

Assessment of Library Collections
Academic Program Review

Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Catherine Marsicek
Latin American and Caribbean Information Services Center

Charles (Tony) Schwartz
Associate Director for Collection Management
December, 2002

Overview of Findings

Because of their length, the 46 appendices are not included in the PDF report put on the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness web site, but may be requested from the library.

- 1) Academic-level, English-language book collections. FIU's fairly comprehensive coverage of the mainstream book literatures in the social sciences and humanities has dual significance: it appears to be above average for that of other doctoral-extensive libraries of comparable size; and the source of this relative strength is the library's acquisitions of the mainstream books in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS)—for which university libraries have generally cut back acquisitions so much in that LACS is becoming an “endangered species” in scholarly publishing.
- 2) Research-level, Latin American and Caribbean imprints. Given the simple reality of a finite budget, the library's large approval plan to support the university's academic programs on the whole has meant relatively small funding for some other types of materials—notably the books published in LAC countries. Nonetheless, the library began a few years to build research-level book collections for LACS in two ways: (a) creating four financially modest approval plans for LAC-imprints; and (b) participating in regional and global collection-development networks, primarily the Association of Research Libraries' *Latin Americanist Research Resources Project* and the Consortium in Latin American Studies (with the University of Florida).
- 3) Core (mostly English-language) journal collections. The library's journal collections for 31 fields relevant to LACS are evaluated. For 22 fields in the social sciences, analysis are based on the citation-impact rankings of the *Journal Citation Reports* database; and for nine fields in the humanities, more inclusive (less selective) lists of important journals are drawn from the *Arts and Humanities Citation Index*. In the social sciences, FIU has 78% of the ranked titles (804 out of 1,033). Of the missing 229 titles, 39 are relevant to the university's research and curricular interests—and would thus be priorities for collection development, budgets permitting. Their aggregate annual cost would be about \$15K.

No such tally is made for the humanities, because the relevance of the *A&HCI* titles to research and curricular interests is not readily known, but must await departments' reviews of those lists.

4) The cost-effectiveness of the core journal collections. None of the 39 journals to be acquired has strong campus demand, in terms of access-versus-ownership analysis (comparisons of royalty charges for titles frequently requested in interlibrary loan relative to their subscription prices). On that single measure of cost-effectiveness, the English-language journal collections relevant to LACS do not require immediate attention.

5) Research-level collections of LAC-imprint journals. Analysis of the library's collections of journals from LAC countries against the standard for research collections, the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*, shows that FIU has just 35% (98 of 281 titles). The library has identified an additional 78 LAC-imprint journals that fit FIU's research and curricular interests. Those titles, at a total annual cost of about \$ 3,600, would bring the library's coverage of the *HAPI* database to 63%.

6) New Directions in Collection Development. A standard of excellence for a university and its library is to build "distinctive research-oriented collections and resources of national significance in a variety of media."¹ The three broad initiatives described in this report are intended to meet the same dual criteria which apply to acquisitions generally: *significance* (to position FIU in the scholarly communication system at large) and *relevance* (to research and curricular interests on campus).

These initiatives would encompass (a) an international digital-library project now in planning: the *Library of the Caribbean*; (b) a local-campus project, the *Latin American and Caribbean Center Publications Digital Library*; and (c) a *Latin American and Caribbean Data Services* center, housed in LACIC, to acquire and support demographic and other social-economic data resources for LACS. (The *Library of the Caribbean* project builds on FIU's participation in current digital-library networks, the *Virgin Islands Heritage Collection* and the *Eric Eustace Williams Collection*; the other two initiatives would be essentially new ventures).

7) Funding Requirements for LACS. Library reviews generally arrive at specific cost estimates for needed journals and other acquisitions, once budgets permit. However, this review does not come to an overall projection for funding because the new approaches to collection development for LACS will remain economically unclear for quite some time. Given the primary importance of LACS to this university's institutional identity, as well as to the library's development of genuine research-level collections, this funding uncertainty is a problem that warrants discussion.

The most that can be said at this point, over and above the specific estimate (of \$3,600) for new research-level journals, is three-fold. First, the LAC Center's recommendation in its self-study for an increase in library funding of \$100K to \$150K is ambitious but not unreasonably so, in the comparative perspective of benchmark library budgets for LACS as shown in spreadsheet 13.

¹ "Principles of Membership," Association of Research Libraries, at <http://www.arl.org/stats/principles.html>.

Second, the long-term cost uncertainty of digital-library initiatives is offset by their institutional importance to FIU in the scholarly communication system. Global resource-sharing partnerships have become “the way things are done” for Research-I universities and their libraries. At any rate, such costs are designed to be equitable among diverse partners and incremental over time.

Third, the university and the library need to focus on the kinds of discussions that eventually lead to a long-term collection-building strategy—not just for LACS but for rational management of the library’s resource-allocation problem broadly, given ever-increasing research and curricular interests on campus and the expansion of new Ph.D. programs.

