

# SOCIAL SCIENCE BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON LATIN AMERICA

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- LATIN AMERICA: SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION SOURCES, 1967-1979.* By ROBERT DELORME. (Santa Barbara, Cal., and Oxford: ABC-Clio, 1981. Pp. 262. \$32.75.)
- LATIN AMERICA: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, A GUIDE TO INFORMATION SOURCES.* By JOHN J. FINAN and JOHN CHILD. (Detroit: Gale Research, 1981. Pp. 236. \$40.00.)
- STATISTICS AMERICA: SOURCES FOR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND MARKET RESEARCH; NORTH, CENTRAL, SOUTH AMERICA.* Second edition. By JOAN M. HARVEY. (Beckenham, England: CBD Research; and Detroit: Gale Research, 1980. Pp. 385. \$160.00.)
- BUSINESS INFORMATION SOURCES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.* (Washington: Organization of American States, Columbus Memorial Library, 1982. Pp. 60. \$6.00.)

These four recent bibliographies focusing on various areas of the social sciences and related fields reflect several trends: the ongoing demand for information about Latin America in general, current interest in Central America and the Caribbean, expanding nontraditional clienteles in Latin American studies, and the steady stream of publications issued as a result of these factors. In many ways, these works are representative of the universe of bibliographies on Latin American topics and of many of the strengths and weaknesses of bibliographies in this field.

These works, which vary widely in quality, provide general coverage of their topics for the entire region, although their geographic scope varies somewhat, especially in their coverage of the Caribbean islands. The first two works focus on monographic and periodical writings in the social sciences, broadly defined, while the others emphasize publications providing quantitative data and current information. In one way or another, all of these works meet some of the bibliographic information needs of the expanding clientele in Latin American studies—those studying international business, communications, public health, public sector research, urban affairs, transportation, and educa-

tion. This generalization holds even though the titles of the works and their internal arrangements may be couched in terms more meaningful to those in disciplines that have provided the more traditional clientele for social science materials on Latin America: history, government, economics, anthropology, sociology, and related fields.

Proliferating publication in the social sciences and the need to identify materials useful to undergraduate researchers led to the compilation of *Latin America: Social Science Information Sources, 1967–1979*, by Robert L. Delorme. This work includes some fifty-six hundred citations to books and periodical articles. It emphasizes English-language materials in keeping with its intended primary audience of undergraduates, although materials in Spanish, Portuguese, and French are also included. It is broad in geographic scope, citing publications on thirty-one countries or regions, including some of the smaller Caribbean islands that are often omitted from bibliographic compilations on Latin America.

The introduction does not state what subjects the social sciences are presumed to include, but the subject index to the country-by-country arrangement of the work reveals a broad spectrum of topics covered: anthropology, demography, economics, history, education, politics, sociology, health, food and nutrition, foreign relations, the military, and public administration are some of them. Such wide coverage of interrelated subjects is a major asset of this publication.

Two flaws diminish its usefulness, however. The first is the lack of descriptive or evaluative annotations. Annotations should at least be provided to describe the content of publications with ambiguous titles; consequently, bibliographies without annotations do their users a disservice. This is especially true of a bibliography compiled with an undergraduate or nonspecialist audience in mind because many of them, and their professors as well, are located at institutions with libraries that were not designed to cater to area specialists. In such libraries, much of the material cited is not available. Without annotations, making a judgment about the potential usefulness of a publication becomes virtually impossible. Although the omission of annotations is somewhat understandable in view of the large number of citations in this bibliography, perhaps fewer citations with more information about each one would have made this work more useful for its intended audience.

A second major flaw of *Latin America: Social Science Information Sources, 1967–1979*, is its misleading title, which implies that the year 1979 is thoroughly covered. This impression is reinforced by the introduction: "I began to systematically compile a comprehensive social science bibliography of books, monographs, and journal articles published between 1967 and 1979." My initial check of random pages located only one citation of a work published in 1979. A systematic examination of

the 529 entries under "Brazil" produced no citations at all for materials published in that year, while a similar examination of the 686 entries for Mexico yielded only two. It seems fair to say that the inclusion of bibliographic data for the year 1979 is the exception rather than the rule and that this bibliography should not be relied upon for good coverage of Latin America in the social sciences for 1979. The questionable coverage of 1979 publications casts some doubt in my mind on the thoroughness of the bibliographic research used in compiling this work.

