



# American library resources for Latin American studies

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## American Library Resources for Latin American Studies

*William Vernon Jackson*

American research libraries have assembled the largest collections of published materials relating to Latin America that exist in any country—far exceeding those in Spain, Portugal, and the individual Latin American nations. Yet we do not fully know the nature and extent of these resources. It is generally easy to find the location of a particular book, because, in addition to catalogs (partial or complete) of the Latin American holdings of a number of major libraries, we have such comprehensive catalogs as the *National Union Catalog* and the *Union List of Serials/New Serial Titles*. Moreover, it becomes ever easier to locate a given title, thanks to the on-line databases.

We also often have statements of current collecting policy, but we lack the descriptive overall view of the results of past acquisitions. Catalogs in which one can find the location of a particular book are not the same as guides to resources that describe library collections in terms of the nature and extent of holdings, their language and geographic spread, the degree of comprehensiveness, unique and rare materials held (e.g., first editions and manuscripts), nonbook materials, special emphases or areas of note within each field, and supporting and related materials in other parts of the collection. It is only from a guide or guides that we can find detailed answers to such questions as: Which libraries have collected materials for advanced study and research on Latin America? How extensively have they done so? In which subjects are they strong? In which disciplines are they weak? In building resources, to which countries have these institutions paid greatest attention? Where are important collections of nonbook materials, such as maps, music, and photographs? The answers to these and other related questions, in addition to aiding scholars, would further cooperative acquisitions and preservation planning for Latin American materials. These are among the most endangered holdings in American libraries.

Although this article cannot substitute for an extensive, detailed guide, it does offer a general overview of Latin American resources in American libraries by indicating the distribution and extent of these materials and the nature of their holdings (with regard to both geographic concentrations and subject strengths). Although it does not trace the history of either individual collections or of the total national effort to develop resources, it offers observations that may facilitate understanding of research holdings in the last decade of the twentieth century. (This essay deals only with collections for advanced study and research, omitting both teaching materials that support basic studies, as found in libraries of liberal arts colleges, and those for the general reader, as found in public libraries.)

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The lack of published information on individual library holdings has been a serious obstacle in preparing this report. Many sources were out of date or incomplete; many emphasized only certain aspects of holdings (e.g., one special collection or form of material). To supplement these books and articles with more up-to-date information, a brief questionnaire was sent in May 1987 to thirty-eight institutions with important Latin American holdings; it asked for statistics on the size of the collections and a list of subject strengths and geographic concentrations. Since not all libraries replied, the picture remains incomplete. Statements in this essay generally refer to materials in traditional book and booklike formats (monographs, pamphlets, serials, and newspapers), and they cover neither manuscript and archival materials, nor audiovisual items.

Research libraries in the United States consist of three types: (1) those supported by the national government—most importantly, the Library of Congress, which functions as the national library in all areas but clinical medicine and technical agriculture, for which there are separate institutions (the National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library); (2) the privately supported, independent institutions like the New York Public Library, the Newberry Library, and the Huntington—none of them affiliated with a degree-granting institution; and (3) the libraries of major research universities, both privately and publicly (state) supported. There are three national libraries, about fifteen members of the Independent Research Libraries Association (IRLA), and more than one hundred members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). These figures reveal the great numerical importance of university libraries.

Nearly every major university supports one or more “area studies program”—interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programs that focus on one geographical area; a few examples are the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe at Harvard, Southeast Asia at Wisconsin, Africa at Northwestern, South Asia at Chicago, East Asia at California, Berkeley, Latin America at Texas, and the British Commonwealth at Duke. This means that some institutions have given relatively little emphasis to overall Latin American holdings, even though nearly all teach Spanish and, to a lesser extent, Portuguese language and literature. The degree to which individual professional schools (e.g., law, medicine, journalism, architecture, library science) participate in these area studies programs varies greatly as well. These and other factors (funding levels, general support for libraries, grants from foundations and the U.S. government) have influenced and continue to play a role in the development of Latin American resources.

Since the first third of the twentieth century, the Library of Congress has had a collecting policy broader than that of most universities; the New York Public Library has also collected in depth in nearly all humanistic and social science disciplines and technology but has given much less emphasis to the biological sciences and has excluded certain fields (pedagogy and theology) covered by other libraries in New York City.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

The number of collections having holdings of importance for research is in itself difficult to determine. Most American libraries organize their collections by subject (history, economics, chemistry, etc.), and to determine the extent of

holdings on Latin America, it would be necessary to examine each topic within the classification (a study of Brazilian resources<sup>1</sup> revealed about 700 such places within the Library of Congress Classification). Furthermore, some major collections have used more than one classification, so it would be necessary to combine figures.

Twenty years ago Nettie Lee Benson defined a comprehensive Latin American collection as one that would "comprehend all fields and all countries of Latin America as well as all works published world-wide about Latin America or by Latin American authors from earliest time to the present."<sup>2</sup> She stated that such a collection would embrace from 450,000 to 600,000 titles or 650,000 to 800,000 volumes. No such collection existed in 1968, and probably one does not exist now, although it is certain that libraries with large holdings have become more comprehensive in the past two decades. If we do not have a truly comprehensive collection, what factors should we use to judge collections as "important" in the national context? We might more readily understand what an "important" collection is by stating what it is not. It is not limited to a single country or region, but embraces the entire area south of the Rio Grande; it does not consist of a single "special collection" on one topic, area, or political or literary figure; it does not limit itself to one or two academic disciplines, but embraces nearly all of the humanities and social sciences; and it does not deal with only a particular time period, but covers the pre-Columbian, colonial, and national periods. Such a broad scope does not, of course, preclude emphases on particular countries or disciplines. Under this definition fall both collections of very large dimensions (Texas and the Library of Congress) and those that may be only one-quarter or one-fifth of their size. On this basis, one might put forward the hypothesis that the United States contains between forty and fifty libraries with major Latin American resources. (A directory published in 1971 tabulates 144 institutions, but it includes special libraries, colleges, and public libraries that would certainly not meet the above definition.)<sup>3</sup> In addition, many libraries may have special collections or subject strengths related to aspects of Latin American civilization rather than to the entire range of its culture.

