Collection policy for Latin American History (Research)

1. Overview
This policy outlines the purpose and scope of Oxford’s collections relating to Latin American history, focusing on the research collections in the Bodleian Library. The history collections as a whole principally serve the needs of undergraduates, taught and research postgraduates, and members of the History Faculty, as well as the wider research community. In the field of Latin American studies, these collections are also of particular value to students and academics at the Latin American Centre at St. Antony’s College, and in the Spanish and Portuguese Sub-Faculties. Due to the cross-disciplinary nature of area studies, the collection provides material for researchers across the wider University. This policy is informed by the Bodleian Libraries Collection Management Policy and supporting documents.

The Bodleian Library
As the central research library of the University of Oxford, the Bodleian is home to in-depth research level collections in Latin American history. Having acquired books published on Latin America and the Caribbean since 1602, the Bodleian Library is considered to have the best collection in these areas in the UK outside the British Library. Various copyright privileges have enabled the library to receive almost all books published in the United Kingdom and the United States on Latin America and the Caribbean since about 1820. As well as purchased material, the Library has received significant donations which have greatly enhanced the collections, such as the Bodleian’s collection of Mexican codices (Bodley, Laud, Selden and Mendoza). There are also good holdings of Latin American early printed books.

Acquisitions in the area of Latin American history increased steadily in the latter half of the 20th century, and were given particular impetus in the mid-1960s in the wake of the Parry Report. Special emphasis was placed on the acquisition of material, in the humanities and social sciences, covering the Andean republics (Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela), Brazil, Mexico and the River Plate (Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay). All areas of mainland Latin America and the Caribbean are covered in some depth.

Other libraries
As the fields of history and area studies inevitably overlap, there are significant history collections in other libraries within the Bodleian Libraries group. The Taylor Institution Library holds Latin American history material as well as a number of significant reference titles including dictionaries, encyclopaedias and general and specialist bibliographies. The Latin American Centre Library collects widely in order to support their postgraduate community and academic members of the department. Please refer to the Appendix for a fuller listing of libraries with relevant collections.
Legal deposit
The vast majority of material relating to Latin America received via legal deposit is housed in the bookstack of the Bodleian Library and can be requested to reading rooms. There is also a small open shelf collection of classic texts for Latin American history in the Upper Radcliffe Camera, and new key titles are added when possible. However, all legal deposit material, regardless of location, is currently for reference use only and may not be borrowed. Where possible, titles from depositing publishers in the UK and USA are actively claimed by the relevant subject consultants if not automatically received within a 2 year timeframe. Eligible material that has been missed will often be purchased.

At midnight on 5/6 April 2013, new legislation came into force allowing the Bodleian Libraries and the other Legal Deposit Libraries in the UK and Ireland, to access electronic books, articles, web pages and other electronic documents published in the UK. The 2013 Regulations are being implemented gradually over several years, as the Legal Deposit Libraries agree collectively to accept electronic versions from each UK publisher.

Electronic resources
Electronic resources for the study of Latin America include electronic journals, bibliographic and full text databases, as well as a number of ebooks. In consultation with the relevant Faculties, the subject consultants review subject-specific subscription databases on a regular basis. Free scholarly resources are also evaluated and added to the resource provision if appropriate. These resources can be accessed via OxLIP+.

Examples of some important electronic resources for Latin American Studies are as follows:

- Bibliographic databases
  - Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)
  - Handbook of Latin American Studies (HLAS)

- Full text databases
  - PRISMA (Publicaciones y Revistas Sociales y Humanísticas)
  - REDALYC (Red de Revistas Científicas de América Latina y el Caribe, España y Portugal)
  - Latin American Newspapers 1805-1922

- Electronic books
  - The Cambridge History of Latin America by Leslie Bethell
Languages
The Bodleian Library purchases material in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Significant relevant works in major European languages are also purchased.

Bodleian Libraries’ Collection Management
Readers of this document are referred to the Bodleian Libraries’ Collection Management Policy. The Latin American History collection policy will be informed by this policy and any future amendments.

2. Teaching collections for Latin American History
The teaching collections for history undergraduates studying Latin American topics are held in the History Faculty Library embedded in the Radcliffe Camera. These collections support undergraduate courses in Conquest & Colonisation, and Revolutionary Mexico and comprise of key texts on reading lists. Texts for other history topics with Latin American components e.g. the British in Argentina, the Cuban Revolution, labour movements and colonisation, are also held in the History Faculty Library collections. Please see the Collection Development Policy for History for a detailed guide to levels of provision. Significant teaching collections are also held at the Bodleian Latin American Centre Library, which supports three Masters courses. For detailed levels of provision, please see the Collection Policy for Latin American Studies which can be found on the Latin American Studies LibGuide.

3. Research collections

Books
In the first instance, the Bodleian Library aims to collect material in support of the research of graduate students, postgraduate researchers and the local research community at large, as well as ensuring good provision across a wide range of topics to meet future research needs. A large proportion of titles are sourced from publishers and suppliers within Latin America. Currently there is no dedicated open shelf location in the Bodleian for Latin American research material. All titles are for reference use only.

