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INTRODUCCION

En 1976 México fue sede del 38 Congreso Mundial de la Federación Internacional de Documentación (FID). Este congreso tuvo como tema central "La Información y el Desarrollo".

Para entonces, el CICH tenía cinco años de creado y tres de compilar los datos para su "Bibliografía Latinoamericana". El material acumulado en 1974-1975 se prestaba para el estudio preliminar de algunos aspectos importantes de la investigación en nuestra región.

El personal del CICH inició ese estudio, lo que dio como resultado una serie de trabajos que fueron propuestos al Comité Organizador del Congreso; al aceptarlos, uno de los miembros del Comité de Selección opinó: "Estoy muy impresionado por la calidad e importancia del trabajo presentado en estos artículos".

Sin embargo, estos artículos, al no haber sido impresos y puestos en circulación por los organizadores del Congreso, no contaron con la difusión adecuada y oportuna. Aún así, las solicitudes de copias de los mismos no han sido infrecuentes, y el Dr. F. W. Lancaster de la Graduate School of Library Science de la Universidad de Illinois, los ha citado más de una vez.*

En una de estas citas (1979), Lancaster dice: "Apart from the impressive compilation of data for the

FOREWORD

In 1976 the 38 World Congress of the International Federation of Documentation (FID) was held in Mexico City. The Congress centralized its interest on the slogan "Information and Development".

By then, CICH had turned its 5th year of activities and had, during the last three, compiled the data for its "Bibliografía Latinoamericana". The material accumulated in 1974-1975 was ideal for a preliminary study of some important aspects of research in our region.

CICH's staff initiated this study, resulting in a series of papers that where proposed to the Congress Organizing Committee and, being accepted, one member of the Selection Committee expressed the following opinion: "I am very impressed by the quality and importance of the work represented in these papers."

However, the papers were not printed and circulated by the Congress organizers and, consequently, did not receive the proper and timely dissemination. Nevertheless, request for copies of the same papers have been frequent, and Dr. F. W. Lancaster of the Graduate School of Library Science, University of Illinois, has cited them more than once.*

In one of these citations (1979) Lancaster writes: "Apart from the impressive compilation of data for

United States by King et al. (1976), some of the most relevant studies toward the development of statistical indicators of the type outlined have been conducted in México at the Centro de Información Científica y Humanística, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. This work is summarized in four papers by Sandoval et al., Buttenklepper et al. and Pérez-Guinjoan et al. The bibliometric studies conducted in México examine the quantity and distribution of articles on Latin America published in non-Latin American journals, including the proportion of the total contributed by Latin American authors, and the extent to which scientific and humanistic research conducted in Latin American is reported in journals of world prestige published outside Latin America. The contribution of individual countries to this literature, the contribution of individual institutions in these countries, and the distribution of the literature over about 4000 journals is also examined. The studies conducted in México can be regarded as useful models of what can be done in the development of indicators of communication, in science, technology, and other fields, that may be of direct concern to policy makers at national levels."

Al contar con un nuevo órgano de circulación, el CICH ha creído

the United States by King et al., some of the most relevant studies toward the development of statistical indicators of the type outlined have been conducted in Mexico at the Centro de Información Científica y Humanística, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. This work is summarized on four papers by Sandoval et al., Buttenklepper et al. and Pérez-Guinjoan et al. The bibliometric studies conducted in Mexico examine the quantity and distribution of articles on Latin America published in non Latin American journals, including the proportion of the total contributed by Latin American authors, and the extent to which scientific and humanistic research conducted in Latin America is reported in journals of world prestige published outside Latin America. The contribution of individual countries to this literature, the contribution of individual institutions in these countries, and the distribution of the literature over about 4000 journals is also examined. The studies conducted in Mexico can be regarded as useful models of what can be done in the development of indicators of communication, in science, technology, and other fields, that may be of direct concern to policy makers at national levels."

