

# APUNTES

## 2CUL: LATIN AMERICAN & IBERIAN STUDIES COLUMBIA & CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Issue 1, November 2012

### 2CUL: A COLLABORATIVE MODEL FOR BUILDING LATIN AMERICAN AND IBERIAN RESEARCH COLLECTIONS AT CORNELL AND COLUMBIA

#### INTRODUCTION

As [announced earlier this year](#), Cornell University Library (CUL) and Columbia University Libraries (CUL) are collaboratively building our Latin American and Iberian Studies collections as part of the 2CUL partnership. Pronounced “too cool,” this transformative partnership will enable us to “pool resources to provide content, expertise, and services that are impossible to accomplish acting alone” (<http://2cul.org>). We aim to expand both the depth and breadth of our research collections by identifying areas of unnecessary duplication and redirecting those resources toward acquiring additional materials. This collaboration is about getting more, not less. In this report, I will provide an overview of the collections from a shared perspective and present our innovative model of collaboration.

## AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD

This seemingly radical proposal is based in common sense. Advanced research collections share a common mission to enable meaningful scholarship, such as the writing of scholarly monographs, articles, and dissertations, in addition to supporting instruction at the graduate and undergraduate levels. In most aspects, academic libraries no longer directly compete with each other; we are interconnected. Consider Borrow Direct. Today, our students, staff and faculty have access to nearly 50 million items from some of the most comprehensive research collections in the United States: Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, MIT, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale. Materials arrive within four days. Between Cornell and Columbia, because of 2CUL, we enjoy expedited two-day delivery.

## CAN SHARED COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT WORK WITHIN 2CUL?

It already is. A notable precedent for collaborative collection development already exists within 2CUL for Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies. Robert Davis, a librarian based at Columbia, has managed these shared collections for over two years and, during this time, has reduced duplication rates for Russian imprints from 14% to 1.6%. Subsequently, he has reallocated substantial funds to acquire additional materials resulting in a more diverse collection than previously acquired when selected in isolation.

Cornell and Columbia are dedicated to sharing global acquisitions for the long term. Although we will build collaboratively, our local budgets will remain separate and materials acquired will be housed at the library that purchased them. More important, funding will not decrease as we reduce duplication. As I've stated before, 2CUL is about getting more, not less. It is a bold venture designed to expand research collections at a time when others are severely curtailing theirs.

## AN OVERVIEW OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT CORNELL AND COLUMBIA

Cornell and Columbia are entering this collaboration with unique and historically comprehensive Latin American and Iberian research collections that support robust programs on both campuses.

Cornell's Latin American Studies Program (LASP) offers a minor in Latin American Studies for undergraduates and graduates, a "Foreign Language Across the Curriculum" initiative, and other programming, including hosting visiting scholars. LASP consists of approximately eighty faculty members. Key departments for collection development include: Anthropology, City and Regional Planning, Development Sociology, History, History of Art, International and Comparative Labor Relations, Government, and Romance Studies with agricultural sciences and nutrition being areas of distinct interest at Cornell.

The Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) at Columbia University is the center for research, teaching, and discussion on the region and supports a Center for Brazilian Studies, has a special focus on Mexican Studies, and is a National Resource Center, together with NYU. It hosts visiting scholars and organizes programming related to the region. ILAS offers an interdisciplinary M.A. program in Regional Studies—Latin America and the Caribbean (MARSLAC), an undergraduate major in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and a graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. Approximately ninety faculty members are affiliated with Latin American studies at Columbia. Key departments for collection development in the region include: the Department of Art History & Archaeology, the Graduate School of Architecture, Department of History, the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, the Department of Political Science, the School of International and Public Affairs, and Spanish and Latin American Cultures (at Barnard College).

## SHARED FACULTY INTERESTS

Based on a review of faculty interests as expressed via profiles on the Cornell and Columbia websites, the following countries represent the highest level of interest across campuses, in order of rank: Mexico, Brazil, the Caribbean in general, Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Chile, and Spain.

## OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

The historically comprehensive research collections held at Cornell and Columbia complement each other well in several areas. Columbia has invested deeply in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, Central America, the Southern Cone, and Spain. At the same time, Cornell has historical and current strengths in the Andes (principally on Peru and Bolivia, a nationally recognized research collection). Both collections are heavily invested in Brazil and Mexico in the humanities but especially so in the social sciences. Subject contrasts emerge from Columbia's intensive investments in architecture and fine arts while Cornell has a notable dedication to labor issues. Complementary subject strengths include economic development, history, languages and literature, political science, sociology, and anthropology. Materials are acquired in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and in other European and indigenous Latin American languages.

## COLLECTION ANALYSIS FROM A SHARED PERSPECTIVE

To prepare for this collaboration and report, I analyzed the book holdings of both libraries, from the year 2000 through 2011, as cataloged in WorldCat. Why only one decade? This recent snapshot provides the clearest picture of our current collecting patterns.

## LANGUAGES OF THE COLLECTION

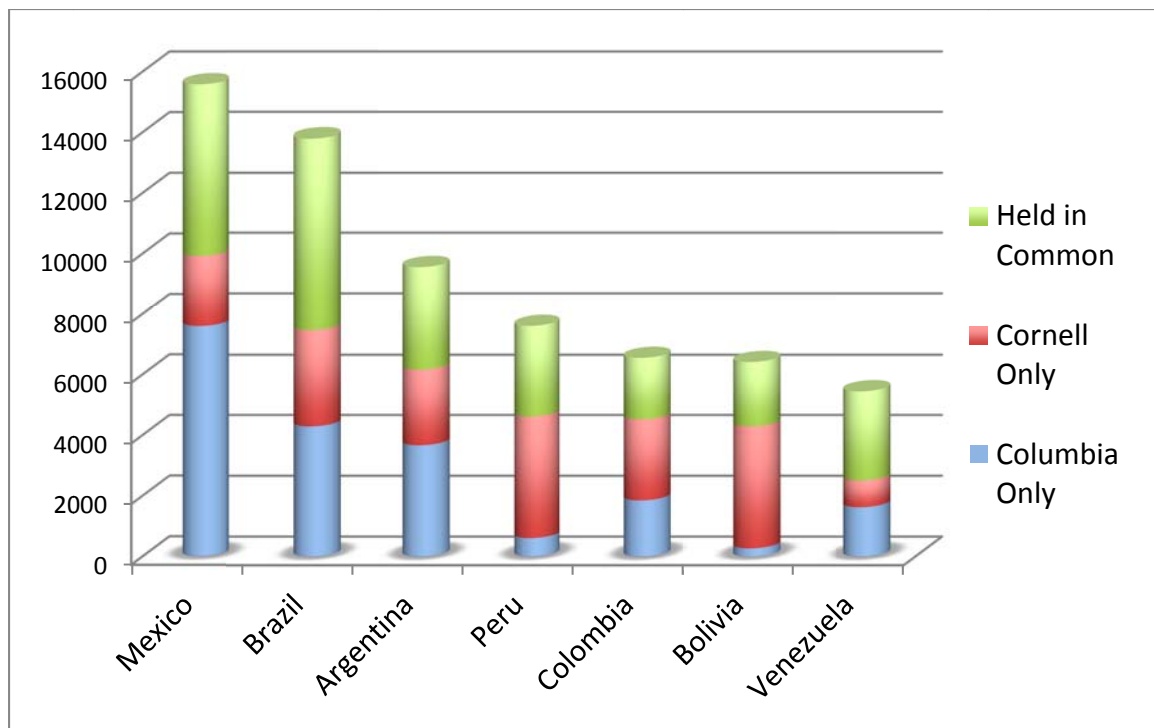
The shared Cornell and Columbia book collections during the period of study reveal over 95,000 Spanish-language titles, roughly 16,500 titles in Portuguese, and around 1,000 titles in Catalan. Other languages of the region are represented but only in very small numbers. They include: Galician, Mayan languages, Basque, Quechua and still others in the single digits.