*Latin America, International Relations: A Guide to Information Sources*, by John J. Finan and John Child, is another work intended to provide a bibliographic introduction to a Latin American subject for the general audience, including undergraduates. In keeping with that objective, the work gives preference to works in English, although some in Spanish, Portuguese, and French are included. The bibliography of international relations is examined in the context of economic and social development, power politics, security issues, and the foreign relations of individual countries. Because these aspects of international relations encompass many aspects of the social sciences, this guide is potentially useful to a broader audience than its title implies. Publication in 1979 seems to be the cutoff date for inclusion in this bibliography containing fourteen hundred partially annotated entries. The usually brief annotations describe the content of publications whose titles are not self-explanatory.

The emphasis on English-language publications is both a strength and a weakness. This emphasis not only makes the work especially useful for general readers and for undergraduates but also offers advantages for more advanced researchers. Because of its concentration on international relations, this bibliography includes material from journals not automatically surveyed by compilers of Latin American bibliographies, particularly those that are not usually considered "scholarly" or those that only publish occasional articles related to Latin America. Many such journals are valuable reflectors of the diverse opinions that are important factors in the political realities of international relations. Articles from such journals as *Military Affairs*, *World Marxist Review*, and *American Enterprise Institute Defense Review* are represented in this compilation.<sup>1</sup> None of these articles were cited in either the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* or *HAPI: Hispanic American Periodicals Index* (the latter indexes a specific list of journals on a regular basis). On the other hand, a serious drawback of the emphasis on English-language materials is the relative lack of references to materials presenting the diversity of foreign opinion, specifically those points of view prevalent in the country under consideration.

Area specialists will find these two bibliographies useful for specific, yet limited, purposes. Those needing to delve more deeply into

certain topics will want to supplement the bibliographic data contained in these publications with information from the many specialized country and subject bibliographies that were published in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

A number of bibliographies have been published recently in the field of history. When considering them, the question of whether history is a social science discipline can be put aside because history encompasses such a wide spectrum of human activity that such works are useful not only to professional historians, but to those working in many other areas of the social sciences. A sampling of recent history titles indicates the variety available.

The *Bibliografía general de la historia de México*, by Edna María Orozco and Alma Rosa Platas, is a counterpart of the two bibliographies discussed above in that it was prepared for Spanish-speaking university students and emphasizes twentieth-century publications on Mexican history in Spanish. Used in conjunction with the English-language bibliographies cited above, this work should provide a fairly balanced picture of historical writing about Mexico in this century.

Another bibliography that looks at history as written in the country of origin is Louis Pérez's *Historiography in the Revolution: A Comprehensive Bibliography of Cuban Scholarship, 1959–1979*. Its thirty-eight hundred unannotated entries acquaint the user with the spate of Cuban revisionist historical writings of the 1960s and 1970s that viewed history from a contemporary ideological perspective and affirmed, defined, and defended the Cuban Revolution. The books and periodical articles cited were selected from Cuban publications available in libraries in the United States; it may therefore be supposed that the bibliography is not complete, but a good cross-section of publications is represented.

Two recent bibliographies of travel writings also provide historical—and in one case, contemporary—views of social life, politics, economic conditions, persons, and events in Brazil and Mexico. Paulo Berger's *Bibliografia do Rio de Janeiro de Viajantes e Autores Estrangeiros, 1531–1900*, and Garold Cole's *American Travelers in Mexico, 1821–1975: A Descriptive Bibliography* lead the researcher to recorded observations on many kinds of human activity from the perspective of foreigners in Brazil and Mexico.

Other recent bibliographies deal with a variety of topics of interest to social scientists, from anthropology to religion. A bibliography published in the United States, *The Catholic Left in Latin America: A Comprehensive Bibliography*, by Therrin Dahlin, Gary Gillum, and Mark Grover, highlights an important facet of contemporary Latin American religious, political, and social life. It addresses a variety of subjects in a country-by-country listing, including the Catholic Church and social

change, the clergy, communism, nationalism, the peasantry, agrarian reform, revolution, and violence, as well as key individuals in the movement, such as Hélder Câmara and Camilo Torres.

