

History and Social Sciences

From the Ashes of History

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Loss and Recovery of Archives and Libraries in
Modern Latin America



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Editorial

A *Contra* corriente

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The formation, organization, and accessibility of archives and libraries are critical for the production of historical narratives. They contain the materials with which historians manufacture their reconstruction of past events. Archives and libraries, however, not only help produce history, but they have a history themselves. Their frequently fascinating history involves multiple interventions on the part of human agents and reflect past and present power struggles.

Throughout the history of Latin America, archives and libraries have been affected by tragic instances of loss and destruction due to accidents or human action and negligence, but there are also cases of recovery and reconstruction have allowed historians to dig into the past using materials previously unavailable. The essays in this volume explore several fascinating cases of destruction and recovery of archives and libraries and illuminate the ways in which those episodes contribute to shape the writing of historical narratives and the making of collective memories.

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