 16 (1971). Other meetings held outside the United States include SALALM 18 (1973) in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; SALALM 20 (1975) in Bogotá, Colombia; and SALALM 23 (1978) in London, England. SALALM's unofficial policy became to hold one annual meeting outside of the United States every two to three years.²¹

SALALM in the 1970s

SALALM continued to grow over the decade. In 1970–1971, SALALM had 163 personal members and 91 institutional ones. By the end of the decade (1979–1980), the organization had 270 personal members and 121 institutional ones.²² Many new members came from institutions that had smaller Latin American collections or focused on undergraduate teaching.²³ The interests of the organization moved beyond the acquisition of Latin American materials to include such matters as reference, bibliographic instruction, the training of librarians, technology, vendor relations, interlibrary cooperation, library operations, services to the Spanish-speaking community in the United States, and Latin American Studies.²⁴ These trends continue to the present day and are still evolving to address the needs of programs that focus on the rapidly expanding Latino populations in the United States.

SALALM's Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is the most obvious manifestation of SALALM's activities. SALALM 2 (1957) through 9 (1964) concentrated almost exclusively on geographically focused themes, acquisitions issues related to a particular nation or group of countries. The themes of later annual meetings, SALALMs 11 through 20, considered not only acquisitions issues but also developing collections of different sizes; collection of science, technical and legal materials; and the education of area specialists. The themes of the annual meeting became even broader when SALALM 20 (1975) in Bogotá considered "New Writers of Latin America," and SALALM 23 (1978) in London dealt with Latin American Studies in Europe.²⁵

The annual meeting gradually increased in length from two days in 1956 to five days by 1976.²⁶ The organization of the conference program was and continues to be the responsibility of SALALM's president.²⁷ The conference schedule includes committee meetings, meetings of interest groups, reports on the activities of collaborating organizations, an opening session and keynote address, sessions where formal papers are presented, workshops, and a business meeting at the conclusion.

Publications

Publications are another very important activity of SALALM. The most important publication was initially called the *Final Report and Working Papers*. One edited volume appeared after each SALALM meeting. The organization of the volumes included an introduction by the executive secretary, a summary of all of the sessions, the conference program, resolutions

adopted at the meeting, a register of participants, a list of SALALM committees, and the body of each working paper. Starting with the 20th volume, the *Final Report* adopted the theme of the conference as its title, and the subtitle is the number of the annual SALALM proceeding. These volumes contain the conference program, a summary of each session, annual reports, and the text of the working papers.²⁸

SALALM started publishing its *Bibliography Series* in 1969.²⁹ The series was later renamed the *Bibliography & Reference Series*.³⁰ An editorial board oversees the publications program and makes recommendations about specific ones.³¹ Examples of some of the publications that have appeared in this series include the *Basic List of Latin American Materials in Spanish, Portuguese, and French*; *A Directory of Vendors of Latin American Library Materials*; several lists of serial publications available for exchange; and the *Bibliography of Latin American and Caribbean Bibliographies*.³²

For its first decade and a half, SALALM lacked a formal means to update its members outside of its annual meetings. The first SALALM newsletter appeared in January 1973 as a more regular source of information for the membership. The newsletter began as a semiannual publication but soon became a quarterly. Now the newsletter is issued six times per year. The newsletter includes messages from the president, news from the secretariat, news about significant acquisitions, member and institutional news, information about book vendors, conferences and book fairs, and related subjects.³³

SALALM and Other Organizations

Since its inception in 1956, SALALM has enjoyed and actively pursued formal and informal collaborations with other organizations. SALALM's initial association with the Organization of American States proved beneficial for the first 17 years of its existence. The OAS provided a permanent home for the organization between the annual meetings. Marietta Daniels Shepard, as SALALM's executive secretary, with financial support from the OAS, developed the seminar's agenda with that year's host organization, assigned authorship of working papers, invited conference participants, and sent out the working papers prior to the meetings. After the seminar, Daniels Shepard distributed the resolutions adopted at the meeting and edited and distributed the *Final Report and Working Papers*.³⁴

SALALM pursued several other notable collaborations with different organizations during its first 25 years: to help obtain Latin American imprints, the Latin American Collaborative Acquisitions Program (LACAP); to preserve endangered and bulky research materials, the Latin American Microforms Project (LAMP); and to provide better bibliographic access to periodical literature, the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index* (HAPI). SALALM also has enjoyed more informal relations with groups that have

similar interests such as the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress (LC) and the Latin American Studies Association (LASA).

