
The editors of this collection have compiled a wealth of information of interest to both experienced Mexicanists and to researchers preparing for a first venture into Mexican archives. The book, divided into two main sections, includes selections from thirty-five contributors who wrote articles particularly for this volume. Not every archive of interest is described, indeed the editors make no claims of completeness, but they have provided information on the major research centers open to scholars.

Part I is a general treatment of research problems in Mexican history. Daniel Cosío Villegas and France V. Scholes have provided a perspective from both sides of the border with a sympathetic view to the problems of young scholars. Four more essays in this section discuss topics in need of study in Mexican history and methodology. Part II contains general information for field research. Two chapters deal with the organization of the Mexican archives and offer suggestions on such day-to-day matters as renting apartments and cutting through the red tape in gaining entrance to the collections. The following three chapters describe individual libraries and archives. In these sections the contributors have included information such as the addresses, telephone numbers, days and hours, the type of circulation, and the available reproduction facilities. A series of essays follows discussing sources for research projects in the colonial period, the nineteenth century, and Revolutionary Mexico. The last chapter contains three bibliographical essays and a compilation of unpublished dissertation titles on Mexico from 1950 through 1970.

Although three sections discuss documentary collections outside Mexico City (the Archivo General de Centro América, the U.S. National Archives, and the archival collections in the Mexican states), the book concentrates on the libraries in the capital. Three maps of Mexico City appear in the appendices to further aid scholars in locating archives and other points of historical importance.

The book contains practical information useful to any historian working on Mexican topics, especially for researchers in Mexico City. The editors have made available under one cover a valuable tool and a handy reference guide.

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The use of structured questionnaires, oral interviews, quantitative analysis and other social science techniques have only recently brought new insights to historical works. Yet such methods and their underlying theories have long been an integral aspect of sociological and anthropological studies, especially in the United States. Jorge Balán has selected and edited a representative sampling of essays from a number of disciplines that employ life histories. The readings, most