

# BIBLIOGRAPHY: CURRENT PRACTICES AND FUTURE TRENDS

*Peter T. Johnson*  
*Princeton University*

- A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE HILTON LIBRARY.* By RONALD HILTON. (Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1980. Pp. 675. \$29.50.)
- LATIN AMERICA, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. A SELECTED AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE TO BOOKS PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES, 1954–1974.* Compiled and annotated by A. CURTIS WILGUS. (Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1977. Pp. 910. \$37.50.)
- A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BRAZILIAN BIBLIOGRAPHIES.* By BRUNO BASSECHES. (Detroit, Michigan: Blaine Ethridge Books, 1978. Pp. 185. \$15.00.)
- PARAGUAY, A BIBLIOGRAPHY.* By DAVID LEWIS JONES. (New York: Garland Publishing, 1979. Pp. 499. \$52.00.)
- LATIN AMERICA REVIEW OF BOOKS.* Edited by COLIN HARDING and CHRISTOPHER ROFER. (Palo Alto, California: Ramparts Press, 1973. Pp. 222. \$10.00.)
- SUPPLEMENT TO A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF UNITED STATES-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS SINCE 1810.* Compiled and edited by MICHAEL C. MEYER. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979. Pp. 193. \$19.50.)
- A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHIES: SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES.* Vol. I. Edited by DANIEL RAPOSO CORDEIRO. (Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1979. Pp. 272. \$12.00.)
- THE COMPLETE CARIBBEANA, 1900–1975: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO THE SCHOLARLY LITERATURE.* By LAMBROS COMITAS. (Millwood, New York: KTO Press, 1977. 4 vol. \$170.00.)
- BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, 1978.* (Boston, Massachusetts: G. K. Hall, 1979. 3 vol. \$195.00.)
- LIBRARY RESOURCES ON LATIN AMERICA: RESEARCH GUIDE AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC INTRODUCTION.* By LUDWIG LAUERHASS, JR. (Los Angeles, California: UCLA Latin American Center and University Library, University of California, 1978. Pp. 95. \$5.00.)

The selection of works under review ranges from the traditional, if not archaic, to the futuristic. In an age of internationally recognized rules for bibliographic citations and widely accepted guidelines for compiling bibliographies, it is unfortunate that authors and publishers continue either

to ignore these standards or to be so inconsistent in adhering to them. Surely users have the right to expect consistency and high quality in matters as basic as the identification and description of works important for research. The specter of enforced conformity by computer application has apparently yet to affect some bibliophiles' perception of what really constitutes a valuable and accessible bibliography.

The rapidly increasing availability of machine-readable bibliographic data bases with substantial Latin American content already has altered research patterns and practices.<sup>1</sup> But before Latin Americanists can abandon the traditional practices, the data bases will have to be far stronger, and printed sources, as well as machine-readable ones, must still adhere to basic standards if they are to be useful for consultation. While some individuals believe that selected elements of the bibliographic description can be altered or eliminated without harm, or that citations may be arranged in a way that suits the specialist best, it must not be forgotten that interdisciplinary and comparative research often bring together different levels of sophistication and research purposes. Hence, we expect that the bibliographies produced today will provide full bibliographic citations as defined by the international standards of the second edition of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules used in most research libraries. Furthermore, the compiler should indicate the origin of sources cited, the inclusive dates, and a statement of criteria for what is and what is not included. A scope note on limitations (e.g., languages, period, levels of treatment, form) is essential. Organization of the material must permit at least one approach without consulting the index. Depending on the format, material, and intended audience, annotations or abstracts for cited works should appear. To justify its existence the bibliography must go beyond those already covering similar or identical territory. How, then, do the works under review meet these expectations and which might we consider part of future trends?

