

A TRIO OF US ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH : HAPI ONLINE, INFO-SOUTH, AND THE LATIN AMERICAN DATA BASE

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RESUMEN

El trabajo que sigue describe tres bases de datos importantes producidas en los Estados Unidos que se dedican exclusivamente a estudios latinoamericanos y caribeños. La más grande y antigua es la *Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)*, que abarca desde 1970 hasta el presente. HAPI indiza cada año el contenido de unas 250 revistas escolares de tres continentes y es único en su abarcamiento tanto de las humanidades como las ciencias sociales, políticos y económicos que aparecen en periódicos y revistas semanales latinoamericanas, igual que revistas escolares y populares. Las fichas datan de 1988 a 1995; no se actualizan. La *Latin American Data Base (LADB)*, que se creó en 1985, es un servicio de boletines electrónicos semanales sobre cuestiones políticas, económicas y comerciales y el medio ambiente. Todas estas bases son disponibles en línea por suscripción via el Internet y en CD-Rom. HAPI y la LADB serán accesibles también por suscripción en la World Wide Web para finales de 1996.

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses three important databases devoted exclusively to Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The oldest and largest of these is the Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI), with coverage dating from 1970 to the present. HAPI indexes the contents of some 250 scholarly journals published throughout the world each year, and is unique in its inclusion of the humanities as well as the social sciences. Info-South selectively indexes and abstracts articles on social, political and economic topics appearing in newspapers and weekly news magazines from Latin America as well as in a broad magazines. Entries date from 1988 through 1995; it is no longer being updated. The Latin American Data Base (LADB), which began in 1985, is a full-text electronic newsletter service, producing a series of weekly publications treating regional political and economic affairs, trade issues and the environment. All of the databases are available online on a subscription basis via the Internet and on CD-Rom. Hapi and the LADB will also be available for fee-based searching on the World Wide Web by the end of 1996.

A decade ago there were few, if any, electronic resources available for the study of Latin America. Indeed, there were very few print products. The *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, published by the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress since 1936, and the much later *Hispanic American Periodicals Index* and *CLASE* (the latter from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)--both founded in the mid-1970s--stand out as pioneering bibliographies and indexes in the field. Today, however, there are many specialized resources produced in both North and South America and in Europe and the number is growing rapidly, as are the formats in which they appear.

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Some sources, like the early printed works mentioned above, have become available in electronic formats only since 1990. Others were developed from the outset as databases, mostly in the mid- to late 1980s. Still others, most notably those from Latin America, have become widely available for the first time in the 1990s on CD-ROM. Now, more and more database producers are taking advantage of the speed, power, and global reach of the Internet to establish a searchable presence on the World Wide Web, a trend that is expected to grow throughout the remainder of the decade.

This paper will discuss three major databases on Latin America produced in the United States: The *Hispanic American Periodicals Index* (HAPI), *Info-South*, and the *Latin American Data Base*. Used in conjunction, they offer a vast, complementary core of information about the region in the areas of the social sciences, the humanities, and current affairs.

HISPANIC AMERICAN PERIODICALS INDEX/HAPI ONLINE

HAPI Online is the electronic version of the annually published *Hispanic American Periodicals Index*. Produced at the Latin American Center of the University of California, Los Angeles since 1977, with coverage dating back to 1970, HAPI provides access to journal information from and about Latin America, the US-Mexico border region, and Hispanics in the United States. Included in the index are complete bibliographic citations to all relevant articles, book reviews, documents, original literary works, and other materials appearing in more than 400 scholarly periodicals of interest to Latin Americanists published in 33 countries throughout the world.

Journals published in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean constitute nearly two-thirds of the indexed titles. Almost every country in Central and South America is represented by at least one journal, and Caribbean area coverage includes journals from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico. The remaining titles are leading journals about Latin America published in the United States, Canada, and Europe, including *Revista REDIAL*.

HAPI is the oldest and largest of the three sources discussed here and it is unique in that it is the only one to treat subjects in the humanities as well as the social sciences. Coverage includes everything from art, music, literature and drama, anthropology, philosophy, and history, to material on human rights, women's studies, politics, economics, regional integration, ecology, business, and trade.

Search Features

Each item in the database contains, in addition to a complete bibliographic citation, up to four multi-level English language subject headings drawn from the *HAPI Thesaurus and Name Authority*. The *Thesaurus* is based in turn on Library of Congress's *Subject Headings*, adapted to meet the specialized requirements of research on Latin America. A separate Keyword field, which uses an uncontrolled vocabulary to translate key words in non-English language titles and relevant terms not included in the *Thesaurus*, provides additional access points. HAPI uses the same searching software as the UCLA Library's online catalog, and because of this, one password allows the user to search both the journal articles indexed in HAPI and book and journal titles held by one of the leading collectors of Latin American materials in the United States.