The *Bibliografía anotada y directorio de antropólogos colombianos*, issued by the Sociedad Antropológica de Colombia, is very useful because of the long abstracts accompanying its entries and its sophisticated index. Two recent Brazilian bibliographies focus on important segments of that society: *Mulher Brasileira: Bibliografia Anotada*, issued by the Fundação Carlos Chagas, is a two-volume work covering publications about Brazilian women in the areas of history, the family, ethnic groups, feminism, work, law, education, and the arts. *Bibliografia Afro-Brasileira: Estudos sobre o Negro*, by Henrique Alves, treats its subject from many perspectives—history, race relations, physical anthropology, folklore, religion, linguistics, music, medicine, and literature. This unannotated bibliography contains almost twenty-three hundred citations.

The two bibliographies that provide access to quantitative data and current information are *Statistics America* and *Business Information Sources of Latin America and the Caribbean*. Both will be of direct interest to the growing academic clientele in the field of international business. They will also be useful to those involved in social science research in related areas such as economics as well as to some of the nontraditional clienteles mentioned above.

*Statistics America: Sources for Social, Economic, and Market Research*, by Joan M. Harvey, is the second edition of a publication first issued in 1973, *Statistics America: Sources of Market Research*. As the title of the earlier edition indicates, it was originally intended to lead market analysts to sources of Latin American statistical data. The types of statistical data covered have been expanded in the second edition to appeal to an audience of social scientists as well as to those interested in Latin America for business-related reasons. The work's practice of translating all foreign-language titles into English attests to its continuing utility for non-area specialists.

*Statistics America* covers the United States, Canada, Greenland, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Falkland Islands. Its comprehensive geographical coverage, which includes many of the Caribbean islands often omitted in works on Latin America, enhances its value. A section on the Western Hemisphere in general, which cites many statistical compilations issued by international organizations, trade associations, banks with international connections, and governments of various countries, is a gold mine of information about statistical publications on everything from steel to tourism.

Information for each country includes the name and address of its central statistical office (although the publications cited are not lim-

ited to those of that agency) and sources of data that cover general statistics as well as statistics on production, foreign trade, internal distribution and services, population, social conditions, finance, and transport and communications. In addition to standard bibliographic data, each entry contains a brief description of the content and a note about the dates covered by the statistical data in relation to the date of publication.

This work suffers from the problem of time lag inherent in printed bibliographies, which condemns bibliographies to being out-of-date by the time they are published. This problem is more acute in some subject areas than in others. Unfortunately, it is serious in the field of statistics because researchers doing quantitative studies often need the most recent data available. Although *Statistics America* was published in 1980, the most recent publications that it cites tend to cluster around the mid-1970s. On Mexico, nothing published later than 1977 is cited in spite of the fact that the Secretaría de Programación y Presupuesto published many excellent statistical compilations in the late 1970s through its Coordinación General del Sistema Nacional de Información.<sup>2</sup> In the case of Brazil's Fundação Instituto Brasileiro de Estatística, another prolific publisher, the cutoff publication date for inclusion in this bibliography is 1978. Despite this seemingly unavoidable time lag, Joan Harvey handled thoroughly in most cases a large mass of bibliographic data that had to be obtained from a multiplicity of sources in many countries.

Bibliographic control of Latin American statistical publications has always been a problem because of the number of countries and reporting agencies involved in any attempt to prepare a compilation of sources. *Statistics America* builds upon past efforts and complements present ones. A 1943 Library of Congress publication, *General Censuses and Vital Statistics in the Americas*, cites the censuses of twenty-one American republics from the first censuses known through those of the 1930s. A recent publication, *The Handbook of National Population Censuses: Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Oceania*, by Doreen Goyer and Eliane Domschke, incorporates much of the information in the earlier work, updates it to 1980, and provides a wealth of information about the history of each census and the kinds of data each provided in comparison to others taken in the same country.

Bibliographies identifying statistical publications other than censuses are also available. In 1947 the Inter-American Statistical Institute published the *Bibliography of Selected Statistical Sources of the American Nations*, which covers "the principal materials of the twenty-two American nations, including data, analyses, methodology, and laws and organizations of the statistical agencies."<sup>3</sup> A 1967 article by Tulo Hostilio Montenegro in the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, "Biblio-

grafía anotada de las principales fuentes de estadísticas sobre América Latina," served some twenty years later to update the *Bibliography of Selected Statistical Sources of the American Nations*.

