

Anthropology 235 – Peoples and Cultures of Latin America Library Research Guide

Web Gateways

LANIC (Latin American Network Information Center). Facilitates access to Internet-based information of all kinds to, from, or on Latin America via a large subject directory of links; suggestion: begin with *Countries* link; also searchable. **Highly recommended.** <http://lanic.utexas.edu/>

Intute. Provides a structured approach for access to the “very best web resources” for education and research. All material is evaluated and selected by a network of subject specialists to create the Intute database. <http://www.intute.ac.uk/>

Country Information Starting Points: Encyclopedias and Web Sites

For country and regional background, providing context, factual information, images, and references.

>> Located in Reference Area of Library

Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2nd ed.1992. Information about countries scattered throughout; use index. (Ref F1406.C36 1992)

Countries and Their Cultures. 4 vols. Short articles by country, outlining various aspects of social, political, economic, historical, and cultural life within. **Excellent.** (Ref GN307 .C68 2001)

Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture. 1996. 5 volumes. Short articles on country history and cultural topics from an historical viewpoint. (Ref F1406 .E53 1996)

Europa World Yearbook. This annual work covers historical, political and economic information in over 250 countries and territories. It includes statistics, directory information and current analysis. (Ref JN1 .E85)

Financial Times World Desk Reference. 2004. Country “snap-shots.” A great place to start. (Ref G63 .F55 2004)

The Statesman’s Yearbook. Short country profiles. A good starting place. (Ref JA51 .S7)

>> Access via Databases & Indexes A-Z from the library home page

Encyclopedia Britannica Online. Online general encyclopedia, often considered to be the most scholarly of its type. Lengthy country articles with links to additional data, images, articles, etc.

>> Access via Databases & Indexes A-Z from the library home page.

>> **On the web**

Background Notes (US State Department). Facts about the land, people, history, government, political conditions, economy, and foreign relations for each country.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>

Country Studies(Library of Congress). Description and analysis of the historical setting and the social, economic, political, and national security systems and institutions of countries throughout the world. The series does not include all countries. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/>

World Bank Countries and Regions. Information about WB activities in each country, and also basic data and statistics. <http://www.worldbank.org/> click on **Countries**

World Factbook (CIA). Basic facts and figures about each country.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Wikipedia. A free-content encyclopedia, written collaboratively by people from around the world. Use with caution. It can be a good place to find web links related to an entry topic.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/>

For visual media:

In addition to **LANIC** (above), **Google Images**, etc. consider:

WorldImages (Cal State Image Project) use freely <http://worldimages.sjsu.edu/>

ARTstor. Searchable database of more than 300,000 digital images. >> **Access via Databases & Indexes A-Z from the library home page**

Wikimedia Commons. A database of freely usable media files to which anyone can contribute. Best for images, right now. <http://commons.wikimedia.org>

Google Video or YouTube for video clips. Search as specifically as you can; know what you're looking for.

Finding Books in Wheaton's General Collection on a Country/Region

HELIN (Higher Education Library and Information Network) is the Library's online catalog and includes the catalogs of Rhode Island academic and hospital libraries.

Tips:

- Limit to Wheaton College search, first.
- Search by SUBJECT heading for country or for region (Latin America, Caribbean, Central America) Browse subheadings and select those most appropriate for your understanding of the country, usually the less specific, the better: e.g., *General -- Civilization -- History -- Politics & Culture -- Social Life & Customs -- Ethnicity -- Music -- Art -- Architecture -- Social Conditions -- Religion*
- Consider limiting the country/region at Wheaton subject search to type of media (for music and film).
- For literature and poetry of a country (author unknown) use keywords and truncation: *jamaic* poetry*

For a focused search on anthropology research topics, do a keyword search, combining terms and using truncation (*), e.g., *Bolivia and (religio* or church)* and follow relevant subject headings from results.

To Locate Articles in Anthropology and Related Discipline Journals and Books Use...

>> Access via *Databases & Indexes A-Z* from the library home page

- ***InfoTRAC Academic OneFile***. 1980- . Abstracts and some full-text articles from scholarly and general-interest publications across all disciplines. For scholarly articles, be sure to *limit* your search to **refereed publications**.
- ***AnthroLIT***. (FirstSearch) Indexes articles and essays in the fields of anthropology and archeology as far back as the late 19th c., based on materials in Harvard's Tozzer Library.
- ***AnthroSource***. An electronic archive of all American Anthropological Association journals, various publication dates.
- ***Sociological Abstracts***. 1952- . (CSA) Abstracts and indexes the international literature in sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

Use ***GoogleScholar***, too. Cross-disciplinary. Go to [Advanced Search](#) to search within *Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities Subject Area* **<http://scholar.google.com/>**

Need help?

Be sure to ask for it at the library's Information Desk or contact Margaret Gardner
(mgardner@wheatonma.edu/x3705)

January 28, 2008