

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOME SOURCES OF HISTORICAL STATISTICS OF LATIN AMERICA

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PUBLISHED SOURCES

Researchers wishing access to historical statistics of Latin America can obtain assistance from many institutions. One of the most helpful is the Inter-American Statistical Institute (c/o Secretariat, Organization of American States, Washington, D.C. 20006), which recommends the following:

1. "Bibliografía Anotada de las Principales Fuentes de Estadísticas sobre América Latina," by Tulio Hostilio Montenegro (Secretary General, Inter-American Statistical Institute; Director, Department of Statistics, Pan American Union) in *Handbook of Latin American Studies, No. 29: Social Sciences*, edited by Henry E. Adams (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1967). The article is concerned mainly with the post-World War II period; it is organized by country and gives sources and descriptions of data.

2. *Bibliography of Selected Statistical Sources of the American Nations*. A guide to the principal statistical materials of the twenty-two American nations, including data, analyses, methodology, and laws. *Bibliografía de Fuentes Estadísticas de las Naciones Americanas. Una guía de los principales materiales estadísticos de las veinte dos naciones americanas, incluyendo datos, análisis, metodología y leyes y organización de los organismos de estadística*. 1st ed. (Washington, D.C.: Inter-American Statistical Institute, May 1947). Available from Blaine Ethridge Books. Quarterly supplements to this bibliography appear in *Estadística* (see below). The bibliography supplements include statistical material drawn from journals and official publications reported in response to quarterly questionnaires and publications from other sources.

3. *Estadística*. Journal of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (Washington, D.C.: 1943-). Quarterly. Articles on statistical practices, and theory and methods; reports on the activities of the organization; news notes of government statistical offices and other statistical organizations; personal notes; bibliography.

4. *Estadística*, no. 107 (June 1970). "Publications of the IASI Secretariat—Publicaciones de la Secretaría del IASI"; provides background information on the development of statistics in the Western Hemisphere, particularly Latin America.

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5. "Consolidated Index—Índice Consolidado," *Estadística* (June 1954). Index covers articles and special feature material (1–11, nos. 1–41 [1943–45]). There are also indices to each volume of *Estadística*.

6. *Costo de la Vida y Materias Afines: Lista de Referencias Bibliográficas Escogidas sobre Trabajos Metodológicos* (Washington, D.C.: Union Panamericana, Instituto Interamericano de Estadística, 1955).

7. *Directory of Statistical Personnel in the American Nations, 1949*. With biographical information and appended list of statistical organizations. 4th ed. (Washington, D.C.: Inter-American Statistical Institute, 1949). 5th ed. (1955). Note: Biographical information for each person listed includes five significant publications or studies of which he is an author, with title, publication, publisher, date, etc., and if articles, the name of journal. Also available in Portuguese.

8. *General Censuses and Vital Statistics in the Americas*. An annotated bibliography of the historical censuses and current vital statistics of the twenty-one American Republics; the American Sections of the British Commonwealth of Nations; the American Colonies of Denmark, France, and the Netherlands; and the American Territories and Possessions of the United States. Prepared under the supervision of Irene B. Taeuber, Chief, Census Library Project (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1943). U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, U. S. Library of Congress, Reference Department. Available from Blaine Ethridge Books.

9. *Statistical Activities of the American Nations, 1940*. A compendium of the statistical services and activities in twenty-two nations of the Western Hemisphere, together with information concerning statistical personnel in those nations (Washington, D.C.: Inter-American Statistical Institute, 1941).

The *Statistical Abstract of Latin America* (1976) includes a review article "Quantitative Research on Latin America: An Inventory of Data Sets," by Carl Deal. In addition to the inventory, he reports that the American Historical Association *Newsletter* will carry a new section on quantitative data, and notes the recent publication of the Roper Research Center *Latin American Data Catalog* (1976), which provides detailed information but is not indexed.

