



Ford Foundation records, Mexico City Field Office Program and Subject Files

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	5
Arrangement	7
Administrative Information	7
Related Materials	8
Controlled Access Headings	8
Collection Inventory	9
Mexico Programs	9
Agriculture	9
Border and Migration in Mexico - US Relations	9
Education	10
Law and Society	13
Nutrition	13
Pollution	13
Population	13
Resources and the Environment	16
Rural Development	16
Science and Technology	17
Social Sciences	17
Urban Studies	18
Central America	18
General	18
Agriculture	18
Anthropology	18
Education	19
Human Rights	19
Law and Society	19
Population	20
Rural Development	20
Social Science	20
Urban and Regional Planning	21
Caribbean Programs	21

General	21
Agriculture	21
Education	21
Population	22
Social Science	23
Urban Studies	23
Latin America Program	23
Agriculture	23
Anthropology	24
Education	24
Human Rights and Displaced Scholars	25
International Relations	25
Population	25
Resources and the Environment	25
Rural Development	26
Science and Technology	26
Social Sciences	26
Urban Studies	26
International Programs	27
Agriculture	27
Communication	27
Economics	27
Education	27
Foundations	27
Population	27
Public Management	28
Resources and the Environment	28
Rural Development	28
Science and Technology	28
Social Sciences	28
Conference Files	28
Trip Files	29

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Mexico City Field Office Program and Subject Files
ID:	FA1530
Date [inclusive]:	1962-1984
Physical Description:	14.6 Cubic Feet 38 boxes (34 letter document containers, 4 legal document containers, and 1 half letter document container)
Language of the Material:	English and Spanish

Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <https://rockarch.org/collections/access-and-request-materials/#citations>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation began providing grants to programs in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1959. Within the Latin America and the Caribbean program, the Foundation opened a field office in Mexico in 1962 with three major goals: 1) to help build institutions for research and training, 2) foster leadership and managerial talent by providing grants to institutions and tailored research support to individuals, and 3) study pervasive problems (such as issues in agricultural development). These goals were originally focused in the natural sciences, engineering, economics, community development/management, and agriculture.

By 1967, the Ford Foundation had programs and offices in Argentina, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and the Caribbean. In the 1970s, the Ford Foundation widened its program areas in Latin America and the Caribbean to include projects in political science, sociology, social anthropology, women's issues, international affairs, child development, human rights, and demography. In response to the rise of repressive regimes in such countries as Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Argentina, the Foundation also worked to find employment for displaced social scientists within the region in the 1970s.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection primarily consists of correspondence (defined by the Ford Foundation as subject files) received by the Ford Foundation's Mexico City Field Office. The correspondence is related to the Ford Foundation's work in Mexico, Central America, and South America. The topics covered in the correspondence include: agriculture, anthropology, communication, economics, education, work with foundations, human rights, international relations, law and society, Mexico-US relations, nutrition, pollution, population, public management, resources and the environment, rural development, science and technology, social sciences, urban studies, conference files, and trip files.

Correspondence from the following individuals can be found in this collection:

Emily Vargas Adams

Judith D. Albert

Verne S. Atwater

Calvin P. Blair

Frank Cajka

Peter S. Cleaves

Norman Collins

Nancy Dennis

Robert Drysdale

Richard Dye

Peter Fraenkel

Santiago Friedman

John Funari

William K. Gamble

James A. Gardner

Lowell Hardin

Oscar Harkavy

Eugene Havens Reed Hertford

James Himes

Frank L. Keegan

Robert Myers

John Nagel

John P. Netherton

Siobhan Oppenheimer-Nicolau

K. N. Rao

Nanneke Codd Redclift

Peter Ruof

John Santos

Enid Schoettle

Barry Schuman

Ozzie G. Simmons

Dorothy Tanck

James Trowbridge

Eduardo Venezian

Carl White

Robert S. Wickham

Don Winkelmann

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 5 series:

1. Mexico Programs, 1962-1982
2. Central America, 1962-1983
3. Caribbean Programs, 1964-1972
4. Latin America Program, 1962-1984
5. International Programs

Each series contains subseries that relate to various Ford Foundation program goals (agriculture, population, etc.). The Ford Foundation's original classifications/titles for series and subseries have been retained.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Processing Information

Standard processing by Katie Martin, July 2019

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This material was transferred to RAC in 2019 by the Ford Foundation and ingested by RAC as Accessions 2019:012, 2019:015, and 2019:028.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Related materials include:

[Ford Foundation records, International Division, Latin America and the Caribbean, Jamaica and Mexico City Field Office Files, 1958-1974 \(FA612\)](#)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Agriculture -- Research -- Mexico
- Community development -- Mexico -- Mexico City
- Ford Foundation
- Ford Foundation -- Program development -- Education
- Ford Foundation programs -- Latin America
- Human rights
- International relations -- Ford Foundation
- Social sciences -- Research -- Population
- Women -- Ford Foundation