Although there might be disagreement on a few institutions in the following list, it seems likely that most experts in library resources and Latin Americanists would feel that all of the following libraries meet these criteria.

*University Libraries* (39): Arizona; Arizona State; California, Berkeley; California, Los Angeles; Catholic; Chicago; Columbia; Connecticut; Cornell; Duke; Florida; Harvard; Illinois; Indiana; Kansas; Massachusetts; Miami; Michigan; Michigan State; Minnesota; New Mexico; New York; North Carolina; Northwestern; Ohio State; Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania State; Pittsburgh; Princeton; Southern California; Stanford; State University of New York, Stony Brook; Texas; Tulane; Vanderbilt; Virginia; Washington, St. Louis; Wisconsin; Yale.

*Other Libraries* (6): Center for Research Libraries; Hispanic Society of America; Library of Congress; New York Public; Newberry; Pan American Union.

<sup>1</sup> William V. Jackson, *Library Guide for Brazilian Studies* (Pittsburgh: Distributed by University of Pittsburgh Book Centers, 1964), pp. 165-194.

<sup>2</sup> Nettie Lee Benson, "The Development of Comprehensive Latin American Collections," in William V. Jackson, ed., *Latin American Collections* (Nashville:

Distributed by Vanderbilt University Bookstore, 1974), pp. 7-14.

<sup>3</sup> Robert P. Haro, *Latin Americana Research in the United States and Canada: A Guide and Directory* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1971).

Plotting these forty-five libraries on the map, one finds them distributed in all parts of the country. In one sense, this follows the distribution of major research collections, yet one can immediately see reflected the natural interest of institutions in those southern states facing the Caribbean or bordering Mexico—Florida, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. These six states contain ten collections; the remaining thirty-five are in the District of Columbia and seventeen states: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

It is worth noting that six metropolitan areas have more than a single collection: New York, Washington, Chapel Hill/Raleigh/Durham, Chicago, San Francisco Bay, and Los Angeles. Chicago is unique in having three libraries in the city and two others relatively close by: Illinois to the south in Urbana and Wisconsin to the northwest in Madison.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES

A few historical notes will help set the stage for the discussion of the two national programs that enhanced Latin American holdings after World War II. By the end of the nineteenth century more than one hundred publications had been acquired and sent to the Library of Congress by American ministers to eight countries in Latin America, in response to a request by Librarian John Russell Young.<sup>4</sup> By 1915, Harvard had acquired several private libraries from Latin America,<sup>5</sup> and in 1920 Texas started collecting in earnest with the purchase of the Genaro García collection in Mexico.<sup>6</sup> Four years later Tulane's Latin American Library began when a portion of the William Gates Collection of Middle American Books and Manuscripts came to the university as a gift.<sup>7</sup> During the 1920s and 1930s some university libraries were acquiring material on at least the history and literature of the republics to the south, but for many institutions extensive development of holdings in various disciplines and from all parts of Latin America did not begin until after World War II, when a new importance was given to international studies. Further strong impetus came in the 1960s, when both the large foundations and the federal government began to support area studies on a greatly expanded scale. Collecting foreign materials extensively became part of the normal operations of the country's major research libraries and, with some ups and downs, has continued to the present. The development of strong Latin American holdings in university libraries has almost always occurred in relation with and response to a Latin American program on campus. In contrast, both the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library have long collected globally, with nearly equal emphasis on acquisitions from all regions of the world.

During this same period, two national programs contributed to the expansion of resources for Latin American studies. The first was the Farmington

<sup>4</sup> Mary Ellis Kahler, "Bibliographic Activities of the Library of Congress Relating to Latin America," in Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials, 23rd, 1978, *Final Report and Working Papers* (Austin: SALALM Secretariat, 1979) p. 281.

<sup>5</sup> William Bentick-Smith, *Building a Great Library: The Coolidge Years at Harvard* (Cambridge: Harvard University Library, 1976), pp. 112-114.

<sup>6</sup> Nettie Lee Benson, "Latin American Collection," *Discovery*, 7, no. 3 (1983), 54-61.

<sup>7</sup> Guillermo Núñez Falcón, "The Latin American Library, Tulane University," *Louisiana Library Association Bulletin*, 46 (1983/84), 89-94.

