11-2002

Latino Reference Resources

Susan A. Vega Garcia
Iowa State University, savega@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/refinst_pubs

Part of the Chicana/o Studies Commons, Ethnic Studies Commons, and the Library and Information Science Commons

The complete bibliographic information for this item can be found at http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/refinst_pubs/38. For information on how to cite this item, please visit http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/howtocite.html.
Latino Reference Resources

Abstract
The Hispanic and Latino presence in the US predates the existence of the US itself. Spanish exploration and colonization of North, Central, and South America in the sixteenth century began with the establishment of colonies in Puerto Rico in 1509. Florida, Texas, California, and the Southwest were regions of intense Spanish and (in Texas and further west) Mexican exploration, colonization, and cultivation throughout the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. As recently as 160 years ago, Texas was still part of Mexico; California and the entire Southwest comprised northernmost Mexico until 1848, when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended hostilities in the Mexican American war. In that war, Mexico lost nearly half its territory, and that treaty guaranteed both US citizenship and retention of property rights to Mexicans living in the territory ceded to the US. As it worked out, however, many Mexican American landowners were dispossessed of their lands soon after the war and had to face other forms of discrimination. A generation later, the Mexican revolution (1910-21) prompted emigration to the US, a flow that continues to the present day.

Disciplines
Chicana/o Studies | Ethnic Studies | Library and Information Science | Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies

Comments
This article is from Choice, 40, no. 3 (November 2002), 399-412.

This article is available at Iowa State University Digital Repository: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/refinst_pubs/38
Latino Reference Resources

BY SUSAN A. VEGA GARCIA

Introduction

T he Hispanic and Latino presence in the US predates the existence of the US itself. Spanish exploration and colonization of North, Central, and South America in the sixteenth century began with the establishment of colonies in Puerto Rico in 1509. Florida, Texas, California, and the Southwest were regions of intense Spanish and (in Texas and further west) Mexican exploration, colonization, and cultivation throughout the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. As recently as 160 years ago, Texas was still part of Mexico; California and the entire Southwest comprised northernmost Mexico until 1848, when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended hostilities in the Mexican American war. In that war, Mexico lost nearly half its territory, and that treaty guaranteed both US citizenship and retention of property rights to Mexicans living in the territory ceded to the US. As it worked out, however, many Mexican American landowners were dispossessed of their lands soon after the war and had to face other forms of discrimination. A generation later, the Mexican revolution worked out, however, many Mexican explorations and colonizations continued to the present day.

More recently, other Latino groups such as Dominicans, Colombians, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans have established important communities across the US.

Despite this long history, Latinos continue to be described as "newcomers" to the US, and widespread confusion continues concerning exactly what is meant by the collective terms "Latino" and "Hispanic," a confusion seen in many reference publications. The labels "Latino" and "Hispanic" (as well as their older equivalents "Spanish," "Spanish-sumamed," and "Spanish-speaking") tend to obscure the great diversity inherent in the many different Latino groups. It is as if there were only one "Hispanic" or "Latino" culture, language, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, class, or set of values. On the other hand, more precise names for specific Latino subgroups (such as "Chicano") are often applied incorrectly to all the groups, as if all Latinos were Chicanos. Then there is the question of Latin Americans and Spaniards living throughout the world, who can also be called "Latinos" or "Hispanics."

These fundamental issues of identity lie outside the scope of this essay, but should be borne in mind by anyone who wishes to understand information by and about Latinos in the US. Readers unfamiliar with basic US Latino issues might begin by reading Himilce Nova’s popular, informal Everything You Need to Know about Latino History, which covers just about everything—from ethnic labels, identity issues, and surnames, to the histories of specific Latino groups and the many differences between them. A more sophisticated analysis is provided by Jorge J.E. Gracia, whose philosophical and scholarly essays (Hispanic/Latino Identity) examine whether collective terms (such as "Latino") have any meaning at all. An excellent time line recording the activities and contributions of Hispanics and Latinos in the US is contained in Nicolás Kanellos’s fact book and chronology, Hispanic Firsts: 500 Years of Extraordinary Achievement, a readable work which illustrates that “Hispanic peoples are responsible for laying the foundation for much of American industry and civilization.”¹

S ince 1930, the US Census Bureau has steadily increased its efforts to define and enumerate Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and other Latino groups. Only since 1970, however, has the Census presented that data under one label that unified—at least for Census purposes—these various groups into a single category, known as “Spanish Origin,” “Spanish Surname,” and in lat-
er decades, "Hispanic." In recent decades, the Latino population in the US has grown so significantly that today, according to current Census reports by Melissa Therrien and Roberto M. Ramirez, one in every eight people in the US is Latino, and their numbers are increasing so rapidly that Latinos will soon be the largest minority group. Since 1990, while the entire US population grew by 13.2 percent, the US Latino population increased by more than fifty percent. The population of all three of the largest Latino ethnic groups—Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans—increased substantially during the last decade, but Latinos of other origins grew at the astonishing rate of 96.9 percent, suggesting that Latinos in the US are an increasingly diverse group. These realities increase the need for authoritative reference information that concentrates on this important and complex population.

Reference Materials Publishing Boom

Beginning in the 1960s, the volume of scholarly reference materials and publications in Latino studies has increased greatly. This has not happened by chance, but through the ongoing work of a small but growing community of dedicated Latino librarians, academic researchers, and Latino-focused publishers.