Collection Inventory

Mexico Programs, 1962-1982

Agriculture, 1962-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
General, 1979-1980	box 1	folder 1
General, 1970-1978	box 1	folder 2
Arid Zones, 1967-1969	box 1	folder 3
Arid Zones, 1962-1966	box 1	folder 4
CIMMYT – General, 1970-1972	box 1	folder 5
CIMMYT – General, 1969	box 1	folder 6
CIMMYT/Antonio Narro – Arid Zone, 1969	box 1	folder 7
Chapingo – Campus Planning and Construction, 1963-1965	box 1	folder 8
Chapingo – General, 1968-1971	box 1	folder 9
Cornell University – General , 1966-1970	box 1	folder 10
IDUR – Instituto de Desarrollo Urbano Y Regional (and University of Southern California), 1973-1975	box 2	folder 11
IPADE - Instituto Panamericano de Alta Direccion de Empresas, 1969-1970	box 2	folder 12
Iowa State University – Chapingo, 1969-1970	box 2	folder 13
Iowa State University – Chapingo, 1967-1968	box 2	folder 14
Iowa State representative, 1966-1967		

Border and Migration in Mexico - US Relations , 1975-1981

Title/Description	Instances	
Border and Migration - (Mexico/US), 1980	box 2	folder 16
Border and Migration, 1979 June-November	box 2	folder 17
Border and Migration, 1979 January-May	box 2	folder 18
Border and Migration, 1977-1978	box 2	folder 19
Border and Migration, 1978 July-August	box 2	folder 20
Border and Migration, 1978 January-May	box 3	folder 21
Border and Migration, 1975-1977	box 3	folder 22

Border and Migration, 1981	box 3	folder 23
Border and Migration, 1980	box 3	folder 24

Education, 1962-1981

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains reports and correspondence regarding Ford Foundation fellows, involvement with Ford-funded programs at universities in Mexico, and Ford-funded educational programming, including Plaza Sésamo (Sesame Street).

Title/Description	Instances	
AAIP - Alumni Association, 1969-1970	box 3	folder 25
American School of Longitudinal Study, 1975	box 3	folder 26
ANUIES (Asociacion Nacional de Ensenanza Superior), 1962-1971	box 3	folder 27
Aptitude Test Mexico - General , 1965-1970	box 3	folder 28
Arizona, University of, 1970	box 3	folder 29
California, University of – Berkeley, 1967-1971	box 3	folder 30
CETYS - Centro de Ensenanza Tecnica Y Superior, Mexicali, B.C., 1967-1972	box 3	folder 31
Plaza Sesamo - CIPAC - INCCAPAC - Advisory Committee Meetings: Guadalajara, Cocoyoc, and Montreal, 1972-1973	box 3	folder 32
CIPAC, 1973	box 4	folder 33
Consejo Nacionol de Fomento Educativo - General, 1976	box 4	folder 34
Centro Mexicano de Escritores - General, 1968-1972	box 4	folder 35
CEMLA - Centro de Estudios Monetarios Latinamericanos, 1966-1969	box 4	folder 36
CEE - Centro de Estudios Educativos - General, 1964-1974	box 4	folder 37
CIES - Centro de Investigaciones Ecologicas Del Sureste, 1978-1979	box 4	folder 38
Childhood Education, 1975-1977	box 4	folder 39
El Colegio de Mexico, 1967-1968	box 4	folder 40
El Colegio de Mexico: Grant Proposal 30th International Congress of Human Sciences, 1976	box 4	folder 41
Scope and Contents		
PA76-0831		
Colegio Peterson, 1969	box 4	folder 42
Comunicacion Educativa, AC, 1975-1977		

	box 4	folder 43
ETV – General, 1967-1971	box 4	folder 44
ETV – Mexico, 1963-1971	box 4	folder 45
ETV - Monterrey, 1966-1968	box 4	folder 46
Chron Files, 1974	box 5	folder 47
Chron Files, 1973	box 5	folder 48
General, 1975-1977	box 5	folder 49
General, 1973-1974	box 5	folder 50
General, 1972	box 5	folder 51
General, 1970-1971	box 5	folder 52
Education - Mexico, 1977-1980	box 5	folder 53
Escuela Nacional de Bibliotecarios, 1965-1966	box 6	folder 54
Educational Conferences, 1969-1970	box 6	folder 55
Fomento Cultural, A.C. - General, 1973-1974	box 6	folder 56
Fomento Cultural y Educativo, A.C. - Correspondence, 1973-1976	box 6	folder 57
Ibero – Americana, Universidad - Project and Proposal, 1974	box 6	folder 58
Ford Foundation/Intercommunications, 1974-1975	box 6	folder 59
Ford Foundation/Intercommunications, 1970-1973	box 6	folder 60
IMED - Instituto Mexicano del Desarrollo, A.C., 1976-1979	box 6	folder 61
Informacion Educativa, 1975-1977	box 6	folder 62
III - Instituto Interuniversitario de Investigaciones Sociales, Yucatan, 1968-1969	box 6	folder 63-64
INCCAPAC and Chonback Conference, 1975	box 7	folder 65
Instituto Nacional de Pedagogia - General, 1967-1970	box 7	folder 66
CIDOC, 1964-1967	box 7	folder 67
Dr. Pablo Latapi – General, 1968	box 7	folder 68
Leland Stanford Junior University, Regional Grant 700–0401 Monitored by New York Office, undated	box 7	folder 69
Scope and Contents		
Empty folder except for cross reference sheet - refer to grants PA 07000401 and PA 06900421		
Linguistics, 1976-1977	box 7	folder 70
Milton Murray - Consultant, 1967-1971	box 7	folder 71