LACAP

Since the first SALALM, there had been discussion of forming a collaborative program to acquire Latin American books and other imprints. William Kurth of the Library of Congress undertook a three-month trip in 1958 to explore publishing and the acquisition of materials from Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, and Venezuela. He reported his findings at the Fourth SALALM (1959) and stated his belief that it would be necessary to have a “cooperative acquisitions representative” in the region to secure needed publications.³⁵

The Latin American Cooperative Acquisitions Program (LACAP) began in 1960 under the informal agreement of the University of Texas at Austin, the New York Public Library, and the private firm of Stechert-Hafner. Dr. Nettie Lee Benson of the University of Texas at Austin made an initial trip for LACAP to Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and Bolivia with instructions to purchase multiple copies of most significant Latin American publications. The major problem Benson encountered was finding multiple copies of every title. She would later report to the Fifth SALALM (1960) that the majority of books were distributed by authors, not the publishers. Moreover, even the major Latin American publishers did not have complete records of all imprints. Dr. Benson made two further acquisitions trips in 1961 and 1962. The firm of Stechert-Hafner engaged a full-time purchasing agent in 1962 to travel throughout Latin America to maintain personal contact with vendors to ensure that book dealers in the various nations supplied a continual flow of books.³⁶

LACAP had difficulties acquiring materials from certain regions, especially Brazil and the Caribbean; and certain types of materials, such as government documents and university press publications. Nevertheless, LACAP annually acquired some 4,000 titles over its 12-year history and established foundational collections of Latin Americana in many North American libraries.³⁷ In 1969, the Stechert-Hafner firm was acquired by Crowell, Collier and MacMillan. LACAP did not prosper under its new management. The program’s high overhead and increasing rate of duplication made it progressively less attractive to both owners and clients. With the resignation of Stechert-Hafner’s president in 1971, LACAP’s demise was assured, and the arrangement terminated two years later.³⁸ Still, LACAP had made Latin American book dealers aware of the potential of the North American academic library market and that they could offer books at a lower price and still make a profit.³⁹

With the end of LACAP, SALALM 18 stepped into the breach inviting many Latin American book dealers to its annual meeting. SALALM 18 included several panels dealing with the book trade.⁴⁰ By 1975, book dealers

accounted for 6 percent of SALALM members, and this increased to over 10 percent of the membership by 1981.⁴¹ To this day, SALALM continues to provide a major forum where Latin American book dealers and librarians can meet to forge personal relationships, discuss the needs of the profession as a whole, and ensure that individual libraries receive the publications they require.

LAMP

The Latin American Microform Project (LAMP) was the product of SALALM's special concern for the medium as a way to make Latin American publications more accessible to researchers.⁴² Since its earliest days, several SALALM member institutions undertook large microfilm projects. In 1964, the first *Microfilms Project Newsletter* appeared, reporting on microfilming programs that were in the planning stages, in progress, or completed.⁴³ Reports on microfilm projects became an agenda item at SALALM's annual conference.

In 1973, SALALM formed an advisory committee to the Center for Research Libraries that served as the genesis for the creation of LAMP.⁴⁴ Founded in 1975, this voluntary program is funded by an annual fee from member libraries and administered by the Center for Research Libraries.⁴⁵ LAMP conducts microfilming projects of unique Latin American materials. Although not specifically a SALALM project, most of the members of LAMP's executive board are SALALM members. A LAMP membership meeting is conducted during the annual SALALM meeting to report on the status of active microfilming projects and to consider new undertakings.

