Locating Primary Sources

In Summer 2021, I worked with two phenomenal undergraduate research assistants (URAs) on a project related to maíz and milpa in Mesoamerica. One of the tasks that they’ve been assigned is to assist me in locating primary sources related to the topic. Working with research assistants has been enlightening in terms of my own methodologies, as I’ve had to articulate the *what*, *how*, and *why* of my research practice. For this specific task, I wrote up the below strategies to help my URAs efficiently locate primary materials.

I found it amusing to become cognizant of exactly *how* I find new authors and books to read, particularly strategies that seem fairly frivolous on the surface, such as searching for authors I already know on GoodReads or Amazon.com, but that have actually proven quite fruitful!

**Strategy 1: Search Engines and Linkfests**

Google

Google Scholar: (google with ‘novelistas’ or ‘escritoras,’ as “literatura” will return very broad results)

Wikipedia

**Strategy 2: Check literature anthologies (usually more canonical)**

https://www.enriquebolanos.org/libro/Literatura-Centroamericana-Diccionarios-de-autores-contemporáneos.-Jorge-Eduardo-Arellano

https://www.amazon.ca/Pequenas-Resistencias-Little-Resistances-Centroamericano/dp/8495642352/ref=sr\_1\_4?dchild=1&keywords=pequeñas+resistencias+antolog%C3%ADa&qid=1624036058&sr=8-4

https://www.amazon.com/-/es/Enrique-Jaramillo-Levi/dp/0292740301/ref=sr\_1\_5?dchild=1&qid=1624035856&refinements=p\_27%3AEnrique+Jaramillo&s=books&sr=1-5&text=Enrique+Jaramillo

2 tomos compilados por Sergio Ramírez: http://www.sergioramirez.com/index.php/2012-08-27-18-07-32/cuento/206-puertos-abiertos-antologia-del-cuento-centroamericano

Antología de escritores Latinx (I own this one): https://nupress.northwestern.edu/9781882688531/the-wandering-song/

**Strategy 3: Let sites’ algorithms do the work for you**

Goodreads

Amazon.com (suggestions based on a given search)

Strategy 4: Search relevant terms (“guatemala” “guatemalan novel” “novela guatemalteca”, etc.) in pertinent academic journals:

https://www.jstor.org/journal/latinamerlitrev (On JSTOR, make sure to search “in this journal”)

https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjla20/current?gclid=Cj0KCQjw\_dWGBhDAARIsAMcYuJwL5ZuLZkHd065HEM82mcHZ7RDwHF6x1jn4Mw2AjiekKfDIUHN5ANsaAiQlEALw\_wcB

http://istmo.denison.edu/n09/articulos/index.html

http://www.latinamericanliteraturetoday.org/en/publish-lalt

https://www.jstor.org/journal/chiricu (On JSTOR, make sure to search “in this journal”)

https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/563

https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/128

https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/472

https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/289

https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/357

https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/139

There are more! MELUS, Chasqui, Comparative Literature (Duke), Revista Hispánica Moderna, etc.

General search on JSTOR and Project Muse