Given the nature of research today and the relatively detailed bibliographic coverage of significant work in widely available sources, one must approach all new publications with the expectation of increased significance.<sup>2</sup> The Hilton work proves disappointing. Essentially the personal catalogue of the collection acquired by Ronald Hilton over thirty-five years, it cites about eleven thousand titles to 1964, although some works published in the 1970s appear; included are Spanish, Portuguese, and English-language publications from and about Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Spanish borderlands. Most conventionally accepted rules for compiling a bibliography were ignored in this volume; the works cited are neither rare nor singularly significant; and what does appear is readily available elsewhere in a broader context and with the accuracy and the citation format required for efficient consultation. The only tantalizing aspect is the section "Latin America Auto-

biographical Interviews Recorded on Tape'' (pp. 669–75). Ranging from Victoria Ocampo to Jorge Basadre and Alberto Lleras Camargo, each name carries a country identification and the number of tapes produced. Unfortunately no indication is given of the date or location of the interview or whether these tapes are accessible for scholarly use.

For those familiar with A. Curt Wilgus' *Doors to Latin America*, his *Latin America, Spain and Portugal . . .* will offer no surprises. Essentially a culling of about seven thousand citations of books and pamphlets published between 1954 and 1974, the works appear grouped by country or region with topical subdivisions. Short descriptive annotations accompany each citation. Inclusion of only English-language titles necessarily makes some area coverage quite thin, but even then it is not evident what criteria were applied. Given the absence of such works as Carlos Fuentes' *The Death of Artemio Cruz* (1964), José Donoso's *Coronation* (1965) and *This Sunday* (1967), June C. Nash's *In the Eyes of the Ancestors; Belief and Behavior in a Mayan Community* (1970), and Gary W. Wynia's *Politics and Planners; Economic Development Policy in Central America* (1972), one's confidence in this bibliography as a principal source for consultation is shaken. One might better rely on the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* for its known qualitative selections and annotations and Georgette M. Dorn's *Latin America, Spain, and Portugal: An Annotated Bibliography of Paperback Books* (1976).<sup>3</sup> Certainly superior coverage appears in Richard D. Woods' *Reference Materials on Latin America in English: the Humanities* (1980).

Basseches' work, *A Bibliography of Brazilian Bibliographies*, is intended to cover the social sciences, humanities, and the sciences; citations are principally from works published in Brazil, yet absent are many references to bibliographies appearing in journals because they were not available in Brazil. The more than 2,400 citations extend to 1971 and carry full bibliographic information; a few are annotated. Arrangement is in straight alphabetical sequence by author or title, which presupposes strong knowledge of the field or a detailed subject index; the latter would have benefited from subdivisions for the major subjects. The lack of detailed annotations and a statement of the methods used and the sources consulted to produce this work really diminishes its usefulness for all but the advanced scholar. Yet, at that level, knowledge of the sources is presupposed; the question remains then: for whom is this intended?

In contrast, *Paraguay, A Bibliography* states clearly that its approximately 5,500 entries are those for which complete bibliographic information was available. Arranged by subject, with the greatest concentration in history, anthropology, and literature, coverage extends from the sixteenth century to 1977 (albeit 1975–78 is not complete). As one expects, articles, books, and government documents comprise the bulk of cita-

tions. It is in the area of journals that this work proves notable: selections from 330 European, North American, and Latin American titles appear as well as a selected list of 101 Paraguayan periodicals and government serials with the beginning date of issuance. As contrasted with several other Paraguayan bibliographies, the articles cited are only for those titles reasonably accessible in libraries in Great Britain, Canada, or the United States.<sup>4</sup> The combined author-subject index, with appropriate subdivisions, insures broad or detailed access. The logical subject organization, the clarity of citations, and the useful annotations for those works of particularly high value or else misleading nature place this bibliography among the benchmarks. Prospective authors would benefit from close attention to this model.

The need for a critical review source based upon substantive judgment became paramount as Latin American curricular offerings expanded and research became increasingly interdisciplinary. The constant problem of referring students to a group of critically acclaimed works likely to be present in most library collections was solved with the appearance in 1973 of the *Latin America Review of Books*. This first and only issue treated more than 135 social science publications with short notices or essays penned by such notable authorities as Gordon K. Lewis, Thomas Skidmore, and Laurence Whitehead. These generally well-written pieces attempted both to critique and synthesize an important group of literature devoted to political change and clearly demonstrated the value and sheer practicality of a series of comparative essays on English and foreign-language publications for all fields. In 1975, under the editorship of John D. Martz and Joseph S. Tulchin, the LARR began its Books in Review section, which in 1981 became Review Essays, and the same flavor and eminent utility of the original model remains today.