HAPI

The *Hispanic American Periodical Index* (HAPI) is another example of SALALM's cooperation with other organizations. HAPI was founded at Arizona State University in 1970 and later moved to the UCLA Latin American Center. HAPI began as a printed "Annual index of citations to academic journals with Latin American content." Since 1996, HAPI has been available via the Internet. The HAPI website was recently redesigned, and SALALM members provided valuable feedback throughout the process.⁴⁶ While HAPI is not a SALALM project per se, it relies heavily on SALALM members as volunteer indexers. The director and staff of HAPI provide an annual report and training for the volunteer indexers during the SALALM conference.⁴⁷

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is an example of a long-term informal relationship that influenced SALALM's development throughout its history. The

foundation of the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress pre-dates that of SALALM by 20 years, and members of the Library of Congress staff played important roles in the establishment of the organization. Dr. Howard Cline, director of LC's Hispanic Division in 1956, encouraged SALALM to become an annual meeting, proposed the regional and country specific focus of the early SALALM conferences, and promoted examination of the issue of cooperative acquisitions. LC also provided SALALM with a list of recommended Latin American book vendors after the termination of LACAP in 1973. Members of the Library of Congress staff attend SALALM's annual conference, often providing updates on LC's activities; publications; its collections; and most notably, the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*. Some LC staff members have been elected president of the organization.⁴⁸

LASA

The support of Latin American studies has always been a major focus of SALALM. The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) was founded in 1966. SALALM has had a more casual working relationship with LASA over the years than with other groups.⁴⁹ Many SALALM members attend LASA meetings on a regular basis, and the greatest interaction between the two organizations occurs in LASA's Committee on Scholarly Resources. Traditionally, SALALM members have chaired this committee, and some Scholarly Resource Committee projects have been discussed at SALALM meetings.⁵⁰ One example of a long-standing collaborative project is the *Bibliography of Sexuality Studies in Latin America*.⁵¹

Other Organizations

SALALM made efforts to maintain contact with ALA and REFORMA. The early SALALM annual meetings were often held at times and locations that facilitated members' attendance at the American Library Association's annual summer conference. For years, the SALALM executive board would conduct a meeting at ALA's midwinter meeting. As a result of recent efforts to collaborate more closely with ALA, SALALM became an affiliate with them in 2007. With respect to REFORMA, Dr. Arnulfo Trejo was actively involved with SALALM in its early years.⁵² This would eventually form the basis for further connections between the two organizations.

SALALM, 1980s to the Present

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, SALALM had become a mature organization that had no other area of study could rival, in great part due

to Marietta Daniels Shepard's extraordinary dedication and that of her many colleagues who also believed in Latin America, librarianship, cooperation, and communication.⁵³ As the years passed, SALALM continued its development as a professional group through its annual conferences and numerous research and organizational activities.

By the early 1980s, the association had successfully achieved its primary mission of establishing strong Latin American research collections, primarily in North American and European academic libraries, to support Latin American Studies teaching and research. These collections, and the bibliographic compilations and research aids, are exemplary achievements in terms of national and international collaboration.⁵⁴ The need to maintain and develop these rich collections is an ongoing concern, but the urgency to create new collections to support Latin American Studies programs had passed by the 1980s.

By the early 1980s, in response to its own achievements, membership interests, and changing needs of the Latin American Studies research community SALALM's leadership began to steer the organization in other directions. We can categorize SALALM's development during the last 25 years into four types: (1) organizational growth and development, including expansion of its own publications; (2) membership development and outreach; (3) technology; (4) and growth of collaboration with organizations that share a similar interest.