Two current sources of information about Latin American statistical publications are the *Population Index* and *Resúmenes sobre Población en América Latina*. Both are available in printed format and on-line, through bibliographic data bases. *Population Index* cites statistical materials related to demography, including publications from Latin America about vital statistics, housing, migration, and similar topics. It is published quarterly in hard copy and is accessible on-line through POPLINE, a subsystem of MEDLAR, the Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System. *Resúmenes sobre Población en América Latina* is published twice a year in Santiago by the Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía, which abstracts census reports and articles based on census reports. It is also available on-line through the data base of the Canadian International Development Research Center.

While the existence of on-line bibliographic data bases would seem to solve the time-lag problem inherent in printed bibliographies, it must be remembered that the information that data bases provide can be only as timely as that which is input. The publications, or at least the bibliographic information about them, must still be obtained from a variety of Latin American sources and then incorporated into the data base. As a result, a time lag of six months to more than a year can easily ensue.

The second edition of *Statistics America* is a worthy companion to these related sources. It is interesting to note that a general bibliography of Latin American statistical sources is now being undertaken by a commercial publisher, rather than by an international organization, with the business and marketing community as one of its chief clientele.

*Business Information Sources of Latin America and the Caribbean*, published by the Columbus Memorial Library of the Organization of American States, updates an earlier work issued in 1977 entitled *Guide to Latin American Business Information Sources*. The expanded version of the earlier work adds several Caribbean islands and Surinam to its geographic scope. It covers Latin America in general, as well as twenty-seven individual countries, supplying bibliographic data and often some description of publications providing the kind of information needed by those engaging in business or in economic studies of Latin American countries.

This work reflects some of the difficulties inherent in compiling bibliographies of Latin American business and economics sources. Currency of information is of prime importance in this field, as in statistics. As a result, certain kinds of publications favored by many academics

(and academic libraries), such as monographic studies and dissertations, are less useful here than they are in many other fields. At the same time, other kinds of publications that are more difficult to identify and obtain, such as government publications, reports (including annual reports of individual companies, state enterprises, and other such entities), and serials (often weekly or even daily publications), become the sources of information needed. These publications can be very elusive. They are rarely issued by the familiar university presses and traditional commercial publishers, but by a bewildering array of government agencies, publishers of specialized directories, banks (central and private), brokerage houses, companies, and others. When this variety of potential publishers is multiplied by the number of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and the specialized publishers elsewhere interested in Latin American business are added to the equation, the magnitude of the problem of identifying and acquiring these materials becomes apparent.

Even allowing for the difficulties inherent in compiling a Latin American bibliography on business and economics, *Business and Information Sources of Latin America and the Caribbean* has serious deficiencies. Inconsistency and unevenness of coverage characterize this work. The introduction states, "The intention was to compile an annotated source directory for the types of information needed by business, attorneys, and information professionals involved with Latin America and the Caribbean." Yet the text reveals a very unsystematic approach to identifying and citing relevant materials, and the promised annotations are frequently missing or limited to one or two words.

This work contains a curious mixture of bibliographic citations and addresses of chambers of commerce and export promotion agencies in one alphabetical listing within its country-by-country arrangement, although both kinds of information are not consistently included for all countries. It sometimes cites items that are worthwhile publications indeed but are not relevant to the subject of Latin American business. For example, the Caribbean section includes *Personalities Caribbean*, a who's who type of publication. While biographical data is undeniably useful in business, it is peripheral in the context of this publication. *Personalities Caribbean* is the only biographical work cited in the entire bibliography, although many others are available on various countries and could have been included had the compiler decided that current biography was one of the categories necessary for a bibliography on Latin American business.

Coverage of business information sources for individual countries is very uneven. The major sources for some countries—Argentina and Mexico, for example—are given fair coverage. In other cases, however, the publications listed seem to have been selected haphazardly,



while important and potentially very useful titles are ignored. Nicaragua is a case in point. The only information source of any kind listed under that country's name is *Barricada Internacional*, the official newspaper of the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional, which began publication in July of 1981. While *Barricada Internacional* would certainly be extremely relevant to any study of contemporary Nicaragua, it would not be the first choice as a source of business information, except possibly for purposes of a country risk analysis. A number of up-to-date business information sources were published by the Nicaraguan government and the Cámara de Comercio de Nicaragua at about the same time or slightly earlier than *Barricada Internacional* began publication, but they are not cited.<sup>4</sup>

As a result, *Business and Information Sources of Latin America and the Caribbean* should not be relied upon as the sole source of information about the bibliography of Latin American business. It should be used instead in conjunction with other sources, none of which are complete or outstanding; when all of them are used together, they should provide a reasonably good idea of what is available in the field. One complementary 1970 publication, the *Reference Manual on Doing Business in Latin America*, contains a significant amount of additional bibliography, albeit inconveniently interspersed throughout a text containing a potpourri of factual business information.