Plan, which had as its goal to acquire and promptly catalog each new foreign publication that might reasonably be expected to be of interest to researchers in this country. Started in 1948 with coverage of three European countries, the Farmington Plan later expanded to cover most of the globe except Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union and East European countries. About sixty American research libraries participated in these cooperative arrangements, which operated in two ways: (1) for Western Europe and a few other countries, each library accepted the responsibility for certain subject areas and received books sent by the designated dealer in each country; and (2) for other parts of the world (mainly the newly developing nations) a series of "country responsibility" assignments was made, whereby a library accepted responsibility for collecting current publications in all fields from a specific country and made its own acquisition arrangements. For both types of coverage, the responsibility was unique—there was only one library for each topic and for each country. Ten, originally eleven, libraries accepted country assignments for Latin America (see Table 1). Two collected for regions rather than simply for individual countries: Florida took up the entire Caribbean area, and Tulane, all of Central America except Costa Rica.<sup>8</sup> Many of these Farmington Plan assignments—both the subject and country types—reflected, at least in part, existing resources

TABLE I  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES UNDER THE FARMINGTON PLAN

COUNTRY	LIBRARY RESPONSIBLE	COUNTRY	LIBRARY RESPONSIBLE
Argentina	Cornell*	Guyana	Florida
Barbados	Florida	Haiti	Florida
Bolivia	Duke	Honduras	Tulane
Brazil	Illinois	Jamaica	Florida
Caribbean**	Florida	Mexico	Texas
Chile	California (Berkeley)	Nicaragua	Tulane
Colombia	Arizona	Panama	Arizona
Costa Rica	Kansas	Paraguay	Cornell*
Cuba	Florida	Peru	Cornell
Dominican Republic	Florida	Trinidad & Tobago	Florida
Ecuador	Duke	Uruguay	Cornell*
El Salvador	Tulane	Venezuela	Virginia
Guatemala	Tulane		

\*Originally assigned to Syracuse; Cornell took responsibility for these countries in 1968.

\*\*All islands, countries, and territories not listed here.

SOURCE: Edwin E. Williams, *Farmington Plan Handbook*, Rev. to 1961 and abridged ([Ithaca, N. Y.] Association of Research Libraries, 1961), pp. 32-35; *Farmington Plan Newsletter*, No. 28 (October 1968), p. 7.

<sup>8</sup> Edwin E. Williams, *Farmington Plan Handbook* Rev. to 1961 and abridged (Ithaca, N. Y.: Association of Research Libraries, 1961), pp. 32-35 and passim.

as well as current interests and thus were seen as enhancing subject or geographical strengths. For this reason, many libraries continued to emphasize the same countries after the the Farmington Plan ended in 1973.

The second project, the Latin American Cooperative Acquisitions Program (LACAP) was the result of the efforts of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) to improve the flow of Latin American materials to the U.S. libraries. Undertaken with the assistance of the firm of Stechert-Hafner, this was an adaptation of the blanket order type of acquisitions that some libraries had placed with European dealers. In LACAP each participating library specified subjects and/or countries that it wished to cover by receiving current publications. On the basis of this profile, Stechert-Hafner supplied materials from the stock sent to New York by its traveling agent in Latin America. (Although the materials were generally trade books, Stechert-Hafner did furnish some publications issued by universities and nonprofit organizations.) LACAP operated from 1961 to 1973, when it was terminated due to dissatisfaction on the part of some participating libraries; during this period about 43,000 different titles went to the participating libraries.<sup>9</sup> LACAP differed in one important respect from the Farmington Plan: multiple copies of books were acquired and distributed, although the exact number varied from as few as several to as many as twenty. Those libraries that had signed up for the broadest coverage (Library of Congress, New York Public, and Texas) generally received priority when the number of copies available was limited.

SALALM, the organization that sponsored LACAP, was an association of librarians, book dealers, scholars, and others, that came into being in 1956 following a meeting on the problems of Latin American acquisitions held at the University of Florida. Successive conferences have taken place at many U.S. universities, in cities in the Caribbean, in London, and in Berlin. SALALM's activities and publications<sup>10</sup> have contributed to the improvement of library holdings and to the dissemination of information on resources through a series of reports on significant acquisitions (no longer published).<sup>11</sup>

Since the termination of the Farmington Plan and LACAP in the early 1970s, each library collecting on Latin America has independently pursued development of its resources. Information continues to be exchanged at SALALM meetings, but there exists no formal cooperative agreement on resources. Undoubtedly, the Library of Congress acquires on the broadest scale, and in 1987 it received more than 18,000 monographs from Latin America, about half through purchase and half through gift and exchange (Table 2).

<sup>9</sup> Jennifer Savary, "Library Cooperation in Latin America," in *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (New York: Dekker, 1975), XV, 214-247.

<sup>10</sup> William V. Jackson, "Twenty-Third Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Materials," in *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* (New York: Dekker, 1981), XXXI, 239-280.

<sup>11</sup> Jane Garner, "Significant Acquisitions of Latin American Materials, Decennial Cumulation, 1961/62-1970/71" in Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials, 16th, 1971, *Final Report and Working Papers* (Washington: OAS, 1971), pp. 163-307. It is

continued by Peter T. Johnson, "Significant Acquisitions of Latin American Materials by U.S. and Canadian Libraries, 1971/72," in Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials, 17th, 1972, *Final Report and Working Papers* (Amherst: SALALM, 1975), II, 1-29; and by Peter T. Johnson, "Significant Acquisitions of Latin American Materials by U.S. and Canadian Libraries, 1972/73," in Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials, 18th, 1973, *Final Report and Working Papers* (Amherst: SALALM, 1975), I, 227-238.