Organizational Growth

As noted earlier, SALALM developed substantially as a professional organization during its first 25 years. By the 1970s, SALALM had incorporated and grown from an initial one-time meeting of fewer than 50 Latin Americanists in 1956 to a membership of almost 400.⁵⁵ SALALM's strong leadership nurtured its organizational infrastructure so that by the 1980s, it was a very solid and secure organization whose members had made lasting contributions to Latin American bibliography.

A very important achievement of the organization during this period concerns its financial stability. Initially, the seminars managed to recoup the cost of the conferences, and a few meetings made a small profit that would be folded into the costs of the subsequent seminar. For many years, the institution that hosted the secretariat provided support in terms of staff, space, and other in-kind contributions. As the organization's needs became more extensive, fewer institutions were able to provide such support, and it became evident that SALALM had to provide for some or all of the needs of its secretariat. Through the dedicated stewardship of the Finance Committee, SALALM established an endowment and developed investment plans that have allowed the organization to support several

critically important activities, including its ability to assume a greater proportion of the cost of running the secretariat.

These foundational achievements made it possible for SALALM to focus on its other mission: that of supporting library development and librarianship in Latin America through various organizational and individual efforts. Among the initiatives made possible by the organization's solid financial footing are its Enlace/Outreach program and the endowment established for the Marietta Daniels Shepard Scholarship at the University of Texas at Austin. These programs are discussed below.

SALALM's publications developed along with the organization to maintain communication among its members and share its knowledge and expertise with the Latin American Studies community and other researchers. Starting in the mid-1980s, SALALM publications took on a more professional look as the editorial board developed strict publication guidelines. SALALM publications are distributed to institutional members, and they are available for sale from the secretariat. In addition, since 1992, SALALM documents have been deposited in one location in each Latin American country.⁵⁶

An example of how the organization adapts to changing needs of the research community is the affiliated group, Iberian Studies in SALALM (ISiS). Created in 2005, ISiS's mission "is to provide a forum within SALALM for identifying, collecting, organizing, providing access to and preserving information resources from and about the Iberian Peninsula in support of education and research." This interest group reflects the job description of many Latin American Studies bibliographers who also have collection responsibilities for Spain and Portugal. The ISiS website provides a wealth of resources and reports on membership activities. For example, SALALM members' reports of their activities at the international book fair, LIBER 2006, are posted at the site.⁵⁷

Most recently, during the 2007 conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a new ad hoc group called Academic Latina/o Zone of Activism and Research (ALZAR) organized itself, "To channel efforts to serve a wide range of collection development and other information needs in response to the growing presence of Latina/os in the United States and the development of U.S. Latino Studies programs." This newest affiliate group's "Goal is to provide a link (virtual and real) to resources addressing Latina/o issues in the academic setting." The group reflects the need for resources to support the growth of Latino/a studies at the undergraduate and research levels in the United States and beyond. This is another example of a group of librarians within SALALM collaborating to respond to evolving needs of the library community. About 50 to 75 academic and public librarians and other professionals attended this first meeting in Albuquerque. The ALZAR website became a reality in the summer of 2007.⁵⁸

Membership and Outreach

SALALM's membership numbers are in the hundreds rather than the thousands. The 2007 membership stands at 373, with 264 personal and 109 institutional members.⁵⁹ Although its membership may not seem large when compared with the membership of ALA, REFORMA, or other library associations, SALALM's extremely high level of active member participation in its committees, conferences, and other activities is the envy of other librarian organizations. SALALM's membership represents a wide variety of librarians and other professionals ranging from those who work in large research institutions like UCLA, University of Texas at Austin, Columbia, Harvard, and New York Public Library to numerous undergraduate colleges and universities, a significant number of book dealers and publishers, and more than 80 personal and institutional members from countries other than the United States.⁶⁰

For the 1991 San Diego conference, SALALM's executive secretary prepared a study of the organization's membership through 1990.⁶¹ This analysis showed that the membership had not only grown significantly over time to a total of 464—with 316 personal members and 148 institutional members by 1990, but also that SALALM's membership had changed from the initial group that was constituted mostly of academics and administrators to one that is made up almost entirely of working librarians and book dealers.⁶² Still, though the membership had grown to be almost 18 times its original size, it had stabilized and mirrored the “graying” of the library profession at large as well as the “graying of the foreign language and area studies community.”⁶³ Further, the study showed that newer members often represented smaller institutions that support undergraduate teaching. These newer members frequently held positions that assumed collection development responsibilities for Latin American Studies among one or more additional collection duties including ethnic, multicultural, and cultural studies.