## LATIN AMERICAN IMPRINTS: 2000 - 2011

The statistics and charts that follow explore publications from the region itself, not those about the region but published elsewhere. Why? Our collaborative efforts within 2CUL will mainly concentrate on refocusing our collecting patterns of materials acquired from the region via our book dealers in Latin America and Iberia.

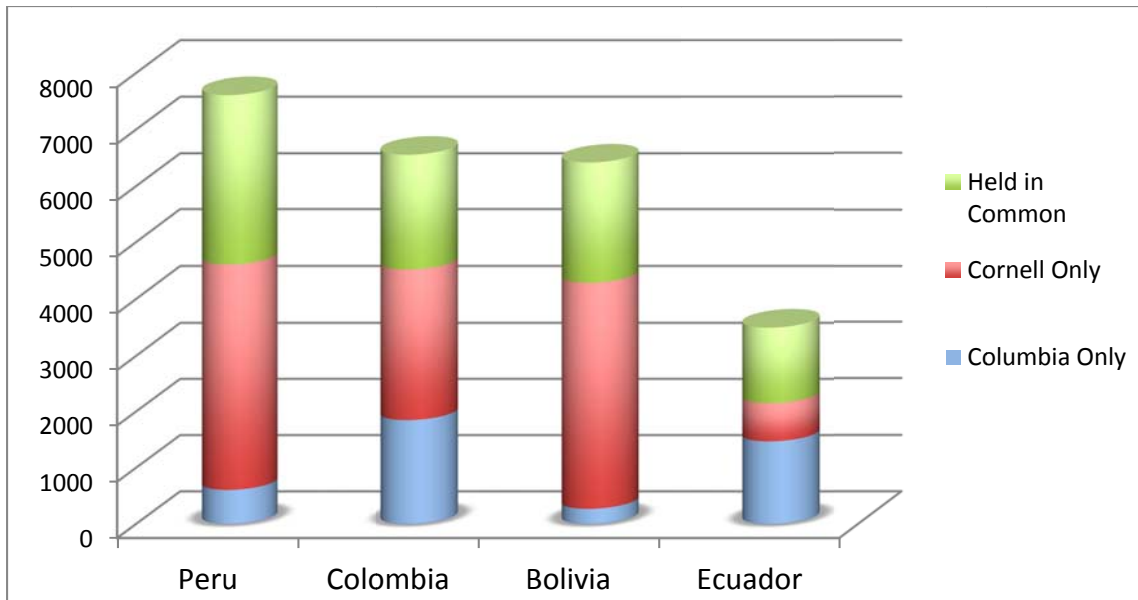
Represented below are the most collected countries of publication in Latin America. Titles held by Columbia (*but not by Cornell*) are in Columbia blue, titles held by Cornell (*but not by Columbia*) are in carnelian, and the sections in green are those titles that we hold in common. By titles in common, I mean that both Columbia and Cornell each hold a copy of the same publication (not different editions).