Main Report

Collection development for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) is in two streams. One consists of the *core* (mostly English-language) materials that support the basic research and curricular interests of the nine fields of concentration in the master’s program of LACS: History, International Relations, Political Science, Economics, Sociology/Anthropology, Environmental Studies, International Business, Modern Languages, and Cultural Studies. The associate director manages these collections within a universitywide framework for all academic programs.

In the other stream are the *research* collections for LACS. These are managed by the two library subject-specialists within a framework of regional and international resource-sharing networks. One of the subject-specialists also directs the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Information Center (LACIC).²

SCOPE. Analysis of the *core* collections focuses on the book and journal collections in each of the nine fields of concentration for the M. A. in LACS. Other categories of support—databases, government documents, audio-visual materials, special collections, Wolfsonian collections, and basic reference services—are briefly described.

Analyses of the *research* collections follow some of those categories. Singled out for discussion are resource-sharing networks that position FIU in the scholarly communication system at large, and prospective digital-library initiatives for LACIC. The final sections of this report summarize its outcomes and describe some new directions for collection development.

Thirty-eight spreadsheets and eight additional reports are appended. [Spreadsheet 1](#) shows the framework for U.S. and U.K. book acquisitions in the various social sciences and humanities. [Appendices 2-6](#) and [11](#) outline collection-development policies or plans for materials other than journals published in LAC countries. [Appendix 7](#) delineates the latest Title-VI total count of the LACS-related library materials. [Appendix 8](#) and [spreadsheet 9](#) summarize 31 journal-collection

² The only other academic program that has dual collection-development streams, with the assignment of a subject specialist for research-level collections, is Music.

evaluations shown for separate fields in spreadsheets 14-45. Spreadsheet 10 is an evaluation of the library's research-level journals (those published in LAC countries). Spreadsheets 12-13 give comparisons of library budgets of benchmark institutions; these, with the graph that follows of inflationary pressures in scholarly publishing, put the financial situation in broad perspective.

METHOD. As a rule, it is not feasible to make a comprehensive assessment of "all" library resources that may be relevant to a particular program or literature, given the interdisciplinarity of programs and literatures alike,³ as well as their library budget lines. To structure this situation, subject literatures and library collections must be bounded in certain ways, as described in the sections below.

For example, the principal method of evaluating journal collections in the sciences and social sciences is to focus on the core titles in a given field, according to the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* database of citation-impact rankings.⁴ For fields that are not analytical categories of *JCR* (mostly in the humanities), evaluations are based on what is covered in other databases, primarily the *Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)*, the *Arts and Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)*, and the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)*.

BOOKS

Core Collections. Subject coverages and title counts may be reasonably limited to what the University Park campus acquires, through a fairly comprehensive approval plan,⁵ in the Library of Congress main classification series for those social sciences and humanities that are fields of concentration in the master's program for LACS. Spreadsheet 1 delineates acquisitions in FY02 for core collections in those fields—by title counts and also in proportions to book-publication output in North America and Britain. Biscayne Bay campus library acquisitions are not included to avoid double-counting the core titles needed on each campus.

³ The Research Libraries Group attempted in the early 1980s to construct a conspectus of Latin American and Caribbean subject areas according to the Library of Congress classification scheme but that attempt proved too ponderous and was eventually abandoned.

⁴ *JCR* covers about 5,000 journals in the sciences and technology, and 1,500 in the social sciences. It is based on Bradford's Law, that most of the important papers in a given field appear in a relatively small set of journals. On this pattern, see Hans Verner Holub et alia, "The Iron Law of Important Articles," *Southern Economic Journal* 58 (1991): 317-28. Since citations in the humanities are mostly to books or primary-source materials, the humanities (with the partial exception of History) lack regular and salient patterns of citation-based journal interactions. The dual result is that citation analysis is not done for the humanities; and that most articles in the humanities are rarely or never cited (within five years of publication). See David P. Hamilton, "Publishing by—and for?—the Numbers," *Science* 250 (December 7, 1990): 1331-32; and "Research Papers: Who's Uncited Now?," *Science* 251 (January 4, 1991): 25.

Categories of book output *not* received involve non-academic levels (e.g., popular literature) and unsuitable formats (e.g., unrevised dissertations). With no substantive subject restrictions in the approval plan for the social sciences and humanities, variations in subject coverages are largely a function of the proportion of academic titles to total book output for particular fields.⁶

FIU's 37% approval-plan coverage (43% overall, with additional orders) of books in the social sciences has dual significance: such broad coverage appears to be above average for that of other doctoral-extensive libraries of comparable size; and the source of this relative strength is the library's extensive acquisitions of mainstream books in Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

The supporting data are of low precision but broad reliability. In the 1980s (the only period for which analyses exist), university libraries tended to acquire about 35% of academic-level books in the social sciences *counting additional direct orders*.⁷ That level marked a salient decline (of about 25 points) from the 1970s in the financial capacity of academic libraries to maintain book collections in the wake of journal inflation. With such inflation still in force, it is reasonable to see FIU's roughly 40% coverage as being above average for research libraries on the whole.

