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And They Were There-Reports of Meetings-Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM)

Sever Bordeianu

University of New Mexico, sbordeia@unm.edu

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requiring it, and 13% of jobs in 1998-2000, and 3% of jobs in 1998-2000 requiring candidates to have experience in managing automated systems.

Although not widespread, several new prerequisites began to appear in position advertisements from 1998-2000. These include: license management/negotiation (9%), familiarity with digital/electronic publishing trends (23%), experience with digital information (3%), and knowledge of SGML, HTML, or ability to create Web pages (desired in 6% of advertisements).

Job Duties

No advertisement can provide a comprehensive list of duties, but the duties that are chosen can reflect current priorities. Supervision of staff is less frequently mentioned explicitly, with 30% of advertisements from 1988-1990 mentioning it, but only 23% of advertisements from 1998-2000. Drafting or reviewing procedures experiences a slight drop, from 9% to 6%.

Monitoring or managing budgets remains steady with 30% in 1988-1990 and 32% in 1998-2000, and vendor relations or management increases from 21% of advertisements to 32% in 1998-2000.

Duties mentioned only in 1998-2000 include: managing/negotiating licenses or contracts (26%), monitoring trends in digital/elec-

tronic publications (16%), acquiring electronic resources (6%), and serving as liaison to faculty for electronic resources (3%).

Job Titles and Job Availability

The number of acquisitions positions also drops, from 65 to 28. The number of jobs acquisitions/collection development librarians remains constant (8% in 1988-1990, 7% in 1998-2000), while job titles involving acquisitions/serials jump from 8% to 21%, perhaps reflecting an increase in mergers of serials and acquisitions departments. Jobs titles such as "Head of Acquisitions," "Head of Acquisitions Department," "Acquisitions Librarian—Department Head," and "Chief of Acquisitions" drop slightly from 37% to 32%, and "Acquisitions Librarian" plunges from 28% to 3% of job titles mentioned in advertisements. "Acquisitions Coordinator" or "Coordinator of Acquisitions," which do not appear in 1988-1990, make up 14% of job titles advertised in 1998-2000. The declining number of available jobs, the increase in the percentage of job titles indicating responsibility for other areas of librarianship, and the decrease in the number of job titles reflecting department head or unit head status, all suggest a flattening of the hierarchy in acquisitions positions.

Conclusion

Changes in acquiring and disseminating information technology have dramatically altered the ways in which libraries function. Libraries expend a significant portion of their budgets to subscribe to online resources, and must

find ways to afford not only online resources, but the staff needed to ensure accessibility to these resources. At the same time, many libraries are consciously making efforts to flatten their hierarchies. Changes in job advertisements for acquisitions librarians over the past decade perhaps reflect these trends. Acquisitions positions require slightly less prior experience than previously. Moreover, they are less likely to require supervisory ability or explicitly mention supervision of staff; instead, they more often tend to mention collegiality and teamwork as required skills and job duties for acquisitions positions. Not surprisingly, there are few positions whose job titles emphasize department head status. At the same time, there are more positions which combine monographic acquisitions with serials or collection development, and several positions are now described as co-ordinators, rather than department heads. Technological change has also impacted acquisitions librarianship, with advertisements now seeking the ability to negotiate licenses, work with automated systems, and monitor digital publishing trends.

Acquisitions librarian positions have sometimes changed to absorb duties needed to cope with technological change. However, the significant drop in the number of positions advertised, at a time when new types of positions appear to be proliferating and when the number of positions advertised seems to be constant, suggests that positions previously allocated to acquisitions may be allocated elsewhere.

And They Were There

Reports of Meetings — SALALM

Column Editor: **Sever Bordeianu** (University of New Mexico)
<sbordeia@unm.edu>

46th Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM)
"Latin American Identities: Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality"
May 26-29, 2001, Arizona State University Libraries, Tempe, Arizona

Report by **Claire-Lise BÉnaud** and **Sharon Moynahan**
(University of New Mexico General Library)

"*Latin American Identities: Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality*" was the focus of the **46th Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM)** held May 26-29, 2001 in Tempe, Arizona. Sponsored by **Arizona State University Libraries**, the conference, which hosted librarians and book dealers from the United States, Latin America, and Europe, examined the theoretical and practical impact of the theme topics on library collections and services. Participants also used the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the nuts and bolts issues that affect libraries and book sellers locally, regionally, and around the globe. Conference organizer **Orchid Mazurkiewicz** and

her local arrangements committee set the stage for an outstanding conference that explored all aspects of library activity. At the book exhibits, librarians and vendors explored publishing activity, discussed commercial issues, and forged the business and personal relationships so important to acquisitions and collections. Committees on cataloging, reference, library cooperation and other important topics met throughout the conference. Regional affiliations covering California, the Midwest, Southeast and Northeast also met.

