

Jan 1st, 4:00 PM

Chicana Reference Sources

Richard Chabran

University of Arizona, chabran.richard@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/naccs>



Part of the [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), and the [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#)

Richard Chabran, "Chicana Reference Sources" (January 1, 1984). *National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Conference*. Paper 16.

<http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/naccs/1984/Proceedings/16>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences at SJSU ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Conference by an authorized administrator of SJSU ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@sjsu.edu.

Chicana Reference Sources

Richard CHABRAN

Acknowledgments: A preliminary version of this essay appeared in *La Gente*. I would like to thank Cynthia Orozco for encouraging me to write this essay and Ady Martha Calderón, Marta Lopez-Garza, and Lillian Valadez for their assistance. I would also like to acknowledge the support of the Chicano Studies Research Center.

Serious scholarly inquiry should begin by consulting bibliographic tools. These range from library catalogues to periodical indexes to bibliographies. Most often we begin by consulting a library's card catalogue. For Chicanas it is here that a certain sense of frustration and anger begins. It does not take long to discover the few books listed in library catalogues, which usually are under the heading "Mexican American women." Although Latino bibliographic activity has a long and rich tradition, Chicano bibliography emerged in the late sixties as a response to the need to identify relevant materials on Chicanos. It has been noted elsewhere that the first Chicano bibliographies lacked a clear scope, had numerous typographical errors, and were simple enumerative listings with no subject access. However, over the years the general area of Chicano bibliographic research has become increasingly more sophisticated. It has moved from general works to specific subfields of Chicano studies. One question which might be asked is: what has been its contribution to Chicana studies? Significantly, all too often one fails to find any materials related to women in Chicano bibliographies. And even where they might exist, they are rarely treated as a general category or indexed separately.

It is the purpose of this bibliographic essay selectively and descriptively to survey the most important bibliographic and reference tools in the area of Chicana studies. First, major sources on the following topics are discussed: Bibliographic guides, general Chicana bibliographies, Chicana literary bibliographies, fact sources and compendiums, biographical sources relevant to Chicanas, historical bibliographies with reference to Chicanas, social science

bibliographies, indexes, and archival guides. This is followed by a simple enumerative listing of minor sources. Finally, some concluding remarks on the direction of Chicana reference and bibliographic sources are included.

Chicana/o Bibliographic Guides

The Mexican American: A Critical Guide to Research Aids (Greenwich, Conn.: JAI Press, 1980), compiled by Barbara J. Robinson and J. Cordell Robinson, is meant to be a comprehensive bibliography of bibliographies on Mexican Americans. It contains a chapter on women. This chapter, like others, has an introductory essay to the bibliographic sources listed. There are 17 annotated reference sources noted in this section. Notably absent is Elizabeth Martínez Smith's "A Chicana Bibliography," which is noted below. A subject index provides additional reference sources which contain information on women.

Quien Sabe? A Preliminary List of Chicano Reference Materials (Los Angeles: Chicano Studies Research Center Publications, 1980), compiled by Francisco García Ayvens, is a selected bibliography of bibliographies on Chicanos. It contains five annotated entries of the most important Chicana reference works. A subject index provides access to other works.

"La Chicana: A Bibliographic Survey" (*Frontiers* 5/2 [1980]: 59-74) by Catherine Loeb is the best general literature review on Chicanas. In arguing for a feminist perspective, she notes the problems of accessing Chicana materials and their suppression by libraries and publishers. Her essay covers background materials, history, literature, economic and social profiles, the family, politics, other sources, notes, and a bibliography. While many new studies are not included, this is a fine overview and a good starting point for those interested in Chicana studies.

General Chicana Bibliographies

Bibliografía de la Chicana/Bibliography on the Chicana (Lakewood, Colo.: Marcela Cordova, 1973), compiled by Marcela Cordova, alphabetically lists works by and about Chicanas. A few

of the entries are annotated. The majority of the works are taken from Chicano periodicals, but some books and a few dissertations are included. Although dated, it was nonetheless one of the first separately published bibliographies on Chicanas.