Other University Administration Programs, 1967-1970	box 7	folder 72
Pennsylvania State University, 1967	box 7	folder 73
Scope and Contents		
Related to grant PA 06600056		
Post Graduate Programs, 1968	box 7	folder 74
Punta del Este, undated	box 7	folder 75
Scope and Contents		
Empty folder with cross reference note - material can be found in the L67-379 log file		
Scholarly Books in Latin America, 1972	box 7	folder 76
SEP - Secretaria de Educacion Publica, 1975-1976	box 7	folder 77
Sesame Street - General, 1970-1974	box 7	folder 78
Sociedad Matematica Mexicana, 1968	box 7	folder 79
Sociedad Mexicana de Fisica, undated	box 7	folder 80
Scope and Contents		
Folder empty except for cross reference sheet - See grant no. PA 06800070		
Stanford University - General, undated	box 7	folder 81
Scope and Contents		
Empty except for cross reference sheet - see grant no. 06500031 and Log Files L68-108 and L69-421		
Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, 1974-1976	box 7	folder 82
Universidad de Guadalajara, 1979-1980	box 7	folder 83
Universidad de las Americas, 1976-1979	box 7	folder 84
UIA - Universidad Iberoamericana, 1974-1976	box 7	folder 85
UIA - Universidad Iberoamericana, 1977	box 8	folder 86
UIA - Universidad Iberoamericana, 1978	box 8	folder 87
UIA - Universidad Iberoamericana, 1978-1981	box 8	folder 88
UNAM – Coordinacion de Ciencias, 1966-1971	box 8	folder 89
UNAM - Facultad de Ingenieria, 1967-1971	box 8	folder 90
UNAM - General, 1964-1972	box 8	folder 91
UNAM - Instituto de Investigaciones Biomedicas, 1968-1970	box 8	folder 92

UNAM – Instituto De Investigaciones Sociales (Lic. R. Benitez Z.), 1971-1972	box 8	folder 93
University Counseling, 1966-1970	box 8	folder 94
UNAM – University Planning, 1966-1970	box 8	folder 95
United Nations, 1967	box 8	folder 96
Washington University, undated	box 8	folder 97

Scope and Contents

Empty except for cross reference sheet - refer to Log File
L68-456

Law and Society, 1976-1978

Title/Description	Instances	
Law and Society - Mexico, 1976-1978	box 8	folder 98

Nutrition, 1979-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
Nutrition - Mexico, 1980-1982	box 9	folder 99
Nutrition - Mexico, 1979-1980	box 9	folder 100

Pollution, 1969-1971

Title/Description	Instances	
Pollution, 1969-1971	box 9	folder 101

Population, 1964-1980

Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation began population work in Mexico in 1964. Foundation staff moved to provide financial support for training and research in Mexican institutions that would stimulate awareness in both public and private sectors of the facts and meaning of population growth. The Foundation supported research on bio-medical, sociological, and demographic issues related to population, and training of persons who would be capable of contributing to policy and action on population issues.

The Ford Foundation scaled back its population work in Mexico in the 1970s as the country began accepting population funds from large donors such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the World Bank as well as committing its own resources to population programs. The Foundation continued to fund smaller programs, including the PIACT de Mexico (Program for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology) and training teachers in population/social communication at the Iberoamerican University in Mexico City.

Title/Description	Instances	
American Embassy, 1973-1975	box 9	folder 102

Arizona State University - "The Future of Mexico" Conference, 1976	box 9	folder 103
Asociacion Mexicana de Facultades y Escuelas de Medicina, 1967-1976	box 9	folder 104
Asociacion Pro-Salud Maternal, A.C., 1969-1974	box 9	folder 105
Center for Population and Family Health/Columbia University, 1976	box 9	folder 106
CICRED – Comité International de coordination des Recherches Nationales en Demographie, 1975-1976	box 9	folder 107
Conferences and Seminars, 1974-1975	box 9	folder 108
Consejo de Planificacion Familiar, 1977-1978	box 9	folder 109
CONAPO – Consejo Nacional de Poblacion, 1975-1980	box 9	folder 110
Culdoscopy Applicants, 1969-1970	box 9	folder 111-113
Culdoscopy Training Program, 1971-1972	box 10	folder 114
Culdoscopy Training Program, 1968-1971	box 10	folder 115
Development Associates, Inc., 1975-1977	box 10	folder 116
Greep Review – Reproductive Biology , 1973-1976	box 10	folder 117
Fellowship File – Carmen Zueck, General Correspondence, 1976-1977	box 10	folder 118
Dr. Reuben Hill (Consultant), 1964-1969	box 10	folder 119
Hospital de la Mujer – Culdoscopy - General Correspondence, 1969	box 10	folder 120
Hospital de la Mujer – Culdoscopy - General Correspondence, 1970 January-August	box 10	folder 121
Hospital de la Mujer – Culdoscopy - General Correspondence, 1970 September-December	box 10	folder 122
Hospital Infantil, 1964-1969	box 10	folder 123
Instituto Autonomo de Ciencias y Tecnologia (Aguascalientes), 1972-1973	box 10	folder 124
ICOMP - Internal Committee on Population Program Management, 1972-1975	box 11	folder 125
IED - International Educational Development, 1974	box 11	folder 126
IMES – Instituto Mexicano de Estudios Sociales, Proposal – Family Sociology, 1973-1974	box 11	folder 127
Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, 1976	box 11	folder 128
IMSS – Family Planning Program, 1972-1974	box 11	folder 129