In California and other states, the unified protests and radicalization of Mexican American college students in the late 1960s played a key role both in the larger Chicano civil rights movement and in campus student movements that demanded the creation of ethnic studies centers and research programs. In time, these student protests led to the development of Chicano Studies as an academic discipline. As cited by Carlos Muñoz, Jr., the writers of key proposals and documents associated with this movement had the foresight to call for the creation of research centers devoted to Mexican American/Chicano studies, among whose chief purposes would be "to assist in the development of new curriculum and bibliographical materials dealing with the culture, history and problems of the Mexican American." From these beginnings, important Chicano-focused libraries and collections have been established throughout California, notably at UCLA, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Barbara, as well as in Texas, Arizona, Colorado, and in other states.

One in every eight people in the US is Latino.

Similar Puerto Rican student-led movements in the late 1960s in New York and elsewhere helped shape the creation of Puerto Rican studies as an academic field of inquiry, as well as provide impetus for the foundation of important Puerto Rican research centers and libraries, such as the library of the Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, currently at Hunter College, City University of New York. As described by Nélida Pérez and Amílcar Tirado Avilés, and quite similar to the Chicano/Mexican American initiatives, the Centro library was founded "to give back to the [Puerto Rican] community control over its cultural and intellectual heritage." Cuban American and Dominican academic research centers and libraries, such as the Cuban Research Institute, established in 1991 at Florida International University, and the Dominican Studies Institute, founded in 1992 at City College of New York, CUNY, are more recent developments. As Latinos from other heritages organize to produce and publish knowledge of their own histories and cultures, both diversification and articulation of the Latino experience in the US will become increasingly common. These research centers and libraries and their librarians and archivists have led in the production, collection, identification, and preservation of new knowledge and scholarship in Latino studies, whether the focus rests on Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban American, or other US Latino groups. These same librarians have also dedicated considerable energy and resources to the development and ongoing production of critical access tools and reference materials in Latino studies. Major indexes, bibliographies, dictionaries, and encyclopedias in Latino studies have been produced through the work and dedication of Latino librarians, many of them informed by the grassroots efforts and community-focused perspectives of the 1960s Latino student movements.

Many of these librarian-led projects and publications are documented in Salvador Güereña’s two collections on Latino librarianship (Latino Librarianship: A Handbook for Professionals and Library Services to Latinos). The former includes "Latino Reference Sources," an authoritative bibliographic essay by Richard Chabrán on Latino reference materials published up to that time, focusing on works produced during the fertile period of the 1960s up to 1990. The present essay acknowledges Chabrán’s important work, and takes his essay as a point of departure.

The present bibliographic essay focuses on important Latino reference sources published since 1990, emphasizing representative works and Web sites for Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban American, and Dominican studies, and pointing out emerging research on Colombians, Salvadorans and other Latino groups in the US. A few key works published before 1990 are also included. Reference titles are organized by type of source, by subject, and by coverage of Latino group(s). Though this essay overlaps to some degree with works surveyed by Chabrán, it profiles almost 100 new titles. Readers who need information about works published before 1990 are urged to consult Chabrán.

Almanacs, Encyclopedias & Handbooks

Publisher, editor, and writer Nicolas Kanellos deserves special mention for his seemingly tireless production of reference materials during the 1990s. Kanellos is well
Known for *Américas Review*, the Latino literary journal he founded, and for Arte Público Press, one of the premier publishers of Latino literature. In the late 1980s, he also turned his attention to developing new reference sources about Latinos. Since 1989, he has written or edited at least eight important reference titles and has published the series “Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage,” an archival and historical research publishing project initiated by Kanellos and Arte Público.

In 1993, Kanellos published what may be the first almanac devoted to Latino issues—*The Hispanic American Almanac*. A second edition was released in 1997, and a new edition is scheduled for 2002. The second edition contains twenty-seven chapters of useful background information on topics such as language, race, education, women, literature, business, media, politics, organizations, and labor and employment, and adds biographical profiles; a glossary, index, and general bibliography are included. Kanellos has also published *Chronology of Hispanic-American History and Hispanic Firsts* (mentioned above), a source that documents Latino “firsts” throughout history.

Also in 1993, Kanellos edited a three-volume *Reference Library of Hispanic America* that expanded on the almanac, with the same format of long essays, bibliographical sketches, and illustrations. The same year, another set came out, *Handbook of Hispanic Cultures in the United States*, ed. by Kanellos and Claudio Esteva-Fabregas, which focuses on Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans and the areas of anthropology, literature and art, history, and sociology. Each volume in this set has a selection of long essays signed by major scholars in the field, accompanied by illustrations, statistics, and bibliographies (some of the latter extensive). Taken together, these sources provide very solid coverage of the three largest Latino groups.

The only general multivolume Latino-focused encyclopedia to date has been *The Latino Encyclopedia*, ed. by Richard Chábrán and Rafael Chábrán, an ambitious six-volume set published by Marshall Cavendish. It offers background entries and a strong overall focus on Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans, plus entries for Dominicans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans. Entries range in length from a single paragraph to several pages, with longer entries signed. A subject index, time line, and bibliography are included.

Subject-specific single volume encyclopedias have also emerged since 1990. Ronald Fernández, Serafin Méndez Méndez, and Gail Cueto’s *Puerto Rico Past and Present* offers a highly readable single-volume encyclopedia on Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican issues, covering everything from AIDS to writer Manuel Zeno Gandía. However, it offers no coverage of Puerto Ricans living in the US, a decision the authors explain in their introduction as determined by limitations of space. Another notable one-volume encyclopedia, Matt S. Meier and Margo Güitérez’s *Encyclopedia of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement*, covers the fascinating history of that movement. Lists of further readings accompany each entry, and there are a number of useful appendixes.

