

# Coming in 2012: The Latin American and Latino Studies Digital Library

by CAROLYN PALAIMA

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**LLILAS AND THE NETTIE LEE BENSON**  
Latin American Collection (BLAC) not only share the same building, they share a common purpose in facilitating and promoting the highest level of research and intellectual

discourse for Latin American Studies. Formal recognition of our complementary relationship this past year has led to a forging of new and deepened collaboration. With LANIC, a leader in providing access to digital content on Latin America since 1992, and the Benson Latin American Collection, the leading specialized university library on Latin America in the world with a number of digital resources, the concept of merging our virtual space to build the Latin American and Latino Studies Digital Library (LALSDDL) emerged.

LALSDDL also addresses a practical concern—how in times of reduced budgets does the University of Texas continue its commitment to preeminence in Latin American resources?

Given the costs and complexity of operating a large-scale platform for acquisition, management, production and dissemination, and preservation of digital content, it was essential to consolidate as much of the content and processing as possible to fully leverage the existing server, storage, and network infrastructure of UT Libraries.

LALSDDL also will allow for integrated search across content. Users of LALSDDL will be able to search Latin American resources at UT from

a single user interface for increased discoverability and relevance. Content anchors for the initial phase of the library are LANIC, AILLA, Human Rights Documentation Initiative, and Primeros Libros, as well as pulling the Latin American content of faculty and students held in the UT Digital Repository. Content drawn from the Benson includes its collections for Mexican American and Latino studies, broadening

LALSDDL's offerings to bridge Latino and Latin America. A closer look at these anchor resources gives a glimpse of what users will find in the LALSDDL collection.

LANIC's editorially reviewed directories contain over 10,000 unique URLs, one of the largest guides for Latin American content on the Internet. Currently, LANIC's directory contains pages for 42 countries and 84 subjects. Digital projects developed and hosted by LANIC comprise the Latin American Web Archiving Project including the Latin American Government Documents Archive, the Latin American Open Archive Portal, and, under construction, the Latin American

Electronic Data Archive. LANIC also hosts extensive digital content on Latin America through its Etext Collection, including thousands of full-text books, journals, speeches, and research papers. Included are the full text of over 2,000 speeches by Fidel Castro; over 75,000 pages of Presidential Messages from Argentina and Mexico; and hundreds of papers on Latin American topics presented at conferences around the world.

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AILLA, the Archive of Indigenous Languages of Latin America, is a digital archive of recordings and texts in and about the indigenous languages of Latin America. The heart of the collection is recordings of naturally occurring discourse in a wide range of genres, including narratives, ceremonies, oratory, conversations, and songs. Many of these recordings are accompanied by transcriptions and translations in Spanish, English, or Portuguese. AILLA also publishes original literary works in indigenous languages, such as poetry, narratives, and essays. The archive also collects materials about these languages, such as grammars, dictionaries, ethnographies, and research notes. The collection comprises teaching materials for bilingual education and language revitalization programs in indigenous communities, such as primers, readers, and textbooks on a variety of subjects, written in indigenous languages.

The UT Libraries' Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI) is committed to the long-term preservation of fragile and vulnerable records of human rights struggles worldwide, the promotion and secure usage of human rights archival materials, and the advancement of human rights research and advocacy around the world. Materials cover Latin America broadly as well as country-specific documentation for El Salvador, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, and others. A project currently under construction is the holdings of the Guatemalan National Police Archive. Mexican American civil rights movements are represented in depth.

The Primeros Libros project is building a digital collection of the first books printed in Mexico before 1601. These monographs represent the first printing in the New World and provide primary sources for scholarly studies focused on a variety of academic fields. Approximately 220 unique titles are held in institutions around the world, with most held in Mexico and the United States. To date, 91 of these first books have been digitized and most are currently available on the project website. Project participants include: Biblioteca Palafoxiana in Puebla, Biblioteca José María Lafragua in Puebla, Biblioteca Franciscana in Cholula, Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, Universidad Michoacana, Centro de Documentación Histórica Vito Alessio Robles in Saltillo, Benson Latin American Collection,



Los Primeros Libros.



Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC).



Archive of Indigenous Languages of Latin America (AILLA).

Cushing Library at Texas A&M, and the Biblioteca Histórica Marqués de Valdecilla of the Universidad Complutense in Madrid.

Benson, UT Libraries, and LANIC staff have come together and a conceptual framework for LALSDDL is in place. A launch date is proposed for mid-year 2012. LALSDDL is designed for continued acquisition and integration of the evolving array of digital resources for Latin American and Latino studies. Input from the academic community on resources useful for research and teaching are most welcome. Send suggestions or comments along to <c.palaima@austin.utexas.edu>. ✨

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**DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM  
IN GLOBAL POLICY STUDIES  
WITH LILAS AND LBJ SCHOOL**

LLILAS and the LBJ School of Public Affairs offer a dual degree program leading to two graduate degrees, the Master of Global Policy Studies (MGPS) degree and the Master of Arts (MA) in Latin American Studies. Students can earn both degrees simultaneously in approximately three academic years. The program will include 70 total credits: 37 credits in Global Policy Studies and 33 in Latin American Studies. The first year of study is in the LBJ School of Public Affairs; thereafter, courses can be taken in both Latin American Studies and Public Affairs.

The dual degree combines advanced studies of globalization with a focus on the politics, economy, and cultures of Latin America. Graduates should possess substantial career flexibility and attractiveness to prospective employers in government, private industry, and the nonprofit sector.

Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI).