

The Latin American Studies Collection at
the Libraries of the University of
California, Riverside:
A Collection Map

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Background: The Latin American Studies Program at UCR

Latin American Studies has been a longstanding academic priority at the University of California Riverside. An interdisciplinary program focusing on Latin America was established on campus in 1964, with the purpose of “offering courses that explore the connections among the regions of Latin America and the multi-lingual Caribbean as well as the links between Latin America, the United States, Spain, Portugal and other places as the world moves toward an ever more integrated global system” (Neugebauer, 2008). The program currently involves faculty from 53 faculty members from 12 different academic departments, offering approximately 125 different courses with a Latin American focus (ibid.).

In order to support this program, the UCR Libraries have historically made the development of a collection of Latin American Studies-oriented materials a priority. The collection has historically collected generally at an undergraduate level (ARL level 2) with graduate and comprehensive purchasing for several countries and topics within the broad geographic region (ibid.).

Mapping the UCR Libraries’ Latin American Studies Holdings

The collection development profile for Latin American Studies at the UCR Libraries covers portions of 14 LC Classes (A,B,E,F,G,H,J,M,N,P,R,T,U,V,Z) and is composed of materials housed in all of the on-campus libraries, electronic resources located online and materials housed at the Southern Regional Library Facility in Los Angeles. The complexity of this collection, both in variety of subject matter covered as well as in the multiple locations where it may be found makes this particular collection an excellent candidate for collection mapping.

Methodology

Collection mapping is a method of tracking a library’s holdings by harvesting the collection’s data via the institution’s Integrated Library System (ILS) and then illustrating the results of these harvests using data visualizations in order to provide the librarians responsible for the collection with a visual representation of their holdings. The potential benefits of using data visualization in contrast to table or spreadsheets of raw data, is that visual representations of the data allow librarians or administrators to identify trends or patterns in the collection that might not be readily apparent by looking at the numbers alone.

In the case of the UCR Libraries’ Latin American Studies Collection, work on a collection map commenced as a result of consultations with the Libraries’ Latin American Studies Bibliographer, Rhonda Neugebauer, who provided background information on the collection itself, and a copy of the collection parameters. The purpose of the map would be to provide a picture of the size, age and general topical strengths of the collection in order to assess how effectively it was serving the needs of the faculty and students in UCR’s Latin American Studies program. In order to do so, data would be collected to provide visualizations illustrating the disciplines covered by the collection, the publishing locations of the materials held, the languages in which these materials were published, the dates of publication for the collection, and the formats of the materials held by the collection.

Performing Boolean searches of the collection via the Libraries' ILS (III Millennium) the above data would be harvested from the following sources:

Data to be Harvested	Source in the ILS
Topic of the Material	LC Call Number (MARC field 050)
Publication location of the material	Country Code fixed field (Bib record)
Publication date of the material	Date fixed field (MARC field 008)
Publication language of the material	Language fixed field (Bib record)
Format of the material	Format fixed field (Bib record)
Location of the material (within the library system)	Location fixed field (Item record)

In addition to the call number ranges provided by the Bibliographer, the following conditions were added to the Boolean search, in order to ensure that the results provided an accurate picture of what was actually on the shelf:

Condition	Reason
Catalog Date NOT EQUAL TO (blank)	Excludes uncataloged material from the search as patrons would not have access to it.
Location NOT EQUAL TO "g" (Gov Pubs)	The Latin American Studies Collection did not collect materials housed in Gov. Pubs. Furthermore, this would exclude materials cataloged according to the SUDOC system, which would include call numbers beginning with the same letters as LC Call Numbers, but dealing with different topics
Item record status NOT EQUAL TO "I", "m", "n" or "\$" (lost, missing, billed, billed & paid)	Excludes material not currently on the shelf, and thus unavailable to patrons

Following the compilation of the data from the ILS, the data was exported to an Excel spreadsheet, where the codes from the fixed fields were translated (ex: format code "a" = books, language code "por"= Portuguese, etc...) and, through the use of pivot tables, the various categories were summed. These sums were then visualized using the chart creation functions in Excel, and the online data visualization system *Target Map* (<http://www.targetmap.com>). The data illustrated below provides a snapshot of the shape, size and age of the collection when the data was harvested in late December, 2013.

Results:

Data harvesting from the UCR ILS on the Parameters listed above provided the following data:

Figure 1: Breaking down the collection by Discipline

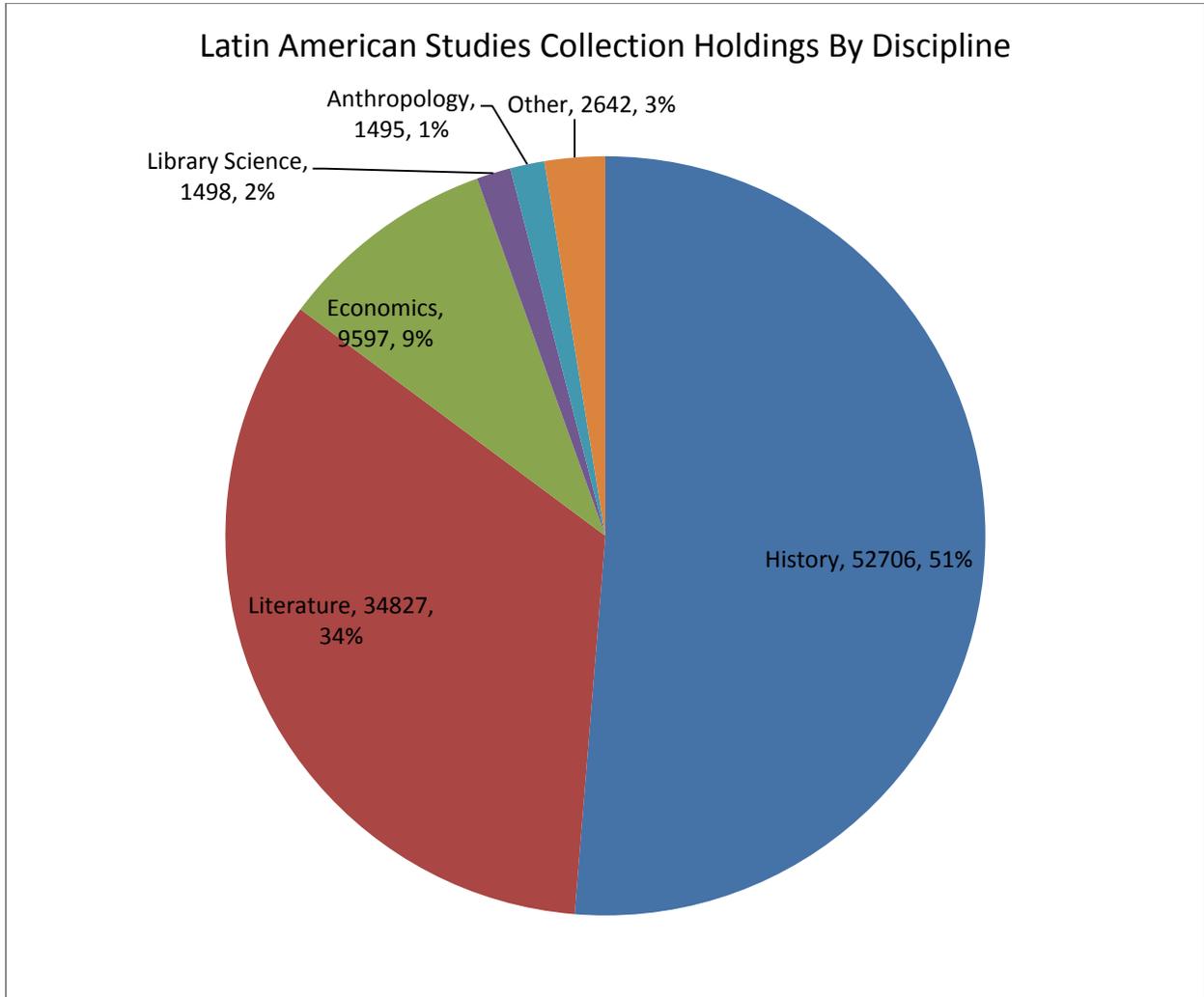


Figure 2: Breaking down the