

SPORTS INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

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General Situation

- 1- The general situation of sports information in Latin America has been linked to a number of issues. One of the main problems for contacting and communicating with other Latin American countries is that the secretariat is located in Argentina, which has undergone several financial, political and security crises. Such a situation has impeded the achievement of a systematic, progressive and developmental working plan.
- 2- Thus, almost all activities related to sports information in Latin America are linked to the Sportcom Project.
- 3- Nevertheless, and insofar as it is possible, the secretariat wishes to carry out actions aimed at the development of sports information in the area, and at the moment it is considering the organization of the 6th Sportcom Meeting within the framework of a sports documentation congress at Latin American level.

Actions of Interest

- 1- Coordination by Sportcom and submission of papers in the area of Computerizing and Sports Documentation of the Pan-American Congress of Physical Education held in Caracas (Venezuela) in July 2001. The congress counted on the attendance of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. Papers from Spain and the United States were also submitted to the area.
- 2- A sports documentation section was included in the Sport Management Conference held in Barquisimeto (Venezuela) in July 2001.
- 3- The 5th Sportcom Meeting took place in Caracas. The most recent actions and project developed by the network were presented at the meeting, including the Atlantes database version for MS Acces, developed by the Carlos III University of Madrid. Representatives of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, United States, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela attended the meeting.
- 4- Signature of a collaboration agreement between Sportcom and the Carlos III University of Madrid (the University Institute Agustin Millares).

Basically, by such agreement both parts commit themselves to developing actions aimed at the promotion and diffusion of sports documentation and information in Latin America, and the Carlos III University commits itself to promoting the use of information technologies in our area, with a special focus on the Atlantes database and on hosting a web page, among other actions.

Projects launched in 2001

- 1- Change of procedures and systems concerning the Atlantes Database. Under the terms of the agreement, the Carlos II University will be in charge of all technological aspects concerning Sportcom. The management system of the database has been changed in view of adapting it to SIRC requirements, and the database has been checked.
- 2- Building process of Sportcom web page, that will be available soon at www.sportcom.org
- 3- Design and setting in motion of the Latin American journal of sports information.

Current situation of the Latin American Network of Sports Documentation

The Olympic Committee of Guatemala is taking the first steps aimed at the creation of a Sport Library

The University of Puerto Rico and a Foundation associated to the Olympic Committee of Puerto Rico have jointly created a sport bibliography database.

Starting in 2001, the University of Antioquia (Medellin, Colombia) is going on with the development of sport documentation, and it is planned to send an expert to Spain to be trained in Madrid and Malaga.

The National University of Heredia (Costa Rica), with the contribution of the FIFA, has launched a project aimed at the development of sports information.