"A Chicana Bibliography" (*New Directions in Education: Estudios Feminiles de la Chicana* [Los Angeles: UCLA Extension and Montal Educational Associates, 1974]), compiled by Elizabeth Martínez Smith, sought to encourage instructional efforts in the area of Chicana studies. It is divided into the following categories: books and pamphlets, articles, government publications, unpublished materials, and films. This also was one of the early Chicana bibliographies. Unfortunately much of its material is only peripherally related to Chicanas.

Bibliography on la Mujer Chicana (Austin: Center for the Study of Human Resources, 1975), compiled by Lewis A. Gutierrez, is an unannotated bibliography organized into the following areas: art, bibliographies, business/employment, Chicano movement, ecology, economics, education, family, farmworkers, feminism, health, history, immigration, justice, labor, literature, machismo, Midwest, newspapers, politics, publications, sexism, socialism, social studies, and Third World women. This publication represents a catalogue of the holdings of the Chicano Library Project at the Center for Human Resources in Austin, Texas, including books, articles, clippings, and special editions. A few materials which are not housed in the Library Project are also noted.

La Chicana: A Comprehensive Bibliographic Study (Los Angeles: Aztlán Publications, 1976), compiled by Roberto Cabello Argandona, Juan Gómez-Quifones, and Patricia Herrera Duran, is an extension of another work, *The Chicana: A Preliminary Bibliographic Study* (Los Angeles: Chicano Studies Research Library, 1973). The initial effort contained 273 items and was organized into the following sections: books, documents and papers, articles, theses and dissertations, films, newspapers, and a subject index. The second effort contains 491 annotated items. It is organized into the following sections: films, serials, general readings, culture and cultural processes and folk culture, demography, economics, education, family, marriage and sex roles, health and nutrition, history, labor and discrimination in employment, literature, politics, religion, social conditions, and author and title indexes. Within each section

material is further divided by format: books, articles, and so forth. Brief essays precede each section. It represents the most important separately published reference work on Chicanas, with useful annotations. One criticism is that the bibliography contains many peripheral citations. The second version dropped the subject index in favor of the general subject categories. A subject index would have added to its usefulness.

La Mujer Chicana: An Annotated Bibliography (Austin: Chicana Research and Learning Center, 1976), though now dated, is one of the most important bibliographies on Chicanas. It is organized into the following categories: Chicana publications, Chicana feminism *y el movimiento*, education, health, history labor/employment, *la cultura, la familia*, machismo, politics, social issues, Third World Women, and an appendix titled "Reference List for Locating Sources." *La Mujer Chicana* contains approximately 275 annotated items. Francisco García Ayvens notes in *Quien Sabe?*: "This important work is marred by the appearance of many typographical errors and the incorrect collation of several pages in the publications."

Bibliography of Writing: La Mujer (Berkeley: Chicano Studies Library Publications, 1976), compiled by Cristina Portillo, Graciela Ríos, and Martha Rodríguez, is a catalogue of the holdings of the Chicano Studies Library at the University of California, Berkeley up to 1976. The first part of the bibliography, which contains 264 articles, student papers, observations, and books, is arranged alphabetically by author. Part 2 contains serials which relate specifically to Chicanas. A brief subject index and art work are included. This bibliography contains many so-called fugitive materials.

Chicana Literary Bibliographies

"Chicana Literature and Related Sources: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography" (*Bilingual Review* 7/2 [May/August, 1980]: 143-164), compiled by Elizabeth Ordonez, contains 198 items. This

is by far the most extensive bibliography of Chicana literary production. It is divided into the following sections: bibliographies, general works, Chicana feminism, folklore, history, anthologies, poetry, fiction, drama, criticism—general literary, plastic arts, music and entertainment, films, works by men with significant women as themes, related sources, and useful addresses, periodicals, newspapers, and book distributors. This partially annotated work does not contain indexes.