Although not technically encyclopedias, volumes in the new Greenwood Press “New Americans” series focus on specific racial and ethnic groups. Volumes relevant to this essay issued so far include María E. Pérez y González’s *Puerto Ricans in the United States, The Cuban Americans*, by Miguel González-Pando, and Silvio Torres-Saillant and Ramona Hernández’s noteworthy *The Dominican Americans*. Content and coverage vary, but volumes typically include encyclopedic background information, illustrations, and statistics. Such works can be particularly useful, since they treat Latino groups about whom encyclopedia coverage has not been extensive.

**Atlases**

George Ochoa’s *Atlas of Hispanic-American History* may be the first Hispanic and Latino historical atlas. The section “Roots of a People” analyzes the indigenous, European, and African roots of Latinos, while other sections focus on Spanish exploration throughout the Americas, Latin American independence movements, manifest destiny, Mexican repatriation of the 1930s, and other important topics. Besides maps, the atlas includes many illustrations, charts, and tables.

**Bibliographies**

Publication of book-length bibliographies, traditionally the most numerous Latino reference publications, especially during the late 1960s to early 1980s, has declined substantially, particularly works focusing on Mexican Americans. Instead, individual librarians have created bibliographies specific to their local library holdings, perhaps loading these guides on local library Web sites or distributing them as handouts to readers. Not among these has been the “BibliNoticias” series from the Benson Latin American Collection, Univ. of Texas, Austin. Bibliographies of this kind account for the majority of Mexican American bibliographies published since 1985 and listed in OCLC. Inasmuch as the last major monograph-length Mexican American- and Chicano-focused subject bibliographies were published in the early 1980s, significant and important bibliographic work needs to be done. Important subject bibliographies published as scattered journal articles or sections of books can be located by using periodical indexes in many fields.

*Handbook of Latin American Studies* (HLAS), the well-known research bibliography issued by the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress, includes some relevant information about Latinos in the US, even though its principal focus is on Latin American research. It includes lengthy and authoritative bibliographic essays that concentrate in alternate years on the social sciences or humanities. *HLAS* is available either in print or free of charge on the Web. Astonishingly, the Web site includes citations over the entire run of *HLAS*, although its current search engine lacks some precision.
Elsewhere, economic, political and social sciences issues pertaining to Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans from the focus of Joan Nordquist’s unannotated bibliography *Latinos in the United States.* Author of numerous bibliographies in the social sciences, Nordquist organizes this work by subject and Latino subgroup.

---

**Exile is a theme of paramount importance in Cuban American studies.**

---

With regard to single Latino groups, Francisco García Ayervain *Chicano Anthology Index* indexes the contents of important Chicano anthologies—a massive bibliography that includes over 15,500 unannotated entries—a source now included in *Chicano Database,* discussed below. Fay Fowlie-Flores’s *Annotated Bibliography of Puerto Rican Bibliographies* offers a numbered, critically annotated bibliography of Puerto Rican bibliographies, covering primarily island-based Puerto Rican research literature, 1966-90, although one chapter considers Puerto Ricans in the US. The most substantial and comprehensive multidisciplinary bibliography for Cuban and Cuban American research appears in the important annual *Cuban Studies—Estudios cubanos,* published by the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, in conjunction with the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University.

The Dominican Studies Institute, a comparatively young entity, has already sponsored a number of important Dominican-focused publications and bibliographies. Among these are *Dominican Studies,* ed. by Luis Alvarez López et al., an unannotated listing of Dominican and Dominican American research and literature, and Sarah Aponte’s *Dominican Migration to the United States, 1970-1997,* an annotated bibliography that surveys two decades of research materials on Dominican migration and immigration to the US. Much current literature treating Dominican Americans has strong ties to this research center, and other titles published by the Institute have included useful bibliographies.

Brief bibliographies that accompany individual studies comprise the extent of reference works to date about smaller but regionally significant US Latino groups—Cubans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and others. For example, in *Narradores colombianos en U.S.A.: Antología,* Eduardo Marçéles Dacone has edited the first anthology of US Colombian literature, while Jonathan Tittler has explored “neo-Colombian” literature in the US. Other pioneering work has been done by Segundo Montes Mozó (a Jesuit professor martyred in 1989 in El Salvador), who produced with Juan José Garcia Vásquez Salvadoran Migration to the United States: An Exploratory Study, which includes a bibliography of Salvadorans in the US. A more recent work, Nera Hamilton and Norma Stolz Chinchilla’s study of Guatemalan and Salvadoran communities. Seeking Community in a Global City, includes a 19-page bibliography.

**Gay and Lesbians**

Bibliographies documenting the literature of gay and lesbian Latinos have been scarce and difficult to locate. *Chicano Database* identifies a work by De La Garza, Preliminary Chicano and Latino Lesbian and Gay Bibliography, which unfortunately could not be verified, located, and examined. *Latin American Writers on Gay and Lesbian Themes,* ed. by David William Foster, a sourcebook on Latin American gay and lesbian writers and literary themes, includes a number of US Latinx writers, the book’s title notwithstanding; each profile includes a bibliography of works by and about the writer.

