Latino Resources on the Web

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Abstract
Use of the World Wide Web in academic libraries has grown exponentially since the mid-1990s and the introduction of easy-to-use browser software such as Mosaic and Netscape. In academic settings, librarians, faculty, and enterprising computer science or engineering students were among the first to recognize and to make use of the potential of this new publishing medium. Early pioneers saw the Web as a unique space in which to organize through hypertextual links various Internet resources. Besides organizing existing material, new information sources could easily be created, mounted on a server, and accessed by others. A solid Latino presence was quickly established on the Web in the form of librarian Richard Chabnin's scholarly CLNet, then at UCLA, and in the irrepressible Ego Web, constructed by Felipe Campos 207 at the University of Texas, Austin. It is odd to look back at that time—not that long ago—and recall the marvel and excitement of waiting for Mosaic to load the CLNet home page onscreen. Since those early days, numerous other Latino Web resources and hypertext lists have been developed, but in many ways, these two pioneering sites still represent the opposite poles of Web site development: those sites developed by subject and content specialists, and those developed by amateur enthusiasts. For Latino resources, there is value in both approaches.

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CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Latino Resources on the Web

Susan A. Vega García

Introduction

Use of the World Wide Web in academic libraries has grown exponentially since the mid-1990s and the introduction of easy-to-use browser software such as Mosaic and Netscape. In academic settings, librarians, faculty, and enterprising computer science or engineering students were among the first to recognize and to make use of the potential of this new publishing medium. Early pioneers saw the Web as a unique space in which to organize through hypertextual links various Internet resources. Besides organizing existing material, new information sources could easily be created, mounted on a server, and accessed by others. A solid Latino presence was quickly established on the Web in the form of librarian Richard Chabrán’s scholarly CLNet, then at UCLA, and in the irrepressible EgoWeb, constructed by Felipe Campos at the University of Texas, Austin. It is odd to look back at that time—not that long ago—and recall the marvel and excitement of waiting for Mosaic to load the CLNet home page onscreen. Since those early days, numerous other Latino Web resources and hypertext lists have been developed, but in many ways, these two pioneering sites still represent the opposite poles of Web site development—those sites developed by subject and content specialists, and those developed by amateur enthusiasts. For Latino resources, there is value in both approaches.

Librarians have long recognized and utilized the Web as a means of enhancing traditional library services in the areas of collection development, reference, and instruction. In academic libraries, daily Web use has become commonplace as librarians organize and build their own Web pages, develop Web-based reference services, collect sites for instruction and
outreach services, catalog Internet resources of all kinds, and build electronic collections for our patrons. For most academic librarians, the first blush of novelty and excitement in using Internet and Web resources is (sadly) long gone. Instead, the focus is now on questions of separating the hype from the reality of how best to make this new tool truly useful in our own work and for our patrons.

Hal R. Varian succinctly states this concern as follows: “The problem most of us now face is not access to information, but rather its overabundance. The challenge is to winnow what is useful out of the vast amount of information available: to select, evaluate, describe, store, retrieve, manipulate and present relevant information.”

While access to computers and electronic information is indeed still a serious problem for the majority of Latinos nationwide, this study is an evaluative description of the kinds of Latino resources that are currently available on the Web, and identifies those that appear most useful.

**Latino Identity Issues**

Finding Latino resources on the Web is not always an easy matter. This is due in large measure to the complexities of Latino identity in the U.S. Mexican Americans/Chicanos comprise the majority of Latinos in the U.S., with Puerto Ricans and Cuban Americans comprising the other largest groups. Of the smaller groups, Salvadorans, Dominicans, Colombians, and Guatemalans are the most populous. Although there may be some broad cultural, historical, or socioeconomic commonalities among these groups, above all else, Latino identity is diverse. A Latino Web site of interest to a Tejano patron may not be relevant at all to a Dominican raised in New York. Librarians assisting patrons will need to be aware of the often substantial cultural differences between various Latino groups, and resist the assumption that all Latino cultures and information needs are alike.

There is no one single monolithic Latino culture or heritage. This is reflected in great part by the sheer quantity of ethnic identifiers that describe individual Latino groups, and by the ongoing lack of consensus on which collective term—Latino or Hispanic—is to be preferred. As Latinos, even what we choose to call ourselves varies from group to group, and at times moment to moment, depending perhaps on the geographical region in which we live, personal politics, the level of cultural awareness of those around us, and many other factors. Oboler and others have researched Latino ethnic labels and their use, suggesting a lack of a common or generic “Latino” or “Hispanic” identity altogether. There are also important gaps: for example, distinct terms to describe Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Salvadorans, Colombians, and Guatemalans born and raised in the U.S. do not always exist, and hyphenated labels (such as “Colombian-Americans”) seem not to be in widespread use by many of these groups in describing themselves.

As librarians, we are aware of the lack of standard terminology from one classification system to another, from Library of Congress subject headings to the vocabulary of various indexes and abstracting services. In varying systems, subject headings such as “Hispanic Americans,” “Latinos,” and the anachronistic “Spanish Americans” (this latter currently used by Library Literature) are all viable subject terms in use today. But despite this multiplicity of terms, there is in fact order within any
given catalog, index, or abstracting service. The Internet and the Web, however, lack this kind of bibliographic structure. Thus, all ethnic identifiers for a particular group must be considered and searched, and all identified resources must be evaluated for relevance.

Librarians, the Internet, and the Web

There is a growing body of professional literature devoted to the topic of how and why librarians can evaluate, collect, and use Web resources. In academic libraries, the collection and organization of various Web resources has been undertaken by many bibliographers and subject-area selectors as a service to the students and faculty in their area, and as a valid means of supplementing physical, in-house collections. The majority of publications address the immediate and practical issues of how to find and use relevant Web resources quickly, particularly for reference desk assistance to patrons. Journal columns, articles, and bibliographies providing or reviewing useful Web sites are now commonplace in the professional literature. To cite one example, in 1997, Diaz edited a special issue of Reference Librarian on the topic of reference resources on the Internet. She states in her introduction that “[s]urfing may be fun, but it’s no way to do reference,” and that today’s reference librarian “…faces a challenge to find the exact piece of information needed without having to wade through irrelevant, unreliable and out of date material.” For that reason, twenty-six “core lists” in various subject areas were compiled in that volume to provide immediate practical assistance to reference librarians. Besides this type of published literature, there are also numerous examples of local electronic pathfinders and Web resource guides that bibliographers and other librarians have constructed for their own local libraries and clientele.

