Asians in Latin America: 
A Guide to Resources

This research guide is designed as a starting point to aid students and researchers in locating information on Asians in Latin America and the Caribbean at the FIU Libraries. It is not exhaustive, however. Rather, this guide is representative of many of the resources available in the FIU Libraries.

For research papers, reports, or reviews requiring critical examination of people(s), historical events, or themes on the Asian Diaspora to Latin America and the Caribbean consult the following:

I. Introduction

Peoples from ancient Asia crossed the Bering land bridge connecting Asia and Alaska sometime between 30,000 and 10,000 years ago, at the end of the last major Ice Age. They were the first members of the species *Homo Sapiens Sapiens* to settle in the New World. Over the course of millennia, their descendants occupied just about every geographical and ecological niche in the Americas, from the Inuit of Alaska to the Ona of Tierra del Fuego.

Moreover, modern Asian immigration to the Americas dates to the sixteenth century. In the 1500s, Asians participated in the Manila Galleon trade with Spain and Portugal. Over the next several centuries, thousands of Chinese, Japanese, East Indians, and other peoples from across Asia would leave their ancestral homes and make their way to Latin America and the Caribbean. They settled in and around large cities, thriving with commerce. Brazil, Cuba, Jamaica, Peru, and other New World nations received these immigrants. While known for their entrepreneurial skills as merchants, Asian immigrants also constituted an important part of the labor force, especially in the circum-Caribbean. So-called
indentured “Coolies” worked on building the railroads and canals, including the Panama Canal. Their labor was essential to the development of the region’s economy.

Asian peoples from China, Japan, and elsewhere have continued arriving in the Americas throughout the twentieth century, augmenting earlier waves of immigration. For instance, Brazil received thousands of Japanese immigrants in the 20th century. Their descendants represent the largest community of Japanese outside of Japan and Hawaii. Also, the economic, political, and social importance of Asians in the region is clear, as evidenced by the rise to power of Alberto Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, who was elected President of Peru in 1990. In addition, these nationalized citizens of the Americas serve as valuable conduits with their Asian cousins, facilitating the process of cultural and commercial exchanges between their adopted and ancestral nations. While a relatively new phenomenon is taking place whereby some Asian-Latin Americans are returning home, many stay in places such as Havana or Lima. Today, Asians in Latin America are more visible politically, socially, and culturally than at any time in the past. A rich and diverse bibliography on the Asian Diaspora to the Americas testifies to the importance of Chinese, Japanese, East Indians, and others throughout the New World.

II. Reference Books

- **Asians in Latin America: A Partially Annotated Bibliography of Select Countries and People.** / Cho, Jane J. Contains 1,000 titles on Chinese, East Indians, Japanese, and other Asian peoples in the Americas. Over 300 works are annotated. Organized alphabetically by country and/or region and then by ethnic group within each section. UP REF Z1609.A84C46 2000
- **Asians in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Bibliography.** / Leon, Lamgen. / Includes 149 pages of unannotated sources on Asians in Latin America and the Caribbean. Works are arranged alphabetically according to country, and within each country alphabetically by national group. UP REF F1419.A84L46 1990
- **Latin America and Japan: A Bibliography.** / Brief and dated bibliography on the Japanese Diaspora to the New World. Includes works on Japanese-Latin American relations. California State University, Los Angeles, Latin American Studies Center. UP REF F1416.J3C34 1975

III. General Collection Books

**(Asians in Brazil)**

- **A presença japonesa no Brasil** / Saito, Hiroshi, ed. Covers the history of Japanese immigration to Brazil before, during, and after WWII and the role of Japanese-Brazilians in their adopted societies. Searches for the origin of the image of Japanese immigrants to Brazil as successful and hard-working. UP GEN COLL F2659.J3P73
- **As religiões japonesas no Brasil** / Ozaki, André M. Brief but useful survey of traditional Japanese religions in Brazil and their adaptation to a foreign society. Concentrates on the 20th century. UP GEN COLL BL 2590.B7O93 1990
- **Assimilação e integração dos japoneses no Brasil** / Saito, Hiroshi and Takashi Maeyama. Analyzes the cultural and biological assimilation of Japanese immigrants to Brazil in the 20th century from a sociological perspective. UP GEN COLL F2659.J3S27
(Asians in the Caribbean)

