

Reading Latin America: Issues in the evaluation of Latino children's books in Spanish and English

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Description

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| Title: | Reading Latin America: Issues in the evaluation of Latino children's books in Spanish and English |
| Author(s): | Italiano, Graciela |
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| Abstract: | The topic that I was asked to discuss is very important to you, obviously, because you're including it in your conference; and to me, because I've spent over 20 years trying to make some sense of how the bridging between cultures can be done via children's literature. |
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For Latino children who prefer to read in English, we should select books with the same sensitive and prudent judgment used as when choosing any other library materials. We should not assume that any book about Latinos is good enough for our collections. The goal should be to choose literature in English on a variety of subjects and genres. Latino children don't want to read only about Latinos. Their needs and interests vary as much as those of other children. The California State University at San Marcos Barahona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents features more than 1,000 high-quality books for children and adolescents about Latinos at its website (www.csusm.edu/csb/), under Recommended Books for Latinos. In the English-speaking and English-reading world the multi-volume Cambridge Histories planned and edited by historians of established reputation, with individual chapters written by leading specialists in their fields, have since the beginning of the century set the highest standards of collaborative international scholarship. The Cambridge Modern History, edited by Lord Acton, appeared in sixteen volumes between 1902 and 1912. republics of Spanish South America (from Argentina to Venezuela). Volume IX will have two distinct parts: a history of Brazil since 1930, and general essays on the intellectual and cultural history of Latin America in the twentieth century. Volume VII is the first to appear of the four volumes on Latin America since 1930. Latinos in the U.S. are increasingly reading and listening to their books on such devices as the Kindle, Nook, and Apple iPad and iPhone. A recent study by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project showed Hispanics adopting e-readers and tablets much faster than the U. S. population as a whole. As with e-books in English, the price of e-books in Spanish runs the gamut from 99¢ and up. Spanish-language Books News New Owner for Santillana Penguin Random House has signed an agreement with Spanishlanguage publisher Santillana, which is currently majoritycontrolled by PRISA, to acquire the trade book business of Santillana Ediciones Generales. Santillana's publishers operate in Spain, Portugal, and Brazil.