## ORGANIZATION OF RESOURCES

This article has used the phrase "Latin American collections" for the sake of convenience, not because these materials are physically and administratively separate. In fact, American research libraries generally classify their Latin American holdings by subject and shelve them with other volumes on these subjects (e.g., books on the economies of Brazil, Argentina, etc., with other books on economics, those covering the arts in Latin America with other volumes on fine arts). In addition, many universities have branch libraries for some sciences and for certain professional fields. Three universities comprise, however, the exception to this general practice; they have established separate Latin American libraries. The largest of these (see Table 3) is at the University of Texas at Austin, housed since 1971 in Sid Richardson Hall along with the administrative offices of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS). The collection at Tulane, originally part of the Middle American Research Institute, became part of the Tulane University Library and occupies separate quarters on the fourth floor of the Howard- Tilton Library. The University of Florida established its Latin American collection as a separate unit in 1967 and located it in

TABLE 2  
MONOGRAPHS FROM LATIN AMERICA ACQUIRED BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, 1987

COUNTRY	BY GIFT OR EXCHANGE	BY PURCHASE	TOTAL	COUNTRY	BY GIFT OR EXCHANGE	BY PURCHASE	TOTAL
Anguilla	0	28	28	Haiti	51	56	107
Antigua and Barbuda	0	8	8	Honduras	9	124	133
Argentina	593	837	1,430	Jamaica	10	82	92
Bahamas	15	129	144	Mexico	926	1,286	2,212
Barbados	29	32	61	Netherlands Antilles	19	21	40
Belize	0	2	2	Nicaragua	23	123	146
Bermuda	0	9	9	Panama	37	98	135
Bolivia	40	226	266	Paraguay	10	188	198
Brazil	4,161	2,063	6,224	Peru	136	446	582
Cayman Islands	3	21	24	Puerto Rico	51	86	137
Chile	1,529	411	1,940	St. Christopher-St Kits-Nevis	0	0	0
Colombia	259	498	757	St. Lucia	0	13	13
Costa Rica	149	263	412	St. Vincent	0	9	9
Cuba	358	148	506	Surinam	54	11	65
Dominica	7	13	20	Trinidad and Tobago	18	27	45
Dominican Republic	61	222	283	Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0	0
Ecuador	62	378	440	Uruguay	139	332	471
El Salvador	12	68	80	Venezuela	279	822	1,101
French Antilles	5	145	150	Virgin Islands (U.K.)	1	5	6
Grenada	0	1	1	Virgin Islands (U.S.)	1	12	13
Guatemala	79	68	147	TOTAL	9,135	9,364	18,499
Guyana	9	53	62				

SOURCE: "Library of Congress Monograph Receipts for 1986 and 1987," *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, 47 (8 February 1988), 52-58.



the Library East Building. Even though these separate libraries house the bulk of Latin American resources, some materials remain in other locations, e.g., agriculture at Florida, medicine and business administration at Tulane, some sciences at Texas, and law at all three institutions.

Although the Library of Congress has had a separate reading room for the Hispanic Division since its creation (as the Hispanic Foundation) in 1939, the room contains only a collection of reference books. Originally, there was an attempt to house some Hispanic materials (notably in classes F and PQ) adjacent to the reading room, but given the size of the library's holdings, it was impossible to maintain this practice.

In addition to not segregating Latin American items on the shelves, libraries have neither established separate catalogs to provide special bibliographic access nor published descriptive guides to their holdings. The development of on-line computer-based catalogs may eventually enable a user to view on his or her terminal a listing of all materials dealing with a certain country; at present this is not possible.

One current cooperative venture using the computer deserves mention, however, because it appears to have some potential for revealing more about Latin American resources. This is the North American Collections Inventory Project (NCIP). Libraries participating in this project (begun in 1983) are studying their resources in twenty-four broad fields, one of them being Latin American Studies. Utilizing the *Conspectus* methodology yields "an overview, or summary, of

TABLE 3  
LATIN AMERICAN RESOURCES OF 26 RESEARCH LIBRARIES, 1987

<i>LIBRARY</i>	<i>VOLUMES*</i>	<i>LIBRARY</i>	<i>VOLUMES*</i>
Arizona	84,000	New York Public	150,000
Arizona State	65,000	New York University	37,000
California (Berkeley)	500,000	North Carolina	200,000
Catholic	50,000**	Ohio State	50,000
Connecticut	70,000	Pennsylvania State	60,000
Cornell	240,000	Pittsburgh	221,000
Duke	185,000	Princeton	120,000
Florida	213,000***	Southern California	216,500
Harvard	300,000****	Texas	510,000***
Illinois	325,000	Tulane	216,500***
Kansas	250,000	Vanderbilt	70,000
Michigan State	60,000	Virginia	113,000
New Mexico	250,000	Wisconsin	250,000

SOURCE: Questionnaires returned by libraries, June, 1987. Newberry and Washington (St. Louis) could not supply current statistics; ten other major research libraries did not reply.

\*Most figures are estimates.

\*\*Oliveira Lima Library only.

\*\*\*Separate Latin American collections only; does not include volumes in other campus libraries (main and branches).

\*\*\*\*Rough estimate, which probably does not reflect holdings of faculty libraries as fully as those of Harvard College Library.

existing collecting strengths [ECS] and future collecting intensities [now spoken of as current collecting intensities, CCI]."<sup>12</sup> For each of 7,000 descriptors this takes the form of two symbols: a number representing the collecting level on a scale of 0 (out of scope) to 5 (comprehensive) and a letter representing the language spread of material in one of four ways (English language predominating, Selected foreign languages, Wide selection of foreign languages, and Primarily in one foreign language); the two parts, ECS and CCI, are separated by a slash (e.g., 4F/3E). Coupled with these designations are optional additions: Scope Notes, Comment Notes, and Preservation Scope Notes. The results are then added to the RLIN data base and form the *Conspectus On-line*.

