

**Writing initiatives and networks in Latin America and
their relation to North America
2012-2013 CCCC Research Initiative Final Report
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Abstract

This grant was to investigate the growing networks concerning the teaching and research of higher education writing in Latin America. Among our early results are that Writing programs are dispersed among a number of departments and units, and that the pattern varies from country to country, but overall languages and linguistics most frequently have responsibility, then education followed by humanities. We also found that there is a large divide in intellectual networks between the Spanish-speaking and Portuguese speaking regions, with little cross citation and little attention to each other's journals. Within the Spanish-speaking world, however, several key scholars seem to have influence across what are predominantly national networks. Influences seem to be split, depending on the country, between national and regional scholars, Anglophone scholars, and other European scholars. Of immediate practical significance we have found there is a need for a journal or regular publication venue that is focused on teaching of writing either in higher education or across levels, and especially one that reaches across regions. Now articles on writing appear in many different journals of different focuses, with only one linguistics journal publishing more than a few occasional pieces. Based on our data we have been exploring how such an international publication venue can be established that will focus on writing and the teaching of writing, one that will at least reach across the Spanish-speaking part of the region, but ideally that would link Spanish-speaking and Lusophone regions.

Summary

Through surveys, interviews, and participant observation in multiple regional conferences we have gathered extensive data which we have begun to analyze. We are now beginning qualitative coding of the interviews of regional leaders.

Future Work

We need to complete analysis of the program aspect of our data, which will become the basis of an article to be submitted to CCC and we will also examine what the interview tells us about how field leaders see the history, status and future of the field in the region.