**Immigration and Exile**

A number of bibliographies have covered the ample literature about immigration and exile, a theme of paramount importance in Cuban American studies, Cuban refugee, settlement, immigration, and adjustment experiences were covered in early works—Lourdes Casal and Andrés E. Hernández’s “Cubans in the US,” David W. Haines’s *Refugee Resettlement in the United States,* and Gastón Fernández and León Narváez’s “Bibliography of Cuban Immigration.” More recently, the complex topic of how Cuban American identity has been shaped by the experience of immigration and exile has been explored by Diana González Krby in “A Survey of the Literature on the Cuban Immigration to the U.S.,” before and after the Mariel Boatlift” and Eileen Oliver in “Cuban Immigration and the Cuban-American Experience.” Oliver’s select bibliography focuses on works in English and features page-length annotations, a section on Web sites, and helpful background notes. Sarah Aponte’s *Dominican Migration to the United States* (mentioned above) provides Dominican perspectives on the immigration experience.

**Library collections on Latino publications**

In the past decade, a number of bibliographic publications have appeared that were concerned with collection building and the history and forms of Latino publications. “Latino Reference Sources,” by Richard Chabrán (mentioned above), surveyed Latino reference materials in a lengthy bibliographic essay organized by types of reference sources and by sources on particular subjects. A large number of sources Chabrán lists are useful citations from the periodical literature.

**Latino Periodicals: A Selection Guide,** ed. by Salvador Güereña and Vivian M. Pianò, assists in building Latino library collections by providing an important descriptive list and selection guide to current Latino periodicals, emphasizing Mexican, Latin American, and Mexican American titles. Nicolás Kanellos and Helvetia Martell’s *Hispanic Periodicals in the United States* supplies a valuable list of Latino periodicals from the earliest examples through 1960, focusing on “native Hispanic” pub-
lications from New Mexico, California, Arizona, Texas, and New York, as well as exile and immigrant publications. The authors include a twenty-four-page bibliography of periodicals, along with geographic and subject indexes.

Considering new forms of publication, Susan A. Vega García explores the phenomenon of Latino Web sites, including their potential as sources of reference material and as finding tools. An annotated bibliography described more than seventy important Web sites and online journals pertaining to Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans, as well as Salvadorans, Dominicans, Colombians, and Guatemalans in the US.

Languages and literature

Most recent bibliographies on aspects of Latino literature and language have appeared only in journals or collected works, though a few monograph-length bibliographies have been released since 1990. On language policy issues, Salvador Guerreño surveyed the literature on the English-only and official language movement of the 1980s in a useful unannotated bibliography.

A number of newer bibliographies focus on literature, literary authors, and literary criticism. Marc Zimmerman's interesting, if at times skewed, U.S. Latino Literature, a bibliography of Latino literature, short fiction, and poetry, focuses on Chicano, Cuban American, and what he terms "U.S. Puerto Rican" authors. The only Puerto Rican island-based writers he includes, for example, are those who have commented extensively on life in the U.S. Authors from other Latino groups, such as Dominican American Julia Alvarez, are included sparingly, and then under the odd category of "Latino-tending U.S. Latin American," while a number of minor, lesser-known Chicago-area writers receive comprehensive coverage.

Several recent bibliographies focus specifically on Chicano literature. João Barretto et al.'s Literatura Chicana is an updated edition of Roberto G. Trujillo's bibliography with the same title. Unfortunately the newer work has yet to reach the audience it deserves, perhaps because it was not issued by a commercial publisher. Anna M. Schein listed the works of over 100 Chicano authors already profiled in Francisco A. Lomeli and Carl L. Shirley's Chicano Writers series (discussed below, under "Biographical sources"). César A. González-T. and Phyllis S. Morgan have compiled in A Sense of Place, a lengthy annotated bibliography of writer Rudolfo Anaya.

Cuban American and broader Cuban exile creative literature have been explored by Daniel C. Maratos and Marnesba D. Hill in their biobibliographic monograph Escritores de la diáspora cubana. Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Cuban Literature, ed. by Julio A. Martínez, focuses primarily on Cuban writers living on the island or in exile in Europe, though he includes a few Cuban writers based in the US. Considering the boom in Cuban American literature over the past decade alone, new work in this area is necessary.

The folklore of Puerto Rico has been documented in Alberto Arroyo Gómez's Bibliografía del folclor de Puerto Rico. As for Puerto Rican creative literature, Marnesba D. Hill and Harold B. Schleifer's Puerto Rican Authors (1974), a biobibliography of authors and their works, is outdated and covers only Puerto Rican writers from the island. A new edition that would include Puerto Rican writers living in the US, as well as the new generation of island-based Puerto Rican writers, is sorely needed.

Latinas

A notable trend is the increasing number of bibliographies devoted to women in Latino groups. K. Lynn Stoner's exhaustive Latinas of the Americas (1989), a bibliography of Latin American women and US Latinas, is organized into 15 topics, each containing bibliographic essays and unannotated bibliographies by noted scholars. The bibliographies fold all the citations into an alphabetical author list, however, making it difficult to locate works by or about US Latinas quickly. Likewise, Women of Color and Southern Women, the unannotated bibliography on women of color by Lynn Weber, Elizabeth Higginbotham, et al., is organized in six subject categories, with citations listed (sometimes incorrectly) by racial and ethnic group. Most of the Latina citations included in the 1991-94 supplemental editions of the bibliography focus on Mexican American or Puerto Rican women. Joan Nordquist's Latinas in the United States, a useful companion bibliography to her broader work on Latino political and social sciences literature (mentioned above), focuses specifically on Latinas.