One limitation of this methodology is obvious: even with the addition of notes, *Conspectus* "notation" is really a kind of shorthand symbol—far from the descriptive statements that are part of a true guide to resources.

Unfortunately, there are at present several drawbacks in utilizing *Conspectus On-line* to obtain information on Latin American material. No statement on the application of subject descriptors to Latin America has been disseminated generally; one set of *Conspectus Worksheets*, entitled "Latin America Update" (seen in a library participating in NCIP), contains 146 pages. This seems to indicate many specific (as opposed to broad) subjects. We know neither how many libraries have contributed data on Latin America nor how complete were their submissions. Availability is limited to libraries that are members of the Research Libraries Group (RLG), because apparently there are no plans to publish *Conspectus On-line*, in whole or in part (one could presumably arrange for a print-out, but this would be rather costly.)<sup>13</sup>

#### EXTENT OF HOLDINGS

To answer the question, How large are the Latin American collections? one should consult Table 3, which gives statistics for twenty-six research libraries, though most figures are estimates. We have no up-to-date figures for the remaining nineteen institutions: California, Los Angeles; Center for Research Libraries; Chicago; Columbia; Hispanic Society; Indiana; Library of Congress; Massachusetts; Miami; Michigan; Minnesota; Newberry; Northwestern; Pan American Union; Pennsylvania; Stanford; SUNY, Stony Brook; Washington, St. Louis; and Yale.

Table 3 indicates that two institutions, California at Berkeley and Texas, have resources in excess of 500,000 volumes. (The Library of Congress presumably matches or exceeds this figure.) The next largest collections are found at Illinois and Harvard. Clustered at around 250,000 volumes are Cornell, Kansas, New Mexico, and Wisconsin, with another group (Pittsburgh, Tulane, Florida, Southern California, and North Carolina) consisting of libraries holding between 200,000 and 225,000 volumes. Four institutions (Duke, New York Public, Princeton, and Virginia) report between 100,000 and 199,000 volumes; the remaining nine institutions fall below 100,000.

<sup>12</sup> Nancy E. Gwinn and Paul H. Mosher, "Coordinating Collection Development: The RLG *Conspectus*," *College & Research Libraries*, 44 (1983), 129.

<sup>13</sup> For more information on NCIP, see Jutta Reed-Scott,

*Manual for the North American Inventory of Research Library Collections* (Washington: Association of Research Libraries, Office of Management Studies, 1988).

These figures are approximate. Most accurate are those for the separate libraries at Florida, Texas, and Tulane. One suspects that the estimate for Harvard may be low for a total collection exceeding 11,000,000 volumes. Of the libraries not replying to the questionnaire, California at Los Angeles, Stanford, and Yale probably have the largest holdings; given their emphasis on Latin America, the collections may approach or surpass those of Illinois and Harvard.

#### NATURE OF RESOURCES: GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATIONS

Although most libraries with significant holdings now attempt to collect material from all countries and regions in Latin America in equal depth, certain geographic concentrations within collections do exist. These have resulted from such factors as the origin and development of collections, purchases of special collections emphasizing a country or region, and priority support given to those nations emphasized in the teaching and research programs of Latin American centers. Each of the three separate Latin American libraries had a distinct geographical emphasis in its early years: the Caribbean region at Florida, Mexico at Texas, and Central America at Tulane; to a certain degree, these emphases persist. To learn more about similar concentrations in other libraries, the present inquiry asked for a listing of the individual countries most strongly represented in each library's resources. Twenty-four institutions named eighty-seven such concentrations, or an average of 3.6 per library. As one might expect, the three largest countries (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico) received most frequent mention; next came five republics (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, and Peru) with four to seven mentions; there were two or three of Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Venezuela, and one each of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Haiti. Some nations may not have been mentioned by some institutions because they fell under one of the five regions listed as a geographic concentration. The fourteen mentions here were: Central America (California at Berkeley, Kansas, Southern California, and Tulane), the Caribbean (Florida and Pittsburgh), the Andean area (Cornell, Illinois, Newberry, and Pittsburgh), the southern cone (Pennsylvania State), and the Amazon basin (Florida, Illinois, and Michigan State). The attempt to learn of strength in materials about individual cities and states was less successful: few libraries responded to this question.

A comparison of Table 4 with Table 1 shows that several of the countries listed in 1987 were those for which a library had accepted Farmington Plan responsibility two decades earlier: Bolivia (Duke), Brazil (Illinois), Chile (California at Berkeley), Costa Rica (Kansas), Cuba (Florida), Mexico (Texas), Peru (Cornell), and Venezuela (Virginia); in addition, the emphasis on the Caribbean at Florida has continued.