One method of maintaining currency is through the timely publication of supplements or revised editions of basic works. The Meyer *Supplement . . .* includes works published since his 1968 volume as well as those older titles not identified then. Of the more than 3,600 numbered citations, over three-quarters were published from 1965 through 1977. Arranged in twenty-four sections ranging from Guides and Aids through U.S.-Latin American Relations, 1823-1895, to individual countries' relations with the United States, entries include articles, books, pamphlets, dissertations, and government documents in various languages. Citations are reasonably complete except for the omission of the publisher. Most useful is the detailed subject division which reflects an excellent control over the substance of the works cited. A valuable system of internal cross-references applicable to both volumes as well as a thorough index further enhance this bibliography. In a compilation as large as Meyer's, omissions are nearly inevitable and it is disturbing, for

instance, when such superb works as Mira Wilkins' *The Emergence of Multinational Enterprise: American Business Abroad from the Colonial Era to 1914* (1970) and *The Maturing of Multinational Enterprise: American Business Abroad from 1914 to 1970* (1974) or such polemical pieces as Ernest Feder's *Strawberry Imperialism: An Enquiry into the Mechanisms of Dependency in Mexican Agriculture* (1977) do not appear.

Cordeiro provides a continuation of Arthur E. Gropp's *A Bibliography of Latin American Bibliographies* (1968 and Supplement 1971) through the reworking of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials' *A Report on Bibliographic Activities 1969 to 1974* (periodical articles cover 1966–74). As the *Report* attempts comprehensive coverage, one can reasonably expect that the 1,750 bibliographies drawn from articles, books, government documents, pamphlets, and serials represent the outer limits of production. Organized into thirty-six subject groups with geographic subdivisions, citations carry the essential bibliographical information but not annotations. One of the most valuable sections is the listing of cumulative and analytical indices arranged by the title of the journal. The availability of such immensely practical information deserves wide notice. An index offers a combined subject and author approach that generally produces results on the first or second check. Fortunately we can expect SALALM's continued leadership in this vital bibliographic activity. Awareness of important contributions appearing only as articles, pamphlets, or government documents often is limited, and therefore the scholarly community remains indebted to those individuals contributing annually to the identification and control of this literature.

Comitas' *The Complete Caribbeana, 1900–1975* is a substantial enlargement of his *Caribbeana, 1900–1965* (1968) not only in the number of citations but also with the addition of the Bahamas and Bermuda. The "complete" of the title only applies to the Dutch, English, and French Caribbean; Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico are excluded on the basis that bibliographic coverage for them is already extensive. Unquestionably the best source for the non-Hispanic Caribbean, this new edition also includes West Indians in the United Kingdom and the United States. Overall arrangement is in broad subject divisions with an ingenious system of geographic identifiers and item numbers. The sixty-three topically organized chapters cite over seventeen thousand articles, books, conference proceedings, and dissertations in various languages. Because personal authorship was the basis for inclusion, works authored by corporate bodies or anonymously do not appear. Obviously the amount of government report literature is considerable and valuable; one must await specialized volumes for this material.<sup>5</sup>

Volume 4 contains author and geographic indices. The latter

offers a highly useful series of subject subdivisions by virtue of citation arrangement according to chapters. Identifying appropriate topical and geographic works becomes an easy and accurate exercise.

Although the Preface indicates that inclusion or exclusion did not involve critical judgment but rather reflected the guidelines noted above and the availability of each work for personal review, these four volumes represent an achievement of unsurpassed importance for the bibliography of the Caribbean and reveal an acute perception of the relationship between scholarship and bibliographic control. This will remain the fundamental source for many phases of bibliographic research,<sup>6</sup> and Latin Americanists must bring this work to the attention of all students because the model is one deserving emulation.