Important bibliographies have also emerged on specific Latina groups. Early publications focusing on Chicanas were first surveyed by Lillian Castillo-Speed in "Chicana Studies: A Selected List of Materials Since 1980," a lengthy, unannotated bibliography that was the precursor of her notable Chicana Studies Index: Twenty Years of Gender Research, 1971-1991. The latter work cites some 6,500 books, journal and book articles, and dissertations, and remains the single most important reference work on Chicanas.

K. Lynn Stoner's Cuban and Cuban-American Women, an excellent annotated bibliography, is a valuable extension of her previous work on Latin American women and US Latinas. Daisy Cocco De Filippis's Documents of Dissidence reviews Dominican and Cuban American women writers, and includes a brief but useful unannotated bibliography. A lengthy, annotated spiral bound bibliography, Edna Acosta-Belén and Christine E. Bose's Albany PR-WOMENET Database, includes almost 600 citations of journal articles, book chapters, books, and dissertations written in Spanish or English about Puerto Rican women. Although the bibliography is alphabetized by author, an additional section organizes the same citations in eight broad subject areas, including history and migration, arts and literature, and social movements. Unfortunately, this ambitious bib-
Latino Reference Resources

Politics and Political Activity

An important theme in Puerto Rican studies, research, and creative literature has been the question of the political status of Puerto Rico—whether Puerto Rico should remain a commonwealth of the US, or become a full-fledged state or an independent nation. José O. Díaz and Karen R. Díaz covered English-language publications on the controversial topic of Puerto Rico’s status as a US commonwealth. Edgardo Meléndez’s Puerto Rican Government and Politics treated this theme in a full-length bibliography that cites broader works on political science and government as well. Works on the life and career of Luis Muñoz Marín, the first elected governor of Puerto Rico and architect of the island’s commonwealth status, are surveyed by José O. Díaz’s annotated bibliography.

Religion and Religious Practices

Discovering LatinReligion, Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo and Segundo Pantoco’s major unannotated bibliography on Latino religious syncretism, popular religiosity, and cultural identity, cites books, journal and newspaper articles, reports, documents, theses, and dissertations. Most entries pertain to Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans, although Cuban American, Dominican, Colombian, and other U.S. Latino religious practices receive some coverage. Cuban Santería is examined in detail by Diana González Kirby and Sara M. Sánchez in their works from 1988, 1990, and 1998. The most recent of these bibliographies covers social, linguistic, religious, and other facets of Santería in Cuba and the US, and cites books, journal and book articles, musical recordings, videos, and Web sites.

Indexes

Depending on one’s research or information needs, the two most helpful periodical indexes will be either Chicano Database, produced by Lillian Castillo-Speed and the Ethnic Studies Library at the Univ. of California, Berkeley, or Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI), produced by the Latin American Center at the Univ. of California, Los Angeles, and edited by Barbara Valk.

Periodical Indexes

As its name suggests, Chicano Database focuses on Mexican American and Chicano research, though it includes limited coverage of some Puerto Rican and Cuban American information. The database is a compilation of a number of print source materials, including Chicano Index (originally known as Chicano Periodical Index) and Chicana Studies Index, ed. by Lillian Castillo-Speed. Other sources include Francisco García-Ayvens’s Chicana Anthology Index and bibliographies on art and mental health. Chicano Database includes citations to research monographs in Latino studies, and indexes 129 Latino-focused periodicals, roughly two-thirds of which are defunct, hence of primarily historical interest. Indexing for many of the remaining titles (as of this writing, July 2002) seems to have stopped around 1995, though a small number of titles have indexing records as recent as 2001. For many readers, Chicano Database may now be most useful for identifying and accessing recent Latino-focused monographs as well as valuable retrospective information on Mexican American and Chicano issues, particularly articles published in infrequently held Chicano serial publications. Chicano Database is available on CD-ROM or online as an RLIN/RLG subscription database.

HAPI, Hispanic American Periodicals Index indexes social science and humanities research articles and book reviews published in more than 400 journals, from 1977 to the present. Despite its name, HAPI focuses on Latin American rather than US Latino research, though it indexes a growing core of important US Latino journals, and regularly indexes articles on Puerto Rican, Cuban American, and Mexican American topics published in a number of Latin American-focused periodicals. The online version allows easy restriction of search results to “articles about U.S. Hispanics only.” HAPI is available in an annual print version or through subscription to its online Web site. Because HAPI adds bibliographic records to its online database throughout the year, the index tends to be nicely up-to-date.

Full-Text Periodical Databases

More specialized periodical indexes have also recently emerged. Informe, a full-text database of articles from current and popular Latino consumer magazines in Spanish, has added in recent years a few research titles. Although Informe has been billed by its vendor as “the first full-text Spanish language database,” that honor might more properly be bestowed in the US on Ethnic NewsWatch, which since 1991 has presented full-text articles from a wide sample of the US racial and ethnic minority press. Most sources are newspapers, but over the years a number of important leisure and even scholarly periodicals have been added. From the beginning, Ethnic NewsWatch has offered users the choice of an English- or Spanish-language search interface; many of the full-text Latino publications are in Spanish only.

Other subject-oriented database indexes (e.g., Sociological Abstracts, ERIC, MLA, PsycLit, Race Relations Abstracts) will also help users in those disciplines, though...
these databases lack the strong Latino focus of HAPI and Chicano Database. They also lack Latino-centered subject description, which may make it difficult for users to discover appropriate terminology. Un-

Compilers do not agree on the critical question of who or what is Hispanic or Latino.

happily, no single index covers the entire range of Latino studies across all disciplines, all relevant journals, and all relevant Latino groups.