Other articles focus more on the theoretical issues of how the Internet has changed libraries, how the Internet and its resources can be categorized by librarians, and on evaluation. Of particular interest is Edmund F. SantaVicca’s evaluation of Internet resources as reference tools. SantaVicca applies Bill Katz’s well-known typology of reference sources to Internet (but not specifically World Wide Web) materials. The three relevant categories named by SantaVicca are (1) control-access directional tools that “typically do not aim to present needed information but rather indicate where the information exists or can be accessed,” (2) source tools “that do, in fact, present the desired information rather than a path to the information,” and (3) unconventional reference tools such as “community information centers (information and retrieval agencies), vertical files, clearinghouses, and individual experts.”

Clearly, hypertext documents and materials on the Web have the potential to function as all three of these traditional types of reference tools (and indeed often function as hybrids that do all of the above). In particular, hypertext is well-suited to serve as control-access-directional bibliographies, “netographies,” or indexes that point the user to relevant information elsewhere, and thus provide some organization to resources scattered across cyberspace. Such sites typically take form as directories or meta-sites. Part of the initial excitement of the Web was that it offered unique and unprecedented publishing opportunities to anyone granted access to Web server space. In other
words, anyone could create his or her own content source tools, meta-site, or information clearinghouse. In time, however, this same capability for self-publishing became an often cited drawback to the Web as "vanity publications," as Smith calls them, began to flourish.\(^9\)

Consequently, there has been ongoing debate among librarians as to whether the Internet and World Wide Web can and should be used as a research and reference tool. In their 1998 study, Zumalt and Pasicznyuk state that while "[t]he answers the Internet provides might be flawed, since self-publishing is more of an option,"\(^10\) any other print reference tool may be similarly incorrect, incomplete, or not current, and that all reference materials, regardless of type, must be evaluated by the librarians using them. Overall, they conclude that the Internet is stable and has much to offer libraries, and that using the Internet for reference is highly worthwhile.

On the other hand, Devlin and Burke suggest that at the most, only some ready reference questions can be answered using the Internet. They state that the overall lack of bibliographic structure and quality control on the Web make it very difficult, realistically speaking, for a reference librarian to quickly choose an appropriate search tool, find a relevant Internet or Web information resource, thoroughly evaluate the site from which the information came to ensure its authority, and then answer the patron's question all in a matter of minutes. The authors write:

"A number of criteria including purpose, authority, scope, and audience have traditionally been used to evaluate information quality. These criteria should always be used intelligently; for example, using the reputation of an author or publisher as the sole test of accuracy and impartiality leaves much to chance. Despite their flaws these criteria do provide cues for identifying quality information. The problem is that they are not easily applied to Internet resources. These resources often lack minimum levels of descriptive information, have ill-defined boundaries, and are subject to rapid revision."\(^11\)

Continuing on the topic of evaluation, Alastair G. Smith presented evaluation criteria for Internet and Web resources, much of which were based on traditional criteria for examining print resources, CD-ROMs, and other electronic services.\(^12\) Smith cautioned that librarians and patrons alike must understand the difference between content evaluation, which examines factors such as accuracy, authority, currency, usefulness, purpose, breadth, and ease of use, and evaluation that centers on more superficial matters such as trendiness, attractive presentation, or what Smith's article calls "coolness." Smith developed criteria specific to Internet and Web materials such as links made to other resources, graphic and multimedia design, and a category called "workability," which addresses issues such as user-friendliness of the resource, its organization and "browsable," connectivity, whether a search engine has been provided, and an assessment of the resource's "required computing environment." This latter refers to whether any specialized hardware or software is necessary to view, "experience," or make use of the site in question.

Smith also stressed that librarians have a role to play in teaching patrons how to evaluate Web resources as well, and cited, among other guides, one developed by Esther Grassian at UCLA as providing a good model from which to work.\(^13\) Grassian has appropriately posted her guide on
the Web, and offers numerous questions for patrons and students to consider, focusing on the categories of content evaluation, source and date of the resource, and its structure.

Despite this proliferation of publications and research attention on the topic of the Internet and Web resource evaluation, collection, and use in libraries, research specifically on Latino Internet and Web resources is just beginning to be published, with much of it at the level of theses and dissertations. In the professional library literature, publications in this area often have been little more than unannotated lists of Web sites and their URLs, while others have included few if any Latino Web sites. On the whole, U.S. Latino Web resources have remained marginalized, left un-addressed, un-reviewed, and uncollected, or are often misunderstood in the professional literature and librarian Web guides. For example, it is not unusual for bibliographies and local pathfinders that supposedly focus on U.S. Latino resources to include more Latin American than U.S. Latino materials. Diversity among Latino Web resources has also not been well represented in the library literature. Thus, the overall lack of attention on finding, evaluating, using, or categorizing Latino resources on the Web may be due in part to a general lack of understanding of the complexities of Latino identities and cultures in the U.S. and reflected on the Web.

**Identifying Latino Resources on the Web**

This research project was intended not only to identify and evaluate the most useful Latino materials on the Web, but also to analyze which Latino groups were making use of (or being addressed by) the Web, and for what reasons. In compiling data for this study and its accompanying bibliography, an objective approach was taken in order to identify and review as many Latino resources as possible, not simply reiterate or promote personal favorites. For that reason, two Web search engines, HotBot and AltaVista, were used to search and retrieve Latino Web sites. Separate searches were done for each of the seven Latino groups under consideration, those being Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans, Salvadorans, Dominicans, Colombians, and Guatemalans. Search terms used were simple ethnic identifiers (e.g., “mexican american,” “chicano,” “chicana,” “puerto rican,” “boricua,” and so on), and consistent for both search engines. Separate searches were also done on the collective terms “Latino” and “Hispanic.”

