
International Coalition of Library Consortia

ICOLC Fall'04 – Barcelona

Library Networks and Consortia in Mexico Country Report

Daniel Mattes

Universidad Anáhuac

Margarita Lugo

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

INTRODUCTION

- Scarce library cooperation in general
 - Insufficient budget, especially in public institutions
 - Noteworthy efforts identified in small library groups
 - Some progress made in the last decade
-

CONPAB-RENABIES LIBRARY NETWORKS (1989)

It is the National Library Network pertaining to public Higher Education institutions.

In 2002 it was registered as a civil association in order to encompass higher education institutions from the private sector.

It is currently made up of 40 universities or centers.

CONPAB Principal Achievements

Diagnosis of the library systems pertaining to State Public Universities and Library Development Plans.

Training programs for non-professional personnel, including remote education (ENBA, National School of Library and Archival Sciences)

CONPAB Principal Achievements

Integration of sub-networks by geographic zone: RESBIUC, RETBIN, etc. Some of them have created union catalogues and, very recently, have jointly acquired electronic resources.

Creation of the Serials Union Catalogue.

CONPAB Libraries



AMIGOS (1989)

It is a library cooperation network resulting from interlibrary loan experiences between some Mexican libraries and the University of Texas at El Paso (U. S.A.)

It groups eleven higher education institutions and the Benjamin Franklin Library, managed by the US Embassy in Mexico.

AMIGOS Main Achievements

Consortium acquisition of databases
(SwetsWise, ACM, etc).

Elaboration of cost policies.

Establishment of a Sojourn program in order
to get to know each other better.

AMIGOS Main Achievements

Document exchange alternatives were analyzed (ARIEL, PDF).

Organization of three Congresses: Amigos 2000, 2002, 2004.

Organization of courses and establishment of an electronic forum.

RENCIS (1991)

It is the National Network on Cooperation in Health Information and Documentation.

The work has been concentrated in the National Health Information and Documentation Center (CENIDS), managed by Mexico's National Public Health Institute.

RENCIS Principal Achievements

Information distribution in 137 health jurisdictions, 32 state health services, 57 hospitals and 16 university libraries in the health sector.

Creation of databases and of the Health Virtual Library (supported by PAHO).

RENCIS Principal Achievements

Formulation of a union catalogue covering holdings in 63 Mexican libraries.

Preparation of a catalogue of health research projects in Mexico.

CONACYT CENTERS COOPERATION NETWORK (1999)

It is the cooperative network made up of the Research Centers belonging to the National Science and Technology Council (CONACYT).

The CATI (Advisory Committee on Information Technologies) was created in 2002, and in 2003 the CARI (Advisory Committee on Information Resources) was established.

CONACYT CENTERS COOPERATION NETWORK Main Achievements

Shared software acquisition

Cooperative Acquisition. 5 of the 24 centers acquired 10 databases.

Personnel training and development.

Projects on an integrated catalogue and on shared collection development.

UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTÓNOMA DE MÉXICO (UNAM)

Even though the National University of Mexico is only one institution, it carries out tasks similar to those performed by consortia, as it coordinates 138 libraries, of which 50 are specialized libraries. The latter support researchers that carry out 50% of the research activities in the country.

UNAM Principal Achievements

Development of Union Catalogues. At a national level, some of the most important catalogues are: Periodicals and Serials SERIUNAM (1992), and Mapamex for maps (1993).

Participation in other cooperative projects, such as RENCIS and LATINDEX.

UNAM Principal Achievements

The last Regional Information System for scientific journals in Latin America, Spain and Portugal, elaborated the following: a directory, a catalogue and an index.

Joint acquisition of two electronic products: EbscoHost and Source OECD. The latter was acquired along with 5 other Mexican universities

TRANSBORDER LIBRARY FORUM

(1989)

During the meetings of the Transborder Libraries Forum, a significant effort has been undertaken in order to develop and strengthen interlibrary loan projects between Mexican and American libraries.

TRANSBORDER LIBRARY FORUM

Different agreements have been signed by the Texas Christian University and the Anáhuac University.

Subsequently, cooperation was broadened through the implementation of agreements among different Mexican universities and some universities in Arizona, Texas, New Mexico and California

TRANSBORDER LIBRARY FORUM

Main Achievements

Formulation of the “*Recommended guidelines for transnational inter-library loans*”.

Preparation and approval of the “*Standards for Inter-Library Loans between Mexico and the USA*”.

Establishment of the international interlibrary loan test project among Mexican and American libraries, which was later converted into a permanent program with 65 Mexican participants, 12 American participants and one from Venezuela

ANÁHUAC UNIVERSITY LIBRARY CONSORTIUM (1997)

- Members include the libraries of the 8 campuses of the Anáhuac University located in different parts of Mexico
 - Its primary goals include resource sharing, cooperative acquisitions and centralized personnel training.
-

ANÁHUAC UNIVERSITIES LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

- Principal Achievements
 - ❑ Shared automation project using the Ex Libris integrated library system
 - ❑ Cooperative acquisition of databases
 - ❑ Cooperative acquisition of printed and electronic journals
-

ANÁHUAC UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES CONSORTIUM

- Centralized technical processes for new libraries at the Universidad Anáhuac in Mexico City.
 - Centralized personnel training at the oldest and largest campus located in Mexico City
-

Thank you!

mlugo@servidor.unam.mx

dmattes@anahuac.mx