- **Across the Dark Waters: Ethnicity and Indian Identity in the Caribbean** / Dabydeen, David and Brinsley Samaroo. Discussion of East Indians in the Caribbean and the formation of ethnic identity. UP GEN COLL F1629.E17A28 1996
- **A Question of Labour: Indentured Immigration into Trinidad and British Guiana, 1875-1917** / Laurence, K. O. History of contract East Indian labor in Trinidad and British Guiana at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. UP GEN COLL HD4875.T7L38 1994

(Asians in Cuba)

- **Los chinos de Cuba: Apuntes etnográficos** / Baltar Rodríguez, José. Devoted to different Chinese immigrants arriving in Cuba. Also covers Chinese holidays, societies, and art (especially opera) on the island. UP GEN COLL F1789.C53B35 1997
- **Coreanos en Cuba** / Ruiz, Raúl R. Explores little-known immigration of Koreans to Cuba and their history. UP GEN COLL Temporary Control # AEW0153
- **The Introduction of Chinese Laborers to Latin America: The “Coolie Trade,” 1847-1874** / Meagher, Arnold J. Dissertation on Chinese “Coolies” imported to Latin America, including Cuba, in the mid 19th century. UP GEN COLL F1419.C5M4 1975a
Para la historia de las gentes sin historia / Pérez de la Riva, Juan. Examines exploited laborers, including African slaves and Chinese “Coolies,” in Cuba, especially during the 19th century. UP GEN COLL HT1076.P47 1976

(Asians in Peru)


Pasado y presente de la comunidad japonesa en el Perú. / Lausent, Isabelle. Summarizes Japanese-Peruvian relations from the signing of the 1873 peace treaty to the presidency of Alberto Fujimori. Concentrates on commerce between Japan and Peru and Japanese immigration to the South American nation. Gives special attention to the “difficult relations” during WW II. UP GEN COLL Temporary Control # AEV5293


**For additional sources on the Asian Diaspora to Latin America and the Caribbean, consult the FIU Library Catalog. Do a subject search using Asians, Chinese, Japanese, or East Indians and Latin America, Brazil, Caribbean, Cuba, Jamaica, or Peru, etc. For example: Chinese -- Cuba -- History or Brazil -- Japanese -- Immigration. Try keyword searches using words such as Asians or Chinese and History or Culture.**

IV. Government Documents

Red Chinese Infiltration into Latin America: Hearings before the U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary / 89th Congress, 1st Session Congressional hearings on Communist China’s foreign relations with Latin America. Indexed in CIS US Congressional Committee Hearings Index Part VIII. Record is based on bibliographic data in CIS US Congressional Committee Hearings Index. UP GOV DOCS Microfiche CIS Hrgs MF Gp3—(89) S1697-4

V. Audio-visual Materials

Ancestors. Gathering Family Stories. Episode 3 / KBYU Television [VHS]. Includes suggestions for interviewing living relatives. Guests include Fabiana Chiu, a recent immigrant to the U.S. with Chinese and Peruvian parents who interviewed her relatives in Peru to discover traditions and links to her heritage of which she was never aware. UP A/V CS16.A54 1997 v.3

Portrait of the Caribbean. Worlds Apart. Program / BBC and Turner Broadcasting System Discusses how East Indians are the largest single population in Guyana and Trinidad. Shows the influence of their strong cultural identity. UP A/V F2169.P67 1992 v.5-7
VI. Articles (1985-2000)

(Asians in the Americas)