The first two hundred results of any one search were reviewed and screened for relevance. Sites that were Latin American in content were not collected, nor were classified ads, on-line news threads, advertisements, recipes, real estate or tourist information, ephemeral one-page material or other sites judged to have little added value. Duplicates were also thrown out. After this initial screening, collected materials were then analyzed and organized by Latino subgroup and by type of Web resource. Sites were then evaluated for content, breadth, perceived authority, currency (or signs of ongoing maintenance), stability, usefulness, accuracy, ease of use, and what Smith terms “required computing environment.” Sites that were evaluated as particularly noteworthy and of potential use by librarians were compiled into an annotated list of recommended Web sites.
Types of Latino Web Resources

It was discovered that collected sites could be organized into two main categories, according to type of resource. Broadly speaking, these categories were (a) those sites judged to be of most potential use to librarians and patrons for research or reference services, and (b) those sites that, however well-designed, had a much more limited or specialized purpose, and were not as likely to lead the user to authoritative, related sites or other quality content-rich information on the Web. Sites that fell into this latter category were further analyzed and organized into the following categories, with individual representative sites included for illustration. Latino group information on each type of resource is also summarized here.

a. Commercial services. These are sites that sell services or products aimed specifically at Latino groups. Some commercial services are on-line shopping catalogs or sites with added value, such as links to various cultural resources. A good example of this kind of site is Isla (http://www.IslaOnline.com), a mail order site for Puerto Rican and Caribbean folkart, textiles, food, and music. After screening and evaluation, the majority (57 percent) of all commercial sites collected pertained to or addressed Mexican Americans (21 percent) or were “generic” Latino/Hispanic (36 percent) in nature (meaning, they used the rather monolithic ethnic labels “Hispanic” or “Latino,” and did not refer specifically to any one Latino group).

b. Cultural sites. Broadly defined, these are sites that promote distinctly Latino arts, dance, music, history, literature, and so on, whether traditional or contemporary, as well as serve as directories, promotions, or services for Latino artists and writers. Also included in this category are pages that explore issues of individual or group ethnic identity. CreArte (http://www.create.org/mainmenu.html) is one example of an excellent Chicano-focused ambitious art site with numerous multimedia effects, such as sound files (that not everyone will be able to access). Heavy use of graphics also increases the time it takes to load each page. Just under half (48 percent) of all cultural sites collected were Mexican American (30 percent) or Puerto Rican (18 percent).

c. Health. Pages and Web sites related to various Latino health issues were numerous. The Hispanic Health Council (http://www.hispanichealth.com/) from Connecticut provides a good example of a typical health-related page. More than three quarters (81 percent) of all health sites collected were “generic” Latino/Hispanic (50 percent) or Mexican American (31 percent).

d. Latino Studies programs, or descriptions of various academic Latino Studies programs and Latino course descriptions. For example, the Chicano Studies Program at the University of Madison-Wisconsin page (http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/chicano/) is a good model of how colleges and universities are using the Web to promote their Latino Studies programs and curricula. Forty-six percent of all such Web sites collected were Mexican American.

e. Libraries, research institutions, and museums. Web sites or pages that describe these institutions and their collections, services, or programs; these may or may not include noteworthy links elsewhere. UC Berkeley’s Chicano Studies Library (http://eslibrary.berkeley.edu/cslhome.html) is a good example of a well-designed library site. Over half (58 percent) of all such Web sites collected were Mexican American.
f. Research projects. For the most part, these were materials for academic or individual research; also, descriptions of specific Latino-related research projects. An interesting example of a research project presented on the Web is the Cuba Project (http://www.soc.qc.edu/procuba/) from Queen's College, CUNY. Again, more than half (68 percent) of all such Web sites were Mexican American (37 percent) or "generic" Latino/Hispanic (31 percent).

g. Organizations. Individual pages or directories of community and professional organizations and associations are becoming quite numerous on the Web. Organizations as varied as the Association for Hispanic Theological Education (http://www.aeth.org/index.html) and the Colombian American Bar Association (http://www.latinet.com/colbar/) are examples. Over half (59 percent) of all these Web sites collected were either "generic" Latino/Hispanic (40 percent) or Puerto Rican (19 percent).

h. Personal pages. Personal pages merit a note of explanation. These are Web sites or pages produced by individuals that typically focus on that person's occupation, studies, likes and dislikes, friends, and so on. Although typically considered to be ephemeral material, this study found many examples of value-added Latino personal pages. One of Grassian's questions to consider asks "What other resources (print & non-print) are available in this area?" Particularly for the smaller Latino groups, such as Dominicans, Colombians, Guatemalans, and Salvadorans, this question is indeed relevant. Where are the other resources that tell us first hand what it is like to be Colombian American, or describe Dominican, Salvadoran, or Guatemalan realities in the U.S.? Many of these histories have yet to be published in traditional print formats. Web personal pages constructed by members of these groups can be enlightening. One example is New York State Committeeman Carlos Manzano's Colombian page (http://www.midtownmedia.com/manzano/Colombia.html). The majority (60 percent) of all such Web sites was either Dominican (24 percent), Guatemalan (19 percent), or Colombian (17 percent).

Latino Web Resources as Reference and Research Tools

Those sites judged to be of most potential use to librarians and patrons for research or reference services fell into two categories. These were control-access-directional tools (mostly meta-sites and directories) or clearinghouses, and source tools, such as e-journals and newspapers. These were further analyzed, with the most noteworthy and useful examples being listed on the accompanying select bibliography. Meta-sites, clearinghouses, directories, and electronic publications not included on the original bibliography were either not found by the two search engines, or duplicated the efforts of other, better organized or more comprehensive sites. More than half (54 percent) of all meta-sites and clearinghouses collected were either "generic" Latino/Hispanic (37 percent) or Mexican American (17 percent). Of source tools, the majority (60 percent) was either Puerto Rican (23 percent), "generic" Latino/Hispanic (23 percent), or Mexican American (14 percent).

The growth and changeability of the Web is one powerful reason for focusing only on control-access-directional tools
and source tools. It is no longer feasible to list every interesting or unique Web site, but rather to highlight those that seem dedicated to provide a reasonable attempt at bibliographic control or original, authoritative content.