To provide another indication of "country coverage" a count was made of entries under twenty-four countries in the catalogs of four libraries with large total collections (Harvard, Library of Congress, New York Public, and Texas). These statistics (Table 5) include both corporate entries (e.g., Argentina. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores) and subject entries (e.g., Brazil—Industries), but they show neither the number of titles (the same book could appear under several headings) nor volumes (multivolume works and journals receive only one subject entry). They do, of course, reflect the subdivisions for a number of important social science disciplines, such as economic conditions, history, poli-

tics, and provide a clue as to the relative quantity of each library's holdings on countries. But given the differences in the dates of coverage (because of the closing of card catalogs at different times) and in cataloging practices, any comparisons among the four libraries should be made with great caution. These figures do seem to corroborate the strengths reported on the questionnaire: greatest number of entries under the largest countries (but note that entries at Texas for Mexico are nearly double those for any other country). That the Library of Congress figures show the largest number of entries for Brazil is not surprising, since LC opened a procurement center in Rio de Janeiro in late 1966; the increased flow of Brazilian acquisitions has continued for more than two decades, and in 1987 nearly three times as many items came from Brazil as from

TABLE 4  
INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES MOST STRONGLY REPRESENTED IN LATIN AMERICAN  
COLLECTIONS OF 24 RESEARCH LIBRARIES

<i>COUNTRY</i>	<i>LIBRARIES REPORTING STRENGTH</i>
Argentina	Arizona, Arizona State, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Michigan State, New Mexico, New York Public, New York University, North Carolina, Pittsburgh, Princeton, Southern California, Texas, Virginia (15 mentions)
Bolivia	Arizona State, Cornell, Duke, Pittsburgh (4 mentions)
Brazil	Arizona, Cornell, Duke, Florida, Illinois, Michigan State, New Mexico, New York Public, New York University, Newberry, Ohio State, Pittsburgh, Princeton, Southern California, Vanderbilt, Virginia (16 mentions)
Chile	California (Berkeley), Connecticut, North Carolina, Princeton, Virginia (5 mentions)
Colombia	Duke, Illinois, Michigan State, Southern California, Vanderbilt, Virginia (6 mentions)
Costa Rica	Illinois, Kansas (2 mentions)
Cuba	California (Berkeley), Florida, Illinois, New York Public, Pittsburgh, Princeton, Southern California (7 mentions)
Dominican Rep.	Pittsburgh, Southern California (2 mentions)
Ecuador	Cornell, Illinois, Pittsburgh (3 mentions)
El Salvador	Virginia
Guatemala	Texas
Haiti	Southern California
Mexico	Arizona, Arizona State, California (Berkeley), Connecticut, Duke, Illinois, New Mexico, New York Public, New York University, Newberry, Princeton, Southern California, Texas, Tulane, Virginia (15 mentions)
Peru	Arizona State, Cornell, Illinois, Newberry, Pennsylvania State, Pittsburgh, Virginia (7 mentions)
Venezuela	North Carolina, Southern California, Virginia (3 mentions)

SOURCE: Questionnaires returned by libraries, June, 1987.

TABLE 5  
 NUMBER OF ENTRIES UNDER 24 COUNTRIES IN CATALOGS OF FOUR  
 RESEARCH LIBRARIES

COUNTRY	HARVARD*	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS	NEW YORK PUBLIC	TEXAS
Argentina	6,125	19,290	7,018	18,290
Barbados	140	425	259	350
Bolivia	1,400	4,675	1,739	5,650
Brazil	6,190	24,200	7,383	22,090
Chile	3,375	10,375	3,846	10,050
Colombia	2,800	9,475	3,592	10,010
Costa Rica	625	2,725	1,008	2,640
Cuba	3,200	8,760	4,709	5,325
Dominican Republic	875	2,525	1,150	2,325
Ecuador	810	3,825	1,559	4,540
El Salvador	410	1,950	1,005	2,150
Guatemala	775	3,250	1,607	6,275
Guyana	270	690	612	475
Haiti	875	2,400	1,496	1,475
Honduras	400	1,875	1,098	2,200
Jamaica	500	1,300	886	1,275
Mexico	6,325	23,675	14,423	38,605
Nicaragua	375	1,975	810	2,610
Panama	1,400	2,160	1,592	2,635
Paraguay	1,075	2,250	1,149	3,075
Peru	2,810	9,525	3,758	10,325
Trinidad and Tobago	275	800	393	575
Uruguay	1,325	5,075	1,801	6,060
Venezuela	2,075	9,010	3,119	8,750

\*Harvard College Library only.

SOURCES: Harvard—based on count of cards in Public Catalog in Widener Library in 1982; excludes entries in Hollis.

Library of Congress—based on count of cards in Main Catalog in May 1988; excludes entries in Library of Congress Computerized Catalog (LCCC).

New York Public—based on count of cards reproduced in *Dictionary Catalog of the Research Libraries, 1911-1971* (800v.); excludes entries in computerized catalog (CATNYP).

Texas—based on count of cards in public catalog, Benson Latin American Collection in May 1988; excludes all Latin American material not listed there.

NOTE: All figures include official publications under country (e.g., Argentina. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores) and subject entries (e.g., Brazil—Industries). Catalogs vary in whether cities with same name (e.g., Mexico) and national universities (e.g., Colombia. Universidad Nacional) file in the country sequence or separately.

any other country (Table 2). The large figure for Guatemala at Texas probably reflects the acquisition of a special collection. It is also interesting to note that all four libraries report relatively large numbers of entries for Cuba. Study of these figures tends to confirm differences in geographical concentration, whether the reasons are accidental or deliberate.