Book Reviews

Some Latino studies journals regularly include review essays, book reviews, and substantial bibliographies of materials often difficult to locate, since no single periodical index or abstracting service covers all this literature. Most notable is Cuban Studies = Estudios cubanos, which typically includes review essays and book reviews in its annual comprehensive bibliography. The Choice editors issued Latino Studies, a selection of predominantly Latin American and some US Latino book reviews that had appeared in Choice. HAPI has been useful for locating book reviews, Since from the beginning it regularly includes book reviews and book review essays. However, beginning in 2002 HAPI will drop individual book reviews to allow more journal titles to be indexed; review essays, however, will still be included.

The Latino(a) Research Review (formerly Latino Review of Books), an exciting new journal from SUNY Albany, publishes scholarly review essays, brief reviews, and lists of recent Latino books. The journal has a strong Caribbean focus; recent articles and bibliographies cover Dominican and Puerto Rican titles.

Biographical Sources

Even newer, Crítica, a quarterly (soon to be bimonthly) book reviewing periodical, bills itself as “An English Speaker’s Guide to the Latest Spanish Language Titles.” Affiliated with Library Journal, School Library Journal, and Publishers Weekly, it currently focuses on peninsular Spanish and Latin American titles, plus Spanish translations of popular English-language titles. It will be very useful in building Spanish-language collections. All these reviews and publications are available online at the Barahona Center Web site (<http://www.csusm.edu/csb/>), a wonderful resource for collection development librarians or anyone interested in children’s materials in Spanish or about Latinos. A unique and useful feature of Barahona’s search engine is the capability to narrow one’s search by age of the audience, by Latin American region, plus other options.

have tended to focus on Latinos as a US minority group, or on one of the specific Latino subgroups.

General Biographical Sources

Now in its fourth edition, Tomás Sarramía’s popular Nuestra gente profiles well-known Puerto Ricans from the island. Matt S. Meier et al.’s Notable Latino Americans (1997), an excellent biographical dictionary about US Latinos, complements this earlier biographical dictionary on Mexican Americans in history. Notable Latino Americans covers more than 120 personalities in readable and informative entries, which include brief bibliographies for further reading. Taking a different approach, Himkie Novas’s The Hispanic 100 profiles 100 prominent Latinos and individuals of Spanish descent in the US, attempting to rank them according to the significance of their accomplishments. Rankings aside, the lengthy entries provide unusually good detail, making this a particularly useful and varied biographical source. Gale published a series begun by Amy L. Unterberger, who adapted the who’s who format for a Hispanic edition (Who’s Who among Hispanic Americans); this series has not been reissued by Gale since its third edition.

Hispanic American Biography, ed. by Rob Nagel and Sharon Rose, covers Latinos, Latin Americans, and Spaniards, and is intended for young adult readers. Editor Bryan Ryan gathered entries from Contemporary Authors for Hispanic Writers, a work on Latin American, peninsular Iberian, and US Latino writers. Dictionary of Hispanic Biography, ed. by Joseph C. Tardiff and L. Mpho Mabunda, Notable Hispanic American Women, ed. by Diane Telgen and Jim Kamp, and Joseph Palmisano have also interpreted the term “Hispanic” in its broadest application, including Spaniards, Latin Americans, and US Latinos. Gary D. Keller and Estela Keller’s A Biographical Handbook of Hispanics and United States Film profiles numerous Latin American, Spanish, and US Latino actors who have appeared in US films.

November 2002
Literature and Language

In the area of literary figures and creative writers, *Hispanic Literature Criticism*, ed. by Jelena Kostovic, covers Latin American, peninsular Iberian, and a small handful of US Latino authors; of seventy-one entries, seventeen profile Mexican American writers, three Puerto Rican authors, and only one a Cuban American writer.

Francisco A. Lomeli and Carl R. Shirley have compiled an outstanding series of three biobibliographical dictionaries focusing on Chicano writers in Gale's *Dictionary of Literary Biography* series—*Chicano Writers: First Series*, with Second Series released in 1992 and *Third Series* in 1999. This series offers the most authoritative, sustained look at Mexican American literature and authors in reference publications. No other Latino group's literature and authors have received such extensive treatment.

The first important biographical dictionary to examine Puerto Rican, Cuban American, and other Latino writers in the US not of Mexican descent was *Biographical Dictionary of Hispanic Literature in the United States*, ed. by Nicolas Kanellos. The existence of the authoritative Chicano Literature: *A Reference Guide*, ed. by Julio A. Martinez and Francisco A. Lomeli, which had been issued by the same publisher a few years earlier, dictated Kanellos's decision not to include Mexican American authors. Kanellos's groundbreaking work remains the only biographical dictionary to present authors from these smaller Latino groups. Considering the great number of prolific and exciting writers who have emerged from these Latino groups since 1989—e.g., Julia Alvarez, Junot Diaz, Abraham Rodriguez Jr., Carolina Hospital, Esmeralda Santiago, Cristina Garcia, Gustavo Perez Firmat, Pablo Medina, Martin Espada, Ana Lydia Vega, Magali Garcia Ramis, Jaime Manrique, Roberto Quesada—a new reference work in this area is long overdue.

Dictionaries

Language dictionaries, particularly those that cover words and usages particular to specific Latino groups, are extremely useful to readers who need a better understanding of Spanish used by US Latinos and in Latino literature. Spanish usage among Latinos is complex and diverse: Cuban American literature or music lyrics, for example, might include loan words of West African origin adopted into Cuban Spanish, while Mexican Spanish includes many words borrowed directly from various Indian languages. Pronunciation, shades of meaning, and especially slang differ among groups.