“Hacia una bibliografía de poesía femenina chicana” (*La Palabra* 2/2 [Spring, 1980]), compiled by Eliana Sonntag, focuses on major Chicana poets. Each poet’s books, poems in anthologies, poems in periodicals, translations, and criticism about her work are noted.

A Bibliography of Criticism of Contemporary Chicano Literature (Berkeley: Chicano Studies Library Publications, 1982), compiled by Ernestina Eger, contains a section on Chicanas. The items in this section deal mainly with the image of Chicanas in literature. Also included in this bibliography are Chicana authors.

A Current Bibliography of Chicano Literature: Creative and Critical Writing through 1984 (Stanford: Stanford University Libraries, 1984) was compiled by Roberto Trujillo and Andres Rodriguez. This bibliography contains approximately 69 separately published literary works by or about Chicanas. It is divided into the following sections: poetry, novel, short fiction, theater, literary criticism, *literatura chicanesca*, oral tradition, anthologies, literary periodicals, unpublished dissertations, bibliographies and encyclopedias, autobiographical works, and video and sound recordings. Author and title indexes are included.

Historical Bibliographies with References to Chicanas

Texas Women’s History Project Bibliography (Austin: Foundation for Women’s Resources, 1980) was compiled in order to “explore and recognize the contributions of Texas women to the development of their state.” It contains a section on “Chicanos-Tejanos” with 152 entries listed alphabetically.

The Mexican Revolution: An Annotated Guide to Recent Scholarship (Boston: G.K. Hall, 1982), compiled by W. Dirk Raat,

has a section on women's history bibliographies as well as references to other sources in the index.

Bibliography of Mexican American History (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1984) was compiled by Matt S. Meier in order "to provide access to information necessary for a more sophisticated understanding of the Mexican American experience and its contribution to contemporary America." It is organized as follows: general works, colonial period, Mexican period, Guadalupe Hidalgo to 1900, 1900 to World War II, World War II to the 1980's, labor, immigration and the border region, civil rights and politics, culture, bibliographies and guides, collections, archives, and libraries, and journals. Author and subject indexes are included. This work contains only 45 items under the subject entry "Chicanas." This is disappointing for such a massive bibliography.

Chicana Social Science Bibliographies

"Mexican American Women in the Social Sciences" (*Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 8/2 [Winter, 1982]:259-272) is a review essay by Maxine Baca Zinn which focus on social science and historical literature on Chicanas. While not a bibliography per se, it identifies much of the recent significant literature on women not contained in other general Chicana bibliographies.

Hispanic Mental Health: A Research Guide (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982), compiled by Frank Newton, Esteban L. Olmedo, and Amado M. Padilla, is a major research tool in the area of Latino mental health and the social sciences. Primary arrangement is by author. This research aid contains an inverted index. Selective relevant terms for Chicano research are birth control, child abuse, child-rearing practices, family planning, family rates, female, gender identity, machismo, marital stability, and marriage.

Ethnicity and Aging: A Bibliography (San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 1984), compiled by Edward Murguia et al., "deals only with American elderly ethnic and racial groups and lists titles that are readily accessible to the user, excluding unpublished papers, conference reports, in-house documents, and other such materials." Chapter 3, which covers Hispanic Americans, contains a subsection listing only 4 items on women.

Fact Sources and Compendiums

Dictionary of Mexican American History (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1981), compiled by Matt S. Meier and Feliciano Rivera, contains a few references to Chicanas and Chicana organizations.

International Inventory of Current Mexico-Related Research (San Diego: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, 1982) is a compendium of advanced research progress related to Mexico. The third volume contains a subject index. There are 19 entries under the subject heading "women."

"Profile of the Chicana: A Statistical Fact Sheet" (*Mexican Women in the United States: Struggles Past and Present* [Los Angeles: Chicano Studies Research Center Publication, 1980]), compiled by Elizabeth Waldman, and *Women of Spanish Origin in the United States* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration Women's Bureau, 1976) both provide statistical information on Chicanas.

