

Research Incentive Fund Report

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Thank you so much for the opportunity to present at the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) LVII, held in Port-of-Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, June 16-19, 2012. SALALM is the preeminent association for library professionals specializing in Latin American collections. This year's theme, "Popular culture: Arts and Social Change in Latin America," was reflected in my presentation titled, "Voices from the Margin: An Exploration of Themes in the 'Libros Cartoneros' of the Indiana University Libraries Collection and Their Subject Treatment." Below is the abstract:

A product of the Argentine crisis of 2001, "libros cartoneros" have become a popular form of cultural expression throughout the Latin American region. Made from recycled carton salvaged from urban dumps and sold to locals at cost price, these publications with one-of-a-kind illustrated covers have found their way into the collections of academic libraries, demanding the attention of Latin Americanists and other researchers. Indiana University Bloomington Libraries has been collecting representative samples of these chapbooks over a period of eight years and now boasts a collection of approximately five hundred. This paper explores some of the themes contained in these literary works, with a view to assessing how their retrieval may be enhanced through application of the Library of Congress' *Special Provisions for Increased Subject Access to Fiction*.

I plan to submit "Voices from the Margin" for publication in the conference proceedings or in another peer-reviewed journal. This paper was a follow-up to my 2010 presentation, "From Trash to Treasure: Incorporating the Voices of the Marginalized into the Collection of Indiana University Libraries," also scheduled for inclusion in the conference proceedings for SALALM LV.

The conference venue, located in the country's capital, facilitated participation by a host of local and regional librarians. It was wonderful renewing old acquaintances, establishing new contacts, and learning about the varied interests of a cross-section of professionals. Among these were a number of librarians of the younger generation, which augurs well for the practice of this profession in the wider Latin American region, including the Caribbean.

In addition to presenting, I also served on the Local Arrangements Committee for this conference and worked at the registration desk for one day. This was quite a bonus, since it allowed me to meet some of the other attendees (librarians and book-sellers) whom I had known only by name.