Collection by Library Location

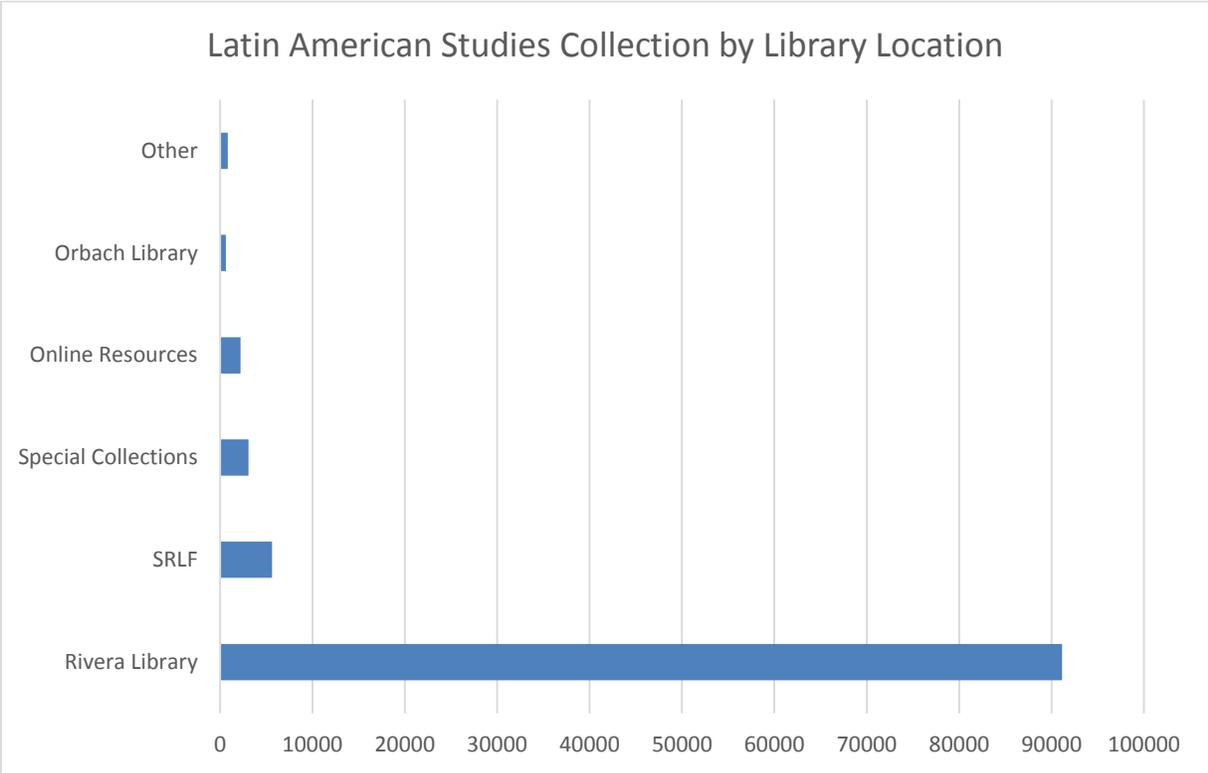
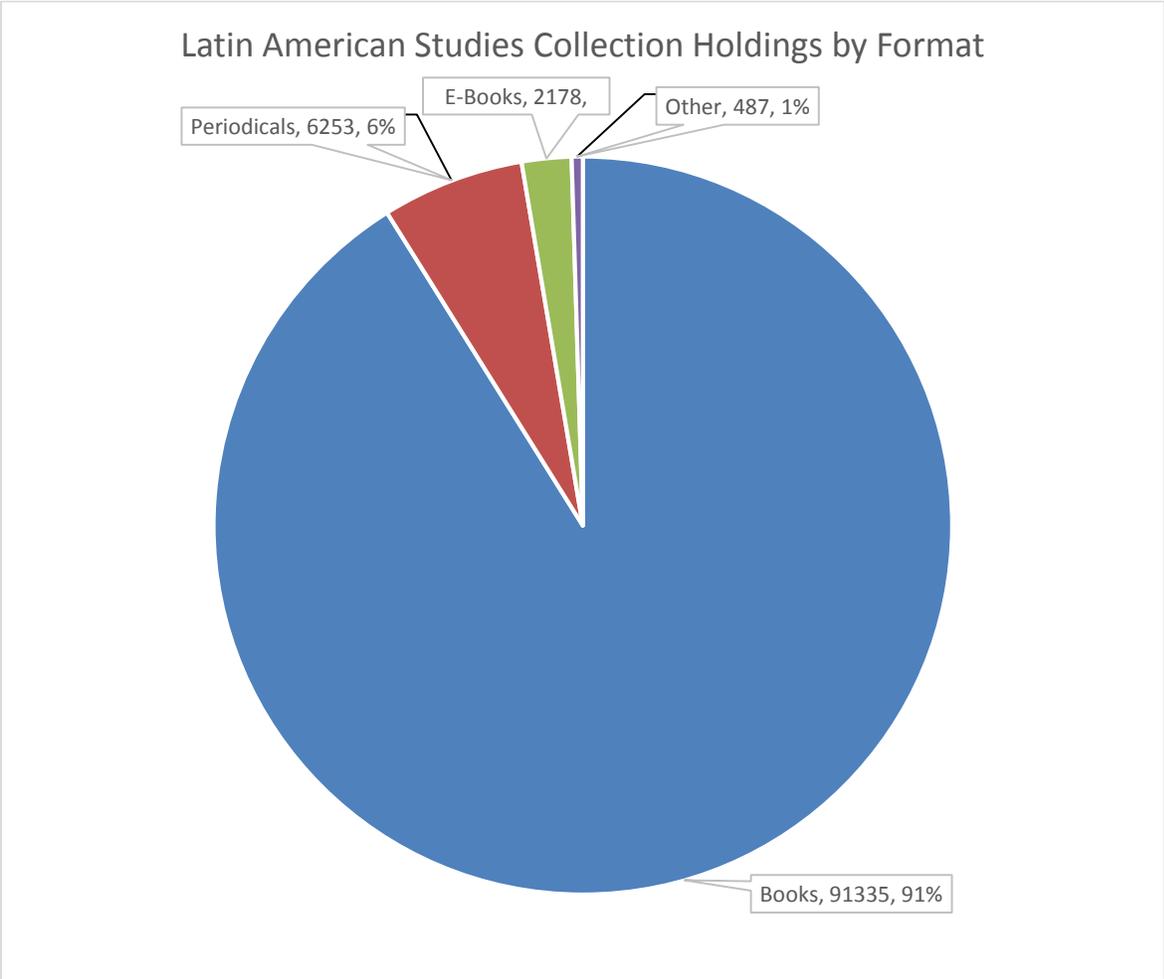