The *Bibliographic Guide to Latin American Studies* is the combined catalogue of the holdings of the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection of the University of Texas–Austin and the Library of Congress for publications catalogued in 1978. Coverage is of Latin America, written anywhere on any subject, with most imprints from the period 1970–77, although much older works appear; thus this set continues and expands the published catalogue of the Benson Latin American Collection and essentially is its fifth supplement.<sup>7</sup> As in earlier volumes, a single alphabetical arrangement of author, title, and subject appears, with the author entry providing full bibliographic information, subject headings, and the Library of Congress call number.<sup>8</sup> The one serious omission in the 1978 volume involves publications catalogued as serials because the computer software at the New York Public Library did not allow for their special format. Fortunately this flaw was corrected in the 1979 volume although the Introduction states otherwise. No subject approach exists; rather access is through the heading of the country (e.g., Colombia. Periodicals). Perhaps future volumes will provide a full bibliographic record because anything less is unjustifiable.

The range from the printed dictionary catalogue of a major Latin American collection to a work combining several collections and generated from machine-readable tapes with cataloguing following internationally accepted standards enables Latin Americanists to have readily accessible the bibliographic record for a very high percentage of all significant publications. Usefulness in this respect will increase with the publication of annual volumes. With the rapid spread of the Research Libraries Group's Research Libraries Information Network, which incorporates the Library of Congress's records along with those of twenty-six other research libraries, as well as the older system of Online Computer Library Center, Inc. in which the University of Texas–Austin holds membership, public access through these networks to a wide range of collections is a reality.<sup>9</sup> Because data bases will remain limited in content until the complete conversion of printed card catalogues occurs, work-

ing exclusively with a computer terminal for identifying publications is still not recommended in most research situations. If the query involves only the most recent imprints, then the new technology deserves full utilization; if not, some consultation of printed works must occur. The *Bibliographic Guide to Latin American Studies* should become one of the first sources checked, whether the topic be narrow or broad. From there, the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* will give critical assessment and the *HAPI* will identify articles. The bibliographic structure for Latin American area research has never been stronger thanks in large part to the quality and consistency of such works as these.

The nature of scholarly inquiry and the rigors of a particular discipline's research methods share a principal objective of offering students the resources, tools, and frameworks essential for developing a critical approach and the analytical skills basic to good scholarship. As more and more interdisciplinary and comparative research interests predominate, familiarity with the organization and nature of the literature becomes essential. The development of appropriate research strategies especially for the student unaccustomed to the diversity of coverage existing in most fields is a matter meriting professional concern. If one believes that the structure and arrangement of the literature are keys to achieving efficiency in bibliographic work, then the *Lauerhass Library Resources on Latin America* offers a model worthy of serious consideration. In this slim volume, designed to establish and improve research techniques, the reader progresses through a series of chapters ranging from General Bibliography and Reference Materials: the Subject Approach, through Spanish-American and Brazilian Bibliography and Reference Materials: the Author Approach, to Books and Monographs: the Classification Approach. Other chapters deal with periodicals, international agencies and government documents, newspapers, and special materials. Probably the most valuable contribution of this volume is the introductory section preceding the bibliographic citations in each chapter. Emphasis is on developing independence in the search process through perfecting certain strategies appropriate for the particular material. Flexibility is as crucial as the efficient use of the key-word approach to entering the literature. These and other techniques receive well-written and clearly explained sections, followed by a selective listing of either major works or ones illustrative of types of sources. Although oriented to the UCLA collections, *Library Resources on Latin America* offers broader potential through these concise introductions to the different kinds of literature. It is exactly this timelessness which makes such a work highly useful to the student commencing Latin American area research.