Works of a general nature that deal with individual countries should not be overlooked. Two recent examples from the ABC-Clio World Bibliographical Series are *Belize* by Ralph Lee Woodward and *Haiti* by Frances Chambers. Both works cite publications intended for those interested in doing business with these two countries, areas for which this kind of data is often difficult to locate.

Researchers with more academically oriented interests in specific countries should look for bibliographies published in the country in question, such as two recent Mexican publications. The *Bibliografía general del desarrollo económico de México, 1500–1976*, issued by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, is a three-volume annotated bibliography with more than forty-six hundred entries. It provides information about Mexico's economic structure and processes over a period of 475 years, thereby promoting an understanding of Mexico's historical development in relation to its present economic situation. Another multivolume work, the *Bibliografía de historia económica y social de México*, by Diego López Rosado, locates chapters within monographs and cites articles in reference works that deal with many aspects of Mexican economic and social history. Labor relations, landownership and colonization, foreign and domestic trade, and monetary and credit systems are some of the subjects treated in the slim volumes comprising the set. At least nine volumes have been issued to date.

A useful bibliographic survey of the economic and social life of Argentina is *Argentina, 1875–1975, población, economía, sociedad: estudio temático y bibliográfico* by Sergio Bagú. It is an especially good source of information about government publications and publications of institutions associated with those aspects of Argentine life noted in the title.

Finally, topical bibliographies that focus on important aspects of business and economics are available. A recent example is the *Bibliografía analítica sobre empresas transnacionales* by Edgardo Lifschitz. Its 3,815 annotated entries deal with management and corporation policies, investment strategies, regulatory legislation, the influence of transnational corporations on political and cultural activities, and value judgments across the political spectrum on transnational corporations.

No single publication comprehensively covers the bibliography of the social sciences as they relate to Latin America, and one probably never will, given the large number of academic disciplines that the term “social sciences” encompasses and the myriad topics and subtopics that might be considered a part of each one. When all of these subjects are multiplied by the many countries, the larger regions, and the smaller geopolitical units that comprise Latin America, the difficulties inherent in such an undertaking become obvious.

Nevertheless, a great deal of bibliographic information is available. General bibliographies can be consulted in combination with those specializing in specific geographic areas, time periods, and subjects. On-line data bases can be very useful in locating the most recent information and in systematically and speedily surveying the content of a large number of publications. But the judicious user must understand their limitations, including possible time-lag problems in acquiring and processing recent bibliographic data from Latin America. The bibliographies reviewed here and the recent complementary works described are merely representative of a much larger body of valuable and diverse bibliographic information.

## NOTES

1. Finan and Child, *Latin American International Relations*, entries no. 519, p. 75; no. 500, p. 73; and no. 1185, p. 176, respectively.
2. A few examples of items published by the Secretaría de Programación y Presupuesto in 1979 are: *Manual de estadísticas básicas sociodemográficas*; *La población de México: su ocupación y sus niveles de bienestar*; and *Información financiera de empresas mexicanas. Statistics on the Mexican Economy*, issued in 1977 by Nacional Financiera, was also omitted.
3. Inter-American Statistical Institute, *Bibliography of Selected Statistical Sources*, title page.
4. The *Boletín Comercial de la Cámara de Comercio de Nicaragua*, with its news of meetings and exhibitions as well as texts of new laws and decrees affecting business, is an example of a publication intended for a business audience, as is *Mundo Comercial: Revista Oficial de la Cámara de Comercio de Nicaragua*. Business publications of the

Nicaraguan government include *Directorio de exportadores: Export Directory*, a bilingual text listing export products, exporters, and agencies that facilitate both imports and exports, and the *Boletín Informativo del Ministerio de Comercio Exterior y Sus Empresas*. The Organization of American States' own publication, *A Statement of the Laws of Nicaragua in Matters Affecting Business*, is not even mentioned, nor are its parallel publications for any of the other countries covered, although more than a dozen such titles were available.

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