The nationwide decline of library book acquisitions has caused some fields—including Latin American and Caribbean Studies—to become “endangered species” in book publishing. This situation and prospects for its resolution are discussed in the concluding section of this report.

Research-level Book Collections. In addition to the U.S.-U.K. approval plan, the library has four approval plans for specialized (mostly non-English) books published in and around Latin America. These plans support the collection development policy for LACS ([appendix 2](#)) and are an absolute necessity for acquisitions of current (as well as antiquarian materials) because book publishing in LAC countries generally have very limited runs (e.g., 500 to 2000 copies).

⁵ With a book approval plan, every title received by the vendor is matched against the university's profile of subject and format parameters. Certain titles are shipped, others generate notification slips for title-by-title selection, and some fall in the “no book or slip” category. The profile for the University Park campus is geared for automatic shipment of *books* in the social sciences and humanities, but for *notification slips* in the sciences, technology, and law, since those literatures—being more specialized and costly—tend to require title-by-title selection.

⁶ For example, the 61% approval-plan coverage of Latin American Economics (class HC, [spreadsheet 1](#)) means that relatively few books in that field are non-academic, whereas the 28% coverage for General and Old World History (class C) means a high proportion of popular titles.

⁷ Charles A. Schwartz, “Literature Loss in International Relations,” *PS: Political Science and Policy* 25 (December 1992): 720-23; and “Modeling Scholarly Literatures,” *Publishing Research Quarterly* 10 (Summer 1994): 29-35; and Anna H. Perrault, “The Shrinking National Collection,” *Library Acquisitions: Practice & Theory* 18 (1994): 3-22.

The approval plan for Colombian imprints ([appendix 3](#)) has an annual allocation of \$4,000; the plan for Cuban imprints ([appendix 4](#)), \$7,500 (\$4,000 as a library commitment and \$3,500 as the ARL *Latin Americanist Research Resources Project* commitment); the plan for Cuban works by Cubans outside of Cuba ([appendix 5](#)), \$4,000; and the plan for Argentine imprints ([appendix 6](#)), \$6,000. While approval plans are somewhat generic in design, these have notable differences. One difference is in topical emphases: the Colombian plan focuses on terrorism and violence, drug policy, immigration, migration, and globalization; whereas the Argentinian plan centers on the regional integration of MERCOSUR,⁸ economics, and literature.

Another difference among the approval plans is their relative importance to FIU as a Research-I institution. The Colombian plan carries salient responsibilities of membership in the prestigious Association of Research Libraries' *Latin Americanist Research Resources Project* (discussed below, in the section on Resource-Sharing Networks).

For Title-VI statistics, the library makes counts of the total materials related to LACS, combining all formats (except government documents), according to subject area and country. At last count there are 51,000 items. However, the figures shown in [appendix 7](#) include only subject areas having significant counts, totaling 46,450 items. Thus, of those main areas, 44% of LACS items are in History; 20% in Economics; 5% in Sociology and Anthropology; 4% in Political Science and International Relations; and 28% in Language and Literature. The largest regional-specific collections are Caribbean and Cuban Language and Literature and Central American History.

The LACC Center has provided annual donations of at least \$10K for collection building, as well as financial support for librarian professional development.

Online Books. Of the library's total collection of 27,280 *NetLibrary* electronic books, some 218 titles have variations of *Latin America* or *Caribbean* as keyword descriptors; 26 have various forms of *Latin America* as a subject heading, and 25 have *Caribbean* as a subject heading. The library does not make title selections but relies on bulk acquisitions through a regional network. The *NetLibrary* portal is at <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/elibrary/ebooks.html>.

JOURNALS

It is simply not possible to identify all the journals of relevance because LAC studies appear in an indefinitely large number of non-specialist publications (e.g., *The American Economic Review*; and *Science*). Still, it may be useful to note that the library's collections include 170 journals that match the keyword-subject descriptors *Latin America* (137 titles) or *Caribbean* (33 titles). Few of those titles have online access (e.g., the *JSTOR* database has just five titles in its LAC section).

⁸ LACC has a certificate program in MERCOSUR Studies (*Mercado Común del Sur* being the trading bloc for Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay).

The basic question is whether the library is missing needed or important journals. *Need* is based on local demand, according to interlibrary loan data. *Importance* is measured by citation-impact rankings or other indicators of core literatures.

Collection development criteria for selecting new journals for the *core collections* following such evaluations have two different frames. The first frame is one of current budget constraints, in which acquisitions are usually limited to those titles that meet both criteria: demand on campus and importance in the scholarly communication system. The second frame is in the longer run, once library budgets are in line with those of benchmark institutions (spreadsheets 12-13); at that time, acquisitions would focus on titles that have high or cross-disciplinary citation rankings, and meet the approval of the relevant academic-program(s).

