Subject Expertise from Scratch
Heather Ward, Humanities Librarian
OUS Collection Development Day, 15 October 1999

I. People—get to know people & subject

A. Other Librarians at UO
   1. How they handle their areas
   2. Specific sources to use

B. Other Librarians outside
   1. subject lists – WESS Romance, H-HistBibl
   2. current topics

C. UO Faculty
   1. specialties
   2. curriculum – present & future
   3. strong collections elsewhere
   4. syllabi/required reading
   5. browse dept. web pages

D. classes/workshops
   1. language class
   2. ALCTS—Coll Devp & Mgmt Institute

II. Literature—learn the subject & your collection simultaneously

A. Overviews
   1. encyclopedia articles—regional or literary
   2. familiarity with names, themes, history (timelines)
   3. provide bibs
   4. keep copy/citation for future ref

B. Assessment
   1. Can vary focus
      a. Narrow & deep Latin Am lit/broad & shallow history
      b. Selective/comprehensive
   2. How to find bibs
      a. ask librarians
      b. browse ref guides like ALA Guide to Reference Books or Walford’s Guide
      c. start with Books for College Libraries—dated but good
      d. search web—African & Caribbean Literature in French
   3. Major Authors
      a. list from an encyclopedia—Latin American Writers
      b. brief bio—Britannica Online
   4. Other Major Collection
      a. new WorldCat limit search by wau & search against our collection

C. Browsing
   1. approval plan—view profile/devp policy?
2. new books
3. textbooks in bookstore

III. Other Duties

A. Reference
   1. questions bring up new issues
   2. new sources

B. Instruction/Liaison Research Guides
   1. explore sources to more depth
   2. learn more about source/database content
   3. better understanding of curriculum

C. Collection Development Web Page
   1. i.d. sources/vendors for different lit/products
   2. connect with faculty & make my work easier

http://www.founders.howard.edu/afroli2.htm

WESS Web
http://www.lib.virginia.edu/wess/index.html

H-HistBibl
http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~histbibl/

Research by Subject: Spanish Language & Literature
http://libweb.uoregon.edu/subjguid/history/spanish.html

Humanities Librarian: Heather Ward Home Page
http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hward/

Heather’s Collection Development Links
http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hward/collection.html

Guide to reference books / edited by Robert Balay ; associate editor, Vee Friesner Carrington ; with special editorial assistance by Murray S. Martin.
11th ed.

Walford’s guide to reference material.
6th ed.
London : Library Association Publishing, 1993-

Books for college libraries : a core collection of 50,000 titles.
3rd ed.

Latin American writers / Carlos A. Sole, editor, Maria Isabel Abreu, associate editor.