

Reformatting of Brittle Books by Hispanic Women Writers at the UTEP Library

**Amigos Fellowship Final Report
February 2003**

Submitted by

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**Report of Amigos Fellowship Research Project, 2000:
Reformatting of brittle books by Hispanic women writers at the UTEP Library**

Summary of project activities:

Claudia Rivers, Head of Special Collections at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Library received Amigos Fellowship funding for a pilot program to reformat a small collection of Hispanic women's literature. This collection was too brittle to circulate or to be heavily used without severe damage. Half of the books were to be copied digitally (a smaller sample using face-up scanning), and the other half would be disbound and photocopied onto permanent paper. In each case, one circulating copy would be cataloged and placed in open stacks at the University Library, and one copy would be kept in Special Collections for future duplication as needed. Claudia Rivers, with the help of Head of Technical Services Carol Kelley and Serials/Bindery Librarian Josefa Alvarez, evaluated the final product with the aim of determining which solution would be best for re-formatting brittle books in the future.

The vendors selected for the re-formatting were Etherington Conservation for preservation photocopying and Northern Micrographics for preservation scanning. The books that were sent for preservation photocopying were:

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE OF PUBLICATION
<i>Ifigenia</i>	Teresa de la Parra	1944
<i>Seis cuentos</i>	María Elodia Terres	1950
<i>Las Colinas del hambre</i>	Rosa Wernicke	1943
<i>Pueblo olvidado</i>	Patricia Cox	1951
<i>Transición</i>	Rosa de Castaño	1939
<i>Víctimas</i>	Corina Garza Ramos	1949
<i>Tres almas de mujer</i>	Sara Iturbide de Laris Rubio	1949
<i>La Inmaculada</i>	Catalina D'Erzell	1947
<i>María Nadie</i>	Marta Brunet	1957
<i>La Ruta de la evasión</i>	Yolanda Oreamuno	1950
<i>Teresa y María.</i>	Eulate, Carmela	1946

Those selected for scanning were:

TITLE	AUTHOR	CALL NUMBER
<i>La que todos amaran</i>	Olga Arias de Weber	1947
<i>Nosotras, las taquígrafas</i>	Sarah Batiza	1950
<i>La Ciudad y la música</i>	Evelina Bobes Ortega	1951
<i>El Destino de un patriota</i>	Caridad Bravo Adams	no record
<i>El Enemigo</i>	Caridad Bravo Adams	no record
<i>La Intrusa</i>	Caridad Bravo Adams	1957
<i>Ese pequeño mundo</i>	Patricia Cox	1960
<i>Maximiana</i>	Patricia Cox	1957
<i>Ráfagas</i>	Luz María Durand	1944
<i>María: o, Entre las viñas</i>	Corina Garza Ramos	1946

TITLE	AUTHOR	CALL NUMBER
<i>Sacrilegio</i>	Corina Garza Ramos	1951
<i>Antagonismo: Novela Cubana</i>	Mary Morandeyra	1944
<i>Complejerías</i>	Eglantina Ochoa Sandoval	1955
<i>Tu vida y la mía</i>	Pepita Riera	1954
<i>El Tercer personaje</i>	Concepción Sada	1940
<i>Leyendas del México colonial</i>	Carmen Toscano	1955
<i>El Curandero</i>	Blanca Rosa Veyro	1950

Only one book determined to have artifactual value was scanned using a face-up scanner. It was *Puede que 'lotro año* by Magdalena Mondragon. All other books were disbound before copying or scanning.

The works were selected from a group identified by Dr. Jesús Tafoya, a member of the Languages and Linguistics Department at UTEP and a scholar with expertise in the field of Latin American women's literature. The books were selected from a collection, the John H. McNeely Collection, which had never had its catalog records converted from Dewey classification and manual card files. During the period between the time that the application for the AMIGOS Fellowship was submitted and the time that the books were sent to the vendors, all but two of the books had been cataloged. Prices also rose, and the number of books that could be included was reduced from the original estimate. We decided to ask Northern Micrographics for a CD with the scanned books in PDF files, which cost an additional fee.

Only one book determined to have artifactual value was scanned using a face-up scanner. It was *Puede que l' otro año* by María Mondragon. All other books were disbound before copying or scanning.

After the reformatted books were returned, the resulting copies were checked for quality to assure that all pages are present and legible. The quality of the three styles of copying were assessed by Carol Kelley, Associate University Librarian for Collection Development, Claudia Rivers, Head, Special Collections, and Josefa Alvarez, Serials Librarian and bindery supervisor. One copy of each book will be bound by the Library's contract binder, Roswell Bindery of Phoenix, Arizona, at the Library's expense and placed in MAIN stacks. One copy which can be used for further duplication was placed in Special Collections, along with the disbound originals. The electronic copies were received on CD-ROM, and retained in Special Collections.

Evaluation of results:

Both Etherington Conservation's preservation photocopies and Northern Micrographics' laser prints from scanned images produced acceptable results. In both cases, background spots from discolored pages were minimized, and the text was clear and readable. Both vendors provided the paper copies on permanent paper. The book that was copied on a face-up scanner was also clear and readable; no difference in quality of the image could be easily discerned. Etherington Conservation's copies will perhaps be more pleasant to read, since they used a slightly cream-colored paper, and the pages were trimmed to the size of the original. The Northern Micrographics copies were printed centered on 8½" x 11" sheets of bright white paper.

Etherington Conservation charged 22 cents per page for the first copy of black-and-white text and 20 cents for a second copy. Color photocopies cost \$2.25 each, regardless of how many copies of the color pages are made. Prices refer to books with pages 8½" x 11" or smaller.

Northern Micrographics charged 20 cents per page to scan black-and-white text and print one paper copy; additional paper copies cost 18 cents per page. Color scans cost \$1.00 each, and color laser prints cost an additional \$1.00. Northern Micrographics charges a fifty dollar fee to write the digital files to CD-ROM, but will provide the electronic files using a file transfer protocol (FTP) at no additional cost. The nineteen books we had scanned by Northern Micrographics fit onto two CDs.

The CD-ROM copies provide printable PDF files of the books. These files have the additional advantage of searchable text: any word may be found anywhere in the text with a simple "find" command. The text was clear and sharp when read on a computer screen, and the view could be enlarged with free Adobe Acrobat software.

We will check the books after they return from the bindery, and again in a few months to see if any problems develop with either of the reformatting methods. Budget constraints may limit the amount of digital reformatting that we do in the UTEP Library, but we have found the experience of testing the two methods enlightening. Because of the fact that Northern Micrographics provides one paper copy and one electronic copy, and because the per-page cost of photocopying by Etherington Conservation was slightly more expensive, we have decided that we would choose Northern Micrographics for future reformatting of brittle books.

The University of Texas at El Paso Library appreciates the support Amigos provided for this test project.