

Delve Deeper into *Biblioburro*

A film by Carlos Rendón Zipagauta

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon and Martha Perry Liu of the Princeton Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film *Biblioburro*.

Biblioburro is the story of a librarian — and a library — like no other. A decade ago, Colombian grade-school teacher Luis Soriano was inspired to spend his weekends bringing a modest collection of precious books, via two hard-working donkeys, to the children of Magdalena Province's poor and violence-ridden interior. As Soriano braves armed bands, drug traffickers, snakes and heat, his library on hooves carries an inspirational message about education and a better future for Colombia. His simple yet extraordinary effort has attracted worldwide attention — and imitators — but his story has never been better told than in this heartwarming yet unsentimental film.

ADULT NONFICTION

Issues in Colombia

Ardoleda, Jairo A., et al. *Voices of the Poor in Colombia: Strengthening Livelihoods, Families, and Communities*. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2004. In the summer of 2002, 942 poor women and men from ten poor communities of Colombia discussed urgent problems facing their families and communities. They shared their experiences, frustrations and hopes for improving their deteriorating livelihood prospects, the pervasive violence afflicting their homes and communities, and the very poor educational and training opportunities available locally. This book also includes proposals, developed by the communities, that they believe can bring real improvements to their lives.

Brittain, James. *Revolutionary Social Change in Colombia: The Origin and Direction of the FARC-EP*. London; New York: Pluto Press, 2010. This insider account of Colombia's guerrilla war assesses the future of armed struggle in Latin America.

Bruce, Victoria and Karin Hayes with Jorge Enrique Botero. *Hostage Nation: Colombia's Guerrilla Army and the Failed War on Drugs*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. This journalistic expose offers an account of government negligence, corporate malfeasance, familial struggle, drugs, politics, murder, and a daring rescue operation in the Colombian jungle.

Colombia: A Country Study. Federal Research Division, Library of Congress; edited by Rex A. Hudson. Washington, D.C.: Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 2010. This series deals with particular foreign countries, describing and analyzing their political, economic, social, and national security systems and institutions, and examining the interrelationships of those systems and the ways they are shaped by historical and cultural factors.

Molano, Alfredo. *The Dispossessed: Chronicles of the Desterrados of Colombia*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2005. Here in their own words are the stories of the *desterrados*, or "dispossessed"—the thousands of Colombians displaced by years of war and state-backed terrorism, funded in part through US aid to the Colombian government.

Literacy

Dilger-Hill, Jeannie and Erica MacCreagh. *On the Road with Outreach: Mobile Library Services*. Santa Barbara, CA : Libraries Unlimited, 2010. This work collects practical advice on taking the library on the road to reach underserved public library patrons, including the practicalities of establishing and maintaining mobile services to diverse populations.

Smallwood, Carol. *Librarians as Community Partners: An Outreach Handbook*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2012. Thirty-seven public, school, and academic librarians share "how we did outreach good" and produce a joyful collection. These examples are intended to inspire staff involved with event planning, programming, and extending their library's presence and effectiveness in the community.

ADULT FICTION

Issues in Colombia

Cañón, James. *Tales from the Town of Widows & Chronicles from the Land of Men*. New York : HarperCollins, 2007. After their men are kidnapped by communist guerillas, the women of a mountain village in Colombia learn how to survive and create a peaceful new community. Four of the men return years later, forcing the women to negotiate between past and present, custom and independence.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Issues in Colombia

Cameron, Sarah; in conjunction with UNICEF. *Out of War: True Stories from the Front Lines of the Children's Movement for Peace in Colombia*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2001. Grades 7 and up. These first person accounts tell the stories of nine young leaders of the movement whose lives have been tainted by violence.

Morrison, Marion. *Colombia (Enchantment of the World series)*. New York: Children's Press/Scholastic, 2008. Grades 4-8. Morrison describes the geography, people, government, culture, history, religion, economy, and wildlife of Colombia.

Winter, Jeanette. *Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2010. Grades K-2. Luis loves to read, but soon his house in Colombia is so full of books there's barely room for the family. What to do? He comes up with the perfect solution--a traveling library! He buys two donkeys--Alfa and Beto--and travels with them throughout the land, bringing books and reading to the children in faraway villages. Based on Luis Soriano's story as featured in the film.

Literacy

Ruurs, Margiet. *My Librarian is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around the World*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2005. Grades 3-5. This children's book describes unusual mobile libraries found around the world.



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Winter, Jeanette. *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, Inc., 2005. Grades K-4. In a war-stricken country where civilians--especially women--have little power, this true story about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books reminds us all how, throughout the world, the love of literature and the respect for knowledge know no boundaries.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Issues in Colombia

Brown, Monica and John Parra. *Waiting for the Biblioburro*. Berkeley : Tricycle Press, 2011. Grades K-2. When a man brings to a remote village two burros, Alfa and Beto, loaded with books that the children can borrow, Ana's excitement leads her to write a book of her own as she waits for the Biblioburro's return. This book includes a glossary of Spanish terms and a note on the true story of Colombia's Biblioburro and mobile libraries in other countries.

Literacy

Henson, Heather. *That Book Woman*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. Grades 2-5. A family living in the Appalachian Mountains in the 1930s gets books to read during the regular visits of the "Book Woman"--a librarian who rides a pack horse through the mountains, lending books to the isolated residents.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *Clara and the Bookwagon*. New York: Harper & Row, 1987. Grades 1-3. Clara's dream of enriching her rough life on the family farm is fulfilled when a horse-drawn book wagon visits with the country's first traveling library.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

Issues in Colombia

***ABC Colombia*. Directed by Enrica Colusso. PBS Indies, 2006 (54 min.).** This intimate portrait of a small rural community in Colombia controlled by paramilitary forces follows a group of young children through a school

year, exploring the realities that nurture and perpetuate the violence that often forces them to make difficult choices.

***Plan Colombia: Cashing in on the Drug War Failure*. Produced and directed by Gerard Underman & Audrey Brohy. Libre Distribution, 2005. Originally released in 2003 (56 min.).** A 20-year "war on drugs" in Colombia has been paid for by U.S. taxpayers. Still, more and more drugs and narco-dollars are entering the U.S. every year. Is it a failure by Washington? Or is it a smokescreen to secure Colombia's oil and natural resources?

***An Honest Citizen: Cocaine and Corruption in Colombia*. Directed by Angus Macqueen; produced by Guillermo Caldos. WNET (Public television station: New York, NY) DVD, English; Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2006 (60 min.).**

Colombia's \$5-billion-a-year cocaine trade has funded brutal civil war involving leftist guerrillas, right-wing paramilitaries, and a national government severely undermined by corruption. This Wide Angle report spotlights the efforts of Maria Cristine Chirolla, head of the Colombian attorney general's anti-money laundering office, to crack down on the drug lords.