For building the *research* collections, new journal subscriptions follow the recommendations of the subject-specialist, who structured the evaluation in this report on what is covered in the *HAPI* database (spreadsheet 10).

To assess local demand, earlier this year the library identified the journals most often requested in interlibrary loan over the past three years. In terms of access-versus-ownership economics (royalty payments compared to subscription prices), 18 titles of the total set of 135 proved to be more cost-effective to own. Those subscriptions begin January 2003. None of the 135 titles are in the nine concentration-fields of LAC Studies. On that single measure of cost-effectiveness, the collections in this program review do not require immediate attention.

However, the other main method of evaluating the journal collections—based primarily on *JCR* analyses but including other databases (*SSCI*, *A&HCI*, *HAPI*), as well as recommendations of faculty consulted—identifies titles that would be appropriate acquisitions for a doctoral-extensive library, budgets permitting.

Because articles pertaining to LAC Studies could appear in nearly any journal, however general in scope, the evaluations of the library's collections against the core journals in a given field are done at a very broad level. These evaluations—covering 31 fields (spreadsheets 14-45)—amount to an assessment of the social sciences and humanities overall. As summarized in appendix 8, for the social-science fields relevant to LACS for which the *Journal Citations Reports* database provide analyses of the core (citation-ranked) journal literatures, there are roughly a total of 1,033 journals. Of those, the library has 804 (78%). The tally is indicative, not precise, as some titles are on more than one core list. Of the missing 229 titles, just 39 (16%) appear to have both the *caliber* (in the scholarly system at large) and *relevance* (to research and curricular interests on campus) to be priorities for acquisition, budgets permitting. A summary of those titles' prices is shown in spreadsheet 9. Their aggregate annual cost would be about \$15K.

Research-level Journal Collections

Identification of journals that have a direct bearing on LACS is done by relying on the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)* database, which is the standard for doing scholarly research.

As shown in spreadsheet 10, of the total 281 titles, the library has 98 (35%). Of the missing 183 titles, 78 are collection priorities (as marked on the spreadsheet). Those acquisitions would increase FIU's coverage to 176 titles (63%). Their aggregate annual cost would be about \$3,600.

DATABASES

Core databases that FIU has for Latin American and Caribbean Studies include: *Handbook of Latin American Studies*; *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*; *Info-LatinoAmerica*; *Latin American Data Base*; *Chicano Database*; and *EIU [Economist Intelligence Unit]*. *EIU* includes a regional business newsletter, *Latin American Business*, and country-specific economic and business newsletters (*Country Commerce*, *Country Finance*, *Country Profiles*, *Country Reports*). FIU subscribes to all pertaining to LACS.

Additional databases include: *Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* [formerly *ABC Pol Sci* and *Political Science and Government Abstracts*]; *ABI / Inform*; *Access UN*; *Anthropological Literature*; *Columbia International Affairs Online*; *Congressional Universe*; *Econ Lit*; *Ethnic Newswatch*; *GenderWatch*; *Historical Abstracts*; *MLA International*; *PAIS International*; and *Sociological Abstracts*. Descriptions are at <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/subjects/lacc.html>.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

University Park campus is a selective (partial) Federal depository. In addition, it receives a broad range of publications from Florida state and local governmental agencies. Two milestones were reached last year when FIU was granted European Documentation Center status by the European Union (the only such center in the state, other than the University of Florida) and full United Nations depository status. Descriptions are at <http://library.fiu.edu/govdocs/index.html>. Marian Goslinga, a Latin American and Caribbean librarian, has a web page of *Internet Sites for Latin America and the Caribbean* <http://www.fiu.edu/~library/internet/subjects/officialpubs1.html>.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Of the total collection of 27,279 audio-visual materials in the library, some 300 titles have various *Latin America* or *Caribbean* keyword descriptors; and 92 have such subject headings.

A guide to building research-level Music collections in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, by Dan Hardin, Music Librarian, and Professor Orlando Garcia, is shown in Appendix 11. It identifies composers, texts, bibliographies, discographies, recordings, and reference works.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Special Collections of the library span the disciplines, from the sciences to the humanities, focusing on the geographical areas of Cuba, the Caribbean, and Miami. Several collections of note include: *Levi Marrero Archives* (Cuban History); *Cuban Exile Archives*, including the *Cuban Pamphlets Collection*; *Cuban Living History Project* of Miquel González-Pando; *William*

Rio Collection (Puerto Rican politics); *Papers of Dr. Jan Tucker* (Caribbean education and society); Collection of Cuban photographer Rogelio Caparros; and Pre-Colombian artifacts donated by Mrs. Etta Barnett.

WOLFSONIAN–FIU MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

The Wolfsonian–FIU (<http://www.wolfsonian.fiu.edu/>) contains artifacts and print materials primarily of North American and European origin, documenting the post-industrial revolution era through the close of the Second World War. The collections comprise a wide variety of media: furniture; industrial-design objects; glass; ceramics; metalwork; textiles; medals, paintings, posters; architectural drawings, textiles; rare books, periodicals, and printed ephemera. Objects are interpreted to explore key issues in design history—the way design has both altered and been altered by cultural change, industrial innovation, and strategies of persuasion.