## MOST COLLECTED COUNTRIES: 2000 - 2011



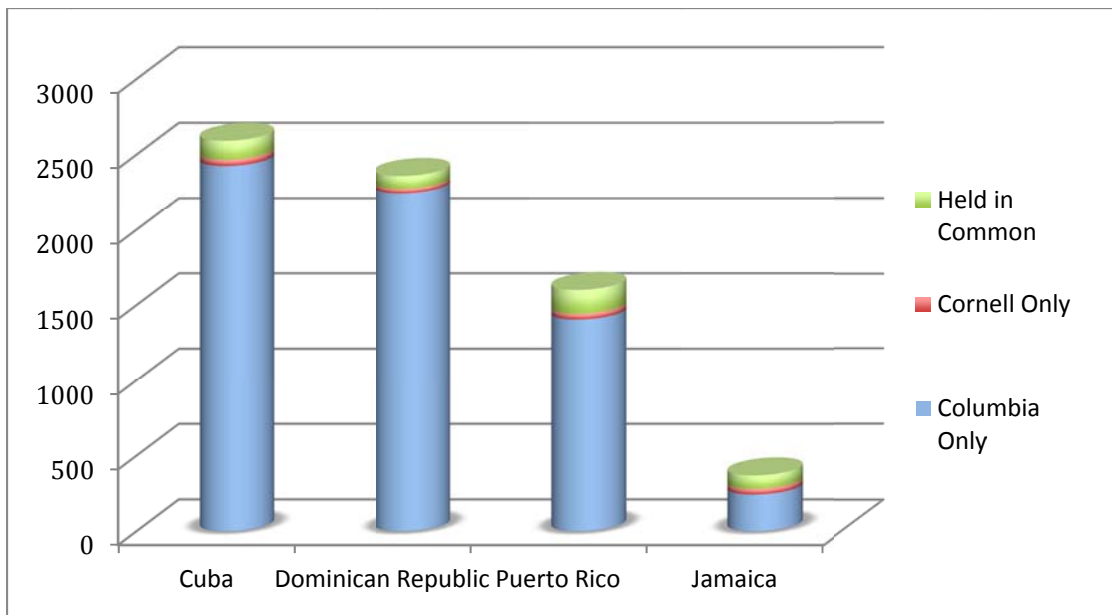
As you can see, in the case of Mexican imprints, Columbia holds approximately 7,600 titles not held at Cornell while Cornell holds 2,300 titles not held at Columbia. Together, Columbia and Cornell hold in common (or duplicate) an additional 5,600 titles. These duplicated titles encompass 36% of the grand total of the 15,500 titles acquired from Mexico in just over one decade. This chart clearly illustrates intensive collecting efforts by both institutions of Mexican, Brazilian, and Argentine imprints during the time period.

## THE ANDES: 2000 - 2011



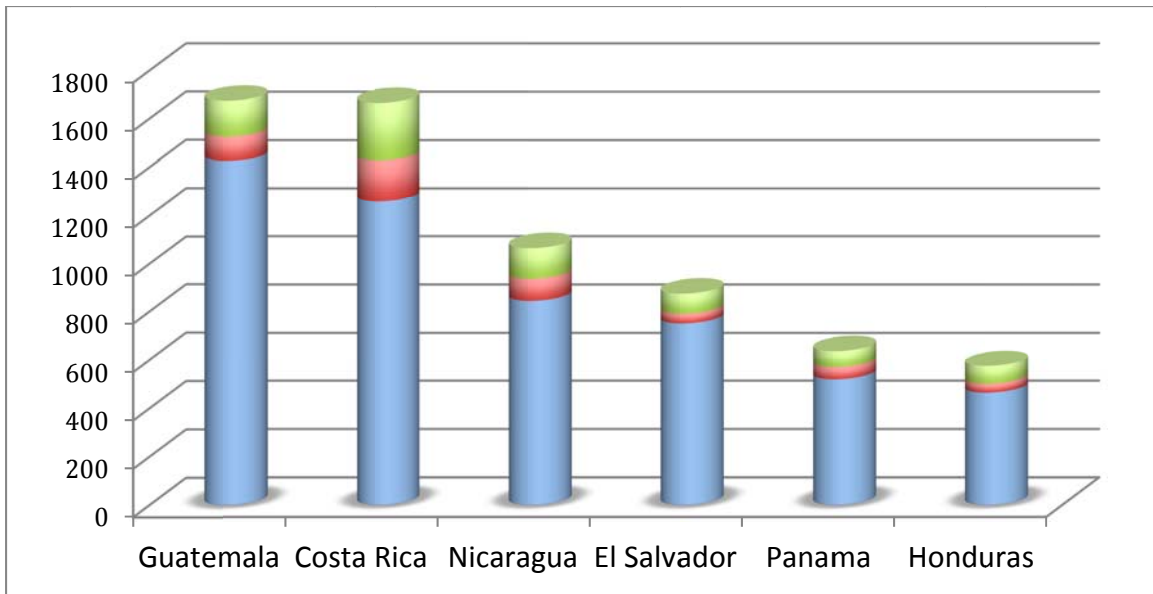
Cornell's historical and ongoing dedication to Peru and Bolivia contrasts sharply with Columbia, which collects in a reduced capacity. Cornell's holdings in Peru and Bolivia are recognized as nationally significant collections.