As the original members of SALALM began to retire, the organization made the decision to recognize its founding members and others who had made significant contributions to the organization by establishing an honorary membership status in 1968.⁶⁴ Twenty-five SALALM members have been recognized with this status through 2008. All honorary members have played a vital role in SALALM's early years and beyond.⁶⁵

Another example of the organization's maturity and financial stability is the creation of the José Toribio Medina Award in 1981. SALALM created this award to recognize outstanding contributions by SALALM members in the area of bibliography. The recipient of the award receives a certificate plus an honorarium of \$250. Thirty-three SALALM members have been recognized with this award through 2008. Among those listed are the editors and authors of standard Latin American Studies reference

works such as the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*, the *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*, among other significant contributions.⁶⁶

Beginning in the late 1980s, in response to the stabilization of the membership, the membership committee and other leaders started to explore options of reaching out to other professionals both within and beyond North America and Europe to publicize the organization's work and its many benefits. The membership committee developed brochures in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and then sent these to library schools and other organizations in an effort to identify new members. In addition, a new members' orientation is offered at the annual conference and brief introductions are posted in the SALALM listserv (LALA-L) and published in the newsletter to welcome new members and encourage their active participation. In 2005, the membership committee established the New Member Travel Fund whose purpose is to increase both membership and outreach.⁶⁷ To aid with its mission, the membership committee also has a prominent place on the SALALM website.

In 1986, SALALM created a travel grant program, called Enlace/Outreach, as one part of its efforts to expand outreach to colleagues in Latin America. The goal of the Enlace/Outreach Committee "Is to foster professional contacts between U.S. and Latin American and Caribbean librarians and other professionals who work in library settings."⁶⁸ Enlace grants provide financial assistance to offset most of the costs associated with conference participation. Funding for the grants is provided in part by SALALM, by member contributions, but primarily by the very successful Enlace raffles held during the annual conference. The call for applications (in English, Spanish, and Portuguese) is posted on the SALALM website, sent to numerous listservs (in the United States, Latin America, and beyond) and is published in the SALALM newsletter in the fall to disseminate information about the availability of the travel grants program.

Since 1986, Enlace has supported the participation of Latin American colleagues at the annual conference where they must take an active role in the conference program. In that first year, three colleagues, one from Mexico and two from Argentina, were invited to present papers at the Berlin conference. Within a few years, this experimental program was institutionalized so that by the 2008 conference, SALALM had hosted a total of 70 Latin American colleagues as conference participants.⁶⁹ Eleven past and five current Enlace "becarios" (travel grant recipients) attended the 2006 conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.⁷⁰ Another indication of the program's success is that several Enlace "becarios" have become active members of the association. The contributions of Enlace "becarios" provide valuable perspectives about Latin American resources and the needs of the profession in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A further reflection of its commitment to the development of librarianship and the library profession in Latin America, and its own financial strength, is SALALM's approval of an effort to support library development in Latin America in 1985 through the creation of the Marietta Daniels Shepard (MDS) Endowed Scholarship at the School of Information of the University of Texas at Austin.⁷¹ To date, at least 10 students from Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay have received support from the MDS scholarship to complete a master's, post-master's, or doctoral degree. At least two of these scholarship recipients are or have been active SALALM members.⁷²

Another example of SALALM's efforts to share its knowledge and expertise with colleagues from Latin America and also learn about Latin American resources, programs, and services, is the grant that SALALM received in 1992 from the Fideicomiso para la Cultura México-Estados Unidos. SALALM hosted five librarians from Mexico who spent two to three months in libraries in California, Arizona, and New Mexico. At their host institution, these Mexican colleagues had opportunities to learn about academic librarianship through active participation in a variety of projects and share their knowledge and expertise with their counterparts. Three of these Mexican librarians maintain current professional and personal relationships with SALALM colleagues in the host libraries.

