The Museum of Modern Art was the first institution to collect and exhibit Latin American art outside of that region. Parallel to these efforts, MoMA Library was also one of the first institutions to document Latin American art. Since the thirties and forties, Alfred Barr, Jr., first director of the museum and other staff members such as Lincoln Kirstein and Stanton Catlin traveled through Latin America and collected books, catalogues, and other documentary materials on artists working in the region. When they returned home the books were catalogued in the library and smaller materials like clippings or visual documentation went into the curatorial departments. In the 1970s, Bernard Karpel, director of the Library, and Elaine Johnson, a curator at the Prints department who was an avid supporter of Latin American art decided to assemble all those materials (i.e. books, catalogues, clippings, visual documentation) in what they called the "Latin American Archive" at the Library, in order to facilitate access to them.

The archive continued growing until the early eighties. In 1983 its book titles were compiled by the Latin American Bibliographer James Findlay, in his book *Modern Latin American Art: A Bibliography*, published by Greenwood Press. Shortly after Findlay left, and the contents of the Latin American Archive were reintegrated into the general collection of books and artist files. That integration occurred because under the new multicultural paradigm the existence of an archive dedicated to Latin American art seemed detrimental to the integration of this art in the international art scene. The next Latin American Bibliographer at MoMA Library was appointed by Milan Hughston, Head of Library and Museum Archives, in 2000. Donald Woodward worked on updating the holdings of the library and establishing multiple publication exchanges with museums around Latin America. Before he left in 2003 he also updated Findlay's bibliography by setting the Latin American Modern and Contemporary Art Online Bibliography, accessible at [http://momaapps.moma.org/shtmlpgs/lab/Home.html](http://momaapps.moma.org/shtmlpgs/lab/Home.html). This bibliography contains over 15,000 records of Latin American, Caribbean, and US Latino books at MoMA Library. In 2003, Taina Caragol was hired as Woodward's successor. Besides updating the bibliography, and expanding the publication exchanges to Latin American museums, galleries and collections in Europe, Caragol is also coordinator of the Survey of Archives of Latino Art.

This Survey is an initiative funded by the Metropolitan New York Library Council with monies it receives from the New York State Archives. For almost two years, a team of three people including the Survey coordinator, an intern and a consultant archivist, have been inventorying the primary and secondary sources of museums, galleries, grassroots organizations and research centers that document the Latino art scene in New York and the greater Metropolitan Area. Some of the institutions surveyed include El Museo del Barrio, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, El Taller Boricua, the Cuban Art Space, and the Museum of Modern Art Library and Archives. The final goal of this project is to make
this information more accessible to the public by building a network of Latino archives. In the long term, the Survey also intends to build a culture of Archival preservation among Latino art institutions. Towards that end, the Survey and METRO have been organizing public presentations on the interdependence between the preservation of archives and that of history. The survey's website is accessible at http://www.moma.org/research/library/latinosurvey/index.html Its next update will be in May of this year.