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Karl Lorenz, Professor Education: First SelectedWorks Site at SHU, Oct. 21, 2016



I am proud to be the first professor at Sacred Heart University (SHU) to be associated with the SelectedWorks Gallery of Digital Commons. In 2010 I became aware of an initiative of the SHU library and supported by bepress, which provides the platform. I met with Beverly Lysobey, who was spearheading the initiative, and after discussing the concept of this new service, I was immediately sold on the idea. I was enthusiastic about the possibilities that this service would offer, especially given the nature of my professional experiences.

For 18 years I had lived and worked in Brazil as a Visiting Professor of Education in two Federal Universities; one in the tropical northeastern state of Bahia and the other in the more temperate southern state of Paraná. While there, I conducted research on the history of science and education in 19th century Brazil. Upon returning to the U.S. and securing a position at SHU in what is now the Isabelle Farrington College of Education, I carried on with my research and continued to publish in Brazilian journals and present papers at professional conferences abroad, in countries such as Brazil, Portugal, Mexico, Argentina and Spain. Then, as now, most of my publications and papers were written in Portuguese and therefore were accessible primarily to Spanish and Portuguese-speaking professionals.

It was also during my stay in Brazil that publication outlets were relatively few. While some of my work was published in reputable and enduring journals, some appeared in journals of limited circulation or in others with short half-lives. It was a time when electronic catalogues and online searching and publishing opportunities were in their infancy. Efforts to locate, obtain, consult and disseminate scholarly publications were severely limited. The loss of some of my publications to the public always concerned me and prompted me to look for a way to compile all of my work and make it accessible to others.

It was then that the SelectedWorks project surfaced and offered me this opportunity. Over the next year Ms. Lysobey and I worked out the details on setting up my site. We conferred, strategized and consulted with bepress on many technical issues.

Using a few of my publications as models, we refined the process of uploading and downloading content on my site. Once we were satisfied that SelectedWorks was ready to go my next task, which was challenging, was to collect all of my publications and papers, both from Brazil and abroad, categorize them, write up bilingual abstracts and then upload my work on my SelectedWorks site.

It was an exciting time of exploration and comradery, of working together with the SHU library in the knowledge that once the SelectedWorks Gallery was completed it would be quickly embraced by the SHU community. I am grateful that I was present at the beginning when this important service was initiated and fully implemented. I am also pleased that all of my scholarly work is now available online and accessible to others. The Readership Reports and maps and the information contained on the Author Dashboard confirm that articles and papers I authored are being regularly accessed not only in Portuguese and Spanish-speaking countries, but also in the US and in many countries the world over. The online dissemination of my work has also resulted in email inquiries, invitations to speak at educational conferences and participate on editorial boards of several journals.

And then there is, of course, the satisfaction of hearing from colleagues or of running into participants at professional gatherings who are aware of the totality of my work. A few years ago at the Iberoamerican Congress on the History of Education held at the University of Salamanca, a well-known Spanish historian approached and complimented me on several of my papers he had found in SelectedWorks. For me, what greater tribute can there be to SelectedWorks, Digital Commons and the SHU Library than an encounter such as this?

Editorial note: There are now more than 200 current SHU faculty SelectedWorks sites and more in the works. You can view Dr. Karl Lorenz's site at https://works.bepress.com/karl_lorenz/