Since the compilation of the original "Recommended Latino Web Sites" list in May 1997, changes have inevitably occurred. One recent change is the development and promotion of portals, some of which are being marketed for a Latino audience. In a 1999 article appearing in Hispanic Magazine, Vidueira defined Latino portals as "one-stop Web sites that serve as gateways to the Internet." More specifically, portals are competitive commercial services that offer (often for a price or registration) numerous services such as Web search engines, electronic communities and interactive chat forums, e-mail, daily news or daily stock exchange quotes, banner advertisements and direct links to popular merchant Web sites, and so on. User lists may be released or sold to other companies and used as mailing lists. On the Web, familiar search engines such as Lycos, AltaVista, Excite, Yahoo, and many others have transformed quickly from simple search systems or subject directories into these multi-purpose electronic communities. A number of Latino-focused portals have recently emerged offering similar on-line services as well as a means to search for Latino-relevant Web sites. Currently, these Latino portals seem to promise more than they actually deliver as few actually provide adequate searching and retrieval of U.S. Latino Web sites, but they are included and evaluated on the list in the event that they improve in the near future.

Other changes include the unfortunate demise of such Web sites as Daily Roots Stand, an alternative and innovative electronic newspaper from Brooklyn that featured Dominican and Afro-Latin perspectives, El Colombiano, an excellent Colombian American newspaper from Miami, and SQARIK, a Guatemalan collection of scholarly articles on politics, economics, finance, the U.S., contributed short stories, poems, and essays. A handful of Latino Web sites have revised their focus significantly, while changes on other selected Web sites primarily have been cosmetic, such as the addition of JavaScript. A few sites have added necessary search engines; a few sites have changed URLs, and a few of the source tools now show signs of a lack of maintenance. Like many minority periodicals, these sites may be operating on shoestring budgets, with new releases issued only sporadically and irregularly. Time will tell whether this is the case, or whether they are simply interesting but apparently abandoned cultural relics in cyberspace.

Recommendations

The fact that a particular Web site is on the recommended list does not indicate that some changes are not in order. Resources were evaluated comparatively, but no ranking system was used. Had this been the case, a number of recommended sites might not have scored high. Inherent with providing links and information on the Web is the need for ongoing maintenance of Web sites and their data. Depending on their subject matter, resources that are not routinely updated become stale and can decline in usefulness. Web site administrators should be encouraged to routinely check the viability of links and content, particularly if it is information about the Internet or other topic that changes rapidly. Correcting HTML code
errors, spelling mistakes (in English and in Spanish), and clearly indicating when pages were last updated is also necessary.

Conversely, as Web sites are maintained and new information is added, administrators need to keep in mind the “browse-ability” of their site and the needs of their users. The larger a Web site grows, the more pressing is the need for a search engine or, at the very least, a clearly understood organization scheme must be used, such as organizing resources by broad and intuitive subjects, and then listing materials by finer topics or in alphabetic order. These suggestions seem quite basic, and are among the most fundamental guidelines in most evaluative schemes, yet they are not routinely followed by many Latino Web resource developers. The overall quality of Latino Web resources can be improved if these fundamentals are observed.

The push towards commercialization of the Web has also had an impact on many Latino Web sites, and not always for the better. A number of major Latino Web sites have rushed to transform their sites into commercial-centered portals that often have user traffic and marketing in mind much more than the actual quality of the content they offer. An editorial from PCWeek Online stated the following:

The drive to consolidate operations, expand on-line services and gobble user lists has one goal: to create a way to funnel the most sets of eyes to the most targeted banner ads. Yet, as portals trip over one another in those efforts, they are producing sites that look and feel like one another. The winner in this race may not be the site with the most toys. The site that knows what to do with them will separate itself from the pack. 20

To date, the majority of Latino portals appears to have concentrated most on gathering together a cluttered collection of advertisements, e-mail and chatroom services, on-line “member” surveys and quizzes that do not benefit the user but are designed instead to compile user e-mail addresses for market surveys and commercial use, and faulty search engines to pull up unevaluated Web pages submitted or self-nominated by individual Web page authors. Use of such portals results in a distorted and incomplete picture of quality Latino information on the Web. Currently, noncommercial Latino meta-sites and source tools are more successful at pointing the user to relevant information by and about Latinos in the U.S.

There is also a need for more research, and better access to relevant information. For example, Library Literature, the primary index to the professional periodical literature, regularly indexes book reviews but does not yet include indexing for Internet or Web resource reviews. Although a number of mainstream professional journals regularly include Internet review columns and features profiling various Web sites, the usefulness of this information is decreased if we in the profession do not have easy and regular access to it through indexing.

As a final note, the concept of a static bibliography of World Wide Web resources is akin to taking a photograph of a dancer in movement, whose expression and interpretation will never be exactly duplicated again. The bibliography will best be used as an historical document of a piece of Web history, and as a starting point for librarians and their patrons to make their own discoveries and augment local library services.
Recommended
U.S. Latino Web Sites

This list includes Chicano (Mexican American), Puerto Rican, and Cuban American Web resources, as well as sites that pertain to Salvadorans, Dominicans, Colombians, and Guatemalans residing in the U.S. Only Web sites that are reflective of U.S. Latino realities were considered; sites that are exclusively Latin American in focus are not included. Recommended Web sites listed below were evaluated for breadth, perceived authority, stability, usefulness, and accuracy. Meta-sites, clearinghouses, directories, e-journals and electronic newspapers are the focus.

Meta-Sites, Clearinghouses, and Directories

Andanzas al Web Latino
http://lib.nmsu.edu/subject/bord/latino.html
An annotated and well-organized long list of predominantly Mexican American Internet and Web resources, by librarian Molly Molloy. Includes some evaluative comments, and a useful list of newsgroups and discussion lists. Increasingly includes Latin American items, making it a bit more difficult for non-subject specialists to locate specifically U.S. Latino materials. In English (bilingual main menu only); no search engine.

The Azteca Web Page
http://www.azteca.net/aztec/
A clearinghouse of Chicano and indigenous Mexican historic and cultural facts, opinions, debates, definitions, and information; includes a mailing list, listserv, and numerous advertisements. In English; includes search engine.