Collections in Latin American & Caribbean Studies include: travel and tourism advertising brochures; partial runs of Cuban periodicals (e.g., *Social*; *Carteles*; and *Bohemia*); and a forthcoming gift of ephemera on the tourist trade in Cuba from the 1920s through the 1950s.

Materials on Argentina include: a collection of rare advertisements for Argentinean companies at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893; packaging labels designed in mid-20th century for Argentine products (e.g., wine, paint, perfume, cosmetics); periodicals published in Buenos Aires (e.g., *Aurea: Revista Mensual de Todas las Artes*; *Plus Ultra*; *Augusta: Revista de Arte*; *Orientacion*; *Obra: Revista Mensual Ilustrada*; and *Nuestra Arquitectura*). In addition, the collections include a significant body of literature relating to modern Argentine architecture (notably, a rare edition of Mario Palanti's *Prima Esposizione Personale d'Architettura Nella Repubblica Argentina*).

Brazilian materials document the Modern art movement in Brazil. A notable manuscript is a poem by Oswald de Andrade commemorating Hoover's presidential visit, with an original illustration by Tarsila do Amaral. Though there is little in the collections on the other South American countries (with the exception of railroad-building initiatives), the library has partial runs of *Arquitectura*; and *La Pluma: Artes, Ciencias, Letras*.

Mexican materials center on the Muralist Movement, and include some rare items (e.g., a large-format portfolio edition of Miguel Covarrubias's artistic and anthropological study, *Pageant of the Pacific*, published in 1940 for the Golden Gate International Exposition).

REFERENCE AND RESEARCH SERVICES

Reference services for the university as a whole are provided on site, by e-mail, and in real-time chat service in English and Spanish (<http://www.fiu.edu/~library/services/asklib.html>). An information literacy program serves students' basic library instruction needs at the lower division level, and targets core classes for instruction sessions at the upper division and graduate levels.

The new Latin American and Caribbean Information Center (LACIC), a collaborative initiative of LACC and the library, is designed to serve the university and library communities specializing in the regions of Latin American and the Caribbean (<http://lacic.fiu.edu>). Its goal is to support the research and teaching on LAC by serving as a gateway for library services and resources and by integrating the universitywide information literacy initiative. LACIC pursues these objectives by (a) providing in-depth research and information services; (b) promoting information literacy through workshops and seminars in LAC research and by working with faculty to infuse research skills into the curriculum; (c) striving to develop research collections; and (d) maintaining a comfortable environment, including networked computers, browsing materials and a study room.

RESOURCE–SHARING NETWORKS

Program reviews generally have this general description of interlibrary-loan services:

The library belongs to several general consortia for interlibrary lending: the State University System, Southeast Florida Library Information Network, Southeastern Library Network, and Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. For foreign resources, the Center for Research Libraries (<http://www.crl.uchicago.edu/index.html>) is important.

For Latin American and Caribbean Studies, resource-sharing networks have greater importance, on two levels: for the library to advance from a general academic to a genuine research-level organization, and for the university's position in the scholarly communication system at large.

Resource-sharing initiatives (local, regional, national, global) distribute collection-building and fiscal responsibilities, and have become a sheer necessity for taking advantage of technology in the networked environment. This section describes the four current resource-sharing networks of the library in the Latin American and Caribbean field. The following section takes up technology in the form of two prospective digital-library projects.

Resource-sharing networks include (a) the Association of Research Libraries' *Latin Americanist Research Resources Project*, (b) cooperative activities with the University of Florida, (c) the *Virgin Islands Heritage Collection* project, and (d) the *Eric Eustace Williams Collection* project.

The **Latin Americanist Research Resources Project** includes nearly 50 U.S. libraries and foreign institutions. Membership requires budget allocations to collect and provide access to designated research materials. For FIU, this means setting an additional 7% (\$3,500) of its overall (\$50,000) Latin American library-resources budget for Colombian materials.

Colombia is the library's country of concentration in the *Latin Americanist Research Resources Project* for several reasons: the Colombian Studies Institute at FIU; the number of faculty who specialize in drug policy; the growing importance of Colombia in U.S. national interests; and the general lack of research-level library collections on Colombia that gives FIU an important niche.

As part of its 7% library-resources budget allocation to Colombian materials, FIU is responsible for collecting 11 scholarly journals published in Colombia, indexing their articles and making them available to other Project members, at no charge, through a document-delivery system called LAPTOC: Latin American Periodicals Table of Contents Database.⁹

The **Consortium in Latin American Studies** of the University of Florida and FIU is based on a long-held agreement of cooperative collection development. For example, each institution gives the other first choice in the distribution of duplicate books and periodicals; and the University of Florida provides library travel grants to FIU researchers to use its collections first-hand. Ongoing discussions to develop cooperative collection-development policies by subject or discipline will be important for economies of scale—to leverage limited fiscal resources into regional strengths.

