The Ibero-American Centennials Project: Curating a Subject-Specific Online Exhibition in Omeka Classic and Omeka S

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Data Collection and Organization
Data collections for each of the luminaries consisted of research using encyclopedias, print resources available at IUB, and electronic resources such as RILM, Alexander Street Press, and HAPI. We developed a research checklist to ensure we covered a wide range of sources and perspectives and stored the individual research data in designated Microsoft Word documents.

To organize our data, we used a master Excel spreadsheet. The purpose was twofold: to easily sort the data and to store and maintain the data for multiple years. We linked to the public versions of the pages for the luminaries and the Word documents for each figure for ease of access and to ensure we maintained the integrity of the data.

Building the Sites
The first iteration of the Ibero-American Centennials Project was conceived in the Exhibit Builder in Omeka Classic, a digital repository and exhibition software. Each luminary page featured videos, audio recordings, links to resources in IUCAT, and images, highlighting open access resources and those available exclusively at IU through the creation of items and metadata following Dublin Core standards. To build the site, we were limited to the layout options provided by Omeka Classic, but we were able to embed multimedia content directly into the pages with an HTML editor. (fig. 1)

In May 2021, the second iteration was to be realized in Omeka S. The shift to a new platform allowed more flexibility in designing a layout and navigation. We designed the Omeka S site with the vision of this being a multi-year project, and it needed to facilitate both the short-term exhibition of figures in the current year and long-term access to previous figures. We created a name index and allowed users to access the figures from various facets: discipline, country, and year in order to facilitate discovery. In addition, we were able to link to the previous exhibit in order to continue to highlight the figures from the 2020 centennial. (fig. 2)

About the Project
In collaboration between the Latin American Music Center, the Cook Music Library and the Iberian and Latin American Collections at Indiana University Libraries, the Ibero-American Centennials Project honors cultural luminaries for their landmark contributions to the arts, humanities, and social sciences in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. The project seeks to create a curated virtual exhibition that showcases selections from IU Libraries for the featured artists, intellectuals, and writers.

Alicia Alonso (Cuba, 1920-2019)

 BIOGRAPHY
 Ballet dancer, choreographer, and artistic director

 One of the most influential figures in establishing a unique Cuban identity within classical ballet, Alicia Alonso was born in Santiago de Cuba in 1920. Alonso trained at the Havana Pro-Juto Musical and National school of music and art, and worked as a dancer for the Nacional Ballet of Cuba from 1940 to 1944, when she became its artistic director. In 1955, she joined the Bolshoi Ballet, becoming its first female principal, and returned to Havana in 1967, where she founded the Ballet Nacional de Cuba. She was named first director of the National Academy of Dance of Cuba in 1983, and was awarded both the National Order of Merit and Cuba's highest honor, the Order of the Companions of the Order of Our Lady of Charity.

 Collaboration
 The Ibero-American Centennials Project is a highly collaborative effort between the Cook Music Library and the Iberian and Latin American Collections at the Herman B. Wells library. In order to facilitate collaboration admat to the COVID-19 pandemic, we held Zoom meetings to illustrate the progress of the site and provide feedback and suggestions. In addition, we had the support of the Digital Initiatives Librarian to help us navigate technical challenges.

 Progress and Challenges
 The Ibero-American Centennials Project for 2021 is scheduled to be released in late October through IU Digital Exhibitions. Currently, we are finalizing the individual pages for the 2021 luminaries and adding new design elements.

 With the shift to Omeka S, we were presented with new challenges. Initially, we did not have a source code editor, which limited our ability to embed multimedia directly into the pages and manually adjust stylistic elements (font colors, tables, etc.). We also attempted to display our indices through the iframe of our master spreadsheet, which is not supported by Omeka S.

 Despite these challenges, we were able to adapt through other means, such as the creation of tables within our pages in order to display our indexes.

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