Finally, a number of recent articles provide comment on quantitative studies and bibliographies that have been highly praised and are quite useful to students and scholars. These include the following essays in Val R. Lorwin and Jacob M. Price, *The Dimensions of the Past: Materials, Problems, and Opportunities for Quantitative Work in History* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1972); Juan J. Linz, "Five Centuries of Spanish History: Quantification and Comparison"; John. J. Te Paske, "Quantification in Latin American Colonial History"; and William Paul McGreevy, "Quantitative Research in Latin American History of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries."

Charles M. Dollar and Richard J. Jensen, *Historian's Guide to Statistics and Quantitative Analysis and Historical Research* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971) provides an introduction to statistics, the use of computers, and an annotated bibliography.

In the articles mentioned, not *all* sources of quantitative data are, or can be listed. The most important omission is the retrospective section, for the 1930s

onwards, of the *Anuario Estadístico do Brasil*, published by the Instituto Brasileiro Geografico e Estadístico. Similarly, Miguel Urrutia M. and Mario Arrubla (eds.), *Compendio de Estadísticas Históricas de Colombia* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 1970) deserve appreciative mention, as do the Mexican statistical publications of the Banco de Comercio Exterior, the Nacional Financiera, and El Colegio de México.

DATA BANKS: HOLDINGS AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Recently, information was provided on *Data Banks and Archives for Social Science Research*, CLASP Publication No. 6, ed. William G. Tyler (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1975), which listed the selected holdings of the following institutions: International Data Library and Reference Service of the University of California (Berkeley); the University of Wisconsin Data and Program Library Service; the Inter University Consortium for Political Research (Ann Arbor, Mich.); the Roper Public Opinion Research Center (Williamstown, Mass.); the Latin American Data Bank at the University of Florida; El Banco de Datos del Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía (CELADE); the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; and the United States Census.

In answer to a request for further information, CELADE responds:

En cuanto a estadísticas históricas para América Latina, el Proyecto de Demografía Histórica de este Centro, en el que participa el historiador Dr. Rolando Mellafe, se ha preocupado por realizar bibliografías o inventarios de la documentación util a la investigación demográfica. Se adjunta inventario de esa informacion" [see the Research Inventory below]. En 1972 se realizó una proyección de la documentación util a la demografía histórica en algunas regiones de Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Perú y México. Estos informes se encuentran en proceso de impresión en México en el Departamento de Investigaciones Historicas del Instituto Nacional de Antropología de México, Apartado Postal 5119, México 5, D.F. La compilación incluye: tipo y calidad de la documentación, descripción de ella (fecha, cantidad, ubicación, etc.), y estado de conservación. Hace poco se comenzó a investigar en el tema "Bibliografía documental util a la demografía chilena existente en el Archivo Nacional: Siglos XVI a XIX." Se estima que este trabajo estara terminado a fin del presente año. . . . Por último, hace un mes se comenzó a copiar en el Archivo Nacional de Chile un conjunto de boletas censales correspondientes a varios distritos de la antigua provincia de Aconcagua del censo de 1833, que nunca se habia publicado. Los boletas abarcan ubicación geográfica, tipo de casa, habitantes por casa, nombres de las personas, edad, sexo, profesión y defectos físicos.

In response to a request for further information, the International Statistical Programs Center of the Demographic Data Systems Branch, United States Bureau of the Census, writes that the information presented in CLASP No. 6 is now obsolete:

The system described . . . was transferred from a computer system, where printouts of source titles were available, to a microfilm reader-printer system where hard copy of data tables are made available through the query of specific demographic subjects. For this reason it is, therefore, not possible to fill your request for a printout of our holdings on statistics. The staff of Bureau of the Census Library . . . [state that they] have no holdings of censuses for Latin American nations prior to 1940, and then only a very few for the 1940 round of censuses. There is no listing of their holdings on these sources. The tabulation below shows the number of data items for each major subject, for indicated time periods that are currently available through our system.