Biographical Sources Relevant to Chicanas

Chicano Scholars and Writers: A Bio-Bibliographical Directory (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1979), compiled by Julio Martinez, contains 97 entries on women out of over 500 total entries. Each entry has personal data, education, professional and/or community affiliation, honors and distinction, publications, papers, speeches, lectures and nonprint works, and criticism of biographee's works. The work contains a subject index with "women" as a subject term.

Rising Voices: Profiles of Hispano-American Lives (New York: Signet, 1974) by Al Martínez has short biographical sketches on six Latinas.

Mexican Americans: Movements and Leaders (Los Alamitos: Hwang Publishing Co., 1976) by Carlos Larralde contains lengthy entries for five Chicanas.

Dedication Rewarded (San Antonio: Centro Cultural Mexicano Americano, 1981) contains several entries on Chicanas. Its emphasis is on Texas.

Chicanos y Chicanas Prominentes (Menlo Park: Educational Consortium, 1974) has biographical sketches on six Chicanas.

In general, all of these biographical sources are of poor quality and cover the same individuals.

Indexes Relevant for Chicana Research

Resources in Women's Educational Equity (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department HEW, 1976-1979). This is a major women's studies index. It is primarily a third-generation index of women's materials which exist in major bibliographic data bases. Between eleven and fourteen data bases ranging from ERIC to Medlars are surveyed. The organization of this index is by data base producer (ERIC, Psych Abstracts), subject, and author. Institution indexes are also included. The ORACLE Software was used to generate the index. Major bibliographic data bases were first searched. These searches were then scanned for relevance and stored on magnetic tape, and citations were reformatted by machine to achieve standardization across data bases. A mini-thesaurus was created to supplement existing descriptors (subject terms in the ERIC thesaurus). The index contains approximately 40 citations on Chicanas from the years 1976 to 1979. The scant number of citations is a reflection of the fact that major bibliographic data bases are based on mainstream journals which seldom contain articles on Chicanas/os. There are plans to continue this indexing service, which was a victim of funding cuts.

Women Studies Abstracts (New York: Rush Publishing Co., Inc., 1972-) is a quarterly abstracting journal organized into approximately 19 general subject categories. An index is included. There are generally 3 or 4 entries under "Chicanos" in each issue. A cumulative index would greatly enhance this reference work. The Spring, 1983, issue was consulted for articles cited on Chicanas, none of which were abstracted. Most of the items cited are from mainstream journals.

Anthologies by and about Women: An Analytical Index (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1982), compiled by Susan Cardinale, has a keyword index in which 8 items pertaining to Chicanas are identified and 2 items are listed under "Hispanics."

Chicano Periodical Index (Boston: G.K. Hall, 1981, 1983) is a major index to selected Chicano periodicals. It includes a thesaurus which details the subject headings used for materials on Chicanas.

The first index has over 40 items on Chicanas and the second, over 191 items. The next volume will cover both Chicano and mainstream periodicals.

Archival Guides Relevant for Chicana Research

Women's History Sources: A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts Collections in the United States, 2 Vols. (New York: Bowker, 1979), edited by Andrea Hinding, is an impressive effort to identify and describe women's primary research sources. This collaborative project, which received funding from Rockefeller and NEH, apparently had no Latina consultants. Collections were identified and surveyed by questionnaires, followed by on-site visits. Primary organization is by state. Collections are listed alphabetically by name. Type of collection is noted, as are dates covered, size, accessibility, funding tools, and depository where located. Descriptions of varying lengths follow this basic information. The second volume is an index. Personal as well as corporate names are included in the index, as are geographic and topical themes. There are 24 entries for Mexican Americans. Some of the references to Mexican women are not clear. They range from personal reminiscences to the Girl Scouts. These few entries for Mexican women are an indication of the need to identify more collections in this area. This lacuna is a reflection of libraries' and archives' continuing lack of awareness of the need to collect and index these collections. This is said in light of the fact that the survey had to depend on these repositories to identify these emerging sources. This is an area which will become increasingly important for Mexicana studies. It is hoped that a clearinghouse will be established to identify these emerging sources continually. Hopefully, it will be based on networking between librarians and scholars.

