

## Get to Know RCL

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RCL Subject Editor for Latino Studies since 2012

Research Support Services Librarian,  
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### **Describe your educational background.**

In addition to my MLIS degree, I also hold an MA and PhD in Modern Latin American History.

### **What was your path to librarianship like?**

Unexpected...I had earned my MLIS degree as a backup to what I thought was going to be a career researching and teaching modern Latin American history. I soured on this career choice during my first 3 years in the history doctorate program and found, as well, that I was making a bigger difference as a librarian than I would have as a future history professor. I am glad I had the support of many people to see me finish my PhD, but I honestly value my MLIS degree.

### **Tell us about a recent professional achievement of which you are particularly proud.**

It's not recent per se but I was part of the 2012 I Love My Librarian Award cohort hosted by Carnegie Corporation of New York and the ALA. Being nominated and winning that award encourages me to surpass myself professionally on a daily basis.

### **Describe RCL in three words.**

The starting point!

### **What are some of the most useful resources for selecting core books in your discipline?**

Choice Reviews, Books in Print, and frequent interactions with graduate students and associated faculty advisors. These resources allow me to know what's been, what is, and what to expect in the publishing pipeline for my assigned subjects areas.

### **What is the biggest challenge for you in maintaining the RCL subject collection?**

The increasing number of, what seem to me, vanity publishing presses and attractive titles and subject areas that really excite but are disappointing to discover that the editing and scholarship fail to meet expectations.

**If you could select the campus-wide read using a book from your RCL subject, which book would it be? Why?**

*The Devil's Highway: A True Story.* In this work, Luis Alberto Urrea conveys the complexity, absurdity and subsequent human costs associated with past and present U.S. border policy.



**The Devil's Highway**  
A True Story

Title:	The Devil's Highway : A True Story	
Author:	Urrea, Luis Alberto	
Publication Year:	UNITED STATES: 2 Apr 2004	
Copyright Date:	2004-01-01	
Ship Date:	UNITED STATES: 2 Apr 2004	
Publisher:	UNITED STATES Little Brown & Company	<a href="#">View Publisher Info</a>
Publisher Country:	UNITED STATES	
Market:	UNITED STATES	
ISBN-10:	0-316-74671-1	
ISBN-13:	978-0-316-74671-7	
EAN:	9780316746717	
Item status:	UNITED STATES: Out of Print	
Returnable:	UNITED STATES: No	
Last Return Date:	UNITED STATES: 28 Feb 2010	
Format:	Hardback	
Pages:	256	

**Overview**

- Annotations
- My RCL
- Publisher Info
- Stock Availability
- E-Books

**What is your best advice for new subject selectors?**

Prepare to learn something new and often from unlikely sources. Keep your ears and mind open.

**Stereotypes about librarians abound. What is the most unlibrarianlike thing about you?**

No cats...no cardigan...

**Complete this sentence: "When I'm not in the library, you can find me \_\_\_\_\_."**

At a bookstore and or Friends of the Library book sale.

**You've been shipwrecked. What one book do you want with you to read while you await rescue?**

Jean Giono's short but powerful *The Man Who Planted Trees*.

**Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?**

I am fortunate to follow in the footsteps of the previous two Latino Studies subject editors. I know them both and count them as mentors.