The Bodleian Library takes out standing orders for major series, and collections of multi-volume and complete works relevant to Latin American history. Material consists of scholarly printed monographs or modern printed primary source material. Standing order subscriptions are revised when appropriate by the relevant subject consultant.

The majority of Latin American titles are purchased in print format. There is also a small fund available as part of the main budget allocation to purchase ebooks. Availability of relevant titles is regularly monitored, and purchases are made of appropriate texts.
Purchase suggestions are welcome.

**Journals**
The Bodleian Library holds over 70 journal subscriptions covering Latin America studies. Electronic access is considered an increasingly high priority, and is provided if there is sufficient access and funding. The subject consultant also monitors the availability of free ejournals, and these are added to OxLIP+.

**4. Special Collections**
The Bodleian Library is home to unique and valuable special collections which enable research of the highest quality. The Library aims to continue the acquisition of special collections material where possible, in order to maintain and build on the quality of material available for the research community.

**Mexican codices**
As mentioned in the overview, the Bodleian Library has an outstanding collection of Mexican codices. Little is known about them before their arrival in Oxford; Codex Selden and the Selden Roll were both part of John Selden’s bequest of Greek and Oriental manuscripts received in 1659. Codex Bodley came from an unknown source in the early 1600s, and Codex Laud was donated by Archbishop William Laud in 1636. Further details can be found in *Mexican Pictorial Manuscripts* (Oxford: Bodleian Library, 1972).

**Henry Ward Poole pamphlets**
The Bodleian Library acquired a large collection of Mexican Independence pamphlets in 1870 from Henry Ward Poole, who had amassed the material in the 1860s. 41 volumes were collected by Poole in Mexico City, which were then sold to the Bodleian in 1870 by book dealer Henry Stevens. The collection consists of 1,446 separate pamphlets, excluding duplicates and triplicates and several runs of periodicals, printed in the period 1754-1841, mainly in Mexico City. 945 pamphlets out of the 1,446 relate to the years 1820-7, the period during which Mexico attained independence and abolished censorship of the press; 444 pamphlets date from 1820. The main set of volumes at divide into three sections: the first 6 volumes containing c. 340 pamphlets, were almost all printed in 1820; the next 18 volumes date from the period 1820-7. Poole made detailed pencil annotations on the pamphlets, particularly in the last 8 volumes of this main set. For more details see A. R. Bonner, ‘Mexican pamphlets in the Bodleian Library’, *Bodleian Library Record*, 8 (1970), pp. 205-13 and C. Steele and M.P. Costeloe, *Independent Mexico: a collection of Mexican pamphlets in the Bodleian Library*. London, Mansell, 1973.

**Carlos Holguín newspaper collection**
A valuable collection of 19th-century Colombian newspapers was donated to the Bodleian Library in June 2010 by Dr Alvaro Holguín, grandson of Carlos Holguín, President of
Colombia 1888-1892. The newspapers formed part of the president’s private collection and have been described as among the best of their time. Carlos Holguín was one of the leading figures of the Conservative Party, and one of the principal architects of its return to power in 1886. Collections of Colombian newspapers from this period are rarely found in European libraries, and this collection is a valuable resource for historians of this period.

5. **Subject coverage of selected purchased material**

In addition to the legal deposit intake and general works, the libraries will purchase non-deposited material in the following subjects of relevance to Latin America. In all cases the term “Latin America” is deemed to include Central America and the Caribbean, with the exception of the English-speaking Caribbean and former British colonial territories of Belize and Guyana. These areas are covered by the Commonwealth collections, formerly at Rhodes House Library and now housed in the [Weston Library](#).

Within subjects, some historical events, periods and material formats are collected more selectively than others.

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<th>Primary and Secondary material for</th>
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<td>Specialist bibliographies and reference works</td>
<td>Inventories of relevant archives and libraries</td>
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<td>Biographical or critical works of key historians</td>
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<th>Period coverage</th>
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<td>Colonial Period</td>
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<td>19th C. Nation building</td>
<td>20th C. Revolutions</td>
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<td>Modern Era: 21st C.</td>
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6. Appendix

As indicated in “1. Overview” above, resources for the study of Latin America are held in a number of different locations across Oxford. Please see the listing below for subjects.

- **Balfour Library** (Pitt-Rivers/anthropology and museum ethnology)
- **Bodleian Library** (history, literature, politics, economics, social sciences, general)
- **Bodleian Latin American Centre Library** (history, politics, economics, development)
- **Bodleian Law Library** (law)
- **Bodleian Social Science Library** (politics, social sciences, history)
- **History Faculty Library** (history)
- **Radcliffe Science Library** (economic development, urban studies, settlement, climate and weather)
- **Taylor Institution Library** (history, culture, literature, philosophy/intellectuals)
- **Tylor Library** (social and cultural anthropology)
- **Vere Harmsworth Library** (US history, foreign relations)
- **Weston Library** (colonialism, slavery, Commonwealth e.g. Belize, Caribbean)

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