



SALALM LXVI

From Hojas Volantes to Podcasts: News from Latin America and the Caribbean

July 19-22, 2021

Virtual Conference

The Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials is pleased to announce its 66th annual conference to be held online, July 19-22, 2021. SALALM LXVI is sponsored by New York University, New York Public Library, and Columbia University.

From Hojas Volantes to Podcasts: News from Latin America and the Caribbean will bring together librarians, archivists, book vendors, scholars, publishers and journalists to participate in a dialogue about our engagement with, understanding and conservation of the journalistic record in Latin America and the Caribbean. Together we will explore how past and present efforts of production, distribution, collecting and preservation can provide lessons for the future.

Framed by four roundtables the conference will explore and survey the theme through conversations and surface challenges and directions from different viewpoints with different stakeholders. Journalists from Latin America and the Caribbean will discuss their relationship to libraries, information access, and their publishing in the public sphere. Faculty members from different disciplines will talk about how they use news sources in their research and teaching. Electronic resources vendors will discuss current trends in product development including (but not exclusive to) discovery and preservation of news content, coverage and representation, and cost models. A roundtable discussion will survey SALALM and library led efforts to preserve news, including the trajectory of the previously named Latin American Microform Project (LAMP) to current web archiving efforts of news sources.

News formats in the 20th and 21st century have multiplied beyond measure; the internet facilitates real-time reporting by established news organizations and citizen journalists. This shift has not been immune to powerful tensions: state censure and reprisal, disinformation, social media fragmentation, and algorithmic bias, among others.

Rapidly developing technologies present us with both continuity and contrast vis-à-vis the periodic and serialized journalistic output of the 19th and 20th centuries. The existential implications of this evolving news ecosystem have been put into sharp relief as we face a deadly worldwide pandemic and its accompanying specter of misinformation. This conference aims to explore and confront the challenges presented by this landscape of evidence and dissimulation.

Within libraries, news sources have been a catalyst for innovative, inter-institutional collaboration. They have also presented acquisition, preservation, and access challenges. What tools, skills, and ethical frameworks do we have or need to come to terms with the multiplicity of journalistic voices in the interest of future research? The first draft of history is being written, recorded, and imaged every day throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, and we have a critical role to play in the future telling of our times.