Figure 3: Breaking down the Collection by Format



Figures 4 & 5: Breaking down the Collection by date of publication

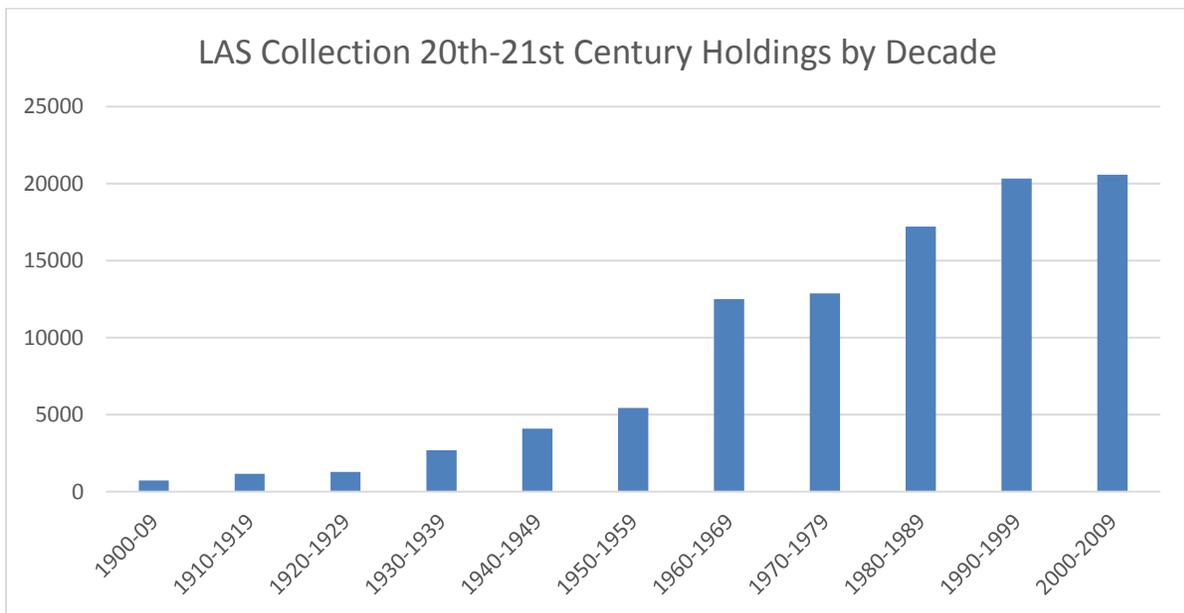
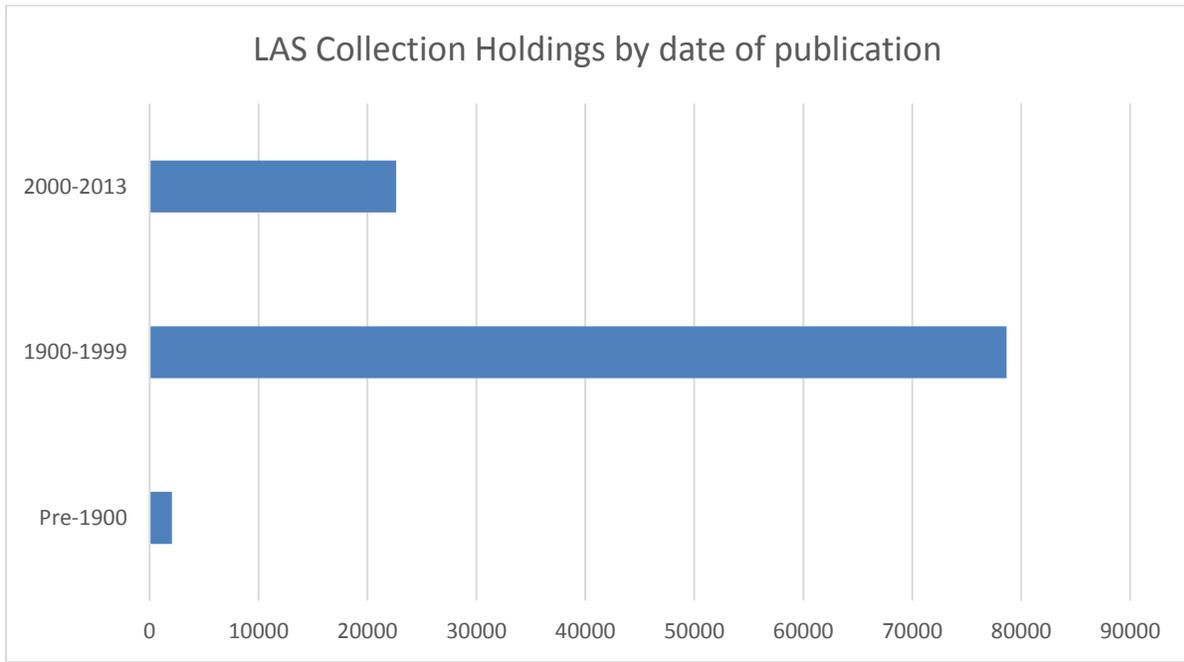