## THE CARIBBEAN: 2000 - 2011

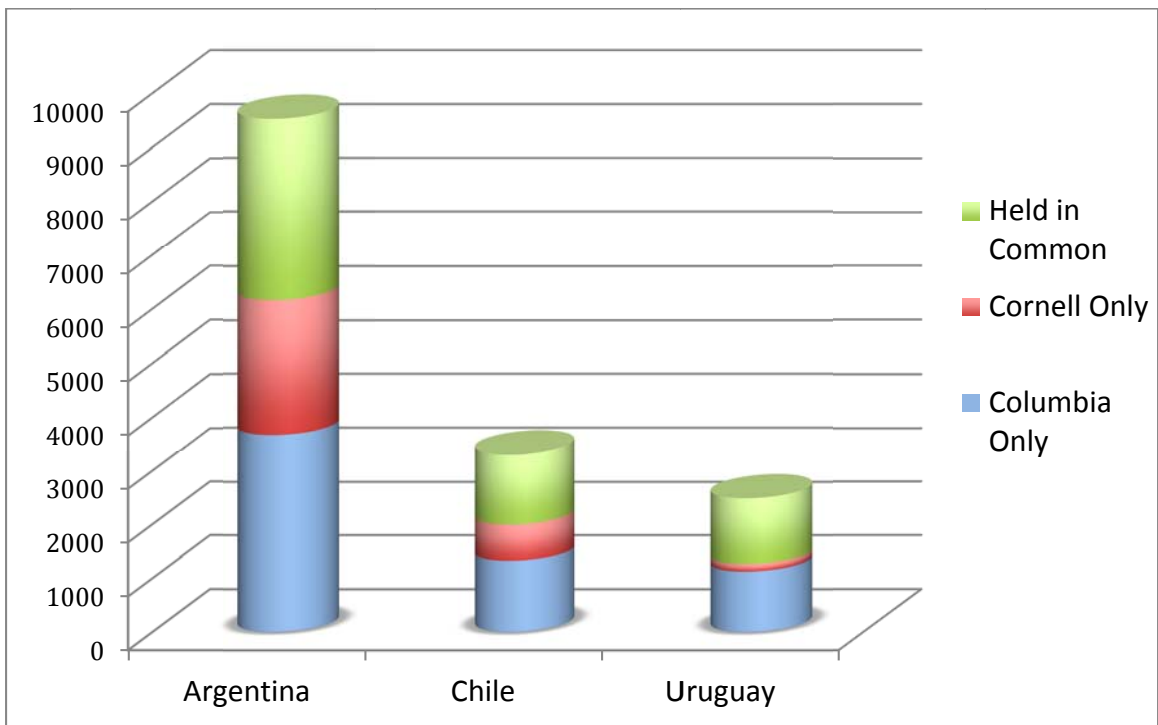




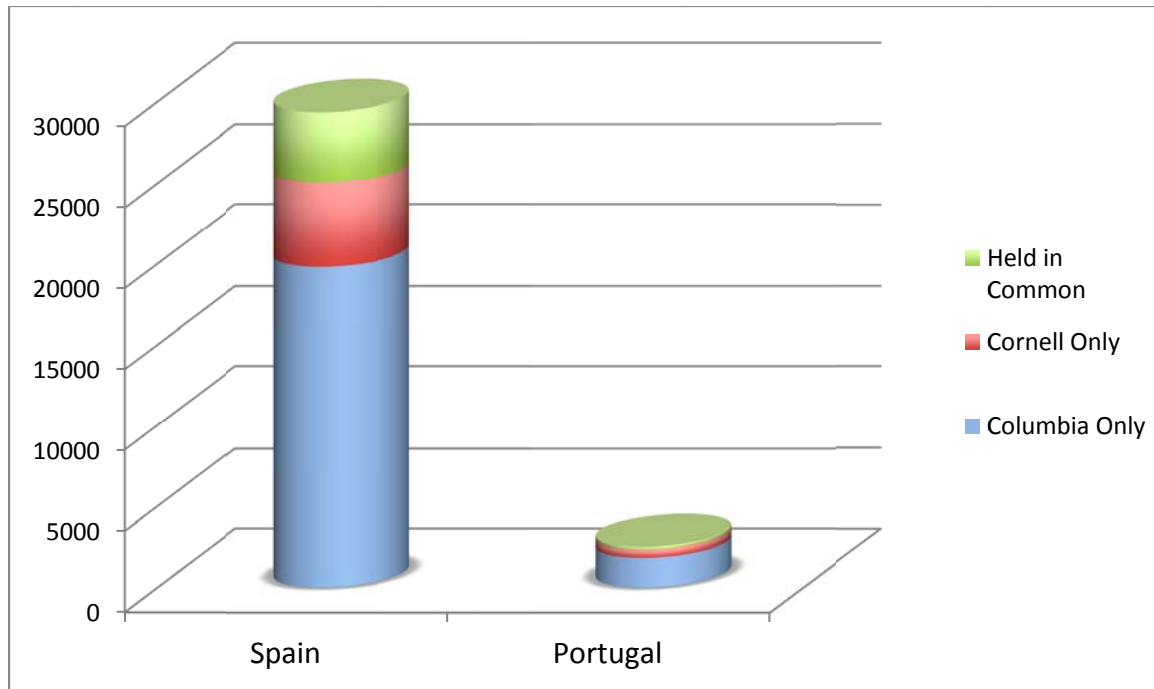
## CENTRAL AMERICA: 2000 - 2011



## SOUTHERN CONE: 2000 - 2011



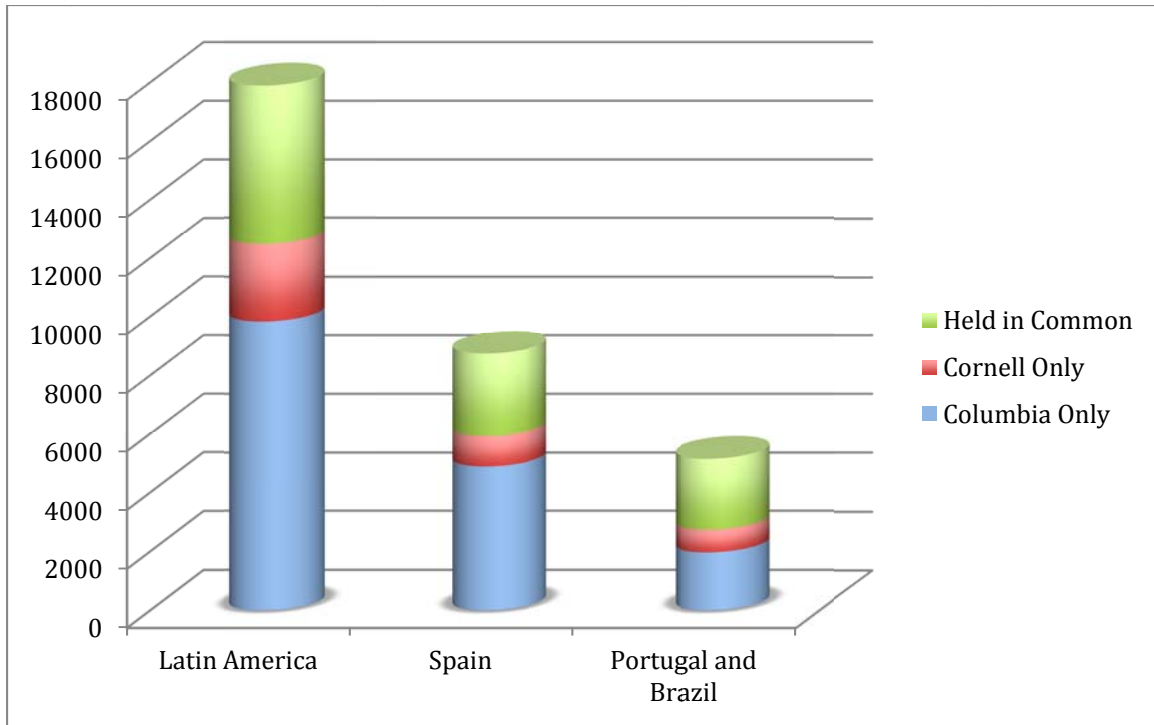
## IBERIAN PENINSULA: 2000-2011



Our combined 30,000 Spanish publications vastly outstrip, not only those from Portugal, but they also nearly double that of our next most collected country, Mexico. Spanish imprints more than double our holdings of Brazilian imprints for this decade.

According to the recent [Global Map of Publishing Markets](#) (PDF) published by the International Publishers Association, Spain and Brazil represent the eighth and ninth, respectively, strongest publishing markets in the world. Only the markets in the United States, China, Germany, Japan, France, United Kingdom, and Italy are larger. With strong growth in publishing in Spain and Brazil, as well as other countries in Latin America, there exist many more relevant publications that we are currently able to acquire working alone.