- “La colectividad japonesa en la Argentina” / Maletta, Héctor and Silvia Lepore. Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos, nos.15-16 (1990):425-520. Surveys census and other data on the Japanese community of Argentina. Provides a comprehensive picture of the Japanese in Argentina, including their development, demographics, and degree of acculturation. UP PER JV7398 .E8

- “Mexico y los emigrantes japoneses” / Yanaguida, Toshio and Taeko Akagui. Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos, 10, 30 (Aug. 1995):373-401. Discusses failed efforts to recruit Japanese to work in Mexico’s coffee industry. Concludes that Mexico was a stepping stone for Japanese immigrants on their way to the US. Analyzes the contemporary Japanese community in Mexico. UP PER JV7398 .E8

- “Mortality on Chinese and Indian Voyages to the West Indies and South America, 1847-1874” / McDonald, John and Ralph Shlomowitz. Social and Economic Studies, 41, 2 (June 1992):203-240. Quantitative and demographic study of Chinese and East Indian immigrants in the Caribbean and South America during the mid 19th century. Studies death rates aboard ships bringing Asians into the New World. UP PER HN244 .S6

(Asians in Brazil)


(Asians in the Caribbean)


• “La inmigración china en el Caribe” / Hiu, Juan H. *Cuadernos Americanos*, 58 (July-Aug. 1996):193-216. General survey of Chinese or “Coolie” immigration to the Caribbean, especially Cuba. UP PER AP63 .C669

• “Indian Women and Indentureship in Trinidad and Tobago, 1845-1917” / Reddock, Rhoda. *Caribbean Quarterly*, 32, 3-4 (1986):27-49. Explores the contract labor of East Indian women on the island nation from the mid 19th to the start of the 20th centuries. Considers the labor and social conditions of female indentured laborers. UP PER F1601 .C3

(Asians in Peru)


• “La presencia japonesa en el eje Huánuco-Pucallpa entre 1918 y 1982” / Lausent, Isabelle. *Revista Geográfica*, no. 107 (Jan.-June 1988):93-117. Studies Japanese government plans to colonize the Huánuco-Pacallpa region and the roles of Japanese and Brazilian businessmen and politicians in the effort. Mostly covers diplomatic and economic activities in the region during the early 1900s. UP PER TEMPORARY CONTROL # AEU3093

VII. **Electronic Databases** - For additional journal articles, please consult the following electronic databases.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Universe</td>
<td>Provides access to local, state, national, and international news, as well as business news and country profiles.</td>
<td>Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AccessUN</td>
<td>Indexes United Nations documents and publications.</td>
<td>1990-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropological Literature</td>
<td>Indexes 1,000+ scholarly journals in anthropology and archeology.</td>
<td>1984-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities Search</td>
<td>Indexes 1100+ multidisciplinary scholarly journals and publications in the arts and humanities, with cited references.</td>
<td>1980-date</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATLA Religion Database</td>
<td>Indexes 650+ scholarly journals in religious studies.</td>
<td>1949-date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Newsbank</td>
<td>Articles from hundreds of international news sources.</td>
<td>1990-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLAS (Handbook of Latin American Studies).</td>
<td>Indexes 400+ scholarly journals for U.S.-Hispanic and Latin American studies.</td>
<td>1970-date</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAPI (Hispanic American Periodicals Index)</td>
<td>Indexes publications on all aspects of Latin American studies.</td>
<td>1990-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Abstracts</td>
<td>Indexes 2,000+ scholarly journals in history from 1450 to the present (Excludes the United State and Canada).</td>
<td>1964-date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities Abstracts</td>
<td>Indexes 300+ scholarly journals and popular magazines in the humanities.</td>
<td>1984-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAIS International (Public Affairs Information Service)</td>
<td>Indexes 2,000+ international scholarly journals, government and other publications on current events in the political and social sciences.</td>
<td>1972-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIRS Researcher</td>
<td>Indexes multidisciplinary scholarly journals, popular magazines, newspapers and government publications for articles on social, historic, economic, political, and global issues.</td>
<td>1988-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science Abstracts</td>
<td>Indexes 350+ international scholarly journals and popular magazines in the social sciences.</td>
<td>1983-date</td>
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<tr>
<td>SocioAbs</td>
<td>Indexes 250+ publications in sociology and related social science disciplines.</td>
<td>1963-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociological Abstracts</td>
<td>Indexes 2600+ publications in sociology and related disciplines.</td>
<td>1963-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Universe</td>
<td>Indexes statistical data from U.S. government, international, professional, and other organizations.</td>
<td>Current</td>
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<tr>
<td>WorldCat</td>
<td>Catalog holdings for thousands of international libraries.</td>
<td>Current</td>
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VIII. Internet Resources

