

US Latino Studies: Collection Development Policy

Objectives of the Policy Statement

The US Latino Studies Collection Development Policy Statement and its selection criteria are intended to articulate guidelines needed to build and maintain a relevant collection of consistent quality and usefulness, to clarify responsibility for building and maintaining the collection, set parameters for the scope of the collection, and to provide rationales for selection and retention decisions. This document is used by the Library's Ethnic Studies & Diversity subject librarian as a planning and working tool to insure consistent and balanced growth and maintenance of the Library's Latino Studies collection, and to aid in communicating these guidelines to the students, faculty, and staff of the Iowa State University community.

I. General Purpose

The US Latino Studies Collection of Parks Library is designed to support study, instruction, and research in the interdisciplinary field of Latino Studies at the higher education level. Latino Studies materials are defined as those materials dealing with the experiences of Mexican Americans (Chicanos), Puerto Ricans (both in the US and the island of Puerto Rico), Cuban Americans, and all other Latino groups living in the United States. Collection emphasis is on the social sciences and the humanities; scholarly and authoritative informational works, appropriate for use at undergraduate, graduate, and research levels, are selected. Popular treatment occasionally may be selected to serve patron needs. Primary clientele of this collection are students and faculty in the Latino Studies Program, students enrolled in classes meeting the University's diversity requirement, and all others interested in US Latino perspectives and contributions. Since patrons represent a wide variety of demands, resources not specifically related to the curriculum are provided. In addition, Latinos now comprise the largest racial / ethnic minority group in the United States as well as the largest such group in the state of Iowa.

II. History

ISU's interdisciplinary Latino Studies Program was initiated in 1993 and may still be the only formal U.S. Latino Studies Program in the state of Iowa offered at any of the three Regents Institutions. In 1993, a committee was formed to initiate a formal and interdisciplinary undergraduate program in Latino Studies at ISU. In the Spring semester of 1994, the first class in Latino Studies was offered. At its inception, the Latino Studies Program consisted of one faculty position. For a period of time, the Program was able to add both faculty positions and new courses with each passing year. Professor Héctor Avalos was instrumental in founding the Latino Studies Program in 1994, and was named that same year as the program's first director, a position he held until 2007. In August 2007, Professor Loreto

Prieto was named the new director of the program. In 2015, Prof. Chad Gasta of the World Languages & Cultures Dept. was named interim director of US Latino Studies.

Before the establishment of the Latino Studies Program, ISU Library holdings relevant to the Latino experience in the U.S. were limited. Since that time, the collection has grown significantly in terms of number of monographs, serial titles, DVDs and videos, online bibliographic indexes, digital texts, web resources and microforms held, as well as in the diversity of Latino experiences and cultures now reflected in the collections.

In 2005, ISU created the Center for American Intercultural Studies (CAIS) as a means to pull together the various racial and ethnic studies (African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Latino Studies, and the then nascent Asian American Studies) programs into one entity. Prof. Eugenio Matibag, from the World Languages & Cultures department and the Asian American Studies program, was named director of CAIS. Prof. Prieto continued as director of the US Latino Studies Program.

In 2010, the ISU Library took on a team-based approach to collection development, in part due to materials acquisition technology changes. The previously separate collection development funds in African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, Latino Studies, Women's and Gender Studies Program (formerly, Women's Studies Program) were pooled to create the "Diversity and Cultural Studies" (DCS) fund. At the same time, the various World Languages & Cultures funds (Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Russian, Arabic) were pooled and folded with DCS into the new Languages & Cultural Studies (LCS) collection development team. The DCS collection development team was comprised of three librarians and functioned by consensus in acquisition decisions for materials supporting these various subject areas, and collaborating as LCS with the WLC librarian to make group decisions relevant to the broader subject area. In FY13, the Library reverted back to its previous model of individual subject librarians making selection decisions in their specific areas. Since that time, the ES&D subject librarian resumed primary responsibilities for collecting in US Latino Studies.

Circa FY15, ISU discontinued its support for the CAIS. The individual ethnic studies programs were distributed among various departments in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. The US Latino/a Studies Program was housed in the World Languages & Cultures Department. Prof. Chad Gasta of that department was named as interim director of the Latino Studies program. In 2017, Prof. Lucía Suárez, of the World Languages & Cultures Department, was named director of the US Latino/a Studies program.

III. Programs Supported: Latino/a Studies Program; the ISU Undergraduate Diversity Requirement

The interdisciplinary Latino Studies Program includes coursework in a number of scholarly fields. Departments represented have included Religious Studies, Sociology, English, History, Political Science, and Psychology. Research topics emphasized in Latino Studies coursework have included the following: religious behavior of Latinos; Latino experience(s) in the U.S.;

legal and historical aspects of immigration; Latino literature, and Latino history.

The Undergraduate Diversity Requirement was initiated in the Fall of 1997, and requires that every undergraduate student take at least three credit hours each of approved U.S. diversity-related and international-related course work. Courses in the Latino/a Studies program make important contributions to this requirement.

IV. Subject Boundaries

In general, classification schemes do not well describe the interdisciplinary nature of Latino Studies. It is the primary responsibility of the Ethnic Studies & Diversity (ES&D) subject librarian to select U.S. Latino materials for the Library in all relevant formats and for all relevant locations in Parks Library, with collaboration and consultation with other subject librarians, as necessary. It is the responsibility of the ES&D subject librarian to make any final decisions concerning replacement, transfers, and withdrawals of U.S. Latino Studies materials in the Library. The ES&D subject librarian also makes access, location, bindery or repair recommendations, as warranted.

