Hispanic & Latin@ Students at UNCG - Their Library Perspectives and Experiences
Hello!

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1. Background
Review of literature & statistics
Hispanic or Latin@?

A Hispanic person is someone who traces their heritage to a country whose primary spoken language is Spanish. Examples: Spain, Venezuela, Mexico, Honduras, etc.

A Latin@ person is someone who traces their heritage to a country that is located in Latin America (i.e. Central & South America). Examples: El Salvador, Belize, Brazil, etc.
Why are you saying “Latin@”? 

Opinions on this issue differ, but for our purposes we’re using “Latin@” instead of Latino or Latina or Latinx. It’s pronounced “Latin-ow”.

This decision was made in consultation with the Director and Assistant Director of the Office of Intercultural Engagement.
Remember!

Identities are fluid and personal. Even though these parameters exist people may identify in ways that do not fit these definitions.

And that’s okay!
College enrollment by race and ethnicity

% of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college

Notes: Blacks and Asians include the Hispanic portions of those groups. Whites include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
Hispanic & Latin@ Students

✓ Most Hispanic & Latin@ students attend two year or community colleges, so we don’t see high rates of Bachelor’s degrees
  ○ Equals lower student debt
✓ Latin@ women are more likely to enroll in college, but dropout rates remain high
  ○ “Personal cost” of attending college
2. UNC Study

2016
HSIs

- Hispanic Serving Institutions – colleges/universities who have 25% or more Hispanic/Latin@ students
- Special resources, support associated with being an HSI
- There were none in North Carolina in 2016
  - Sampson Community College has 28% as of 2017–2018
  - There are six “emerging” HSIs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>John Wesley University</td>
<td>4 priv</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Salem College</td>
<td>4 priv</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Central Carolina Community College</td>
<td>2 pub</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Durham Technical Community College</td>
<td>2 pub</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>James Sprunt Community College</td>
<td>2 pub</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Surry Community College</td>
<td>2 pub</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Library Anxiety

- Recognition & familiarity are key when students are interacting with librarians
  - Physical, cultural, emotional
- Potential for embarrassment
  - Cultural norms related to asking for help, “bothering” people
- “Customer” vs. “patron” mindset among librarians
The best solution is to hire librarians of color.
Other Questions to Consider

✔ Are LIS programs preparing librarians to work with students?
✔ Are LIS programs actively recruiting future librarians of color?
✔ What about LIS professors?
  ○ Focus in the literature on Ph.D. students
✔ Training librarians to interact with students from a variety of backgrounds professionally and with empathy
“If librarianship is to be a rewarding profession for black American(s), one must assume that the opportunity to practice it also involves the opportunity to shape the principles and practices which define it.”

-Robert Wedgeworth-
3. UNCG Study

2019-2020
The Process

✓ Collecting Literature
  ○ Curated literature already collected
  ○ Zotero shared folder

✓ Consulting with Gus Peña & Daisy Santiago (Director and Assistant Director of the Office of Intercultural Engagement)
The Process Continued

- Survey design & sampling/recruitment
  - Email list of CHANCE students, who know both of us
  - Posters: Print and digital
  - Email to relevant student groups

- IRB
4. Preliminary Findings

Qualtrics survey results
What year of your degree program are you in?

- First: 16
- Second: 21
- Fifth or more: 5
- Third: 18
- Fourth: 6
How often do you visit the libraries on campus?
Quotes:

Have you ever asked a library staff member for assistance? Why or why not?

“I asked for help when looking for a book about McCarthyism. My professor wanted us to use a print source.”

“Yes, however sometimes they are not willing to help.”

“No, I’m familiar with libraries and tend to know where everything is.”
Quotes:

Do you feel comfortable using the library? Why or why not?

“Yes because it is a large area and there are rooms that can be reserved for silence.”

“Yes, it feels very inclusive and welcoming.”

“Neutral--I go to Jackson to study but not for anything else.”
5. Directions

Post-COVID plans
Adjustments for COVID-19

✔ Postpone focus groups & follow up questions
✔ Reduced opportunities for presentations
✔ Recruitment - redoing in Fall 2020, will likely lead to reduced participation
Post COVID-19

- Conduct focus groups, transcribe and code recordings
- Discussion/conclusions
- Literature review
- Publication venues & presentation opportunities
Questions?
References
White
Is the color of milk and fresh snow, the color produced by the combination of all the colors of the visible spectrum.

Black
Is the color of coal, ebony, and of outer space. It is the darkest color, the result of the absence of or complete absorption of light.
Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

✔ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
✔ Photographs by Unsplash
Free templates for all your presentation needs

For PowerPoint and Google Slides
100% free for personal or commercial use
Ready to use, professional and customizable
Blow your audience away with attractive visuals