(Asians in the Americas)

- **Asians in Latin America Working Group, Center for Latin American Studies, Stanford University** [http://www.stanford.edu/~delangel/asinla.html] / Working Group explores the history, culture, and contributions of peoples of Asian descent in Latin America from the 17th century to the present. Site lists Groups' events and research and provides a basic bibliography and internet links.

- **Asociación Cultural Hispano-Japonesa** [http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Spa/4768/espanol/mainesp.htm] / Designed to foster cultural information on Japan for Latin Americans to promote cultural exchanges. Includes information on Japanese history and geography and a list of the association's activities.


- **Chinese in Latin America Website**, Dr. Clara Chu, UCLA / [http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/chu/chinos/] Provides valuable information about the Chinese Diaspora to the Americas, as well as links to other worthwhile sites. Constructed by an academic specialist on the Chinese and their culture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- **Florida International University Institute for Asian Studies** / [http://www.fiu.edu/~asian/] Home page for FIU's Institute for Asian Studies. Provides information on the Center's activities, affiliated faculty and programs, and research.

- **Florida International University Institute for Asian Studies, Trans-Regional Links** / [http://www.fiu.edu/~asian/global/] Provides links to useful Internet sites on the Asian Diaspora to the Americas.

- **International Nikkei Research Project** / [http://www.inrp.org/pre/index.htm] Devoted to increasing and sharing the knowledge of Nikkei cultures and society in order to foster greater linkages and cross-cultural understandings between the United States, Japan, and other nations with a Nikkei population. Includes information on Project staff and research.


- **Journal of Global Buddhism** / [http://jgb.la.psu.edu] Scholarly journal devoted to the study of Buddhism around the world, including in Latin America.

- **Oriental Gate** / [http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/garden/4189/hpmenu.html] Brazilian site for Asians and their descendants. Includes links to cultural activities and other sites of interest.

(Asians in Brazil)

- **Associação Nikkei de Niterói** [http://nitnikkei.hypermart.net](http://nitnikkei.hypermart.net) Provides links to Japanese-Brazilian culture, language, history, cuisine, and more. Includes photographs and other audio-visual elements.
- **Japanese Immigration to Brazil** / [http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/9223/](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/9223/) Devoted to recording information on the history of Japanese immigration to Brazil. Includes family history and photographs from one immigrant family.

(Asians in the Caribbean)

- **Grupo Promotor del Barrio Chino de la Habana** / [chinatwn@mail.info.com.etecsa.cu](mailto:chinatwn@mail.info.com.etecsa.cu) Email address of contact person promoting Havana's historic "Chinatown" for tourism and educational purposes.

(Asians in Peru)

- **Japan-Peru Relations** / [http://www.infojapan.org/Region/Latin/Peru/Index.html/](http://www.infojapan.org/Region/Latin/Peru/Index.html/) Devoted to commercial and cultural relations between Japan and Peru, focusing on the Japanese-Peruvian community.
- **Japanese-Peruvian in Miami** / [http://www.fiu.edu/~mackliff](http://www.fiu.edu/~mackliff) Research by a Master's student in International Education at FIU about Japanese Peruvians living in Miami, FL.