

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 to 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 Racial & Ethnic Studies bibliographer as a planning and working tool to insure consistent and balanced growth and maintenance of the Library's Latino 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 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 remains the only formal U.S. Latino Studies Program in the state of Iowa offered at any of the three Regent's 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. Since that time, the Program has been 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 held until 2007. Search for a new director began in Winter 2007.

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 substantially in terms of number of monographs, serial titles, videos, cd-roms, bibliographic indexes, web resources and microforms held, as well as in diversity of Latino experiences and cultures now reflected in the collections.

III. Iowa State University & the Latino/a Studies Program

The interdisciplinary Latino Studies Program includes coursework in a number of scholarly fields. Departments currently represented include Religious Studies, Sociology, English, and History. 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. The ISU Center for American Intercultural Studies (CAIS) was initiated in Fall 2005. The Latino Studies Program is affiliated with the Center, along with African American Studies, American Indian Studies, and the Asian American Studies Program.

IV. Subject Boundaries

In general, classification schemes do not well describe the interdisciplinary nature of Latino Studies. It is the primary responsibility of the Racial and Ethnic Studies bibliographer 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 bibliographers in other subject areas and in Reference, as necessary. It is the responsibility of the Racial and Ethnic Studies bibliographer to make any final decisions concerning replacement, transfers, and withdrawals of U.S. Latino Studies materials in the Library. The Racial and Ethnic Studies bibliographer also may make bindery or repair recommendations, as warranted.

V. General Collection Guidelines

a. Linguistic: The Latino Studies collection is primarily in English or Spanish, or a mixture of both, 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. 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.

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, 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 studies materials and issues relevant to U.S. Latinas

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 area bibliographers, 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 junior high level audience) are not generally collected, except in the case of occasional children's works by prominent literary authors or poets. Requests for children's materials will normally be forwarded to the children's bibliographer for consideration. 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 the children's bibliographer and reference bibliographers, as necessary.

Latin American materials: Materials with an *exclusive* focus on Latin America or individual Latin American nations, issues, and other concerns are not collected, and are to be distinguished from those materials focusing on the experiences of Mexican Americans (Chicanos), Puerto Ricans (in the United States and in Puerto Rico), Cuban Americans, and other Latinos (including Latin American immigrants) living in the United States. Requests for Latin American materials will normally be referred to other bibliographers. Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican materials are the one exception, however, since Puerto Ricans are simultaneously US Latinos *and* Latin Americans, regardless of residence. Therefore, such materials will be the responsibility of the Latino Studies bibliographer.

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. If the majority of chapters or essays focus on non-Latino topics or concerns, the item is out of scope for Latino Studies and may best be considered for the Racial and Ethnic Studies bibliographer's General Diversity fund line, or referred to another bibliographer.

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. Bibliographer

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

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

Bibliographer: Susan A. Vega García

Iowa State University Library, Ames, IA 50011

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