IPPF - International Planned Parenthood Federation, 1971-1977	box 11	folder 130
Interoffice – Mexico, 1973-1977	box 11	folder 131
Management of Family Planning and Population, 1973-1974	box 11	folder 132
PIACT - Program for the Introduction and Adaption of Contraceptive Technology, 1977-1978	box 11	folder 133
Mexico Program, 1965-1971	box 11	folder 134
Mexico Program, 1972-1973	box 12	folder 135
Mexico Program, 1974-1978	box 12	folder 136
Movimiento Familiar Cristiano, 1973-1974	box 12	folder 137
New York and Field Office - General, 1975-1977	box 12	folder 138
Office of Population - New York City, 1975	box 12	folder 139
Organisacion Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores (ORIT), 1968-1974	box 12	folder 140
PAHO - Pan-American Health Organization, 1966-1977	box 12	folder 141
Non-Parametric Statistics Course – Mexico, 1970	box 12	folder 142
PIACT - Program for the Introduction and Adaption of Contraceptive Technology, 1976	box 12	folder 143
PLAMIRH, 1973-1975	box 12	folder 144
Population - General Correspondence, 1967-1968	box 13	folder 144
Population - General Correspondence, 1969	box 13	folder 145
Population - General Correspondence, 1970	box 13	folder 146
Population - General Correspondence, 1971	box 13	folder 147
Population - General Correspondence, 1972-1973	box 13	folder 148
Population - General Correspondence, 1974-1977	box 13	folder 149
Population - Mexico, 1971-1978	box 13	folder 150
Population Council, 1971-1975	box 14	folder 151
Population Studies, 1973-1974	box 14	folder 152
Population Reference Bureau, 1968-1974	box 14	folder 153
Reproductive Biology, 1968-1976	box 14	folder 154
SSA (Secretaria de Salubridad y Asistencia) - Family Planning Program, 1975-1977	box 14	folder 155
Sanger Center Proposal, 1973-1974	box 14	folder 156
Sex and Population Education, 1973-1977	box 14	folder 157
Social Sciences and Population - General, 1970-1975	box 14	folder 158

UNDA/WACC, 1974	box 14	folder 159
Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, 1969-1971	box 14	folder 160
Universidad de Guanajuato - Escuela de Medicina de Leon, 1971	box 14	folder 161
Universidad de Vera Cruz, 1967-1968	box 14	folder 162
Universidad Juarez del Estado de Durango, 1966-1976	box 14	folder 163
University of Chicago - Bogue, 1973-1977	box 14	folder 164
University of Chicago - Communications Training, 1976	box 14	folder 165
University of Notre Dame, 1967-1969	box 14	folder 166
University of Notre Dame, 1966-1971	box 14	folder 167
Visitors - Dr. Bienvenido Delgado Bellini, 1969	box 14	folder 168
Visitors - Eight Nigerian and Ghanian Physicians, 1969	box 14	folder 169
WHO Program of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, 1971-1975	box 14	folder 170
World Education, Inc., 1974-1975	box 14	folder 171

Resources and the Environment, 1974-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Fundacion Javier Barros Sierra, A.C., 1977-1978	box 14	folder 172
Resources and the Environment, 1974-1977	box 15	folder 173
Resources and the Environment, 1978	box 15	folder 174
Resources and the Environment, 1979	box 15	folder 175
Resources and the Environment, 1980	box 15	folder 176

Rural Development, 1972-1979

Title/Description	Instances	
CIDER - Centro de Investigaciones del Desarrollo Rural, 1974-1979	box 15	folder 177
COPIDER, 1975-1978	box 15	folder 178
COPIDER - Committee, 1976-1977	box 15	folder 179
COPIDER - Minutes to Reunions, 1975-1976	box 15	folder 180
Rural Development - Mexico, 1978	box 16	folder 181
Rural Development - Mexico, 1974-1977	box 16	folder 182
Universidad Veracruzana, Jalapa, Veracruz, 1972-1979	box 16	folder 183

Science and Technology, 1963-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
Science & Engineering - Harvard University, 1967	box 16	folder 184
ITAM - Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México - General, 1963-1969	box 16	folder 185
ITESM - Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, 1977-1982	box 16	folder 186
Illinois, University of, 1967-1971	box 16	folder 187
Instituto Politécnico Nacional - General, 1975	box 16	folder 188
Northwestern University, 1967-1969	box 16	folder 189
Nuevo León, University of, 1967	box 16	folder 190
Oklahoma, University of, 1968-1971	box 16	folder 191
Oxford Polytechnic, 1969-1971	box 16	folder 192
Pittsburgh, University of, 1967-1970	box 16	folder 193
Santa Clara, University of, 1968	box 16	folder 194
Sociedad Botánica de México, A.C., 1969	box 16	folder 195
Sonora, University of, 1967	box 16	folder 196
Wisconsin, University of, 1968-1969	box 16	folder 197