The **Virgin Islands Heritage Collection** is based on a June, 2002 agreement among the libraries of the University of the Virgin Islands, the University of Florida, and FIU to provide networked access to archival and other library materials on the history and culture of the United States Virgin Islands (by the Virgin Islands Department of Education for the K-12 school audience) and Research Reports and Occasional papers (of the University of Virgin Islands).

This *Collection* will become part of the Publication of Archival, Library and Museum Materials (PALMM) project, which is the cooperative digital-library of the State of Florida's Colleges and Universities (<http://palmm.fcla.edu/collection.html>), which promotes the sharing of collections, technological expertise, and network infrastructure. The *Virgin Islands Heritage Collection* will be the prototype of a comprehensive digital project, *Library of the Caribbean* (discussed below).

Future materials will include the Danish West Indies records in the U.S. National Archives; lists of records of the Virgin Islands of the United States (formerly Danish West Indies) held in the Royal Archives at Copenhagen, Denmark; and records of the Danish West Indies, 1672-1860, in the Danish National Archives.

The core of this *Collection* now includes (<http://webpac.uvi.edu/imls/project2002/2000.shtml>) funeral booklets, historical images and newspaper articles; and *Project Introspection*, a Virgin Islands' Department of Education project to promote that country's history and culture in the schools.

The **Eric Eustace Williams Collection** is a digital library of works by and about Dr. Williams, the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

⁹ Ten of those journals are: *Boletín de Arqueología*; *Cuadernos de Desarrollo Rural*; *Cuadernos de Economía*; *Desarrollo Indoamericano*; *Economía Colombiana y Coyuntura Política*; *Revista de Analysis de la Contraloría General de la República*; *Historia y Sociedad*; *Ideas y Valores*; *Lenguaje*; *Noche y Niebla*; *Panorama de Derechos Humanos y Violencia Política en Colombia*; *Revista del Banco de la República*.

Such partnerships, especially for digital projects, require long-term institutional commitments of resources, fiscal and personnel. While we do not have firm projections of resource requirements for any given project, collaborative efforts will reduce and distribute them.

NEW DIRECTIONS IN COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

A standard of excellence for a university and its library is to build (according to the criteria for membership in the Association of Research Libraries) “distinctive research-oriented collections and resources of national significance in a variety of media.” The following proposals would meet the same dual criteria that apply to acquisitions generally: *significance* (to position FIU in the scholarly communication system at large) and *relevance* (to research and curricular interests on campus).

The three initiatives involve an international digital-library project, the *Library of the Caribbean*; a campus project for the networked scholarly system, the *Latin American and Caribbean Center Publications Digital Library*; and a LACIC research service to provide demographic and other social-economic data resources for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

The **Library of the Caribbean** has a planned framework spanning the State University System of Florida and some 12 Caribbean research institutions or bodies.¹⁰ On a model of centralized technology, decentralized digitization, and distributed collection development, member libraries retain ownership of collections while providing access to them and gaining additional resources.

This large-scale collaboration is in the very early stages of planning. The first step, to be done by spring 2003, is to write a planning-grant proposal (either to The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation or to the Institute of Museum and Library Services). Later planning will focus on the economic model, the technology model, the content-selection model, and the governance model.¹¹

¹⁰ The Caribbean partners are expected to include Archivo Nacional de Cuba, Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba, *Caribbean Journal of Science*, *Journal of Caribbean Archaeology*, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (Dominican Republic), University of the Virgin Islands, University of the West Indies, National Library of Haiti, University of Puerto Rico, and FUNGLODE (Fundación Nacional de Globalización y Desarrollo, Dominican Republic).

¹¹ There are at least two economic models under consideration for the *Library of the Caribbean* digital project. One model would have free or prorated access for members, and subscription or pay-per-view access for non-members, with access fees used primarily to cover storage costs. The other model is the standard PALMM arrangement employed by the Florida Center of Library Automation (FCLA) that requires members to pay the storage and maintenance costs of the digital materials they contribute. A drawback to the latter model is that it may not be equitable for smaller (poorer) institutions.

The second initiative, a campus project to develop the **Latin American and Caribbean Center Publications Digital Library**, would integrate digital copies of LACC and LACC-affiliated publications into the FIU on-line catalog and into the international library database (OCLC). Such an archive would disseminate FIU research globally and serve to position both the master's degree in LACS and the university. Digital copyright and technological know-how would not be problems, but the project would require strong financial and personnel commitments.

Publications for this *LACIS Digital Library* would fall into at least three parts. Part one consists of FIU publications, such as *Hemisphere* (LACC's magazine), *LACC News*, *Monitor* (Summit of the Americas Center), the *Institute for International Professional Services Newsletter*, and the *Intercultural Dance and Music Institute Newsletter*. Part two would be LACC's *Working Paper Series* (six thus far). Part three would be the *Occasional Papers Series: Dialogues* (131 papers presented at conferences in the 1980s and early 1990s, only available in print in the library's Special Collections).