The works reviewed represent the past, present, and future. Increased automation of bibliographic records should enable the creation

of more and more publications like the *Bibliographic Guide to Latin American Studies*. Rising expectations of users and familiarity with an assortment of bibliographic data bases points to a future with strong demand for qualitatively superior works and diminished tolerance for those that contribute marginally to our control of the literature. Authors and publishers should strive to understand these technological and intellectually wrought changes by endeavoring to incorporate to as great a degree as feasible the array of practices and international standards commonly encountered elsewhere in libraries. Steady efforts toward the acceptance of a structural approach rather than a litany of titles should establish the basis of consistently improved research by students. The independence gained through an understanding of the literature's arrangement will reduce the time demands of bibliographic searches thereby transferring those hours to reading, thinking, and writing. Such objectives can and are being met in various colleges and universities across the land; it is incumbent upon others to grasp these advances and press for their acceptance at all levels.

## NOTES

1. Among the best data bases for Latin American coverage in the social sciences are Public Affairs Information Service, Social Scisearch (*Social Sciences Citation Index*), Population Bibliography, *Economic Abstracts International*, *Comprehensive Dissertation Abstracts*, and *Sociological Abstracts*. The humanities have only the *MLA Bibliography*, online from 1976 to the present. For many questions involving agriculture, public health, and related subjects, consult Agricola, MEDLARS/MEDLINE, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, and BIOSIS PREVIEWS.
2. When compared to other foreign areas, Latin America fares quite well in the quality and range of bibliographic coverage. Foremost among these sources is the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, the single most important publication since 1935. *Hapi; Hispanic American Periodicals Index* (Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center, 1977- ) covers periodical articles 1975 to the present in annual volumes. Various Latin American collections have dictionary catalogs published by G. K. Hall, including Florida, Miami, Texas, and Tulane. Substantial Latin American content is in the dictionary catalog of the Bancroft Library and the New York Public Libraries' cumulative catalog 1911-1971.
3. The Dorn work supersedes the 1971 edition with the same title which drew upon *Latin America; A Bibliography of Paperback Books*, compiled by David H. Andrews (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, Hispanic Foundation, 1964) and its subsequent revised edition of 1967.
4. For more detailed coverage of pamphlets and articles from Paraguayan journals, see Carlos F. S. Fernández-Caballero's *Aranduká ha kuatiañeé paraguái rembiapocué* (Asunción-Washington, D.C.: Paraguay Arandú Books, 1970) and *Paraguái tai hũme* (Amherst, Mass.: SALALM, 1975). Government documents appear in Rosa Q. Mesa's *Paraguay* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: Xerox University Microfilms, 1973).
5. Reference is to Rosa Q. Mesa's volumes for various Central American and Caribbean countries which would complete her series *Latin American Serial Documents*.
6. A partial supplement appears entitled *Bibliography of the English-Speaking Caribbean; Books, Articles and Reviews in English from the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences* (Iowa City, Iowa: 1979- ) edited by Robert J. Neymeyer of the firm Caribbean Booksellers and since 1980 with the collaboration of Alvona Alleyne of the University of the West Indies Library-Mona. Issued thus far are vols. 1 (1 & 2), 2 (1 & 2) and 3 (1) covering

imprints from 1979 through 1981. The format and coverage are quite similar to Comitas. *CARINDEX* (St. Augustine, Trinidad: Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries, 1977– ) biannually indexes over 60 serial publications issued in the Caribbean.

7. Texas. University. Library. *Catalog of the Latin American Collection* (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1969) and supplements (1971, 1973, 1975, and 1977).
8. One advantage of standardization and acceptance of the Library of Congress as the authority for cataloguing copy is the use without modification of classification numbers by many libraries. Where variation occurs, some libraries include such symbols as a lower-case "x" in part of the number. In the case of the Benson Latin American Collection one cannot distinguish if the number is pure Library of Congress or created at Texas. Furthermore, Texas frequently adjusts the Library of Congress classification for serials and literary authors. Hence, the *Bibliographic Guide to Latin American Studies* numbers with a BLAC prefix may not be identical with those of other libraries.
9. RLG's RLIN data base has a subject search capacity which is not available in OCLC. Among the major Latin American collections in RLG are those of the University of California-Berkeley, Stanford, Hoover Institution, Minnesota, Yale, New York Public Library, Princeton, and Columbia.