Figure 6: Breaking down the collection by language of publication

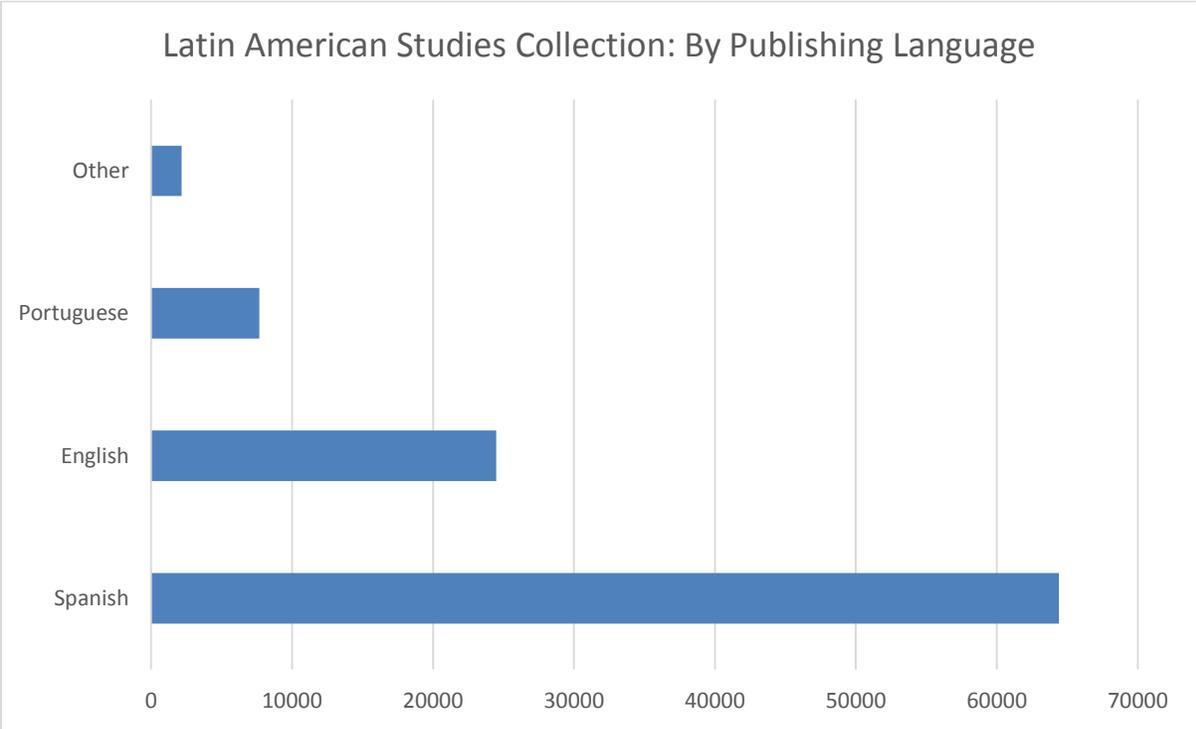
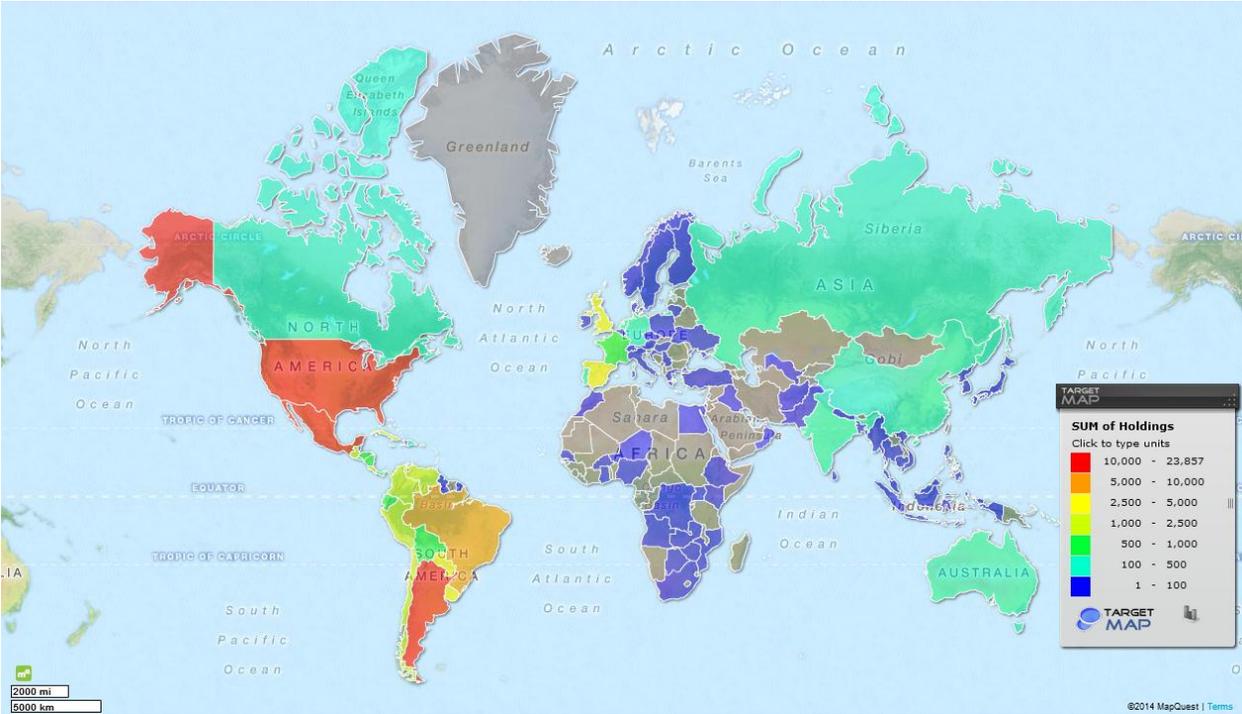