"A Selective Survey of Chicano Manuscript Collections in the United States" (*Biblio-Politica: Chicano Perspectives on Library Service* [Berkeley: Chicano Studies Library Publications, 1984]), compiled by Richard Griswold del Castillo and Julio Martínez, contains several entries on Chicanas. This survey is divided into the following categories: literature, Chicano social and political history, immigration and labor, and oral history projects.

Minor Sources

- Comisión Femenil. "Chicana Bibliography" (n.p., n.d.).
 Concilio Mujeres. *Raza Women: A Bibliography* (San Francisco: Concilio, 1974).
- Cotera, Martha P. *A Reading List for Chicanas Preliminary 1976-1978* (Austin, Tex.: Information Systems Development, 1976).
- Duran, Daniel Flores. *Latino Materials: A Multimedia Guide for Children and Young Adults* (Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio, 1979).
- García, Odalmira. *Chicana Studies Curriculum Guide: Grades 9-12* (Las Cruces: ERIC/CRESS, 1978).
- Gómez-Quñones, Juan and Alberto Camarillo. *Selected Bibliography for Chicano Studies*, 3rd ed. (Los Angeles: Chicano Studies Center Publications, 1975).
- Hispanic American Periodical Index* (Los Angeles: Latin American Center, 1975-).
- Maciel, David. *Mexico: A Selected Bibliography of Sources for Chicano Studies* (Los Angeles: Chicano Studies Center Publications, 1976).
- Mariscal, Linda. "Index to Material on la Chicana Appearing in *El Grito del Norte*" (Unpublished guide; Berkeley: Chicano Studies Library, 1976).
- Ríos, Graciela. "Index to Social Conditions Sections of the Chicano Studies Library as It Pertains to la Chicana" (Unpublished guide; Berkeley: Chicano Studies Library, 1975).
- Southern Colorado State College Library. *La Chicana: A Selected Bibliography of Material Concerned with the Mexican American Women in Higher Education* (Pueblo, Colo.: The Library, 1975).
- Talbot, Jane Mitchell and Gilbert Cruz. *A Comprehensive Chicano Bibliography, 1960-1972* (Austin, Tex.: Jenkins Publishing Co., 1973).
- Tatum, Charles. *A Selective and Annotated Bibliography of Chicano Studies*. 2nd ed. (Lincoln, Neb.: Society of Spanish and Spanish American Studies, 1979).
- Woods, Richard D. *Reference Materials on Mexican Americans: An Annotated Bibliography* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1976).

Concluding Remarks

Chicana bibliographies arose in response to the lack of inclusion in

Chicano bibliographies. The first Chicana bibliographies were compiled to support instructional efforts. Several of the major Chicana bibliographies were published in 1976. Many of these remain useful, despite the fact that they are all outdated. Chicana bibliographies are becoming focused on particular subtopics of Chicana studies and more research-oriented. At the same time, both major Chicano and women's bibliographic sources have begun to incorporate Chicanas into their scope and organization.

Sandra Balderama has compiled an excellent bibliographic manuscript on Chicanas, while Adelaida del Castillo is in the process of compiling one.

In the area of history, the second edition of "Pre-Twentieth Century Mexicans North of the Rio Bravo: Selected Social and Economic Sources" (*Development of the Mexican Working Class North of the Rio Bravo: Work and Culture among Laborers and Artisans, 1860-1900* [Los Angeles: Chicano Studies Research Center Publications, 1982], pp. 55-118) by Juan Gómez-Quíñones and Roberto Calderón will contain a section on women.

Julio Martínez and Francisco Lomell's *Chicano Literature: A Reader's Encyclopedia*, published in the fall of 1984 by Greenwood Press, contains entries on Chicana writers.

Additionally, the Mexican archival work being carried out by Barbara Driscoll will most certainly enrich our knowledge of Chicana archival sources. The next few years will, hopefully, produce more sophisticated bibliographic tools on Chicanas which are necessary to support the continuing research in this critical area of study. Bibliographers and scholars must make a conscious attempt to include sections on women in their work.