SALALM president **Victor Torres** of the **Universidad de Puerto Rico** opened the conference and welcome this year's participants. After introducing the conference theme, he

thanked the host institution. **Sherrie Schmidt**, Dean of **University Libraries at Arizona State University**, warmly welcomed the participants and encouraged them to visit the University's libraries and the city's numerous museums and cultural attractions in defiance of outside temperatures which topped 109 degrees.

Following these warm welcomes, **Cecilia Puerto** announced the winner of the **José Toribio Medina Award**. The award is given annually, if merited, to SALALM members for outstanding bibliographic or reference works that support Latin American Studies. This year the recipient was **Ilana Sonntag Blay** for *Twentieth-Century Poetry from Spanish America: an Index to Spanish Language and Bilingual Anthologies*. Three **Enlace** travel awards recipients were also introduced to the assembled membership. **Enlace** is a SALALM program designed to bring librarians from Latin America to the conference. They were **Eloisa Vargas**, Librarian at the

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Museo Nacional de Etnología y Folklore in La Paz, Bolivia, **Ricardo Rodríguez Pereyra**, Head Librarian at the **Universidad Torcuato de Tella** in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and **Carlos Alberto Zapata Cárdenas**, Head of Technical Services at the **Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango** in Bogotá, Colombia. **Enlace** colleagues present papers on the conference theme or other subjects of interest. This year, the presentations of the **Enlace** recipients were so well integrated into the theme of the conference that they were assimilated into several of the existing panels.

The theme panel "**Women, Gender and Sexuality**," showed how women's roles changed in the 20th century. **Asunción Lavrin**, **Arizona State University**, contrasted Latin American icons such as **Eva Perón**, **Frida Kahlo**, and **Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz** who have been intensely studied, with regular Latin American women, who only began to receive attention in the 1970s. She contrasted "marianismo," the Latin American feminist movement named after the Virgin Mary with "machismo." Marianismo sees women as "supermadres." The Argentinean mothers marching on the **Plaza de Mayo** in Buenos Aires are a good example of this movement. Despite these changes, the Latin American political scene is still occupied by men. While marianismo studies are now commonplace, little is written about machismo, or the studies of men. Likewise, **Donna Guy**, **University of Arizona**, spoke of the centrality of male oppression in Latin American society. She showed how modern Latin American gender and sexuality is affected by culture, race, religion, and capitalism and argued that today the state has replaced the church in establishing sexuality values. **Lynn Stoner**, **Arizona State University**, focused exclusively on Cuban women. The female combatant is a very important figure in Cuban society from Independence days to the Cuban revolution. Warrior women symbolize loyalty, sacrifice, and strength. They could fight like men and die for liberty. **Castro** himself surrounded himself with women. Many participated in the Moncada Attack and were captured or killed.

In the panel "**Archival Sources for Research in Gender and Sexuality**," **Guillermo Naez Falcón** of **Tulane University**, presented several documents from the **Latin American Library at Tulane**, which dealt with legal cases in colonial Mexico having to do with sexuality. Most cases speak of seduced, and then abandoned, women, and of sexual misconduct. Several cases were charges against Catholic priests. Others were lawsuits for breach of promise, where suitors promised to marry but then refused to follow through. These documents give the modern reader a very good idea of what constituted scandalous behaviors regarding women in colonial Mexican times.

It also showed how ecclesiastical authorities regulated sexuality and sexual behaviors, especially premarital sex. **Paul Barry**, also of **Tulane University**, presented newspaper articles about the "Famous 41," a police raid which took place in Mexico City in 1901 involving a homosexual party with 41 participants. This episode marked the beginning of a discourse in Mexico about homosexuality. However, publishing about unconventional sexual practices only began in Mexico in the 1990s. He also showed photographs of early Mexico and interpreted them in a sexual context.