Boricua.com
http://www.boricua.com/
A clearinghouse that serves mainly as a directory for Puerto Ricans on the Internet and links to their Web creations. Includes a bulletin board, calendar, electronic communities, and Puerto Rican facts. Increasingly, this site has been transforming into a portal, offering instant daily news, numerous surveys, commercial advertisements, services such as sending e-cards with Puerto Rican images, and links to Puerto Rican-relevant bookstores and a mall. In English and Spanish; includes local search engine and GoTo.com search for the rest of the Web.

CANFNet (Cuban American National Foundation Net)
http://www.canfnet.org/
CANF is the largest Cuban American organization in the United States; this Web site functions as a clearinghouse for CANF publications, editorials, articles, news and opinions, some of which are available in PDF format. In English; no search engine.

Chapines Online
http://www.nortropic.com/chapines/
Major directory of Guatemalans online; includes many in the U.S. Includes a Guatemalan Web ring, listserv, e-mail services to contact members, and links elsewhere. In Spanish; includes search engine.

CLNet (Chicano/Latino Net)
http://clnet.ucr.edu/
Major meta-site that points to academic research, creative arts, and community outreach materials. A unique service offered is the opportunity for users to create their own personal Web page to add to CLNet. Focus on Chicano and general Latino materials, but increasingly includes links to Puerto Rican and some Latin
American materials. In English (bilingual main menu); includes search engine.

Coqui Net
http://www.coqui.net/

Major Puerto Rican Internet service provider, with many links to Puerto Rican sites. Strong island and Latin American focus. This is another site that has been transforming into a portal, with numerous advertisements, webmail services, links to daily news, many help pages with networking information, and links elsewhere. In Spanish (main menu in English); no local search engine but Yahoo (in English and in Spanish) search for the rest of the Web, plus a listing of other specialized search engines.

Cuban Committee for Democracy
http://www.us.net/cuban/

Bilingual clearinghouse of moderate viewpoints on Cuban and Cuban American issues; includes Cuban Affairs newsletter, news on relevant legislation and events, and demographic information that challenges the belief that the Cuban American population is homogeneous and monolithic. Includes interesting Cuban and Cuban American links elsewhere; still being maintained? In English with parallel site in Spanish; no search engine.

CubaWeb
http://cubaweb.com

Major site features viewpoints, articles, on-line bookstores, chat forums, classified ads, calendar of events, a business library, and other Cuban American and Cuban resources. In English (bilingual main menu); no search engine.

Dominican Studies Institute
http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/dominican/home.html

Brand new to the Web, a description of this institute at CUNY, its programs, publications, activities, and contact information. A fledgling meta-site, included because scholarly information on the Web and on Dominicans in the U.S. is otherwise scarce. May it develop into a more content-rich resource, specific to Dominican materials and information on the Web. In English and Spanish; no search engine.

EgoWeb: Felipe’s Things Latino

Massive collection of unalphabetized and unannotated links from Felipe Campos, one of the Latino Web pioneers. Focus on Chicano and Mexican sites; includes Latin American materials. One of the few sites that includes Latino gay and lesbian resources and Web ring. In English (bilingual menus); index jump feature, includes search engine.

¡Guanacos Online!
http://www.nortropic.com/guanacos/

Massive directory of Salvadorans online, in U.S., El Salvador, and abroad. This site has begun calling itself a portal (“un directorio tipo Yahoo”), but currently offers just a subject directory and numerous links to news stories of interest. In Spanish; includes local search engine (for user directory information only, not subject content of Web site).

Guatemala, la tierra del Quetzal
http://www.serve.com/MarioVillalta/guatemal.htm

Long list of unalphabetized links with brief annotations, organized by broad subject area. Includes some resources that look at Guatemalan identity and issues in the U.S. Fully bilingual with parallel sites in Spanish or English; no search engine.
Guatemalan Cyberspace: Internet Services for Guatemala
http://mars.cropsoil.uga.edu/tropical/guianes.htm
An annotated list of numerous discussion and chat groups, directories, a Web ring, and news links, some of which include issues related to Guatemalans in the U.S. In English.

HispanicBiz
http://www.hispanicbiz.com/
A large meta-site with a business focus. Includes helpful links to U.S. and Latin American financial news, demographic and business-related facts about U.S. Latinos, resources and publications on technology, networking, education, and community resources. Focus is general U.S. Latino and Latin American. In English (some links in Spanish, Portuguese); no local search engine but a long list of search engines for the rest of the Web.

Hispanic/Latino News Service
http://www.latinoWWW.com/
Well-organized abstracting service of current news articles and editorials on Latino and some Latin American topics from Web news sources. Includes partial archives dating back to late 1998, though links may no longer be active. Includes additional features such as a discussion list and selected links elsewhere. In English; smaller, parallel Spanish site features abstracts of Spanish-language news articles from the Web; includes search engine.

The Hispanic/Latino Telarana
http://www.latela.com/
An extensive site that has included links to creative arts, careers, cultural centers, E-publications, newsgroups and mailing lists, and organizations. Focus is on Latin American, peninsular Spanish, and some Chicano, general Latino, Cuban American, Puerto Rican sites. The site has been off-line for renovations for an extended period of time, and may not return. In English (bilingual main menu); no search engine.

Hispanic Pages in the USA
http://coloquio.com/index.html
Includes a few useful U.S. Latino resources, particularly a “Who’s Who of the Hispanic Web” directory and the e-journal Coloquio. Includes Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban American information; Latin American, peninsular Spanish, and Basque sites. Extensive use of graphics detracts from the site. In English and Spanish (some sections in Spanish only).

Hispanic Vista.com
http://216.55.26.177/
A news service that links to news articles, information and services of interest from elsewhere on the Web, many of which are on Latino topics and issues. This is another site that has begun transforming into a portal, offering e-mail, voice mail services, a growing subject directory, magazine subscription services, and an on-line mercado. From San Diego. In English; includes search engine.