The file now contains more than 200,000 records dating from 1970 through 1995. Growing at the rate of approximately 9,000 records per year, it is updated monthly

from July through March. During April, May, and June the previous year's records are reviewed for accuracy and consistency in preparation for sending the print version to press, and the online file is updated to reflect those changes.

The simple, command-based system is searchable by author, title, subject, keyword, or journal title, by a combination of fields, or by all fields together. As with the other two databases discussed here, HAPI permits the use of truncation and full Boolean operators to broaden or narrow a search.

Searches can be limited by date or range of dates and/or by articles written in English. They can also be limited to exclude or include only book reviews and/or articles about Hispanics in the United States. Name and subject authority files, both of which contain a full complement of cross references, are also searchable online.

Access and Support Services

HAPI can be accessed online directly from the UCLA Latin American Center or through the Research Libraries Group's CitaDel Citation and Delivery service. Alternatively, tapes of the file can be licensed for mounting online on one's own library system. As of November 1996, HAPI will also be searchable on the World Wide Web, thanks to a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

In addition, HAPI offers a document delivery service and specialized literature searches on a one-time or ongoing basis, the results of which can be delivered via electronic mail as well as by mail or telefax. All subscribers are given a detailed *Users' Guide*, and further support services are available via telephone or electronic mail.

A useful adjunct to the database is the *HAPI Thesaurus*, which is updated and published annually. This publication contains all subject headings and cross references accepted for use in the index from 1970 onward.

A new database/publication presently in development from the producers of the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index* is *HABIndex: Hispanic American Book Index*. Funds have been requested from the National Endowment for the Humanities to help support the establishment of an annual author and subject index to chapters in edited works and conference proceedings about Latin America published throughout the world. If funded, the index will cover materials from 1995 onward and will become available by summer 1997 through all the same access points as HAPI.

INFO-SOUTH

Info-South, a database of abstracts and bibliographic citations produced by the North-South Center at the University of Miami from 1988 through 1995, complements HAPI and adds significantly to the bibliographic control of Latin American research materials for the period it covers. Focusing on "issues vital to US national interests and policy goals [with] emphasis on trade, investment, debt, politics, democratization, drugs, and the environment,"¹ Info-South includes selected socio-economic and political articles appearing in some 1,500 publications written in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

The special strength of the database lies in its coverage of 71 predominantly Spanish- and Portuguese-language news magazines, newsletters, and newspapers from 22 countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean, most of which are not available through any other source. Nearly every country is represented by at least one title, and the larger countries are covered by several. Important newspapers from the US, Canada, Britain, and Spain were also reviewed for articles initially, but as of 1994 the editors began shifting emphasis away from these more widely covered sources in order to add more Latin American titles.

Also included in Info-South are selected items from 154 "core" journals published in Latin America, the US, and Europe -- only 35 of which are indexed in HAPI. These are supplemented by relevant articles appearing in nearly 1,400 general journals found by scanning the *Current Contents* Social and Behavioral Science database. Although it ceased adding new data in December 1995, a victim of the financial difficulties that plague many specialized databases, Info-South remains a valuable source for news information and in-depth background studies on topics in some of the most heavily-researched areas of the social sciences.

Search Features

Info-South contains more than 85,000 citations. In addition to full bibliographic information--including English translations of non-English language titles--each record has fields indicating language and type of document and is accompanied by a 50-100 word abstract, subject descriptors drawn from the *Info-South Thesaurus*, and "identifiers," which list people and organizations mentioned in the article. The identifiers cite both the full name and acronym of organizations whenever possible, and give both the English and native form of the name when they differ.

The database offers both command- and menu-based searching options. It is searchable by keyword(s) in the author, title, subject, identifier, date, country, or language field, by a combination of fields, or by free-text searches of words or phrases in the abstract.

Access and Support Services

Info-South is available online through the North-South Center at the University of Miami or through the commercial search service, DIALOG. Support services include a *Thesaurus* and a *Users' Guide*. Also available from Info-South is an online *Directory of People, Organizations, and Businesses*, which identifies important names, associations, and corporations in Latin America by country and includes addresses for many of the entries.