Now that CICH has this new tool of circulation, it was considered convenient to give these papers the long delayed and needed

conveniente darles la difusión que merecen. Por eso se presentan ahora como Número 3 de INFORUM. Se conservan en inglés, por haber sido la lengua oficial del Congreso.

dissemination. This is the reason to publish them as Number 3 of INFORUM. They are written in English, the official language of the Congress.

* Lancaster, F.W. "Toward paperless Information Systems", Academic Press, 1978 (Chapter 5, Some problems of formal communication in Science and Technology").

* Lancaster, F.W. "Information retrieval systems: characteristics, testing and evaluation". 2nd. ed. John Wiley & Sons, 1979 (Chapter 17, Evaluation of a National Information System).

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A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY.**

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ABSTRACT

In a two year period, at least 2,568 articles were written on Latin America in non-Latin American journals; one fourth was produced by Latin American themselves. The majority of the 820 journals including this material was from the US (450), and a great dispersion was observed. The US journal **Foreign Agriculture** is the leader with 64 articles. México is by far the preferred subject. Agriculture ranks first among Latin American authors; Political Science among foreign authors. What appear to be the core journals in this bibliography are listed.

INTRODUCTION

In spite of its great potential interest,

we have no knowledge of a current bibliography on Latin America compiled from foreign journals. The difficulties of such a compilation are obvious due to the dispersion of the primary material, difficulties which are not avoided if the compilation is made from the many secondary sources (indices and abstracts services) which to their large number add the inconvenience of not being current nor multidisciplinary.

Since its inception, **Current Contents** have offered a unique opportunity for learning about foreign research interests on Latin America. The study here reported covers the material compiled from the six sections of CC during two consecutive years (roughly from the 4th quarter of 1973 to the 3rd quarter of 1975, inclusive).

The study is the complement of a previous one (1) in which the manuscripts drain from Latin America to foreign journals was investigated. The opposite (though there is some overlapping), that is, articles on Latin America published in foreign journals is here reported. The material is compiled from CC and listed in the two sections "Bibliografía Mexicana" and "Bibliografía Latinoamericana" of the biweekly "information package" **ALERTA (Información Multidisciplinaria en la Universidad)** published on a current basis since 1974 by the Centro de Información Científica y Humanística (CICH) of the National University of México (UNAM).*

This study is not comprehensive; it has the limitations of the material covered by CC, plus those of a manual compilation. The idea behind it is that a study of this type may offer important clues as to research and resources of the region.

RESULTS

The Volume:

Though we have no data from other countries or regions for comparison with these findings, the 2,568 articles published during the two-year period in non-Latin American journals make it evident that Latin America in itself has

much to offer as a research field.

It is important to point out that one fourth of what is written on Latin America in foreign journals is a contribution of Latin Americans themselves (25%). This important fraction is the overlapping mentioned above, since it is also covered from the opposite point of view (2).

Now three important figures are available for a two-year period:

Number of Latin American manuscripts published in non-Latin American journals	4,656
Number of articles on Latin America published in non-Latin American journals	2,568
Number of articles included in both	637

The comparison of these three figures shows the great importance that non-Latin American journals have as vehicles of the great intellectual and economic effort that research in and on Latin America represents: an annual average of 3,293 articles. It also shows that no bibliographic effort covering the region is complete without considering this important contribution. Moreover, when writing about Latin America, at least in foreign journals, it is non-Latin Americans who show almost three-fourths of the effort.

The journals:

Two repetitive facts are found

* Discontinued in 1979.

again (1, 2, 3):

a. The great dispersion: 2,568 articles on Latin America are published in 820 journals.

b. The influence of US journals: more than half (450) are published in this country.

When counting the number of articles published by each journal during the two-year period the following is observed:

No. of articles	in	No. of journals
1 - 4		686
5 - 9		83
10 - 14		25
15 - 19		18
20 - 64		9

The nine journals with the largest load of articles on Latin America (at least an annual average of 10) are:

Foreign Agriculture	64
Science	51
Journal of Inter-American Studies and World Affairs	40

Geological Society of America Bulletin	39
Nature (London)	35
Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden	34
American Antiquity	30
Current History	25
Americas	20

Which give a fair impression of the nationality of the journals and the disciplines covered if the whole 820 journals were listed.