The third initiative, a **LACIC research service to provide demographic and social-economic data resources** for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, is prompted by three considerations. Initially, it was inspired by the library's successful Geographic Information Services / Remote Sensing Center, which has demographic data sets for South Florida counties and municipalities (but which focuses on bio-physical and environmental analysis). Planning for a LACIC service was furthered with roughly analogous operations at other universities, notably *eScholarship*, the California Digital Library online, working papers repository (at <http://repositories.cdlib.org/>).¹²

Note 11 continued: The probable technology model would resemble PALMM: localized digitization under uniform standards for image and text creation, with centralized archiving and delivery services based at FCLA. This model may be preferable to decentralized ones because some members can digitize content but cannot afford infrastructure costs, for there are economies of scale.

The selection model might be centralized in terms of a panel of scholars, an editorial board, or an advisory council that would identify and approve the materials to be archived.

The governance model at this early stage has the project based at FIU, with the Director of the *Library of the Caribbean* affiliated with LACIC. Among the reasons for this choice are FIU's "relative neutrality as regards Cuba" and Miami's connections to the Southern Hemisphere. While some data sets are on the Internet (e.g., from the Inter-American Development Bank, Latin American Development Archive, World Bank, and Organization of American States), most data resources require purchase and technological support. For access and manipulation of these data, the purchase of licenses to a variety of statistical software packages must also be considered, including SAS, SPSS, and Stata.

¹² See Terence K. Hume, "Social Sciences E-Prints Come of Age: The California Digital Library's Working Paper Repository," *Online* (September-October 2002): 38-42.

More directly, a LACIS research service would meet a rising demand from the M.A. program in LACS for business, economic, and demographic data sets—as well as felt faculty requirements for such resources.

LACIC is prepared to offer state-of-the-art data research services, pending needed funding for acquisitions, equipment, staffing and training. Such services would include identifying and coordinating access to numeric and other LAC data sets, providing training for use of LAC data sets, and assisting in the interpretation of LAC data.

- **EIU (Economist Intelligence Unit) Country Indicators.** Market size and demographic data on 60 countries price negotiable, but expensive.
- **EIU Country Data.** Annual, quarterly and monthly economic indicators and forecasts on 117 countries; the price is negotiable with EIU package, but expensive.
- **EIU City Data.** Market and pricing information from 123 cities worldwide; the price is negotiable, but expensive.
- **Latin America Monitor** full-text, on-line. To include Andean Group, Brazil, Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, Southern Cone (which we subscribe to now in print); current economic and political data; approximately \$5500.
- **Latinobarómetro.** Current LAC survey and opinion poll data, repeatedly requested by FIU faculty. However, it is so expensive that its acquisition would require a consortium such as SALALM (e.g., Harvard was quoted \$70K annually).
- **Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)** databases. ICPSR is a very large archive of social-science data for research and instruction. FIU is currently a member of the consortium, the Official Representative is Dr. Kevin Hill of the Political Science Department. Consideration might be given to shifting the responsibility of the Official Representative position to the LACS subject-specialist to provide wider access and research-service support, particularly for FIU to take advantage of **ICPSR Direct**, a new service model which provides direct access to the data sets universitywide (without having to go through the campus Official Representative). The annual membership fee is about \$12,000.
- **ISI Emerging Markets.** Multilingual collection of news and legal-financial information sources about the emerging markets of selected countries in Latin America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa; pricing is not available, but would be expensive.
- **Dataintal: Sistema de Estadísticas de Comercio de América.** Import and export statistics for 28 American nations, and regional integration; no pricing information.

- **Creditor Reporting System on Aid Activities.** Data on official development assistance (ODA) and other lending by, or supported by, the official sector.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

I. Specific Collections

On three broad measures, the library's collections for Latin American and Caribbean Studies are in reasonably good shape. First, with respect to books, FIU's 37% approval-plan coverage of the social sciences as a whole (and its 44% *overall coverage* with additional direct orders) appears to be above average for that of other doctoral-extensive libraries of comparable size—and a distinct strength for LACS, given this field's decline in library acquisitions nationwide since the 1980s.

For research-level monographs, the library has a focused approach, if not a sizeable financial base. The approach centers on (a) four Latin American approval-book plans and (b) positioning FIU in regional and global resource-sharing arrangements, principally with the Association of Research Libraries' *Latin Americanist Research Resources Project*. This approach is necessary but not sufficient, hence the importance of the new directions for collection development—involving digital-library and research-service initiatives—described in this report.

On a second measure, access-versus-ownership evaluation of the journal collections (comparison of royalty charges for titles in heavy interlibrary-loan demand to their subscription prices) found that the collections for LACS meet this criterion of cost-effectiveness.

