

**COLLECTION POLICY STATEMENT
ARTS AND SCIENCES
LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN STUDIES**

Last Updated October 2002

I. PROGRAMMATIC INFORMATION

The Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) at FIU has offered an interdisciplinary M.A. degree in Latin American & Caribbean Studies (MALACS) since the Fall of 1996. All students are required to take the program's multidisciplinary gateway course and two research methods courses and are encouraged to take additional courses in one of the nine concentrations for the MALACS degree: Cultural Studies, Economics, Environmental Studies, History, International Business, International Relations, Modern Languages, Political Science and Sociology/Anthropology. Students must also demonstrate reading proficiency in either Spanish or Portuguese or, when approved, another foreign language from Latin America or the Caribbean.

LACC also administers a variety of certificate programs: Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies and Caribbean Studies, Undergraduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Asian Globalization & Latin American Certificate, Brazil Studies Certificate, Cuban and Cuban American Studies Certificate, International Professional Services Studies, and the MERCOSUR Studies Certificate. LACC plans to initiate a Haitian Studies Certificate by Fall 2003.

Because of its multidisciplinary nature, the LAC Collection supports nearly every department and discipline in the humanities and social sciences, including many research institutes and centers. Some of these include: African-New World Studies, Cuban Research Institute, Economics, Environmental Studies, Intercultural Dance and Music Institute, International Relations, Journalism and Mass Communication, Modern Languages, Music, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Political Science, Sociology/Anthropology, Summit of the Americas Center, Institute for International Professional Services, Institute for Sustainability Science in Latin America and the Caribbean, Visual Studies, Women Studies Center.

II. COORDINATION AND COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

The Latin American & Caribbean Information Center at UP Library is designed to serve the university and library communities specializing in the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean. The goal is to support the research and teaching on LAC by serving as a gateway for library services and resources and by integrating the university-wide information literacy initiative. LACIC pursues these objectives by: providing quality research and information services, promoting information literacy, building a research collection in LAC Studies; and maintaining a comfortable environment to learn about Latin America and the Caribbean.

The main research resources for Latin American and Caribbean Studies will be concentrated in the UP library. The BBC library will house basic teaching materials, as well as some select research materials for use in conjunction with the African-New World Studies and the Journalism and Mass Communication programs.

The UP campus library must provide basic teaching and research resources for undergraduate majors and non-majors, particularly in the fields mentioned under I above. In addition, MA and PhD students should be provided with research collections (foreign books, serials, newspapers, government documents, and other publications; microform sets; published documentary collections, etc.), enabling the pursuit of thesis-level research.

Adequate bibliographic resources, as well as access to the holdings of other South Florida libraries and archives, are also very important. The Latin American & Caribbean Information Center maintains a strong relationship with the Latin American Collection at the University of Florida Libraries, the partner in the Florida Consortium for Latin American Studies. Substantial ILL resources will be required to support research activities of the faculty and PhD students. Acquisition of special collections should be coordinated with the appropriate department faculty.

III. SUBJECT AND LANGUAGE MODIFIERS

The collection should reflect the concentrations and expertise in Latin American & Caribbean Studies taught and researched at the University, specifically those mentioned in I.

A. Geographical : Latin America, especially Brazil, Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) and the Andean Region; Caribbean, especially Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Anglophone Caribbean.

B. Chronological : Pre-colonial times to the present

C. Language : English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Haitian Creole, with some attention to indigenous languages (i.e. Maya, Quechua, Aymara, etc.) when faculty specializing in these fields join the department.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS COLLECTED

It is in the interest of the many departments, centers and institutes to develop a research LAC collection with as many types of materials as possible. Monographs from the major university presses and independent agencies, periodicals, government documents, and gray literature are just some of the main types of resources required to support research and instruction in LAC Studies. Both foreign and domestic materials must be considered.

A. Types of Materials and Format: Books, journals, audiovisuals, microfilm sets, foreign national documents, working papers, electronic databases, etc.

B. Publication Date: Current and retrospective materials.

V. CONSPECTUS OF THE FIELD AND LEVEL OF COLLECTING

(in process)

A. Comprehensive level D. Initial study level

B. Research level E. Basic level

C. Advanced study level F. Minimal level

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Resource sharing, at a local, regional, national and global level, allows access to materials that would otherwise be unavailable. Due to the interdisciplinary nature and the large geographical region covered with Latin American and Caribbean Studies, cooperation and collaborative initiatives with other institutions widens the availability of resources and allows for more comprehensive access to collections. Currently, LACIC and FIU Libraries are discussing cooperative collection development agreements with the Latin American Southeast Regional Libraries (LASER) and UF's Latin American Collection. Other resource sharing agreements include membership in the Association of Research Libraries' Latin American Research Resources Project and collaborative digital library agreements, including the "Virgin Islands History and Culture" and the "Eric Eustace Williams Digital Library."