V. General Collection Guidelines

- a. **Linguistic:** The Latino Studies collection is primarily in English and Spanish, but there are no language restrictions and the emphasis is on appropriate material in any language.
- b. **Geographical areas:** Selection of materials is not geographically based, in that all materials judged to be topically relevant to U.S. Latino Studies are considered for inclusion in the collection regardless of place or country of publication.
- c. **Types of materials collected:** All types of materials are considered for selection, taking into consideration issues such as potential use, budgetary concerns, and other relevant issues, as necessary. In general, all types of materials treating U.S. Latino experiences will be considered for acquisition. Latin American materials are also considered on a selective basis, in support of the Program curriculum. Currently, collection intensity centers on monographs, serials, videos, and digital texts.
- d. **Format of materials collected:** All formats are considered for selection, taking into consideration issues such as budgetary concerns, accessibility of format (especially when a resource exists in multiple formats), and other relevant issues, as necessary. In general, all formats treating U.S. Latino experiences will be considered for acquisition. Special emphasis is given to collecting digital (electronic) formats to broaden access for users, including streaming video, ebooks, and ejournals.
- e. **Chronological:** In general, both current and retrospective materials are selected for the collection, with the aim being to acquire and retain authoritative works and those of historical interest and research value. Superseded or out-of-date editions may be

transferred to a storage facility or withdrawn. In terms of material content or chronological periods covered, all periods of history relevant to U.S. Latino Studies are considered.

VI a. Specific Collection Guidelines

Collection intensity will be focused on the following core areas in the humanities and social sciences, based particularly on the curriculum of the Latino Studies Program, with the aim being to achieve **research level collections** in these areas:

- History of Latinos in the United States and in Puerto Rico
- Literature and poetic works by Latino authors; literary criticism of Latino literature, and related works
- Political science and policy issues relevant to Latinos in the United States and in Puerto Rico
- Religion and religious practices of U.S. Latinos
- Sociology and sociological treatment of Latino Studies topics, cultures, and issues
- Women's & gender studies materials and issues relevant to U.S. Latinas/os

Supplemental materials will be selected in other areas of the humanities, social sciences, and current events with the aim being to achieve **basic resource level collections** in areas such as the following:

- Art and visual creative works by or about U.S. Latinos
- Leisure reading materials relevant to or presenting Latino perspectives
- Music and ethnomusicology by or about U.S. Latinos

Materials in other disciplines may be selected in consultation and collaboration with other subject librarians, with the aim being collectively to achieve from **basic resource level to research level collections** in areas such as the following:

- Education materials and issues relevant to U.S. Latinos
- Legal materials and issues relevant to U.S. Latinos
- Music and ethnomusicology by or about Latinos
- Political science and policy issues relevant to Latinos in the United States
- Professional issues relevant to U.S. Latinos

VI b. Out of scope subjects, or, materials not collected

Juvenile materials: Primary juvenile materials (meaning materials intended for a pre-school, elementary, middle school or young adult level audience) are not collected, except in the case of occasional children's works by prominent literary authors or poets. Secondary materials, such as bibliographies, finding tools, and original scholarly research on the topic of children's materials as relevant to Latino populations in the United States, may be collected in consultation with other subject librarians, as necessary.

Latin American materials: Materials with an *exclusive* focus on Latin America or individual Latin American nations, issues, and other concerns **are selectively** acquired by the ES&D subject librarian when deemed specifically relevant to the Latino Studies curriculum. Requests for Latin American materials may also be referred to other subject librarians. Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican materials are an exception since Puerto Ricans are simultaneously US Latinos *and* Latin Americans, regardless of residence. Such materials are the responsibility of the ES&D subject librarian.

Multicultural anthologies or collected works: These consist of anthologies or readers that collect a number of essays on different topics within a given unifying theme. Multicultural anthologies will be considered by the ES&D subject librarian.

VII. Detailed Subject Areas

See sections VI a and b above.

VIII. Other Resources Available

Important US Latino Studies collections are available predominantly at research institutions in states at great physical distance from Iowa. These include the University of Texas, Austin, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Santa Barbara, CUNY / Hunter College, and the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Collections of comparable intensity are located at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and the University of Indiana, Bloomington. Within the state of Iowa, Iowa State University has the strongest US Latino library collections and services.

IX. Cross-references to other related Collection Policies

African American Studies

American Indian Studies

Asian American Studies

General Diversity Studies

X. Subject Librarian

Susan A. Vega García is the Ethnic Studies & Diversity subject librarian at Iowa State University, and is responsible for building and maintaining the Library's collections in African American Studies, American Indian Studies, US Latino Studies, and all other US racial / ethnic groups and US Diversity areas, with the exclusion of Asian American Studies.

Statement on Intellectual Freedom

The Iowa State University Library supports the American Library Association's position on intellectual freedom, as set forth in the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read policy, and

other ALA policies, procedures, resolutions and guidelines resisting censorship and protecting the freedom to read. Selection decisions for library materials are made in accordance with the Library Bill of Rights, which specifies that no materials should be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of its creators that materials selected should reflect differing points of view on current and historical issues, that materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval, and that libraries shall challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

Comments: savega@iastate.edu

Subject Librarian: Susan A. Vega García

Iowa State University Library, Ames, IA 50011

Last updated: Sept. 17, 2018

Previous updates: Nov. 23, 2015; August 6, 2012; August 18, 2011; 24 January 2007.

Created: August 1998.