Three published studies provide additional information about resources on Brazil, Colombia, and Central America. Jackson's *Library Guide for Brazilian Studies* (1964)<sup>14</sup> describes the nature and extent of holdings in each of the disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences and technology. The thirty-nine institutions covered could be divided into four groups: seven with outstanding resources, nine with strong holdings, eleven with better than average, and twelve with working collections not extensive enough to support a great deal of research. Many of the libraries in the first two groups reported in 1987 that Brazil continues to be strongly represented in their holdings (Table 4).

The Jizba survey (1975)<sup>15</sup> covers thirty-seven institutions and deals chiefly with Colombian belles lettres. The brief statement about each library gives the genres represented and size of holdings, as well as occasional comments on periodicals and manuscript holdings and on the current (1975) collecting policy.

Grieb's *Research Guide to Central America and the Caribbean* (1985)<sup>16</sup> is divided into two parts, but nearly all the information on library resources appears in the section devoted to Central America. Each one- to three-page essay, prepared by a different author, tends to emphasize manuscripts; there is little detail about book and journal holdings. The information covers only about a dozen institutions, and the second part does not cover resources on the Caribbean.

#### NATURE OF RESOURCES: SUBJECT STRENGTHS

As a complement to geographical concentration, it would be useful to know which subjects libraries have emphasized in building their Latin American holdings. Unfortunately, information currently available is sketchy, and two potential sources prove disappointing. The questionnaire sent to thirty-eight major libraries asked for a listing of the academic disciplines "most strongly represented" in the collections, but many libraries replied simply "all" or "social sciences"; consequently, this approach yielded few concrete facts. The National Shelflist Count (done in selected libraries at irregular intervals) provides a count of titles by subject, but only in three places was there a geographic subdivision, i.e., one that would show titles under Latin America. Moreover, only the Library of Congress and fourteen university libraries participated in the latest inquiry (1985).

We do know that at many universities library holdings in Latin American history and literature were started, encouraged, and developed under the aegis and

<sup>14</sup> Jackson, *Library Guide for Brazilian Studies* (note 1).

<sup>15</sup> Laurel Jizba, "Colombian Belles Lettres Collections in Selected United States Libraries" in Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials, 20th, 1975, *Final Report and Working Papers*. (Austin: SALALM, 1978), pp. 304-323.

<sup>16</sup> Kenneth J. Grieb, ed., *Research Guide to Central America and the Caribbean* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1985).

sponsorship of faculty in the departments of history and Spanish/Portuguese (or Romance languages and literatures). More generous funding in the past twenty years has undoubtedly led to filling in lacunae and rapid growth in some areas previously receiving lower priority, e.g., Brazilian literature and the history of the smaller republics.

A descriptive guide to the New York Public Library<sup>17</sup> reported over 36,000 volumes of Latin American literature by the early 1970s. In addition to the New York Public's strength in general critical works and journals, it has a substantial body of work on *modernismo*, though it is scattered through the holdings classed as Spanish American literature. Although the number of the first editions of principal exponents (Julián del Casal, Rubén Darío, Enrique González Martínez, Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, Leopoldo Lugones, Amado Nervo, and others) is limited, there is full access to the texts through later printings and collected works. Strong holdings of major figures are present. The largest amount of material centers on Rubén Darío; the Public Catalog contains more than 250 entries for works by and about him. The largest block of material from an individual country concerns Argentina; all aspects of its literature are well represented, including many works by and about Jorge Luis Borges. Holdings of Mexican, Chilean, and Brazilian literatures are also extensive and well rounded.

The 1985 edition of the National Shelflist Count gives figures for the number of titles classified as Latin American literature. Examination of table 6 (derived from its figures) enables one to draw several conclusions. We expect to find the Library of Congress's holdings larger than those of other libraries, and this is true, but for both Spanish American and Brazilian literature, its holdings are two or three times those of even large universities. Second, for Spanish American literature, the university libraries cluster in two groups: one from 15,000 to 19,999 titles (found in seven institutions: Arizona, Indiana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Stanford, Texas, and Wisconsin) and one from 10,000 to 14,999 titles (found in four institutions: Arizona State, California at Berkeley, Ohio State, and Virginia). Holdings of Brazilian literature are in most cases only one-third or less than the size of the Spanish American. LC's collection is again much larger (47 per cent) than that of the largest university replying (Wisconsin).

Examination of Table 7 shows that holdings of Latin American history are not significantly larger than those of literature (with a few exceptions). The Library of Congress again reports more than twice as many titles as any university. Apart from this, holdings are over 30,000 titles at three universities (California at Berkeley, UCLA, Wisconsin), between 25,000 and 29,999 at four (Columbia, Indiana, New Mexico, and Texas), between 20,000 and 24,999 at one (Arizona), between 15,000 and 19,999 at four (Arizona State, North Carolina, Stanford, Virginia) and below 15,000 at two (Michigan and Ohio State). Again, the fact that some universities do not have all of their holdings classified by the Library of Congress Classification means that in some cases holdings are actually larger than indicated here. What these figures cannot show is nonquantitative factors, such as whether there is greater strength for the national than for the colonial period or whether the libraries have strong holdings or even spe-

<sup>17</sup> William V. Jackson, "Latin American Literature in the Research Collections of the New York Public Library" in *Latin American Collections* (note 2), pp. 93-99; rpt. in

Sam P. Williams, *Guide to the Research Collections of the New York Public Library* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1975), pp. 110-112.

cial collections on such figures as Bolívar and San Martín in the nineteenth century or Perón and Castro in the twentieth. Nor do they provide any clues on such important kinds of materials as journals, published source materials, and biographical works.