Social Sciences, 1964-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
CICPAE - Centro de Análisis de Información y Comunicación en Política Alimentaria y Política de Empleo - Estrategias, 1977-1979	box 16	folder 198
IPN - Instituto Politécnico Nacional, 1977-1979	box 16	folder 199
Universidad Anahuac, 1977	box 16	folder 200
Universidad Autónoma Agraria - "Antonio Narro", 1977	box 17	folder 201
Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca, 1975	box 17	folder 202
Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, 1978	box 17	folder 203
Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, 1977-1980	box 17	folder 204
Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, 1977	box 17	folder 205
Texas, University of - Revista Interamericana de Psicología, 1968-1969	box 17	folder 206
Universidad de Yucatán, 1975-1982	box 17	folder 207
Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, 1976-1981		

	box 17	folder 208
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, 1975-1981	box 17	folder 209
Social Science - Attachments, 1964-1967	box 17	folder 210

Urban Studies, 1971-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
Urban Studies, 1971	box 17	folder 211
Urban Studies, 1972	box 17	folder 212
Urban Studies, 1973-1982	box 17	folder 213

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Central America, 1962-1983

General, 1962-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
General, 1976 February-1982 April	box 17	folder 214
General, 1966 October-1974 June	box 17	folder 215
Belize - General, 1972-1973	box 17	folder 216
Costa Rica – General, 1962-1972	box 17	folder 217
Honduras – General, 1973-1974	box 18	folder 218
Nicaragua – General, 1972-1974	box 18	folder 219
Panama - General, 1976-1982	box 18	folder 220

Agriculture, 1967-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Agriculture, 1968-1980	box 18	folder 221
AIBDA - Asociacion Interamericana de Bibliotecarios y Documentalistas, 1971	box 18	folder 222
CATIE - Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza, 1974-1979	box 18	folder 223
CSUCA Teacher Training - C.A. Deans of Agriculture - Visit to Mexico, 1967-1968	box 18	folder 224
Costa Rica – Agricultural Benchmark Study, 1967-1971	box 18	folder 225
ICTA - Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnologia Agricolas, 1973-1980	box 18	folder 226

Anthropology, 1977-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Anthropology, 1977-1980	box 19	folder 227

Education, 1963-1981

Title/Description	Instances	
ETV - El Salvador, 1964-1976	box 19	folder 228
Education - Central America, 1971-1981	box 19	folder 229
FUPAC - Federacion de Universidades Privadas de America Central - Guatemala, 1971-1972	box 19	folder 230
Human Development Project - Guatemala, 1967-1969	box 19	folder 231
Panama - General, 1973	box 19	folder 232
Panama Museum, 1969-1971	box 19	folder 233
Panama, University of, 1968	box 19	folder 234
National Science Foundation, 1963-1964	box 19	folder 235
Nicaragua, National University of, 1967	box 19	folder 236
OTS - Organization for Tropical Studies, 1967-1973	box 19	folder 237
Proyecto Linguistico Francisco Marroquin, Guatemala – General, 1970-1977	box 19	folder 238
Universidad de Costa Rica - General, 1971-1976	box 19	folder 239
Universidad de San Carlos Guatemala - General, 1966-1972	box 19	folder 240
Universidad del Varre, 1966-1976	box 20	folder 241

Human Rights, 1979-1983

Biographical / Historical

The Ford Foundation's human rights program began in 1980 and served grantees in Central America who, according to selection criteria established by the Mexico City Office, qualified as intellectual refugees. Between 1980 and 1982, thirty refugees were awarded grants. These awardees were university professors and administrators, but the program was also open to journalists, writers, and labor union workers. Most of these grantees designed research proposals dealing with their professional background with the purpose of locating gainful employment in the country of exile.

Title/Description	Instances	
Human Rights, 1979	box 20	folder 242
Human Rights, 1980	box 20	folder 243
Human Rights, 1981	box 20	folder 244
Human Rights, 1982-1983	box 20	folder 245

Law and Society, 1970-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
Faculty of Law, University of Costa Rica, 1970-1972	box 20	folder 246
Law and Society, 1976-1982	box 20	folder 247

Population, 1967-1978

Title/Description	Instances	
ALACODE, 1975	box 20	folder 248
ADC - Asociacion Demografica Costarricense (Costa Rican Demographic Association), 1974-1978	box 21	folder 249
APROFAM Asociacion Pro-Bienestar de la Familia de Guatemala, 1972-1974	box 21	folder 250
Communication Radio, 1975 November	box 21	folder 251
Costa Rica, 1972-1976	box 21	folder 252
Costa Rica Regional Training Program in Family Planning - Communications, 1971 January-November	box 21	folder 253
Costa Rica Regional Training Program in Family Planning - Communications, 1971-1972	box 21	folder 254
El Salvador, 1969-1976	box 21	folder 255
Guatemala, 1968-1976	box 21	folder 256
Honduras, 1975	box 21	folder 257
Nicaragua, 1972	box 21	folder 258
Panama, 1967-1977	box 21	folder 259
Population - General, 1968-1970	box 21	folder 260
University of Costa Rica - Non-Parametric Statistics Course, 1968-1970	box 21	folder 261