Figure 7: Breaking down the collection by location of publication



An interactive version of this map is available at:
<http://www.targetmap.com/viewer.aspx?reportId=34044>

Analysis:

- The collection overall, contains approximately 103,665 volumes (comprising around 3% of UCR's roughly 3 million volume holdings).
- While multidisciplinary, the collections' key strengths are history (comprising just slightly half of holdings), literature and economics.
- From the above information, it is unsurprising that the overwhelming majority of the collection is located in the stacks of the Rivera Library.
- The collection is composed, overwhelmingly of print materials, primarily monographs.
- The collection is most strongly represented in materials from the 20th century, particularly the latter half of that century.
- The primary language of publication for the collection is Spanish (also unsurprising as this is the most widely spoken language in Latin America), with English a distant second, and Portuguese a (much distant) third.
- The language results are borne out by the publication location results from Figure 7, which show that while the collection contains materials from across the globe, the collection is most strongly represented in North and South America, with Mexico, the United States, and Argentina all contributing over 10,000 volumes to the collection, and (Portuguese-speaking) Brazil, contributing between 5,000-10,000 volumes to the collection.

Next Steps:

While a collection map can provide information about the size and shape of the Libraries' current holdings, it alone cannot determine the relevance of those holdings. These results will need to be compared with current UCR faculty's research interests and the current course offerings in the Latin American Studies program, in order to determine if the collection's current strengths match its patron's needs. If not, new collection development strategies will need to be considered.