LATIN AMERICAN DATA BASE

The Latin American Data Base differs from and complements the two previous sources in that it is not a reference work but rather a full text electronic newsletter service, providing news coverage of topics that are, for the most part, under-represented or inadequately treated by other news media. Produced at the Latin American Institute of the University of New Mexico, the LADB presently consists of three weekly publications treating political and economic information from Latin America.

The *Chronicle of Latin American Economic Affairs*, published every Thursday, is the oldest of the ongoing newsletters, containing articles dating back to October 1986. The *Chronicle* focuses on regional economic integration and trade in Latin America and the Caribbean and includes, among other topics, reports on macroeconomic performance, debt, inflation, foreign investment, policy initiatives, and the social consequences of economic policies.

SourceMex: Economic News and Analysis on Mexico began in November 1990 and appears on Wednesdays. This publication treats Mexican economic policy issues as well as topics such as agriculture, the environment, transportation, industry, investment, and trade. As may be expected, there is extensive information on the North American Free Trade Agreement as well as the Mexican-American border region.

NotiSur: Latin American Political Affairs is published on Fridays and includes material from November 1991 to the present. As its subtitle indicates, *NotiSur* reports on political events occurring in Central and South America and the

Caribbean. Focusing on the peace process and "democratization," it includes information on topics such as political parties and elections, governmental reform, the judiciary, political violence, human rights, military issues, and Interamerican affairs.

An older publication, *Central American Update*, covers the period from October 1986 to April 1993 and is still available in backfile. This source contains what might be called "alternative news" stories about the region, treating subjects such as human rights, peace talks, refugees, the environment, and foreign economic policy.

Two new projects will be launched in mid-1996. The first, funded by the Ford Foundation Office for Mexico and Central America, is a weekly news bulletin called *EcoCentral: Central America Economy and Environment*. Its purpose is to contribute to the debate on sustainable development in the region and will include information on topics such as neoliberal reforms, economic integration, social equity, trade, and environmental policy as well as macro- and microeconomic issues.

The second new project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 1994, is entitled *Economies of Latin America*. This will be a full-text database of selected economic publications, including serials, reports, and working papers produced by governmental agencies, academic research institutes, and non-governmental organizations in approximately twenty countries in Latin America. Coverage will begin with 1994 volumes and will include at least one governmental and one non-governmental publication from each country.

The newsletters have a distinctly journalistic focus, consisting of original articles written by LADB staff members who monitor a number of news sources on a daily basis. The major sources are international newswire services, radio broadcasts from Latin America, official reports from Latin American and international agencies, selected Latin American newspapers, and special reports from non-governmental organizations, including Amnesty International, Americas Watch, and the Pan-American Health Organization.

Each publication contains from two to six articles of about two pages each. Headlines permit easy scanning of the news stories, and the source(s) used for each report are given, with dates, at the end of the article.

Search Features

The combined database presently contains more than 22,000 records. It uses free-text searching methods, including searches by name of publication, by keyword or phrase in the text, by date, or by a combination of any of these fields. Searches can be limited by searching words or phrases in proximity to one another or by searching only headlines. One of the strengths of the LADB is statistics, and searches can be limited to articles containing statistical tables by using the special operator "s/s."

Access and Support Services

Information in the LADB can be obtained in several ways. The most straightforward is by direct subscription to one or more of the newsletters, which are delivered to the subscriber's electronic mailbox once a week on the day of publication. Alternatively, one can access the entire database either directly from the Latin American Institute at the University of New Mexico or through the commercial search services DIALOG, Nexis, Data-Star, Dow Jones News/Retrieval, BRS, and NewsNet. *EcoCentral* will also be available over the World Wide Web (<http://www.ladb.unm.edu>), and *Economies of Latin America* will be available only in that format. The Web will eventually be the main point of access for all of LADB's information services. Also offered by LADB are a search service and ASCII copies of its backfiles on disk. Support services include a *Users' Guide* and a toll-free hot line.

COMMON BONDS

All three of the sources discussed above can be accessed either directly via modem or over the Internet. HAPI and the LADB will also soon be searchable on the World Wide Web. Info-South and the LADB offer unlimited searching at flat annual fees; HAPI offers a choice of an annual fee or "pay-as-you-go" hourly rates.

HAPI, Info-South, and the LADB, as well as the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, the *World Law Index: Hispanic Nations*, and the catalog of the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas at Austin are also available on a set of CD-ROM discs entitled *Latin American Studies*, Volumes I and II. HAPI, HLAS, and the catalog of the Benson collection are grouped together in Volume I; Info-South, the LADB, and the World Law Index comprise Volume II.

