LAPL
ELECTRONIC RESOURCE
OF THE MONTH!

MAY 2010: # Latino American Experience

ACCESS: In-Library and Home (Remote Access with a valid LAPL Library card)
Latino American Experience is available online at all LAPL locations and remotely from the LAPL Web site in the Databases alphabetical list and under the subject categories of *Biography*, *History, Geography, & Genealogy, Social Sciences & Government,* and *Student Sources*; and in Teen Web under Homework Help Sites of *American History*, *Biographies*, and *Culture*.

DESCRIPTION: The *Latino American Experience* is a full-text digital resource exploring the history and culture of U.S. Latinos. The content spans from the pre-Columbian indigenous civilizations of the Americas, through the Spanish and Mexican settlement to the triumphs and challenges facing present-day U.S. Latinos. There are over 200 volumes, from encyclopedias biographies, and primary documents, including timelines, images, maps, and lesson plans.

How to Begin
        The home page of the database is divided into eight distinct areas that display all the options for creating a search or browsing for subject material.
Left side of the home page:
1) *Quick Search* - found on every page. Type one or more keywords and see results. Place quotes around a proper name or exact phrase to narrow results.
2) *Advanced Search* - users can search by Keyword or Boolean and select Search Filters for Articles, Primary Documents, or External Resources.
3) *Subjects* - lists broad popular subject topics such as Arts & Media, Culture, History, and Literature that can be used to refine a search.
Center of the home page:
4) *Featured content* - rotates content from various site features with links attached to explore, such as Read More>>, Introduction, Featured Content, Slide Show, Related Content, Key Figures, Timelines, Lesson Plans and External Links if you are interested in learning more about the highlighted subject.

Right side of the home page:
5) **Resources** - lists links for access to Title List, Timeline, Image Index, Primary Source Index, Landmark Documents, Origins, and Spanish Content. Spanish Content includes articles, lesson plans, recipes, folktales, primary documents, and vetted web sites.
6) **Topic Guides** - contains selected subject links such as Borderlands, César Chávez, Sandra Cisneros, and Chicano Movement to help users target major topics in Latino American history and culture.
7) **Skills Center** - provides links to research tutors, wizards, and lesson plans.
8) **Top Searches**: links to the top five most searched words or phrases in the database.

Sample Quick Search for Gabriel García Márquez (*below*) shows how the results (195 items) will be displayed and the number in each format that you can select: 192 Articles, 1 Primary Docs, 2 Images, 2 Timelines, and 1 Other Resources.

SPECIAL FEATURES:
1) Navigational Links – on every page, the navigational links (**as shown below**) are present and can be used to redirect the user to another subject or back to the home page.

- **About** – describes the database.
- **Advisory Board** – lists the names and affiliations of the librarians and scholars who developed the site.
- **Skills Center** – contains Student Resources (Research Tutors, Wizards & Activities), Teacher's Corner (Lesson plans), and Reading Room (Full-text books).
- **Browse** – allows users access to the Subject Browse and the Index.
- **Resources** – provides access to Title List, Timeline, Image Index, Primary Source Index, Landmark Documents, Origins, and Spanish-language Content.
- **Index** – provides access to Subject, Image, and Primary Source Indexes, and how to use.

2) Email, Print, and **Dictionary** – are available from any content page.
3) Tools Box – has related links, images, and citation information for MLA or Chicago Manual of Style format.
4) Blog – portal to *En mi Opinion* by Advisory Editor, Ilan Stavans, on latest U.S. Latino issues.
5) Help – found at the top of every page.