TO: Stella Bentley, CDC Chair
George Soete, CDC Liaison

FROM: Karen Lindavall-Larson, Chair, UC/Stanford Latin American Studies Group


Members of our group met in June 1991 in San Diego to discuss possible cooperative ventures. As a result of this meeting a questionnaire focused on determining areas of potential cooperation was designed and sent to campus representatives; responses from UCLA, UCSD, and Stanford were distributed to campus representatives in January 1993.

In August 1992, UCB, UCLA, UCSD, and Stanford were among the 10 university libraries in the United States asked to participate in an ARL study of all aspects of acquisitions for Mexico. The results of this pilot project were reported at SALALM in Guadalajara this year and copies of the final report are now available. The UC/Stanford collections together constitute one of the most comprehensive and best funded collections on Mexico in the United States, equal in most cases to those of the Library of Congress and the University of Texas. The flexibility we can gain by cooperative acquisition gives us the potential for increasing the uniqueness and research value of our collections.

In 1992 Larry Lauerhass from UCLA presented to bibliographers from the southern campuses the idea for a cooperative agreement which we developed into the "Plan for the Collaborative Acquisitions of North Mexican State Materials among the Southern Campus Libraries of the University of California." The Latin American studies bibliographers at UCLA, UCR, UCSB, and UCSD began acquiring materials from the included states in March 1993. According to the report of the ARL study, "only the California system libraries indicate the existence of formal cooperative programs for Mexico." This agreement has definitely served both to broaden and enrich our joint collections and to lower the overall costs to the UC system. Each bibliographer is able to collect across disciplines for the states covered without trying to acquire a little from each of the six states involved. As the materials are readily available on interlibrary loan, researchers at each campus have access to strong collections for each state.

Bibliographers at UCB and Stanford are working to revitalize their "cooperative program in Latin American collection development" which evolved in the late 1970s. They recently submitted a joint mini-SCAP proposal in which they involved faculty members at each campus. This proposal was not funded, but did make both campus communities aware of the need for and strengths of cooperative collection development.

Bibliographers at the various campuses are beginning to submit ideas for collaborative agreements. In the coming year we will be looking at ways to cooperatively acquire newspapers, literary and military journals, and government publications. We may also be able to identify projects divided by country of publication and/or discipline that would lend themselves to cooperative collection development. We will be looking closely at the efforts of bibliographers in other area studies programs, and particularly at the successful serials projects already developed in the UC/Stanford libraries.