Published by National Information Services Corporation (NISC), a commercial firm based in Baltimore, Maryland, and updated semi-annually, this powerful two-disc reference tool presently contains more than 800,000 records encompassing books; chapters in books; journal, newspaper, and magazine articles; documents; theses; laws; original news stories; and more. The files on each disc can be searched together for maximum results, or each database can be searched individually. Together, they provide convenient access to a broad range of current and historical information about Latin America.

NOTES

1Info-South publicity release, 1994

2LADB news release, January 30, 1995

APPENDIX

DATABASE SUMMARY

HISPANIC AMERICAN PERIODICALS INDEX / HAPI ONLINE

PRODUCER : UCLA Latin American Center, Los Angeles, California

COVERAGE : Indexes approximately 400 scholarly journals in the social sciences and the humanities published throughout North, Central, and South America and Europe

STRENGTHS : Oldest and largest of the databases ; unique coverage of the humanities ; includes book reviews and articles on Hispanics in the US ; access to books and journals held in the UCLA Library

LANGUAGE(S) : English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Italian (All titles searchable using English language keywords)

SEARCH METHOD(S), FIELDS : Command-based searching with Help screens ; searchable by author, title, subject, additional keywords, journal title, date(s), English language, book reviews, US Hispanic articles

STARTING DATE, SIZE, RATE OF GROWTH : HAPI : 1970-- ; 200,000+ citations ; grows at rate of 8,000-9,000 records/year. HABIndex : in development ; due summer 1997

ACCESS, UPDATES : Online via UCLA (monthly, July-March), CitaDel (annually) ; CD-ROM via NISC (semi-annually) ; licensed tapes (negotiable) ; print (annually) ; World Wide Web (coming, November 1996)

SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS : Flat annual fee, unlimited searches ; hourly rates, billed monthly (special rate for individuals) ; per-search charges billed to credit card (WWW only)

ADDITIONAL SERVICES : Specialized searches on demand (results can be sent via electronic mail) ; document delivery ; help line via telephone or electronic mail ; thesaurus ; users' guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT : Barbara Valk, UCLA Latin American Center, 10349 Bunche Hall, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1447 ; phone : 310-825-0810 ; fax : 310-206-2634 ; e-mail : bvalk@ucla.edu

INFO-SOUTH

PRODUCER : North/South Center, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida

COVERAGE : Indexes and abstracts selected socio-economic and political articles appearing in scholarly journals, newspapers, and news magazines

STRENGTHS : Unique coverage of 71 Latin American newspapers and news magazines ; subsidiary database lists names, associations, and businesses in the news

LANGUAGE(S) : English, Spanish, Portuguese (All titles searchable using English language keywords)

SEARCH METHOD(S), FIELDS : menu- or command-based options ; searchable by author, title, subject, identifier, date, country, language

DATES, SIZE : 1988-1995 ; 85,000+ citations. No longer being updated

ACCESS : Online via University of Miami, DIALOG ; CD-ROM via NISC

SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS : Flat annual fee, unlimited searching

ADDITIONAL SERVICES : Thesaurus ; users' guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT : North/South Center, University of Miami, P.O. Box 248014, Coral Gables, FL 33124-3027 ; phone : 305-284-6868 ; fax : 305-284-6370

LATIN AMERICAN DATA BASE

PRODUCER : Latin American Institute, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico

COVERAGE : Full-text news articles on Latin American and Mexican political, economic, and business affairs

STRENGTHS : Current, in-depth coverage of the news ; business and trade information ; statistics

LANGUAGE(S) : English

SEARCH METHOD(S), FIELDS : free-text searching ; searchable by title of publication, keyword or phrase in text, date

STARTING DATE, SIZE, RATE OF GROWTH : *Chronicle of Latin American Economic Affairs*, October 1986-- ; *SourceMex*, November 1990-- ; *NotiSur*, November 1991-- ; *Central American Update*, October 1986-April 1993 ; *EcoCentral*, in development--due summer 1996 ; *Economies of Latin America*, in development--due summer 1996. Database contains more than 22,000 articles ; grows at rate of 1,000-1,500 articles/year

ACCESS, UPDATES : Subscriptions via electronic mail (weekly) ; database access via University of New Mexico, DIALOG, Data-Star, Dow Jones News/Retrieval, BRS, NEXIS, NewsNet (all weekly) ; CD-ROM via NISC (semi-annually) ; World Wide Web (coming mid-1996 : <http://www.ladb.unm.edu>)

SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS : Series of annual flat fees based on services requested and size of institution ; special rates for individuals

ADDITIONAL SERVICES : Specialized searches on demand ; backfiles on disk ; toll-free help line ; users' guide

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