LANE minutes

Nov 14, 2011

Present:
Melissa Gasparotto (Chair), Peter Stern, Angela Carreño, Marisol Ramos, Sarah Aponte, Daisy Domínguez, Michael Scott, Richard Heyer, Sean Knowlton, Patricia Figueroa, Helvetia Mostell (guest, CPRS), Jesus Alonso Regalado, Alberto Hernández-Banuchi (guest, CPRS), Joseph Holub, Peter Johnson, César Rodríguez, Miguel Valladares, Fernando Acosta-Rodríguez, Martha Mantilla, María Vázquez, Lynn Shirey (minutes)

The minutes from last meeting (Philadelphia, May 2011) and the agenda were approved.

Welcome to new member Michael Scott (Georgetown).

**Presentation by Dennis Riley of NARA (National Archives Records Administration) of NY, NJ, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands on federal records.**

Riley explained that Puerto Rican records are included in New York and include government policy relating to socioeconomic development, and legal, census and military documents. There are no finding aids for these materials at NARA—users have to ask for them. Riley would like to know what other similar collections might exist. Alberto Hernández commented that it is important to keep the issue [of these records] alive and compile data [create finding aids]. Marisol Ramos commented that these records are important for information about the PR diaspora in the US. Riley said that he will create a description of content online that can be linked to, as a first step. We can link via the LANE page. Riley will create a rough draft by the end of January. Riley said that as records are requested from NARA research guides are created. Fernando A: how can we access the collection? Riley: you can email: newyork.archives@NARA.org. Only paper finding aids are created at this time. Most records are genealogical and are public; copies can be mailed. The NARA website has “online public access” (OPA) but this is not a catalog. NY office will move to Bowling Green (Ohio?) next year. Comments: UConn has historical PR records in book form; the Center for PR Studies has PR newspapers; the Archivo Nacional de PR has records of local government, also for US Virgin Islands. Marisol commented that LANIC could add NARA to the PR section of the portal. Hernandez commented that the Center has official records of the PR division of migration, as well as a new virtual library (full text materials, by Dec.?). Their records are NY centric.

Update:
Dennis Riley has completed the Guide to Puerto Rican archives in the NYC National Archives that he showed to us in draft form at our Fall meeting. He says that we are free to post or distribute as we see fit, and that he hopes to be able to get it onto the NARA website soon. The guide is attached to this email, and Fernando has posted it to the LANE website, as well.

Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to the rest of the LANE membership, as well as an open invitation to stop by NARA for the grand tour, as well as a firsthand look at the Puerto Rican records.

I also wanted to follow-up on your suggestion about developing some sort of digital, item-level collection that could be used to introduce undergrads to primary source, archival research. I mentioned this to my boss who seemed to think it was a worth project and I’ll pursue from my end how we might get something on the DocsTeach.org site. However, I would also ask if you (or others in academia) might have ideas or be able to develop a framework or structure for this, we could then supply the documents. Since I'm not a subject matter expert (yet), it would be invaluable to have academic input as to what you be most useful and effective. Otherwise we risk creating yet another government inspired product no one wants, uses, or needs. In any case, something to think about.

If you'd like to get in touch with him about this, his email is: Dennis.Riley@nara.gov

Collection Development Questionnaire (Fernando):

Last year LANE members completed questionnaires relating to strengths of holdings of library materials by country (in LA). He said that we need more data on the subjects covered by our collections. Miguel can (or did?) produce a report about the sizes of our collections and the amount of duplication among them. The questionnaire questioned our perceptions. Hard to identify areas were not well covered in the questionnaire. Idea (Fernando): take Brazil as a pilot project. It is an important and growing area, and is challenging (huge number of publications—no one library can cover everything). Miguel V. suggested the creation of 2 pilot projects: 1 country-based and 1 subject-based. Ideas then discussed were: vendor involvement; BRIC (business-economics-technology as a subject area); the need to cut core collecting to generate savings; how would access among NYU, Col and NYPL work if we focus on low-use research materials; there is a need for bibliographers to travel, look for new vendors—important not to rely on a single vendor to manage a collecting project such as this; document movement from lower to middle classes in (Rio?); involve LC-Rio: ask for reports on coverage of publications, cancellations (by libraries) of serials when available online and archiving is unreliable. CRL collects S Asian materials not collected by US libraries. Ask Frida Garbati (LC-Rio) for list; many of us duplicate one another in history and politics; need to collect pubs of think tanks, nano science; Fernando: a formal agreement can drive a cooperative collecting project; utilize
Harvard’s (LA studies center) program in Sao Paulo for collecting assistance. Fernando suggested that interested parties meet separately from LANE. Peter J suggested that we could create a Brazil interest group at SALALM, similar to Cuban Bibliography group.

Data presentation / Bobray Bordelon (Princeton U)


Collection Statistics:

Martha asked how to report serial and electronic database expenditures when compiling collection statistics; it is problematic. Others agreed.

Discussion of databases: Gale World Scholar:

Joe commented that the database includes US Dept of State documents relating to Latin America; this is valuable but not everything is included and selection appears to be random. Other contents in database are freely available elsewhere. Brazil Popular Groups are included (digitized microfilm sets), but not the supplements (and they won’t be).

E-books discussion:

PDA: Patron Driven Acquisitions of E-books. Marisol reports that UConn is using Ebrary and EBL for ILL generated requests. Melissa reports a pilot project at Rutgers for science titles that have been pre-selected by librarians. David M. commented that faculty are (or should be?) involved in pre-selection of titles. Question about number of consecutive users per e-book. Miguel reports that Project Muse includes e-books from US university presses. Fernando: historians use many books at one time. Jesus: e-book publishers in Spain are trending towards open access. He will send out a list of digital-born publishers.

Miscellaneous:

LANE at SALALM LVII: we had a brief discussion as to whether we could skip our LANE meeting at the annual SALALM Conference in June 2012, due to a shorter timeframe and the fact that we do much of our work at the fall meeting. Members agreed to skip.

2CUL update / Sean Knowlton:
South Asian, Slavic and Latin American collection development is being shared between Columbia and Cornell; mostly backend information; faster Borrow Direct.

Peter Johnson thanked Daisy and Melissa for their work on the new SALALM website. He announced that another $1000 scholarship for new SALALM members who are library school students will be offered next spring (via SALALM).