HOLA: Hispanic On-Line Association
http://www.hola.com/
Organizes noteworthy Latino Web sites by language (bilingual, in English, etc.), and provides links, annotations, and grades to HOLA’s selection of the best of the best (many of which are Latin American). Includes Hola! Magazine, a chatroom, shareware archives, a Web guide for children, and various networking tools, as well as portal-like commercial advertisements and user surveys for members. Many features are not Latino or Latin American in focus. In English; no search engine.
Sixteen. Latino Resources on the Web (Susan A. Vega García)

IPRNet (Institute for Puerto Rican Policy Network)
http://www.iprnet.org/IPR/

Previously a major research and policy site that included articles, publications, news, statistical releases, events, the on-line newsletter Critica, and other resources, including a discussion list. The Web site currently is undergoing redesign due to IPR’s merger with the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. Previous Web site was in English; no search engine.

LatinoWeb
http://latinoweb.com/

Previously one of the largest and most inclusive sites, collecting and annotating links ranging from arts, business, jobs & bilingual classifieds, education, history, government agencies, non-profit organizations, newspapers & magazines, and personal pages. The site has now become a full-fledged portal, whose main page features Latino-relevant news stories, as well as e-mail services, and numerous advertisements. Much of the previous authoritative news focus has been replaced by a growing subject directory of user-contributed (self-nominated) resources. In English and Spanish (some sections bilingual); includes search engine.

LULAC
http://www.lulac.org/

The Web site of this well-known organization functions as a clearinghouse to their own weekly policy briefs, and includes much useful information such as a Congressional scorecard (detailing Senate and House votes by state and name), sections on immigration, Puerto Rico and the statehood question, voter rights, “English Plus,” briefs on upcoming legislation relevant to Latino populations, a discussion list, and much more. Very well designed and timely. In English; no search engine.

Mexico’s Index Channel
http://www.trace-sc.com/index1.htm

Previously, a numbered list of unalphabetized, unannotated links about immigration, Proposition 187, NAFTA, and news. Focus on Chicano, Mexican, and general Latino sites. The site has been enlarged and revamped with graphics and new sections on topics such as “Mexico for Kids,” “Hurricane Season,” and “Fighting Drugs” added. Much of the previous coverage on specifically Chicano and U.S. Latino issues seems to have disappeared. Fully bilingual with parallel sites in Spanish and in English; includes search engine.

Las mujeres
http://www.lasmujeres.com/

Biographical profiles on selected U.S. Latinas and Latin American women, ranging from Julia Alvarez, Cristina Garcia, Mary Helen Ponce, and Gloria Estéfan to the ubiquitous Frida Kahlo and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. Although the site quotes liberally from copyrighted print sources (often reprinting entire articles from periodicals and reference books not on-line), at least the sources have been cited. Includes many Web links for each profile, as well as banner ads and links to on-line commercial bookstores. In English; no search engine.

National Council of La Raza
http://www.nclr.org/

Well-organized Web site from this policy focused organization provides extensive annotated lists of NCLR publications for sale, news briefs on issues such as health, education, immigration, and policy, and an unannotated list of other Web sites of interest. An excellent resource for staying current on Latino issues. In English; includes search engine.
New York Semanal
http://www.cdiusa.com/NYSemanal/  
Most of the major portions of this weekly news service link unexpectedly to well-known sites such as CNN en español and PBS Online, but it also includes major sections from En español.com (see listing below) and other resources. Worth exploring. Mostly in Spanish, some English; no search engine.

Nueva Vista: Latino Perspective
http://www2.epix.net/~escobar/Vista.html  
Presents news, viewpoints, and partially annotated links on many topics. Puerto Rican, Chicano, and general Latino sites; also includes some Latin American information. This Web site has been redesigned significantly since this list was first compiled, and was off-line for redesign again in October 1999. In English; no search engine.

¡Qué hubo!
http://www.quehubo.com/
Massive directory of Colombian and Colombian American businesses and individuals on the Internet. Recently, this site has been growing into a subject directory as well. In Spanish, with parallel English language site currently under construction; includes search engine.

El Salvador a Wonderful Country
http://www.ecst.csuchico.edu/~william/
Lots of links to general information about El Salvador, but also discussion groups, dictionaries, e-journals and other resources by and about Salvadoreans in the U.S. In English; no search engine.

Latino-Focused Portals

Oyeme.com
http://www.oyeme.com/
Obviously patterned after Yahoo and other mainstream portals, this one bills itself as “100 percent Latino” and offers standard portal features such as selected news (much of it world news or Latin American in content), chat rooms, personal ads, membership registration (without detailing what services members might receive, if any), and so on. The search engine was fast but retrieved little U.S. Latino content. (For example, a search on the word “chicano” pulled up sixteen matches; October 20, 1999.) Worth a visit, particularly if Latino content and retrieval is improved. Bilingual with parallel sites in Spanish and English; includes search engine.

Picosito.com
http://www.picosito.com/
Bilingual site from San Francisco with full-text news articles, plus business news, health, immigration, culture, and sports. Also offers e-mail services; home pages, a discussion forum, horoscopes, and a generic e-mail. Currently, the site seems low on overall content and retrieval, both Latino-centered and otherwise. (No matches were found with a search on the word “chicano,” October 20, 1999.) Worth a browse, but not recommended until Latino content and retrieval is improved. In Spanish and English; includes search engine.

QuePasa.com
http://www.quepasa.com/
Yahoo-like portal with typical services (e-mail, chat, etc.) and a search engine dedicated mostly to Latin American and some U.S. Latino Web site retrieval, from Phoenix, Arizona. The organization of the site is crisp, but search and retrieval is very slow, and the content retrieved is often quite uneven and not comprehensive. (A search on the word “chicano” pulled up 186 matches, many of which came from per-
sonal pages and a single PBS Web site.) Nonetheless, a site to watch particularly if search speed, content, and retrieval are improved. Bilingual with parallel sites in Spanish and in English; includes search engine.

StarMedia.com
http://www.starmedia.com/
Collection of selected world news stories and an extensive array of services such as shopping, interactive chat sites, Internet guides, games, and related ephemera. On the surface, this New York site focuses on world news and Web resources from Spain, Portugal, and selected Latin American countries. Searching is slow, but retrieval of U.S. Latino Web sites is more impressive than other portals. (A search on the word "chicano" pulled up over 8,000 matches, many of which were academic or authoritative in nature; October 20, 1999.) Worth visiting, particularly as searching speed is improved. In Spanish, Portuguese, and (some sections) English; includes search engine.