Rural Development, 1978-1981

Title/Description	Instances	
CEMAT - Centro de Estudios Mesoamericanos Sobre Tecnologia Apropriada, 1978-1980	box 21	folder 262
CINASE - Centro de Investigacion y Asesoría Socio-Economica, 1978-1981	box 21	folder 263

Social Science, 1968-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
Fundacion Salvadorena de Desarrollo y Vivienda Mínima, 1973-1978	box 22	folder 264

ICAP - Instituto Centroamericano de Administración Pública, 1975-1982	box 22	folder 265
INCAP - Instituto de Nutricion de Centroamerica y Panama, 1975-1979	box 22	folder 266
SIECA - Secretariat for the Economic Integration of Central America, 1977-1979	box 22	folder 267
Social Sciences, 1968-1971	box 22	folder 268
Solidarios, 1976-1981	box 22	folder 269
Universidad Centroamericana (Managua, Nicaragua), 1977-1978	box 22	folder 270

Urban and Regional Planning, 1968-1969

Title/Description	Instances	
Urban/Regional Planning, 1968 March-July	box 22	folder 271
Urban/Regional Planning, 1968-1969	box 22	folder 272

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Caribbean Programs, 1964-1982

General, 1968-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
Caribbean - General, 1968-1974	box 22	folder 273
Caribbean - General, 1975-1982	box 22	folder 274
Cuba, 1977-1980	box 23	folder 275

Agriculture, 1968-1975

Title/Description	Instances	
Dominican Republic - General, 1968-1973	box 23	folder 276
Agriculture - General, 1973-1975	box 23	folder 277
Fundacion Promotora de Cooperativas and Universidad José Simeón Cañas (El Salvador), 1973-1974	box 23	folder 278
Jamaica Agriculture and Nutrition Program, 1973	box 23	folder 279
ISA - Instituto Superior de Agricultura (Dominican Republic), 1968-1974	box 23	folder 280

Education, 1968-1974

Title/Description	Instances	
-------------------	-----------	--

African Caribbean Cultural Influences, 1972	box 23	folder 281
Jamaica - General, 1968-1973	box 23	folder 282
UNICA Conference (COLABORA), 1973-1974	box 23	folder 283
UNICA - Project Proposal, 1974	box 23	folder 284

Scope and Contents

Empty except for cross reference sheet - look in Log File
L74-287

University of the West Indies, 1968-1970	box 23	folder 285
--	--------	------------

Population, 1964-1976

Title/Description	Instances	
Guyana, 1974-1976	box 23	folder 286
Barbados, 1964-1974	box 23	folder 287
Caribbean, 1967-1970	box 23	folder 280
Dominican Republic - National Population Council, 1967-1972	box 24	folder 281
Evaluation and Statistics, undated	box 24	folder 282

Scope and Contents

Empty except for cross reference sheet - refer to Problems
in Introducing an Evaluation System: The Jamaican
Experience, April 1970

French Islands - (Guadeloupe & Martinique), 1969-1972	box 24	folder 283
Haiti - Centre d'Hygiene Familiale, 1970-1976	box 24	folder 284
Haiti, 1968-1976	box 24	folder 285
Haiti - Pathfinder Fund, 1969-1972	box 24	folder 286
Jamaica - General, 1967-1976	box 24	folder 287
Jamaica Family Planning Association, Ltd., 1967-1975	box 24	folder 288
Jamaica National Family Planning Board (JNFPB), 1968-1975	box 24	folder 289
Jamaica National Family Planning Board - Communications, 1969-1972	box 24	folder 290
Jamaica National Family Planning Board (NFPB) - Data Edward Ebanks' Consultantship, 1968-1970	box 24	folder 291
Leeward Islands (Antigua, Montserrat, St. Vincent), 1969-1970	box 24	folder 292
PAHO - Caribbean Health Ministers Conference, 1970	box 24	folder 293
U.S. Inst.: Princeton University and the Jamaica Manpower Research Unit, 1967-1972	box 24	folder 294

Trinidad, 1969-1974	box 24	folder 295
Social Science, 1969-1972		
Title/Description	Instances	
U.S. Institutions - American Assembly, 1969-1972	box 25	folder 296
University of the West Indies, ISER, undated	box 25	folder 297
Scope and Contents		
Empty except for cross reference sheets - refer to Grants - 06900589 and 06900589B		

Urban Studies, 1967-1972		
Title/Description	Instances	
Urban Studies, 1967-1972	box 25	folder 298

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Latin America Program, 1962-1984		
Agriculture, 1966-1972		
Title/Description	Instances	
Agricultural Economics, 1970-1976	box 25	folder 299
Agriculture - Brazil, 1970-1975	box 25	folder 300
Agriculture - Chile, 1969-1975	box 25	folder 301
Agriculture - Colombia, 1969-1979	box 25	folder 302
Agricultural - Regional, 1971-1978	box 25	folder 303
Agriculture – Peru, 1967-1982	box 25	folder 304
Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Part 1, 1974-1979	box 25	folder 305
Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Part 2, 1966-1974	box 26	folder 306
Centro Internacional Para de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo (CIMMYT), 1972-1980	box 26	folder 307
Grupo Internacional Para El Desarrollo Agricola En America Latina (CERIDA), 1977	box 26	folder 308
Agriculture Resources for the Future, Inc., 1972-1974	box 26	folder 309
Agriculture Resources for the Future, Inc., 1968-1971	box 26	folder 310