<i>Major Subject</i>	<i>All Years</i>	<i>1900–1920</i>	<i>1921–1940</i>	<i>1941–1960</i>	<i>1961–1970</i>
Economics	274	1	7	85	181
Education	386	3	11	96	276
Fertility	264	2	20	87	160
Health & Family Planning	44	0	0	7	37
Marital Status & Nuptiality	123	3	4	29	87
Mortality	312	3	23	94	192
Population	920	53	95	279	493
Total Items	2,323	65	160	672	1,426

*A Subject Code according to which all data items in the system are identified is available from the International Statistical Programs Center.

A number of institutions that were not included in CLASP No. 6 have ongoing projects involving historical statistics of Latin America. UNESCO's Computerized Documentation Service (Place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France) includes documents and publications issued by the UNESCO regional centers and field offices. Services offered include abstracting and indexing, advisory and consulting services, computer literature searching, microreproduction, and SDI services. On-line interrogation of UNESCO files and data bank is being developed to provide faster, more up-to-date information services. It is expected that the data base will be available on magnetic tape in the near future. Current information on UNESCO and other organizations is included in the *Encyclopedia of Information Systems and Services* (Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., 1974); however, it lacks a subject index.

The Population Research Center of the University of Texas at Austin reports that Doreen S. Goyer is preparing a revision (1945 to present) of its *International Population Census Bibliography* (6 vols. and supplement, University of Texas Bureau of Business Research, 1965–68), which will be a bibliography of the known bona fide national population census of all countries. Volume 1, *Latin America and the Caribbean*, contains citations of the censuses from the earliest

through the early 1960s. The supplement updates this through the mid-1960s. The revision will contain additions and corrections that have come to light since publication, plus all those items and/or citations gathered since then.

The Population Research Center's holdings of these materials are numerous, but do not include everything cited. Researchers are welcome to use the materials at the center; on rare occasions some materials have been loaned. As for reproductions, the center does not have the equipment to handle other than an occasional few pages. They do not have data on computer tape other than one or two items owned by individuals who are currently working at the center; the center has no plans at present to enter its census data onto tapes. On a related matter, David Robinson, Department of Geography, Syracuse University, is in the process of placing Latin American census materials on tape, as part of the Oxford/Syracuse project.

Readers are referred to Roberto Cortés Conde and Stanley J. Stein, eds., *Latin America, A Guide to Economic History 1830–1930* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977); to the *Statistical Abstract of Latin America*; and to the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* for continuing information on historical statistics of Latin America.

Finally, at present, many large libraries have facilities both for computer-based literature searching for bibliographies, including statistical materials, and also for computer searching of data bases in science, technology/engineering, social sciences, and business/economics. An example of the services available through computer searching of data bases is available from Lockheed Information Systems, Code 5020/21, 3251 Hanover Street, Palo Alto, CA 94304. As not all libraries and topics are covered by such services, the advice of a reference librarian is essential to a researcher in order to ascertain the current coverage of the system. More traditional aids are provided by:

1. Vivian S. Sessions, *Directory of Data Bases in the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (Science Associates International, Inc., 1974). Organized by subject, institution, personnel, location. Includes government files that have limited access. Excludes United States federal statistics except the 1970 census. Includes international organizations' holdings of worldwide data—for example, those of the I.L.O. and I.M.F.

2. *Social Science Data* (Newsletter of Social Science Archival Acquisitions). Laboratory for Political Research, University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA 52242). Abstracts social science data; surveys thirty-nine data archives.

3. *A Directory of Computerized Data Files, Software and Related Technical Reports*, 1976 ed. (National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161). Contains a listing of some international data.

Further bibliographical guidance is provided by Eugene P. Sheehy, *Guide to Reference Books* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1976). An indexed research inventory of holdings of manuscript and machine readable historical data and statistics for Latin America appears later in this section.