The third division in the National Shelflist Count is national bibliography. As we might expect, the totals here are much smaller than for the other two areas, but LC again reports the largest holdings (2,182 titles) in contrast to 1,020 for UCLA, 940 for Indiana, and 923 for Texas.

On the 1987 questionnaire, three disciplines received mention as “most strongly represented” at six or more libraries: anthropology, economics, and political science (law was listed by two). Although these disciplines may well be the most strongly represented, specifics are needed about particular emphases. For instance, from various personal sources, discussion at SALALM, and a few listings, it is clear that many institutions have actively pursued the acquisition of census and other statistical publications. It may also be that other fields are being markedly strengthened; the fine arts, at least in recent years, have received increased attention at some libraries. Certainly it appears that of twenty-five or more academic specialties, more than three—and those only from the social sciences—would at this point be “strongly represented” in at least one library.

TABLE 6  
TITLES CLASSIFIED AS LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE IN 15 RESEARCH  
LIBRARIES, 1985\*

LIBRARY	SPANISH AMERICAN LITERATURE	BRAZILIAN LITERATURE	TOTAL TITLES
Arizona	15,564	3,297	18,861
Arizona State	12,159	3,134	15,293
California (Berkeley)	12,979	2,805	15,784
California (Los Angeles)	26,595	7,232	33,827
Columbia	9,073	2,378	11,451
Indiana	19,396	5,060	24,456
Library of Congress	46,483	14,317	60,800
Michigan State	7,842	704	8,546
New Mexico	18,414	5,885	24,299
North Carolina (Chapel Hill)	16,407	3,560	19,967
Ohio State	12,981	3,475	16,456
Stanford	15,639	3,134	18,773
Texas (Austin)	19,607	6,026	25,633
Virginia	13,913	3,676	17,589
Wisconsin (Madison)	19,933	9,734	29,667

\*Only titles classified by Library of Congress Classification; titles classified by Dewey or other schemes not included.

SOURCE: *Titles Classified by Library of Congress Classification, National Shelflist Count, 1985* (Chicago: Resources and Technical Services Division, American Library Association, 1986), pp. 383-386, 393-394 and computations therefrom.



TABLE 7  
TITLES CLASSIFIED AS LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY IN 15 RESEARCH  
LIBRARIES, 1985\*

<i>LIBRARY</i>	<i>TITLES</i>	<i>LIBRARY</i>	<i>TITLES</i>
Arizona	23,151	Michigan State	12,101
Arizona State	15,842	New Mexico	28,350
California (Berkeley)	30,227	North Carolina (Chapel Hill)	19,062
California (Los Angeles)	33,919	Ohio State	14,321
Columbia	25,034	Stanford	19,731
Indiana	27,432	Texas (Austin)	28,573
Library of Congress	73,733	Virginia	18,265
		Wisconsin (Madison)	30,463

\*Only titles classified by Library of Congress Classification; titles classified by Dewey or other schemes not included.

SOURCE: *Titles Classified by Library of Congress Classification, National Shelflist Count, 1985* (Chicago: Resources and Technical Services Division, American Library Association, 1986), pp. 118-123, and computations therefrom.

TABLE 8  
TITLES CLASSIFIED AS LATIN AMERICAN NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY IN  
15 RESEARCH LIBRARIES, 1985\*

<i>LIBRARY</i>	<i>TITLES</i>	<i>LIBRARY</i>	<i>TITLES</i>
Arizona	657	New Mexico	609
Arizona State	480	North Carolina (Chapel Hill)	792
California (Berkeley)	357	Ohio State	735
California (Los Angeles)	1,020	Stanford	725
Columbia	494	Texas (Austin)	923
Indiana	940	Virginia	706
Library of Congress	2,182	Wisconsin (Madison)	802
Michigan State	468		

\*Only titles classified by Library of Congress Classification; titles classified by Dewey or other schemes not included.

SOURCE: *Titles Classified by Library of Congress Classification, National Shelflist Count, 1985* (Chicago: Resources and Technical Services Division, American Library Association, 1986), pp. 602.

## CONCLUSIONS

Although information on Latin American resources in American research libraries is incomplete, available data do reveal a number of things about these holdings.

First, there are between forty and fifty American libraries with resources on Latin America that are strong enough to be useful for advanced study and research.

Second, among these collections, the largest ones range upward from 500,000 volumes. Those largest in size are the Library of Congress, Texas, University of California at Berkeley, Harvard, Illinois, plus, perhaps, UCLA, Stanford, and Yale as well. There appears to be some correlation between a library's size and the size of its Latin American collection, provided that the library emphasizes building and maintaining Latin American holdings.

Third, resources of Latin American studies are distributed throughout the United States but with a notable regional concentration in the most southern tier of states—those bordering on the Caribbean or Mexico, as well as in such traditional library centers as New York, Boston, Washington, and Chicago.

Fourth, there is some variation in the countries on which libraries have concentrated (Table 4), although those with largest holdings now collect in depth on all lands and islands south of the United States.

Fifth, available evidence is, at present, quite insufficient to provide many facts on those disciplines in which libraries have built subject strengths.

Sixth, despite their remarkable success in collecting, research libraries have devoted relatively little attention to preparing descriptive articles, surveys, and guides that could inform both their local constituencies and those outside. To be sure, published catalogs exist, but most library publications about Latin American materials deal with individual special collections, rather than the overall holdings of an institution. In an era of increased emphasis on access, guides become ever more desirable.