Socio-Economic Research Network , 1973	box 26	folder 311
Visit to Latin America by Professor Olayide, University of Ibadan (T and S Award - Nigeria Office), 1973-1974	box 26	folder 312

Anthropology, 1975-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Anthropology – Regional Part One, 1977-1980	box 26	folder 313
Anthropology – Regional Part Two, 1975-1977	box 26	folder 314

Education, 1962-1979

Title/Description	Instances	
Conferences and Seminars - Regional, 1969-1979	box 26	folder 315
Educational Television (ETV) Latin American Association (Lic. Maximo Salinas), 1967-1968	box 26	folder 316
Instituto Panamericano de Alta Direccion de Empresa (IPADE), 1966-1976	box 27	folder 317
Preschool Education - General, 1970-1971	box 27	folder 318
Programmed Instruction - General, 1969-1970	box 27	folder 319
Ford Foundation Study of Education - Attachment, undated	box 27	folder 320

Scope and Contents

Cross reference sheets

Educational Testing Service, 1962-1963	box 27	folder 321
OLAC Training Inventory, 1973	box 27	folder 322
IIE - Institute of International Education, 1963-1966	box 27	folder 323
Latin American Teaching Fellowship Program (LATFP), 1972-1977	box 27	folder 324
Latin American Teaching Fellowship - General, 1967-1971	box 27	folder 325
US Institutes – Institute of Current World Affairs, 1970-1972	box 27	folder 326
Peruvian National Universities Council, 1969	box 27	folder 327
Regional Volume 1, 1975-1978	box 27	folder 328
Education - Peru, 1967-1970	box 27	folder 329
UNESCO (General), 1970-1972	box 28	folder 330
Universidad Metropolitana Venezuela, 1968-1972	box 28	folder 331
US Institution Foreign Area Fellowship Program, 1973	box 28	folder 332

Human Rights and Displaced Scholars, 1973-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Human Rights and Displaced Scholars, 1973-1974	box 28	folder 333
Human Rights and Displaced Scholars, 1976-1977	box 28	folder 334
Human Rights and Displaced Scholars, 1978-1979	box 28	folder 335
Human Rights and Displaced Scholars, 1979	box 28	folder 336
Human Rights and Displaced Scholars, 1980	box 28	folder 337

International Relations, 1973-1978

Title/Description	Instances	
Hemispheric International Relations, 1976-1977	box 28	folder 338
Hemispheric International Relations, 1978-1981	box 28	folder 339
Inter-American Development Bank, 1973-1985	box 28	folder 340
Hemispheric International Relations, 1975-1976	box 29	folder 341
Hemispheric International Relations, 1978	box 29	folder 342

Population, 1970-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Population - Regional, 1973-1980	box 29	folder 343
Population - Ford/Rockefeller Program, 1973-1976	box 29	folder 344
Population - Ford/Rockefeller Program, 1977	box 29	folder 345
Population - Ford/Rockefeller Program, 1978 January-July	box 29	folder 346
Population - Ford/Rockefeller Program, 1978-1980	box 30	folder 347
Ford/Rockefeller Award - Rogelio Diaz-Guerrero, 1973-1975	box 30	folder 348-350
Ford/Rockefeller Program - Attachment Folders, 1975-1978	box 30	folder 351-353
Colombia, 1970-1979	box 31	folder 354
Population Consultants, 1972-1976	box 31	folder 355
Population, Volume III, 1973-1976	box 31	folder 356

Resources and the Environment, 1970-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Resources and the Environment, 1970-1980	box 31	folder 357

Rural Development, 1973-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Rural Development, Volume I, 1975-1978	box 31	folder 358
Rural Development, Volume II, 1974-1975	box 31	folder 359
Rural Development, Volume III, 1978-1979	box 31	folder 360
Rural Development - Colombia (Part I), 1978-1980	box 31	folder 361
Rural Development - Colombia (Part II), 1973-1978	box 32	folder 362

Science and Technology, 1967-1973

Title/Description	Instances	
Science and Engineering - General, 1967-1973	box 32	folder 363

Social Sciences, 1965-1981

Title/Description	Instances	
Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO) - Comisión de Estudios Rurales, 1976-1981	box 32	folder 364
Andean Region, Volume 1, 1977-1978	box 32	folder 365
CLASCO - Regional (Vol. I), 1971-1977	box 32	folder 366
CLASCO - Regional (Vol. II), 1977-1978	box 32	folder 367
FLACSO - Regional, 1973-1979	box 32	folder 368
Social Sciences - Meetings (Part I), 1977-1979	box 33	folder 369
Social Sciences - Meetings (Part II), 1976	box 33	folder 370
Peru Meetings, 1973	box 33	folder 371

