

# COOPERATION IN THE PUBLICATION OF BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHIC WORKS: The Hispanic American Periodicals Index

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Library cooperation on regional and statewide levels has helped to expand significantly the collections of individual research libraries through cooperative purchasing policies, cataloging networks, union lists, interlibrary loan services and other means. However, access to the contents of these materials is also essential if this vast body of information is to be utilized fully. Books on specific topics can be found with relative ease by searching library subject catalogs, printed bibliographies, and specialized data bases. On the other hand, the wealth of information that appears regularly in periodical literature is all but lost unless it is adequately indexed.

Library catalogs do not list periodical articles. Frequently, they fail to include even the journal titles under identifiable subject headings. While many bibliographies do cite journal articles, their coverage is highly selective and quickly outdated. Indexes are published on a regular basis; their purpose is to provide the researcher with thorough, systematic author and subject access to current articles appearing in a selected number of publications during a specific period of time. In fields where journal articles are of primary research value because of their currency, or where information is sought on a topic about which very little has been written, up-to-date indexing is particularly important. Yet periodicals of interest to Latin Americanists have not been indexed as a group since the OAS-sponsored *Index to Latin American Periodicals* ceased publication in 1970. Most of the journals which are being indexed are U.S. publications scattered through a variety of general sources and indexes organized along disciplinary lines designed for other purposes.

The *Hispanic American Periodicals Index* (HAPI) was conceived at Arizona State University in 1973 as a demonstration project to prove the feasibility of filling this serious gap in Latin American serial bibliography. From the beginning it was a cooperative effort, made possible only through university-wide support. With the assistance of the ASU Center for Latin American Studies, HAPI received a small one-year faculty research grant from the university; research assistance from several academic departments interested in Latin American studies; free use of materials, work space, keypunch services, and computer time from the library; and programming assistance from the univer-

sity computer center. Using automated techniques adapted from programs designed for other indexes on campus, the experiment produced three quarterly issues in 1974 and culminated in an annual volume which contained approximately fifteen thousand entries representing articles found in current serials at the ASU library. Copies of the reduced printout were sold to more than 150 other institutions throughout the U.S. and abroad.

The prototype HAPI clearly proved the need for access to articles in current Latin American periodicals, but it suffered from a lack of funding and from dependency on the holdings of a single library. To support the editorial staff required to produce the index, to improve the format, and to publish the resulting work, additional funds were needed both from university and outside sources.

The funds were obtained in July 1976 through the award of a two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the UCLA Latin American Center. The university agreed to underwrite the cost of designing a sophisticated new computer software system that will produce well-formatted camera-ready copy while creating a cumulative data base capable of being manipulated to extract a variety of specialized lists at a later time. The NDEA-sponsored Latin American Center supports a strong, well-funded publications program dedicated to the dissemination of important materials in the field of Latin American bibliography. HAPI will be published as an adjunct to the center's reference series with the expectation that sufficient revenue will be generated through the sale of subscriptions and specialized lists to cover its production costs completely by the end of the grant period. This eventual self-support would be impossible were the project dependent on royalties paid by an outside publisher.

The problem of coverage and journal costs was again solved through cooperation. SALALM, the international association of Latin American librarians, offered the index its full support in 1975. Under the auspices of the SALALM Committee on Bibliography an advisory board was formed to help expand the number of journals indexed and to recommend volunteers from the membership to assist in indexing periodicals unique to their collections.

At present, twenty-eight professors and Latin American library specialists from twenty institutions have agreed to index on a regular basis nearly two hundred and fifty journals in the areas of the social sciences and the humanities. The collections made available to the project through the assistance of these contributors include the Library of Congress, the Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of London, the State University College at Buffalo, and the Universities of Texas at Austin, Arizona and Arizona State, Cornell, Florida at Gainesville, Wisconsin at Madison, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Illinois, Ohio State, Western Carolina, Houston, Detroit, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania State, and California at Riverside, Irvine and Los Angeles. As more assistance is offered, more titles will be included. It is hoped that within a few years the index will cover approximately four hundred journals.

The materials selected for indexing include regularly issued serial publications from university and commercial presses, scholarly societies, state and federal government agencies, and international organizations. Publications of

businesses and professional societies have been deemphasized, but are not strictly excluded. The journals have been chosen primarily on the basis of their research value. Although they encompass a wide range of editorial perspective, all contain substantive articles of interest to scholars. Popular journals, news magazines, and institutional news bulletins have been uniformly excluded. Within this framework, consideration has also been given to providing geographical and subject area balance.

HAPI will include articles written in English, Spanish, Portuguese and other Western European languages, and will cover all of Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean area. Of the 235 journals on the present list, 91 are published in ten South American countries including Brazil, 41 originate in Mexico, 15 in Central America, 25 in the Caribbean area, 38 in North America and 25 in various European countries.

Subject area coverage is balanced among the disciplines of the social sciences and the humanities. Eighty of the journals contain articles pertaining to the traditional humanistic fields of art, music, philosophy, philology, literature, film, communications, and bibliography. Fifty-four cover history, geography, folklore, archaeology and anthropology. Thirty-nine are general cultural journals which publish articles in both the humanities and the social sciences, and sixty-two titles are devoted exclusively to fields in the social sciences, including economics, finance, development and planning, political science, international relations, education and sociology. Only the pure, statistical, and technical sciences have been excluded as there is comparatively little material published in those areas, and that which exists is covered adequately by other sources.

The index will be divided into separate author and subject lists, with the same article appearing up to five times under pertinent subject headings. Hard-to-find information such as book and film reviews, archaeological site reports, and original works of creative writing will appear under direct subject headings as well as under related topical headings. In addition, "see also" and cross references will be provided to guide the user with maximum ease to the information he seeks. An invaluable aid to hispanists, HAPI has been designed for wide use by all faculty members, students, businessmen and individual researchers whose work in specific areas of the social sciences and humanities involves Latin America.

The first volume of the expanded HAPI will cover articles that appeared in 1975, and is scheduled for publication in Fall 1977. Subsequent annual volumes will be prepared as quickly as possible until the index becomes current. Plans are also underway for the production of retrospective volumes to cover the gap between 1970, when the previous index ceased publication, and 1974, when the prototype HAPI appeared.