TodoLatino.com
http://www.todolatino.com/
Billing itself as the "premiere Hispanic/Latino portal," this site may be the closest to living up to that claim, at least in terms of Latino diversity in the Web sites organized in its subject directory. The site also provides standard portal features such as news, career information, several surveys, on-line shopping, and a search engine. Searching was fast, but relevant retrieval was low. (A search on the word "chicano" pulled up forty-nine matches; October 20, 1999.) A promising site, particularly if content and retrieval is improved. In English; includes search engine.

Yahoo en español
http://espanol.yahoo.com/
Spanish-language version of Yahoo that focuses on classification and retrieval of Web sites written in Spanish, with a special focus on Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Spain, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela. Note that U.S. Latino Web sites (and all Latino-relevant Web sites) written in English are not included, which means that numerous major U.S. Latino sites are explicitly excluded. (A search on the word "chicano" pulled up one match; October 20, 1999.) Possibly an important site for Latin American and peninsular Spanish materials, but currently not recommended for U.S. Latino Web sites. In Spanish; includes search engine.

Yupi.com
http://www.yupi.com/
From Miami Beach, another Yahoo-like portal, this one obviously named after Yahoo as well. Although the emphasis is on Latin American Web sites and information, a search feature allows searches for U.S. Web sites only. Organization of Yupi.com is clean, it offers a vast array of standard services (e-mail, on-line merchandise, translations, and so on) and retrieval was fast. Its weakness, like that of other Latino portals, is the lack of authoritative and representative content retrieved by the search engine. (A search on the word "chicano" pulled up three matches; October 20, 1999.) Just the same, it is another site to watch, particularly if content and retrieval is improved. In Spanish; includes search engine.

E-Journals, E-News

El Andar Worldwide
http://www.mercado.com/andar/
Stylish literary and cultural e-journal hosted by the Electric Mercado. Focus
on Chicano and Mexican issues. In English.

Arena cultural

New e-journal hosted by Chicago's La Raza newspaper includes signed literary essays and profiles of Latino and Latin American authors, musicians, and artists. A comprehensive index or menuing system has yet to be built to access all previous issues of this publication. In Spanish.

Borderlines

Scholarly articles on environmental health, climate changes, immigration law, politics, and related topics concerning the Mexico – U.S. border region. From New Mexico. Fully bilingual with parallel sites in English and in Spanish.

La Campana
http://www.netside.net/lacampana/

Miami newspaper dedicated to “la libertad de Cuba” covers Cuban and Cuban American politics, and many other topics including sports, health, arts & entertainment, and more. In Spanish.

Colombian Post
http://www.colombianpost.com/

Colombian, Colombian American, and Latino current news with portal services, hosted by the Colombian-focused portal Holanet (http://www.bolanet.com/) and focusing on the Miami area. Still being maintained? In English.

Contacto
http://www.contactomagazine.com/

Sophisticated lifestyle and news magazine from Burbank that calls itself “una revista para el latino de hoy,” targeting topics of interest to many specific Latino groups as well as world news and selected Latin American news stories. There are sections on society and culture, immigration, the arts, editorials, current news, music, humor, and food. Fully bilingual in Spanish and English.

Critica: A Journal of Puerto Rican Policy and Politics
http://www.iprnet.org/IPR/critica.html

Formerly available at the IPRNet Web site (see above), this on-line newsletter focused on policy and identity issues, with no holds barred. The IPRNet Web site is temporarily off-line for redesign, due to IPR's merger with the Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund. In English.

El cuarto del quenepon
http://cuarto.quenepon.org/

Innovative Puerto Rican on-line creative arts and literary journal, with critical essays. In Spanish (some essays in English only).

Del corazón
http://nmaa-ryder.si.edu/webzine/index.html

Latino arts Webzine written for educators and young students; produced by the National Museum of American Art and hosted by the Smithsonian's Web site. In English.

Diario las Americas
http://www.diariolasamericas.com/

Cuban- and Cuban American-focused newspaper from Miami, that includes a great deal of Latin American news as well. Includes typical features such as sports and editorials, but also includes “Notas evangélicas” and “Cuestiones gramaticales.” Also includes links elsewhere, with some general U.S. Latino information. In Spanish.

En español.com
http://www.enespanol.com/home.html
Pan-Latino and Latin American e-zine covers news, sports, food, culture, travel, and other topics, with all articles and information in Spanish. Also includes their lifestyle e-zine, EnteraTe (http://www. enespanol.com/enterate/) which covers many of the same topics. Apparently from Atlanta, Georgia. In Spanish.

Frontera Literary Magazine
http://www.fronteramag.com/
Essential literary e-journal with numerous critical articles and interviews in every issue; focus on Chicano/Mexican American literature and authors; only back issues available on-line, with current issues available by paid subscription only. Includes comments and discussion section, plus links elsewhere. Plans are to expand into a CD music store as well. In English.

Generation ñ
http://www.gen-n.com/
Slick and humorous e-zine focuses on first generation Cuban American culture, including definitions of selected Cuban American slang terminology. Still being maintained? In English and Spanish.

Habaguanex Ciboney: Web Magazine of Cuba in Exile
http://www.netside.net/~ciboney/index.html
Includes articles, “factelitos” or little facts about Cuba, movie reviews, poetry, recipes and entertainment for Cuban Americans and exiles; includes extensive links. Another artifact of the Web that seems no longer to be maintained; archived articles and some of the links may still be useful. In English, includes separate Spanish section.

Hispanic Business
http://www.hispanstar.com/hb/
Electronic version of this business magazine includes links to some of the feature articles and news stories included in the print version. Many stories also include relevant links elsewhere. In English.

Hispanic Online
http://www.bisp.com
Electronic version of the well-known magazine, with some portal-like features available, such as a chatroom and a career forum. Their “Tesores del Web” section features a selection of U.S. Latino and many Latin American Web sites. In English.

Hopscotch
http://www.hopscotch.org/
Literary journal edited by critic Ilán Stavans presents selected on-line essays on Latin American, Jewish, and U.S. Latino identities and cultures. Full-text (or in some cases, partial text) of only selected articles available on-line; all others are citations only. Includes annotated list of Latin American and U.S. Latino (mainly Mexican American) Web sites of interest. In English.