Appendix 1: Perimeters of the collection and volume counts as of December 2013:

Call Number Range	Description	Discipline	Total
AP62-65	Spanish and Portuguese Periodicals	General	1,045
BL2580-2592	religious history	Religious Studies	671
BX1425-1489	Roman Catholicism	Religious Studies	
BX1739-1740	The Inquisition	Religious Studies	
BX2529.5-2589	Roman Catholic Relig. Orders	Religious Studies	
E65	Pre-Columbian America	History	6,939
E110-125	Discover of America	History	
E141-143	Descriptive Accounts 1606-1810	History	
E183.8	US Foreign Relations	History	
E184	US--Populations--Mexicans	History	
E401-415.2	The Mexican War	History	
E714-735	The Spanish American War	History	
E841	Cuban Missile Crisis	History	
F1201-3799	History of Latin America	History	
GF514-532	Human Ecology, Settlements	Anthropology	1,495
GR114-133	Folklore	Anthropology	
GT4213.5-4241	Manners & Customs	Anthropology	
GT4813.5-4841	Festivals	Anthropology	
GV1626-1641	Dancing	Anthropology	
GV1796	Special Dances	Anthropology	
TX716	Cookery	Anthropology	
HD320.5-580	Land Use	Economics	9,597
HD1531	Agricultural Laborers	Economics	
HD1696	Water Resources	Economics	
HD1790.5-1915	Agricultural Economics	Economics	
HD2810.5	Industry	Economics	
HD3450.5-3483	Cooperative	Economics	
HD3616	Finance	Economics	
HD4010.5-4135	State Industries	Economics	
HD4610.5-4643	State & Municipal	Economics	
HD4980.5-5013	Labor--Wages	Economics	
HD5330.5-5363	Labor disputes	Economics	
HD5730.5-5763	Trade Unions	Economics	
HD6100.5-6132	Classes of workers	Economics	
HD6995.5-7021	Cost/living standards	Economics	
HD7130.5-7163	social security	Economics	

HD7305.5-7331	Welfare, housing	Economics	
HD7661-7678	Worker's health/safety	Economics	
HD8110.5-8370	labor	Economics	
HD9014	Agriculture & food industry	Economics	
HD9114	sugar	Economics	
HD9199	coffee	Economics	
HF1456.5	international economic relations	Economics	
HF1480.5-1530	commercial policy	Economics	
HF1745-1746	NAFTA	Economics	
HF2651	GATT/NAFTA	Economics	
HF3230.5-3490	commerce	Economics	
HF5073.5-5151	business, directories	Economics	
HG185	personal finance	Economics	
HN110.5-370	social history & conditions	Economics	
HQ560.5-610	family/marriage/women	Economics	
HQ1460.5-2968	women	Economics	
HT1052.5-1152	slavery	Economics	
HV8160.5-8193	welfare, penology	Economics	
HX110.5-235	Socialism/Communism/Anarchism	Economics	
JV6895.M48	Migration, Mexico	Political Science	
JX361-620	International Law	Political Science	
JX1515-1541	International Relations/Diplomacy	Political Science	80
JX1731-1780	Diplomacy	Political Science	
JZ361-620.5	International Relations/sources	Political Science	
M1681-1695	Music, vocal	Music	402
ML207-239	Music, history & criticism	Music	
N6550-6735.5	Art History	Art	936
PC4831-4914	Spanish Language in America	Literature	
PC5441-5455	Port. language in America	Literature	34,827
PQ7081-8560	Latin American Literature	Literature	
PQ9696-9699	Brazilian Literature	Literature	
R464.5-483	Indigenous Medicine	Medicine	147
TC773-788	Canal projects	Engineering	108
TN27.5-54	Mining	Engineering	
UA602.3-645	Armies	Military Studies	153
VA403-445	Naval History	Military Studies	
Z210-213	Book industries & trade	Library Science	
Z490-531	Booksellers & publishing	Library Science	1,498
Z1411-1945	National bibliographies	Library Science	
Z6953.8-6954	subject bibliographies	Library Science	
Total			103,665