Jennifer Joseph and **Elmelinda Lara**, both from the **University of the West Indies** in Trinidad and Tobago, discussed the role of education in women's lives and the scourge of domestic violence. Trinidad and Tobago is a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and a multi-religious society, which was colonized by the British, the French, and the Spanish. It also had slaves and once slavery was abolished, indentured laborers from China, India, and Portugal. **Joseph** gave a brief history of women's education from the 19th century — when education was gender-specific, only available to boys, following the British system — to today. Education for both sexes became compulsory in the 1960s but despite advances, women do not hold the highest positions in government. **Lara** described the recent upsurge in domestic violence, especially wife beating. She discussed various organizations which attempt to find solutions adapted to the various family structures — based on race, religion, ethnicity, etc. — existing on the islands. Corporal punishment at school, a British practice which is no longer allowed, may also play a role in domestic violence. Likewise, Calypso music celebrated wife beating until recently. **Lourdes Vásquez** of **Rutgers University** described the difficulty of collecting for Latin American women's studies. Feminist publications such as journals and newsletters, radio programs, and posters are not part of approval plans. She also presented various Webpages dedicated to women, especially **REPEN**, a network based in Uruguay.

In "**Gender and Cinema**," **David Foster** described the production of gay movies in Latin America today, from almost non-existent in Brazil to quite open in Mexico. Gay characters are present in some movies, but are usually in the background. Terminology remains an issue: there is no translation of the word "queer" in Spanish. **Jose Fuster Retali**, speaking of Argentinean movies, contrasted the role of women as mothers against the role of women outside of the family. The message presented reinforced the dichotomy between "la Virgen" and "la prostituta."

In addition to thematic panels, the everyday concerns of research libraries also received considerable attention. Access issues were discussed in many arenas. Two panels focused specifically on the issues of com-

puter and catalog access. "**From Covers to Content: the Ongoing Challenges in Cataloging**," moderated by **Claire-Lise Bénéaud** of the **University of New Mexico**, examined the challenges of using Web databases to catalog non-standard collections, in this case the book covers of the **Botas** publishing house in Mexico City, and then looked at the cataloging issues surrounding vendor-generated records on **OCLC** and the dilemma of English-language upgrades of records supplied by foreign libraries. Panel participants included **Elizabeth Steinhagen**, **Chris Mueller**, **Claire-Lise Bénéaud**, and **Sharon Moynahan**, all from the **University of New Mexico Catalog Services Department**.

"**Enhancing Access to Latin American Resources**," moderated by **Nancy Hallock** of **Harvard University**, looked at another database, this time an index to Caribbean newspapers at the **University of Florida**. **Richard Phillips** described efforts to use free text, abstracts, and database technology to provide some access to these hard to find serials. Following this presentation, **Cecilia Sercan** of **Cornell University** gave a summary and very useful examination of the issues attached to each field in the Dublin Core.

Other panels examined access and digital issues. "**Can We Assure Access to Latin American Newspapers?**" moderated by **Fernando Acosta-Rodríguez** of the **New York Public Library (NYPL)**, featured a discussion of Latin Americanist "heavy weights" (in reputation only) such as **Denise Hibay**, also of **NYPL**, **David Block** of **Cornell University**, **Dan Hazen** of **Harvard**, **Edmundo Flores** of the **Library of Congress**, and **Alfredo Montalvo** of **Libros Andinos**. "**The Changing Reference Environment in the Digital Library**," moderated by **Mina Jane Grothey** of the **University of New Mexico** featured papers by **Georgette Dorn** of **LC**, **Trina Carter** of the **University of New Mexico** and **Micaela Chávez** of **El Colegio de México**.

No **SALALM** conference is complete without dancing, and this year's **Libreros** reception was no exception. The **SALALM** bookdealers put on a splendid party with hot Latin music so that librarians could shed their staid and quiet images. A quieter but very edible reception was hosted by **Arizona State University Library** at the **Daniel E. Noble Science and Engineering Library**. Serenaded by mariachi music, attendees enjoyed the chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Next year's conference, June 1-5 in Ithaca, New York, will be hosted by **Cornell University**. **David Block**, **Cecilia Sercan**, and the local arrangements committee team can be counted on to provide a splendid venue for the meeting. Next year's theme, just announced by incoming **SALALM** president **Denise Hibay** of **NYPL**, will be "**Trends and Traditions in Latin American and Caribbean History**." It too should prove to be of interest to the association's membership. 🍌