Language Dictionaries

**Diccionario del español usual en México**, directed by Luis Fernando Lara, is an excellent Spanish-language dictionary of current Mexican Spanish, nearly 1,000 pages in length. Bernard H. Hamel's *Hamel's Bilingual Dictionary of Mexican Spanish*, a slim but handy bilingual dictionary of Mexican Spanish, gives particularly good coverage of slang, new terminology, and words borrowed from English, much of it not included in Lara's dictionary. Finally, Roberto A. Galvan and Richard V. Taschner compiled a new edition of *The Dictionary of Chicano Spanish*, more than 200 pages in length, which includes a section of proverbs and sayings, and a bibliography of sources on Chicano Spanish.

Dictionaries covering Cuban Spanish expressions have been compiled by José Sánchez Boudy (*Diccionario de cubanismos más usuales*), Fernando Ortiz (*Nuevo catálogo de cubanismos*) and Carlos Paz Pérez (*Diccionario cubano de habla popular y vulgar*). Bill Cruz and Bill Teck's *The Official Spanglish Dictionary*, a humorous and informal Spanglish dictionary, focuses on Cuban American expressions and words adapted from English. Lydia Cabrera's classic *Anagó: Vocabulario lucumi* is an extensive Spanish-language dictionary of Yoruban vocabulary in Cuban Spanish and particularly associated with Santería religious practices.

A number of Puerto Rican Spanish dictionaries have examined unique aspects of language and vocabulary in Puerto Rico. Among these, Augusto Malaret's *Vocabulario de Puerto Rico* is the most comprehensive, while Josefin A. Claudio de la Torre's *Diccionario de la jerga del estudiante universitario puertorriqueño* focuses on college student slang, and the fifth edition of Aníbal Díaz Montero's *Del español jíbaro* on Puerto Rican rural *jíbaro* Spanish. Pedro Henriquez Urela's *Diccionario dominicano* is a pocket size Dominican Spanish dictionary, but with little uniquely Dominican flavor or slang.

Subject Dictionaries

A number of Latino subject dictionaries were released during this period. Rafaela G. Castro's *Dictionary of Chicano Folklore*, a fascinating and highly readable work on Chicano folklore, has pages-length entries describing all manner of popular culture, legends, and cultural information, and includes illustrations and a long bibliography.

In *Historical Dictionary of the United States-Mexican War*, Edward H. Moseley and Paul C. Clark examine the US-Mexican war, providing a useful chronology, a long introductory essay that gives background information on the war, and a lengthy bibliography.

Thomas M. Stephens's *Dictionary of Latin American Racial and Ethnic Terminology* updates his fascinating dictionary of racial and ethnic terms used among Latino and Latin American populations, both currently and throughout history. Anyone who needs thorough and scholarly etymologies and regional definitions of ethnic labels like "Chicano," "cubiche," "gringo," "jíbaro," or "quisqueyano" need look no further.
Directories

Hispanic Americans Information Directory, published by Gale, remains one of the few general Latino directories. Planned as a serial publication, this useful listing of organizations, institutions, programs, and publications has not been reissued since the 1994-95 volume, ed. by Charles B. Montanez and Ned Butels. Although it may be useful for retrospective purposes, much of the information, addresses, and phone numbers will now be out-of-date. Since 1984, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) has produced useful directories of federal, state, and local Latino elected officials. The NALEO Web site <http://www.naleo.org/> also provides a publication list of policy reports (many coauthored by the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute), national surveys on Latino immigrants, and a number of publications on Latino participation in politics, all of which are available for purchase directly from the Web site.

Sources of Statistics

Online federal government Web sites and government publications are the most fruitful suppliers of Latino-oriented statistics, and act as sources for many compilations produced by private publishers. Federal sources were used by Louise L. Horner to compile Hispanic Americans: A Statistical Sourcebook, which gathers statistics from familiar sources, reporting primarily on the monolithic category of “Hispanics” in general, and occasionally providing statistical data broken down by Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans. Frank L. Schick and Renee Schick’s Statistical Handbook on U.S. Hispanics takes a similar approach, though it also draws from statistical sources such as Westat, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, and the National Opinion Research Center.

Statistical Record of Hispanic Americans, the statistical series begun by Marlita A. Reddy and published by Gale, has not been reissued since 1995, and is now out-of-date. Although not focusing exclusively on Latinos, the editors of New Strategist have recently released the third edition of Racial and Ethnic Diversity, their popular statistical series that focuses on the demographics and spending patterns of US racial and ethnic minority groups. Their chapter on Latinos includes useful and interesting statistics and offers background notes that put the data into context for users.

Selected Latino Research Journals

The following Latino periodicals are among the most important serial publications that focus on US Latino research, publications, and related information.


The premier journal of Latino literature and creative arts; no other journal has emerged to fill this niche.


Perhaps the premier research journal for Chicano and Mexican American studies.


An important research journal focusing on language and literature.


The premier research journal dealing with Puerto Rican studies in the US and on the island.


The premier research journal on Cuban, Cuban American, and Cuban exile studies.


A major research journal covering the areas of behavioral sciences and mental health.


Formerly Latino Review of Books. Newer journal devoted to research, review essays and book reviews; strong Puerto Rican, Dominican, and Caribbean focus.


An inclusive and important research journal focusing on the social sciences.


An important title for social sciences and humanities research on Mexican American issues.


