

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT

LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

Primary Applicant(s): *Orchid Mazurkiewicz*

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TITLE OF PROJECT: *Researching Latin America: A Survey of How the Next Generation is Doing Their Research, Stage II*

Time Period of Grant: *2009*

Amount of Award Received: *\$2272.50*

Original Abstract as Submitted: *The proposed research builds on the first stage of “Researching Latin America: A Survey of How the New Generation Is Doing their Research” by assessing the research strategies and attitudes of Latin Americanist graduate students studying in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project consists of a survey of the information-seeking behavior of the Latin American and Caribbean student members of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). The first stage of the project surveyed the LASA student members residing in the United States and Puerto Rico. Since Latin American studies draws students from a broad range of disciplines, it can be difficult to get a sense of their research behaviors based on previous studies of students of literature, history, sociology, etc. Graduate students were chosen for study as they are likely to be heavily engaged in research and are the next generation of instructors. The goal of this project was to better understand how this diverse group of students does research, their comfort level with different kinds of research strategies, and their awareness of Latin America-specific research tools. The hope is that the results of this survey will be used by faculty, librarians, and the new generation of Latin Americanist researchers as a starting point in assessing the ever-changing needs and research patterns of this sophisticated group of cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary scholars.*

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

- Describe what was achieved during the time period of the grant.

The original survey from the first stage of the project was professionally translated into Spanish and Portuguese versions. Labels with the addresses for the 208 student members outside the US and Puerto Rico were purchased from LASA and the surveys were then mailed out. As LASA does not sell email addresses, the original survey was mailed out to the students with a paper copy of the survey and an addressed, postage-paid envelope for returning the completed survey. Logistically, this would be very difficult to do with addresses outside the United States. Therefore the translated cover letter directed the students to an online survey hosted on Survey Monkey. Respondents were offered a chance to enter their name in a draw for one of two \$100 Amazon gift cards. Fifty-seven online surveys were completed and the data was migrated into a FileMaker database for analysis.

- What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.

For the most part the project was completed as planned. However, it did prove challenging to navigate my way through the process for buying gift cards in a timely fashion and I chose to expedite the process by purchasing them myself.

- Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?

The project did provide insights into the research behavior of doctoral students working on Latin American studies who reside outside the US and Puerto Rico as well as similarities and differences compared to the student respondents in the first stage of the project. I have been encouraged by the interest of a number of my Latin Americanist librarian colleagues in the results of the project as a whole.

- What would you do differently next time, if anything?

The link to the online survey that was in the solicitation was very long and complicated (just a few months later Survey Monkey began providing much shorter links for distribution to survey participants). In retrospect, I should have considered alternative means for providing shorter, easier links to the surveys. I suspect that I lost a few potential respondents by having such a challenging link that needed to be typed into a browser in order to complete the survey.

- What advice do you have for others applying for LAUC research grants?

Don't be deterred by the prospect of dealing with the IRB process. The paperwork can be intimidating at first but I found the people I dealt with there to be very patient and helpful in providing direction throughout the process. Also, try to be realistic in your budget estimates but give yourself some "wiggle room" for price increases, etc. For example, in my case the cost of mailing labels increased between the time I contacted LASA for an estimate and the time I purchased the labels. Savings elsewhere in the budget covered the increased cost but this might not always be the case.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes_X_ No__

If No, what is needed to complete the project? Is more time needed? Or more funds?

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please explain how the funds received were spent. Attach your original budget and indicate how well your estimates matched with actual expenditures. Receipts are not necessary.

Supplies	Estimate	Actual
- LASA address labels (approximately \$70 for a set)		
-- first mailing	\$70	\$115.31
-- follow-up mailing	\$70	\$115.31
- Latin American Institute (LAI) stationary and envelopes		

-- first mailing	\$150	\$190.11
-- follow-up mailing	\$150	\$190.11
- Printing/copying provided by the LAI	\$0	
- Postage (approximately \$1.15 per item for international postage and UCLA Mail Services' 20.6% surcharge X an estimated 275 pieces)		
-- first mailing	\$316.25	\$255.14
-- follow-up mailing	\$316.25	\$255.14
Total supplies	\$1072.50	\$1121.12
Other expenses		
Translation of all mailed documents into Spanish and Portuguese (by Inline Translation Services, HAPI's translator)	\$1000	\$1000
Amazon gift certificates (2 X \$100)	\$200	\$0
Total other expenses	\$1200	\$1000
TOTAL	\$2272.50	\$2121.12

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

What are your plans for disseminating the results of your work? If it will be a web page or product, or published article or book, when will it be available to the public? Include citations/URLs if known.

The survey results were presented at the International Congress of Americanists/Congreso Internacional de Americanistas in the summer of 2012. A paper discussing the results is under review for publication.

V. NOTE

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.