In 1991, SALALM 36 was held in San Diego; and Luis Herrera, then deputy director of the San Diego Public Library, was invited to present a paper at the conference. In his presentation, he challenged SALALM to forge partnerships with other organizations such as REFORMA, whose membership is constituted almost entirely by public librarians, to share its knowledge and expertise about acquiring Spanish language materials to serve the rapidly growing Latina/o populations served by public librarians.⁷³

Although SALALM's primary mission has been that of creating and supporting Latin American collections and research, individual members of the organization have been interested in addressing the information needs of the Latino populations in the United States. In the 1970s, SALALM approved the Joint Committee on Library Materials for the Spanish and Portuguese Speaking in the United States. In 1974, this committee held a postconference workshop on materials for children and young adults.⁷⁴ Several SALALM members are also members of REFORMA, and in 2002, a group of concerned SALALM members organized a preconference in Tempe, Arizona, whose goal was to reach out to the public library and undergraduate community. The preconference program focused on collecting Spanish language materials. Approximately 50 undergraduate and public librarians attended the one-day program. Among the librarians who attended this preconference program was Susana Hinojosa, then president of REFORMA and librarian at UC Berkeley. This was the first

time that Ms. Hinojosa had attended a SALALM conference. Ms. Hinojosa and other librarians who attended the preconference program became members of SALALM.

Another example of efforts to reach out to the members of organizations with similar interests is the cross-posting of announcements that appear in LALA-L, the SALALM listserv; to REFORMANET, the REFORMA listserv; and vice versa. These cross-postings are an effective way of increasing the visibility of both organizations among each other's memberships. The postings are not only informational but also serve to answer reference questions and to announce new resources, publications, conferences, and so on.

One more example of SALALM's maturity, financial means, and outreach commitment is that the Finance Committee approved in 2000 the Presidential Travel Fellowship to support the president's conference program while also reaching out to potential new members.⁷⁵ The purpose of the fellowship is to encourage active conference participation by new members to the organization from the United States or other countries, who have "programmatic responsibility for Latin American Studies."⁷⁶

Most SALALM members are also active members of ALA. Individual SALALM members try their best to promote the organization at the ALA midwinter meeting and annual conference and through its committees, but the two organizations have not forged strong ties. One successful example, however, of how the organizations are developing ties is that SALALM has actively promoted attendance at the Feria Internacional del Libro (FIL), the international book fair in Guadalajara, Mexico, through ALA's "free pass" program. In Guadalajara, SALALM, REFORMA, ALA members, and other library professionals have opportunities to promote their organizations among those attending FIL. SALALM members are actively involved in the new members' orientation for both academic and public librarians. At the 2007 ALA Conference, SALALM hosted its first booth, and those in attendance report that the experience was a resounding success. Several new members signed up to join SALALM, and information about the organization was provided to library schools.⁷⁷ The secretariat sent SALALM posters and brochures to 135 library schools.⁷⁸

Technology

SALALM has embraced technological developments, and these are evident in its successful collaborations with HAPI and HLAS as these publications automated their processes and eventually became web resources. In 1991, LALA-L, the SALALM listserv was launched.⁷⁹ Throughout its 16-year history, LALA-L has become an invaluable communication tool for the membership. LALA-L is an excellent means of consulting

colleagues with reference questions, publicize new resources, announce conferences, and the like.