The important 450 US journals concerning this Latin America bibliography are followed by 105 of the United Kingdom, 50 of West Germany, 42 of the Netherlands, 40 of France, 22 of Canada, 21 of Switzerland, 13 of Italy and 10 of Japan. The remaining 20 countries have less than 9 journals publishing material on Latin America. Of the two countries with the major languages spoken in Latin America, only Spain appears with 5 journals.

The region or country as subject:

Of the total 2,568 articles published during the two year period, 637 (25%) were written by Latin Americans on themselves. The

region was treated as such or in 6 different sub-regions in 431 articles (17%); the remaining 2,137 articles identified individual countries as subject.

The following table shows the geographic distribution, in which F and LA means articles written by foreign or Latin American authors, respectively.

REGION	F	LA	TOTAL
Latin America	203	24	227
South America	5	15	90
Central America	31	8	39
The Caribbean	22	4	26
The Andes	25	1	26
The Amazonas	14	1	15
Middle America	8	0	8

COUNTRY	F	LA	TOTAL
Mexico	401	113	514
Brazil	190	125	315
Chile	119	62	181
Peru	141	28	169
Argentina	90	54	144
Venezuela	86	42	128
Colombia	80	45	125
Cuba	72	14	86
Panama	66	10	76
Costa Rica	49	17	66
Guatemala	47	17	64
Ecuador	53	9	62
Puerto Rico	42	9	51
Bolivia	29	8	37
El Salvador	14	10	24
Paraguay	19	4	23

Honduras	17	3	20
Nicaragua	14	5	19
Rep. Dominicana	14	3	17
Uruguay	6	6	12
Haití	4	0	4

It is interesting to observe that México is the country that attracts more attention, and the only about which more articles have been written than on the region and its sub-regions as a whole.

The disciplines:

There is a great diversity of interests when writing on Latin America in foreign journals. As a whole, the Pure and Applied Sciences take almost two-thirds of the articles (61.74%) and Sociology and the Humanities more than one-third (38.26%).

In the list of 50 subjects in which these interests were classified, Political Science ranks first, well in front of Agriculture which ranks second, followed by Economics, General Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Botany, Medicine, Geology and Entomology, which take the first ten places.

If some regrouping is made, in decreasing order of volume, Biology (with all its branches) takes 20.61% of the articles; Agriculture (including Veterinary, Fisheries, Food and Forestry) 11.19%; and Medicine (including all its

specialities) 10.01%.

When articles written by foreign and Latin American authors are compared, these interests do not necessarily coincide. If Political Science ranks first, it expresses the overwhelming interests of foreign authors, the same happening as far as Economics is concerned. The only important coincidence of interests is on Agriculture, which ranks first for Latin American and third for foreign authors.

In decreasing order of importance, the main interests of foreign authors are: Political Science, Economics, Agriculture, General Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Botany and Geology.

As for Latin American authors, these interests are: Agriculture, Medicine, Hygiene and Public Health, Botany, General Science, Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Entomology and Geophysics.

From the above, it appears that the foreign core journals carrying the bulk of important material on Latin America are: **Foreign Agriculture, Science, Journal of Inter-American Studies and World Affairs, Nature, Current History, Americas, Inter-American**

Economic Affairs, FAO Aquaculture, Natural Resources Journal, Journal of Parasitology, Review of International Affairs, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, American Journal of Physical Anthropology, Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Geology, Worldview, International Journal of Comparative Sociology, Commonweal, Tropical Agriculture, American Anthropologist, Comparative Politics, Journal of Medical Entomology, Soil Science Society of America Proceedings, World Today. All these journals included not less than 10 articles during the period studied, with a total of 501.

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