The annual research journal published by Council of Dominican Educators and available from the Dominican Studies Institute.
Research & Policy Centers, & Other Selected Web Sites

The following Web sites provide important source information, bibliographies, full-text research reports, and other materials potentially useful for both reference and collection development. Other Latino Web sites, although important, may not be as rich in content or as up-to-date as the following selection.

Arte Publico Press
http://www.artep.uh.edu/

Online catalog of publications from this important publisher of Latino literature, poetry, anthologies, and reference works.

Barahona Center / Centro Barahona
http://www.csusm.edu/csb/

Online searchable versions of Isabel Schon's many bibliographies of children's materials in Spanish; also includes a new listing of books for children in English with Latino or Latin American content or themes.

Benson Latin American Collection: BibliNoticias Series
http://mahogany.lib.utexas.edu/-benson/home/bibnot/bibnot.htm

Many brief bibliographies (some now dated) on various Latin American and US Latino topics; many authors.

Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College
http://www.centropr.org/

Includes publication list and table of contents service for Centro Journal, the major research journal in the field of Puerto Rican Studies.

Chicano Studies Collections, Ethnic Studies Library, UC Berkeley
http://eslibrary.berkeley.edu/cshome.html

Includes publication list of bibliographies, databases, and other reference materials and materials from this important library.

Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University
http://lscf.fiu.edu/crl/

Information on conferences and publications sponsored by this Institute.

Dominican Studies Institute, CUNT
http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/dominican/

Includes publication list of books, working papers, and conference proceedings.

Hispanic Research Center, Arizona State University
http://www.asu.edu/clas/hrc/

Includes information on the Center's many projects, plus links to an online list of titles forthcoming or published by Bilingual Review Press, http://mati.eas.asu.edu:8421/bilingual/HTML/.

IUPLR: Inter-University Program for Latino Research
http://www.nd.edu/-iuplr/

Maintains links to many of the most important Latino Studies programs and research centers across the country.

Julian Samora Research Institute
http://www.jsri.msu.edu/

Research and publications section includes many substantial, full-text research papers, statistical briefs, a browsable database of article citations on migrant labor, and bibliographies. Also includes list of titles available for purchase. Overall focus of this Institute is research on Latinos in the Midwestern states.

Latin American Video Archives / International Media Resource Exchange
http://www.lavavideo.org/

Online searchable catalog of Latin American and US Latino videos available for sale; useful for collection development. The print reference work, A Guide to Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Made Film and Video, ed. by Karen Ranucci and Julie Feldman (1998), provides more descriptive text about many of the video titles included on the LAVA Web site, including comments of noted film scholars and Latin Americanists who have viewed the films and given their specific suggestions on how the videos might be used in classrooms. Both the Web site and the print title have strong coverage of short experimental and independent films, and good representation of works by and about various US Latino groups; of the two sources, however, the Web site includes more US Latino films than does the print volume.

NALEO
http://www.naleo.org/

Includes list of reports and other publications on the topics of Latino demographics, immigration, and political participation.

Tomás Rivera Policy Center
http://www.trpi.org/

Includes full-text press releases, policy reports on diverse topics, plus a listing of Center publications for sale, a number of which profile the emerging Dominican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Colombian populations throughout the US.

UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Library: Chicano Online Document Index
http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/fulltext/fulltextonline.html

Links to scanned articles from selected volumes of the Chicano studies journal Aztlán, and full-text research reports from the Julián Samora Research Institute Web site.

Conclusion

Although many important reference publications on various aspects of US Latino studies have emerged in the last decade, this essay underscores the need for this work to continue and for gaps in coverage to be remedied. For example, no single index or reference source provides current, comprehensive access to all relevant literature in the complex interdisciplinary field of Latino studies. Because of the diversity of Latinos themselves, there is no simple way to gather comprehensive reference information on even Mexican Americans.
which terms must be used to find relevant studies can and must continue to provide information in each specific resource, how project-specialist librarians, bibliographers, and researchers knowledgeable in nos is critically important not only for those and understanding this literature, and reference publishers must continue and publish this type of work. Authoritative reference information about the intellectual framework for organizing retrieved is truly accurate, and so on. Such as which Latino groups are really covered entirely. A great deal of sifting when using the majority and others—is exceedingly difficult, since Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans—the three largest Latino groups. Identifying and accessing information on the smaller Latino groups in the US—Dominicans, Colombians, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and others—is exceedingly difficult, since most reference works so far published have tended to overlook these groups entirely.

Readers and researchers need to do a great deal of sifting when using the majority of reference sources, considering questions such as which Latino groups are really covered in a “Hispanic” or “Latin American,” or “Latino”) reference publication, which terms must be used to find relevant information in each specific resource, how to ascertain whether the information retrieved is truly accurate, and so on. Subject-specialist librarians, bibliographers, and researchers knowledgeable in US Latino studies can and must continue to provide the intellectual framework for organizing and understanding this literature, and reference publishers must continue to support and publish this type of work. Authoritative reference information about US Latinos is critically important not only for those interested in ethnic studies, but to everyone who wishes to understand the complex multicultural realities of the US in the twenty-first century.

Notes


6. Narradores colombianos en U.S.A: Antología, [selección y prólogo de] Eduardo Marceles Daconter (Santafe de Bogotá, Colombia: Instituto Colombiano de Cultura, 1993). (Serie Escritores colombianos en la diáspora). This work has a brief biography and listings of previous works by each of the 13 writers included in the anthology.


Works Cited


Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project (Series), Arte Público Press, 1994 - .


---. "Alvaro Cepeda Samudio: Neo-Colombian Literature’s Source?" *Readers’ Writing Texts: Essays on Literature, Literary Textual Criti-