SALALM's first website was launched in 1996 by Cornell University Library where it remained until summer 2007.⁸⁰ In summer 2007, the redesigned SALALM website, hosted by the SUNY Binghamton Library, was launched. The SALALM website has current and historical information about the organization, its publications, links to book dealers and book fairs, along with a rich variety of other resources such as bibliographic instruction tools and e-resources.⁸¹

Expansion of Collaboration

In the 1970s and 1980s, collaboration with HAPI and the HLAS became more institutionalized as these publications established official representation within SALALM through committees or interest groups. In the 1990s, SALALM members provided invaluable support (volunteer indexers) for HAPI and HLAS as these standard Latin American Studies tools automate the compilation and editorial process and eventually become fully searchable web resources.

In 2006, an ad hoc group collaborated with the Choice/Bowker *Resources for College Libraries* database. The ad hoc group identified and annotated basic electronic resources suitable for this undergraduate database.⁸² This project provides SALALM with an opportunity to share its wealth of knowledge and expertise and thereby enhance its visibility among the greater library profession.

Other examples of collaboration are SALALM's affiliated groups: CALAFIA, LANE, LASER, MOLLAS, and LARRP.⁸³ These affiliates are of different types, although they were all created and developed through SALALM professional and personal relationships. The first four affiliates are regional collection development groups (in California, the North- and Southeast, and the Midwest) that meet regionally to make joint collection development decisions. CALAFIA, the California Cooperative Latin American Collection Development Group, is a consortium of California academic libraries (public and private), and among their achievements is an agreement to divide up collection of materials from the northern and southern Mexican states; LASER, the Latin American Studies Southeast Regional libraries, compiled a list of newspaper holdings; LANE, the Latin America Northeast libraries consortium, compiled a list of archival collections that had a Latin American literary content, among other valuable contributions.

LARRP, the Latin American Research Resources Project, is an example of cooperative collection development at the national level whose

membership is almost entirely constituted by members of SALALM. LARRP is an affiliate group that is administered by the Center for Research Libraries in collaboration with the Association of Research Libraries and the Association of American Universities.⁸⁴ LARRP participants agree to devote a portion of their budgets to collecting country-specific materials for a region or specialized topic. Fifty libraries participate in LARRP, and its annual membership meeting is held during the SALALM conference.

LARRP's two main digital initiatives are the Latin American Periodicals Tables of Contents (LAPTOC)⁸⁵ and the Latin American Open Archives Portal (LAOAP).⁸⁶ Both projects are hosted by the Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC).⁸⁷ While LANIC's primary connection to SALALM has been through LARRP, since its founding in 1992, LANIC has participated actively in SALALM's annual conferences. SALALM members are frequent contributors to LANIC at many levels, such as conducting training workshops at conferences in the United States and Latin America, contributing resources for the LANIC directory, and facilitating contacts with Latin American publishers and librarians.⁸⁸

Additional examples of collaboration from the 1980s and 1990s are that SALALM held two joint conferences, one with LASA in 1982 in Washington, DC; and the other with the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) in Miami in 1987. In addition, the January 1990 issue of the SALALM newsletter was a joint issue with REFORMA.⁸⁹

Examples of more recent collaborations that reflect the need for resources to support growing Latina/o populations in the United States are the *America Reads Spanish* (ARS) electronic newsletter that is now posted to the SALALM and REFORMA listservs. ARS is a joint publication of the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade and the Spanish Association of Publishers' Guild. This same group recently published the *Essential Guide to Spanish Reading*. Many SALALM members contributed to this publication.⁹⁰

Conclusion

SALALM's strength belies its relatively small membership base and the significant contributions it has made through its 50-year history. As the organization continues to grow and develop in response to the needs of the Latin American and Latino/a Studies undergraduate programs and research communities and the fast-growing Latino populations that live in the United States, SALALM is very well positioned to participate in developing the necessary resources to meet these interesting challenges.

Notes

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ALA, IFLA, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH LATIN AMERICA

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The American Library Association and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) are recognized worldwide professional associations with a strong presence in Latin America. They have a long history of collaboration to tackle issues affecting libraries and librarians from this region. Memberships to these organizations seem