1980: Preservation and Use of Archival Sources in Developing Nations

With funds from the Exxon Education Foundation, CLR grant $30,000 to the International Council on Archives for projects related to worldwide preservation and use of archival sources with special attention to developing countries. The grant covered (1) preparation of a records management manual designed especially for use in then recently independent countries; (2) a symposium in Rio de Janeiro to address matters related to the responsibilities, professional environment, and status of archivists in Latin American countries; and (3) the preparation of three separate curricula, to be available in English, French, and Spanish, to aid in the education and training of subprofessional, archival personnel in developing regions.

The following description is taken from the 24th annual report of the Council on Library Resources, Inc., for the period ending June 30, 1980, p. 46.

International Council on Archives (ICA)

Ongoing grants made possible by the Exxon Education Foundation supported funding for ICA projects during fiscal 1981. The theme of ICA activity has been the worldwide preservation and use of archival sources, with special attention to third world countries and newly independent nations. Three projects planned for the year were completed and another is scheduled for implementation in 1981. With CLR funding, ICA held a symposium at Rio de Janeiro in August, 1980, on the subject of advancing the status and professional development of archivists and records managers in Latin America, and in a related development, three separate model curricula for in-service training of archival personnel were completed. Designed for use in English, French, and Spanish speaking countries, the curricula were finished in early 1981.

A records management manual designed especially for use in recently independent countries also was published during 1980. Thomas W. Wadlow's Disposition of Government Records contains specifications and recommendations for records management in third world regions. In June, 1981, CLR made a further grant to ICA to test the manual at a regional seminar on the disposition of government records to be held in New Delhi, October 12-16, 1981. Another CLR-funded ICA project is the preparation of a basic text on administration of archival institutions. The text will emphasize organization, fiscal control and managerial practices. ICA intends to have the original Spanish text translated into English and French.