Guanaquiemos
http://www.queondas.com/aqui_estamos/welcome.htm
From Miami, literary and cultural e-journal for Salvadorans whose focus is to remember El Salvador “with a smile and with nostalgia”; aimed at all Salvadorans “no importa donde estemos.” In Spanish.

‘LA’ Ritmo.com
http://www.laritmo.com/
Biweekly music e-journal, focusing on Puerto Rican salsa and music of all kinds. Includes interviews, reviews, music charts, and many advertisements. In English.

Latin Music 1OnLine!
http://www.lamusica.com/
One of the best and most extensive
Latin music sites with a focus on salsa, tropical, and contemporary Latin pop and rock music. Features interviews, reviews, New York live music club guide, and suggested resources. In English.

Latinas On-line
http://www.latina.com/
Electronic version of the popular fashion and lifestyle magazine aimed at young Latinas. Full text articles provided for some back issues only; current and more recent issues provide selected table of contents and interactive features, but not the stories or feature articles themselves. In English, with some bilingual features.

Latino USA: The Radio Journal of News and Culture
http://www.latinousa.org/
Excellent site provides access to sound files and some text transcripts of Latino USA's recent radio programs on diverse topics such as Latinos in unions, Colombians in Miami, the political situation in Puerto Rico, and Latino baseball players in the Negro Major Leagues. Requires RealAudio Player, and Adobe Acrobat for some text files. In English.

Latino Link
http://www.latino.com/index.html
Major e-zine provides news, articles, entertainment with focus on many U.S. Latino groups and various Latin American issues; includes bulletin boards and chat forums. In English and some Spanish.

LATNN.com: Latino On-Line News Network
http://www.latnn.com/
News articles of interest to Latinos, in English and in Spanish. Sources of the news include LATNN's wire news service and their superb electronic journal, Gráfico (http://www.latnn.com/grafico/), which includes author interviews, in-depth essays, and opinion pieces. Focus is on many Latino groups, and includes relevant articles regarding Latin American events. In English and Spanish.

National Association of Hispanic Journalists
http://www.nahj.org/
Features news articles on various U.S. Latino groups and topics in its "Latino Reporter" section; includes professional information for organization members regarding conferences. In English.

El Nuevo Día interactivo
http://www.endi.com/
On-line version of this excellent daily newspaper from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Features news from Puerto Rico and the world, business, arts, sports, sciences, and other regular sections. Archived issues available for searching, for a fee. In Spanish.

El Nuevo Herald Digital
http://www.elherald.com/
One of the best on-line daily newspapers, from Miami. Includes Cuban section, news of interest to many Latino groups in the Miami area, as well as international, national, and regional news, cultural information, and services. In Spanish.

El Pueblo Magazine
http://www.elpueblomagazine.com/
From Houston, this on-line magazine describes itself as "...dedicated to all issues in the Houston metro-area Chicano, Latino, and Mexican community. Issues from entertainment to politics and an array of issues in between are covered." Bilingual in English and Spanish.

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http://www.pacifica.org/programs/puerto/boricua.html

Digital radio news program from Pacifica Radio Network News focuses on the political status of Puerto Rico and its small island of Vieques. Recorded news features detail protests of the Puerto Rican people seeking to have the U.S. military base removed from that island. Requires RealAudio Player; also includes facts and statistics concerning Puerto Rico and its people. In English.

Pocho Productions' Virtual Varrio
http://www.pocho.com/index.2.html

Chicano humor, comic art, and satire. Offers two versions of the Web site—one laden with JavaScript, audio features, and Shockwave plug-ins, and a stripped down version for the rest of us. In English.

La Prensa de San Antonio
http://www.laprensa.com

On-line weekly edition of this newspaper from Texas. Fully bilingual in English and Spanish.

La Raza On Line
http://www.laraza.com/

Electronic version of this newspaper from Chicago features articles on regional and national U.S. Latin issues and events, and Latin American news coverage, with an emphasis on Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Colombia. One of the most inclusive newspapers in terms of Latino groups covered. In Spanish, with parallel site in English.

El Sol de Texas
http://www.elsoldetexas.com/

Editorials, features, and cultural articles and graphics from the electronic version of this newspaper, the paper version of which has been in existence since 1966. In Spanish (menu items are in English); no search engine.

Urban Latino Magazine
http://www.urbanlatino.com/

Intelligent and flashy youth-oriented e-journal with long critical articles on music, culture, fashion, politics, and various manifestations of hip-hop ethnic pride, with a special focus on Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Colombians, Cuban Americans, and other Latinos. Includes on-line bodega that sells t-shirts and other items. In English.

Vista Magazine
http://www.visitamagazine.com/

Electronic version of the newspaper insert familiar to many Latino communities nationwide. Includes articles on prominent Latinos, music reviews, Latino success stories, parenting features, and many other topics. In English and Spanish.

Notes

1. A note on terminology: The terms "Latino" and "US Latino" are used interchangeably in this study to indicate persons of Latin American descent born and/or now living in the United States. The author recognizes that these terms and definitions may not be accepted or utilized by everyone.


3. “Ethnic identifiers” is a term used by Doris Hargrett Clack, a librarian who devoted her career to advocating for better and fuller subject heading description of African American library materials. In this context, ethnic identifiers are names such as “Latino,” “Hispanic,” “Chicano,” “Mexican American,” and so on.


8. A note on terminology: Web sites that provide such electronic lists of links are called by many names, including indexes, gateways, directories, netographies, bibliographies, meta-pages, and meta-sites (meaning, Web sites about Web sites). In this paper, the term “directory” is used to indicate a Web site that provides straightforward listings of information, such as e-mail addresses, and the term “meta-site” is used to indicate a Web site that functions at least in part as a bibliography, linking to relevant content sometimes on the same site but most especially listing numerous content-rich Web sites elsewhere.


12. Smith.


17. A portion of this study was presented as a poster session entitled “Latino Resources on the WWW” at the ALA Summer 97 meeting. Data and percentages reported in this paper were collected in 1997, and have not been updated or modified. The original version of the bibliography, “Recommended US Latino Web Sites,” was distributed at the ALA Summer 1997 meeting to attendees, and via e-mail to those who requested the list after the meet-