Scope and Contents

Cross reference sheets to reports

Peru Meetings, 1973-1976	box 33	folder 372
Social Sciences, 1978-1979	box 33	folder 373
Social Sciences - Regional, 1965-1977	box 33	folder 374

Urban Studies, 1967-1984

Title/Description	Instances	
Urban/Regional Planning, 1967-1969	box 34	folder 375
Urban Studies: Latin America, 1968-1974	box 34	folder 376

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

International Programs, 1966-1981

Agriculture, 1973-1981

Title/Description	Instances	
Agriculture: Ford Foundation International, 1973-1981	box 34	folder 377
Office of Latin America and Caribbean/Middle East and Africa Program Advisors in Agriculture Meeting, 1973-1974	box 34	folder 378

Communication, 1979

Title/Description	Instances	
Communications: International, 1979	box 34	folder 379

Economics, 1975-1978

Title/Description	Instances	
International Economic Order Research Competition, 1975-1978	box 34	folder 380

Education, 1968-1978

Title/Description	Instances	
Eisenhower Fellowship Program - General, 1968-1972	box 34	folder 381
Delhi Education Meeting - Papers and Comments, 1971-1972	box 34	folder 382
	box 35	folder 383
International Division Education Meeting, September 1975, 1975	box 35	folder 384
International Institute of Communications, 1977-1978	box 35	folder 385
Ford Foundation - Latin America, Asia and Europe - Colombia, Chile, and Lima, 1974-1976	box 35	folder 386-387

Foundations, 1976-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Foundations - General, 1976-1980	box 35	folder 388

Population, 1972-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
International Committee on the Management of Population Programmes, 1975-1979	box 35	folder 389

Population, 1972-1979	box 35	folder 390
Rockefeller Foundation, 1974-1982	box 35	folder 391

Public Management, 1967-1979

Title/Description	Instances	
Public Management - Ford Foundation International, 1967-1979	box 35	folder 392

Resources and the Environment, 1973-1981

Title/Description	Instances	
Resources and the Environment, 1973-1980	box 36	folder 393
Resources for the Future, Inc., 1974-1981	box 36	folder 394

Rural Development, 1975-1981

Title/Description	Instances	
Rural Development - International, 1975-1981	box 36	folder 395

Science and Technology, 1975-1979

Title/Description	Instances	
Institute for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, 1978-1979	box 36	folder 396
Instituto Torcuato di Tella, 1976	box 36	folder 397
International Food Policy Research Institute, 1975	box 36	folder 398

Social Sciences, 1974-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Social Sciences - Meetings, 1979	box 36	folder 399
Social Sciences Research Council, 1974-1980	box 36	folder 400

Conference Files, 1969-1975

Title/Description	Instances	
Latin America and Caribbean - Conference on Education Held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1973 May 14-16	box 36	folder 401
International Division Conference, 1975 September	box 36	folder 402

Scope and Contents

Empty except for cross reference sheet - see Log File
L75-42

International Division Representatives Meeting - Mexico, 1969 December 2-5	box 36	folder 403
---	--------	------------

Scope and Contents

Empty except for cross reference sheet - see Log File
L69-167

Trip Files, 1966-1979

Title/Description	Instances	
David E. Bell and William D. Carmichael Visit - Visit to Mexico and Costa Rica, 1972 February-March	box 36	folder 404
Harry Wilhelm Visit to Mexico, 1966 November 1-8	box 36	folder 405

Scope and Contents

Sections include:

Staff List

Schedule

Agriculture

Education

Population

Science and Technology

Social Sciences

Grant Payments

Urban Studies - Study Project, 1970-1973	box 36	folder 406
U.S. Universities, 1976-1979	box 36	folder 407
Latin American and Caribbean - Education - Rio Education Meeting, 1971	box 36	folder 408
David Bell and Harry Wilhelm, 1967 February 18-25	box 37	folder 409

Scope and Contents

Briefing Book sections include:

1. Schedule

2. Economic Data

2a. Map of Mexico

3. Gamble Letter

4. Mexico Programs

- 4b. Education
- 4c. Population
- 4d. Science and Technology
- 4e. Social Sciences
- 4f. Law, Government, and Management
- 5. Financial Summary Mexico
- 6. Financial Summary Central America
- 7. Personnel - Mexico and Central America

Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr. Trip to Latin America, 1967-1968	box 37	folder 410
Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr. - Extracts of Letters, 1968 February 18-March 24	box 37	folder 411
Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr. - The Ford Foundation Briefing Book, Mexico and Central America, 1968 February 18-24	box 37	folder 412
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Bell and Harry Wilhelm - Visit to the Caribbean, 1968 November 24-December 5	box 37	folder 413
David E. Bell , Francis X. Sutton, and Harry Wilhelm - Mexico Trip, 1969 December 1-2	box 37	folder 414
David E. Bell and William D. Carmichael Visit to Mexico City - July 5-11, 1973 Briefing Book, 1973 July 5-11	box 37	folder 415
David E. Bell and William D. Carmichael Visit to Mexico, 1973 July 5-11	box 38	folder 416
Alexander Heard - Trustee Trip to Latin America, 1974 June 29-July 6	box 38	folder 417
McGeorge Bundy Trip, 1975 February 18-19	box 38	folder 418

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)