Third, evaluation of the journal collections for missing important titles also yielded fairly good results. For the social-science fields for which the *Journal Citations Reports* provide analyses of the core (citation-ranked) journal literatures, there are roughly a total of 1,033 journals. Of those, the library has 804 (78%). Of the missing 229 titles, just 39 would be collection-development priorities (spreadsheet 9). Their aggregate annual cost would be about \$15K.

No summary account will be made here for the journal-collection evaluations based on the much broader, less selective *Social Sciences Citation Index* and *Arts and Humanities Citation Index* databases since determination of the ultimate relevance of the titles identified depends on faculty review of those spreadsheets.

For research level (non-English) journals in the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*, as shown in spreadsheet 10, the library has 98 (35%) of the 281 titles and would seek to acquire 78. Those acquisitions would increase FIU's coverage of the database to 176 titles (63%). Their aggregate annual cost would be about \$3,600.

The citation-rankings approach to collection evaluation, with its focus on established journals, has some conservative bias. It generally does not account for newer titles that, though lacking a

certain impact in the scholarly system, may be relevant to a campus program. For such needed breadth and innovation in collection development, the library relies on faculty input.

II. Benchmark Institutions and Subject Literatures

Once the framework of analysis shifts to a broader plane, from specific resources to benchmark institutions, the picture becomes less sanguine. As spreadsheet 12 shows, the library's budgets and collections are, on the whole, average for universities of similar size (in the \$10M library budget range) and comparable to only a few of the universities selected by the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness for benchmarking purposes. Spreadsheet 13 shows even sharper institutional disparities for benchmark budgets and collections pertaining directly to LACS.

Given its relatively modest scale, the library's capacity to support the various academic programs is largely conditioned by the structures of their respective literatures. Two principal structures are (a) *interdisciplinarity*—whether a field is diffuse or, conversely, bounded in subject range—and (b) the extent to which it is fairly *contemporary*, as opposed to historical, in scope. Other things being equal, the more *intra-disciplinary* and contemporary a literature, the more coherent the library's collection-development challenges.

In that framework, as the library seeks to develop research-level collections and services, LACS will require more focused attention than any other program, given the particular challenges of its interdisciplinarity and reliance on primary source materials—as well as its centrality in FIU's institutional identity and the dual university-library aim to become a member of the Association of Research Libraries.

III. System and University

On the broadest plane, prospects for collection development following any program review are conditioned by prolongation of inflation in the scholarly communication system. As the attached graph (following spreadsheet 13) shows, since the mid-1980s journal expenditures for research libraries on the whole have increased 210% and book expenditures 66%. The nationwide decline of library book acquisitions has sparked commentaries for over a decade—with a restructuring of sorts for university presses. So-called “endangered species” in book publishing involve fields of declining economic viability for publishers, given the loss of academic libraries as a ready market that would fulfill break-even revenue levels.

Among the “endangered species” are LACS, all other area studies, Comparative Economics, Literary Criticism, Performing Arts, and some fields of History. Thus, FIU's broad coverage of books related to LACS would appear to be the library's relative strength nationwide.

Yet, little is known about the true dimensions of the “endangered species” problem. Clarification may come from a four-year study, begun in 1999 by the Association of American University Presses.¹³ Some observers envision a solution in electronic-book publishing.¹⁴ The *Gutenberg-E*

Project, a collaboration of Columbia University Press, the American Historical Association, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is an exemplar that features Latin American History.¹⁵

Apart from inflationary pressures “out there,” collection development may become increasingly problematic as a campus resource-allocation process, in face of increasing research and curricular interests, program diversification, and the university’s goals for a broad expansion of new Ph.D. programs. Thus, it is of fundamental importance for each program to advise the library on the specific resources and research services that will best serve the faculty’s needs. While the library endeavors to stay abreast of new markets and opportunities in the scholarly system, collection development is an area of mutual knowledge and concern.

¹³ This project has a web site without content at <http://aaupnet.org/programs/data.html>).

¹⁴ See Karen J. Winkler, “Academic Presses Look to the Internet to Save Scholarly Monographs,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 12, 1997, A18; and “University-Press Group to Study Whether Books in Some Fields Are Disappearing,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 1, 1999, A24.

¹⁵ The Gutenberg-E Project (<http://www.gutenberg-e.org/>) is scheduled to publish six revised dissertations a year. The designated fields include colonial Latin America, as well as Africa, South Asia, Europe before 1800, and diplomatic and military history not primarily of the United States. Library subscriptions are \$195. See Danny Postel, “New Series to Focus on Works by Young Scholars; Gutenberg-E Project Rolls Out Its First 6 Books,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 27, 2002, A17; and Robert Darnton, “The New Age of the Book,” *The New York Review of Books*, March 18, 1999 at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/546>. The idea of Gutenberg-E arose at a conference: “The Specialized Scholarly Monograph in Crisis,” American Council of Learned Societies, Washington, DC, September 11–12, 1997; proceedings are at <http://www.arl.org/scomm/epub/papers/index.html>.