## LITERATURE AND LITERARY CRITICISM (PQS): 2000 - 2011



### TITLES HELD IN COMMON (DUPLICATE HOLDINGS)

On average, the combined Latin American and Iberian research collections of Cornell and Columbia include a 25% duplication rate. The seven countries with the highest level of duplication average a 43% duplication rate. We duplicate 46% of our Brazilian imprints, representing over \$20,000 in annual expenditures. Redirecting even half of that amount toward additional Brazilian imprints will positively impact the depth and scope of our collections. The countries with the highest percentage of

duplication within 2CUL are Venezuela (54%), Uruguay (50%), Brazil (46%), Chile (40%), and Mexico (36%).

## 2CUL AS A MODEL OF SHARED COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Since our plans for shared collection development still require attention to the local research and instructional needs of scholars, we will continue to duplicate core materials. These may include print reference, university press publications, major publishers, and established authors and related criticism, to name some examples. However, both institutions should not duplicate all research material.

Based on the above analyses I aim to 1) refocus and harmonize our approval plans with book dealers common to both institutions, 2) develop new divisions of collecting responsibilities that address future research needs, 3) reduce duplication within our shared collections of research-level materials and 4) reallocate funding toward developing increasingly unique and deep collections in keeping with our collecting profiles. This new approach will result in shared collections that 1) have greater overall depth and breadth in our historical dedicated areas of interest, 2) include regions not traditionally well represented in our collections (Haiti and other Caribbean islands, Portuguese and Catalan imprints), 3) offer increased ability to acquire expensive or otherwise unique holdings (antiquarian/rare imprints, fine press

or artists' books, architecture and fine arts publications, digital/primary resources) and  
4) allow investment in new areas (graphic novels at Columbia).

Within 2CUL we have a rare opportunity to build a shared research collection for the twenty-first century. I look forward to your participation and welcome your comments and questions, as they will be crucial to the success of this partnership.

*Sean Knowlton*  
*Latin American and Iberian Studies Librarian,*  
*Columbia University Libraries and Cornell University Library*