



cirma

Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica

| CIRMA

The Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA) [Center for Mesoamerican Regional Research] is a Guatemalan non-profit foundation. Educational, scientific, academic, and cultural in nature, CIRMA does not engage in any political or religious activity. Since its founding, CIRMA's energies have been directed to salvaging, organizing, conserving, safeguarding, and disseminating the visual and documentary heritage of the Mesoamerican region, with a particular emphasis on Guatemala. Its collections may be accessed free of charge by anyone interested in consulting them.

| ORIGINS

In 1978, researchers Christopher H. Lutz and William R. Swezey founded CIRMA as a small library, its contents generally academic publications then not readily available in Guatemala, and as a meeting space for social science investigators.

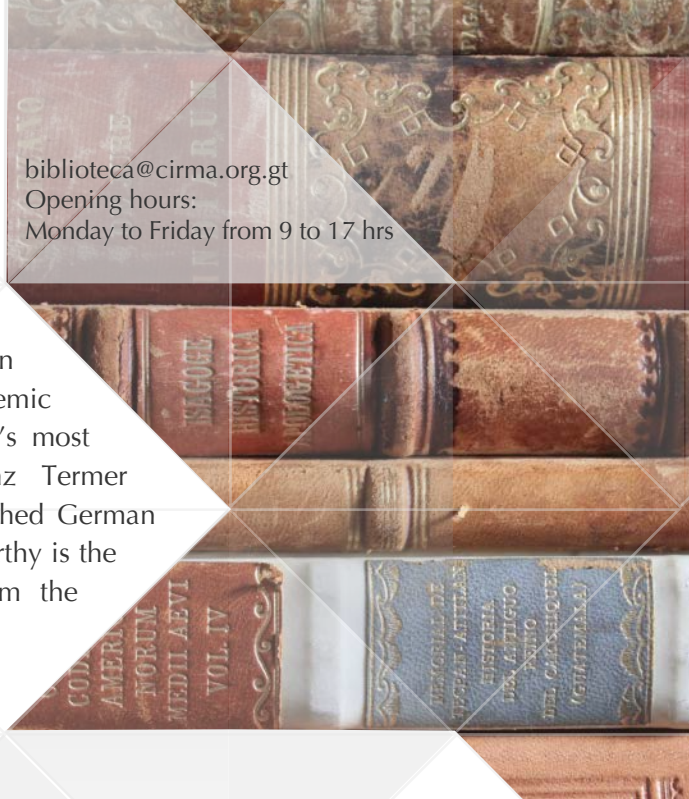
The Fototeca Guatemala [Guatemala Photographic Archive] was established soon thereafter, a repository inspired by the work of photographer Mitchell Denburg that is today considered one of the most important collections of visual materials in Central America. Anthropologist Tani Adams later founded the Archivo Histórico [Historical Archive], an archive that has played a critical role in recovering and preserving Guatemala's historical memory.

Currently, CIRMA is focused on expanding the availability of its unique collections while encouraging sound preservation and management practices with all those involved in protecting cultural and historical heritage.

LIBRARY

The Biblioteca de Ciencias Sociales [Social Sciences Library] is the oldest of CIRMA's three pillars. What began with the merging of the personal libraries of the two founders in 1978, has become a bountiful scholarly collection pertaining to the Mesoamerican region. The Library holds more than 100,000 titles, 9,000 documents, a diverse range of academic journals, and a congenial reading room. One of the Library's most treasured collections is that formerly belonging to Franz Termer (1894-1968), which features works acquired by the distinguished German geographer dating from the late sixteenth century. Also noteworthy is the Rare Books Collection, which holds exceptional items from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century.

biblioteca@cirma.org.gt
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday from 9 to 17 hrs





PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The Fototeca Guatemala [Guatemala Photographic Archive] was established in 1979 and represents the most significant effort to date to preserve the visual memory of Guatemala. Its collections depict different ethnic, social, and political groups from ca.1840 to the present and provide a rich record of the country's historical evolution.

Photographic images also capture cultural traditions, daily life, art, architecture, political events, and natural disasters. Today the archive houses 244 collections that comprise two million photographs in formats ranging from daguerreotypes and glass plate negatives to digital images. The Fototeca Guatemala encourages its users to view each photograph as an opportunity for a new and original endeavor, not merely as an illustrative appendage to inquiry.

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HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

The Archivo Histórico [Historical Archive] was founded in 1997 and aims primarily to document and protect Guatemala's historical memory. Materials inventoried and stored come from non-governmental institutions and private collections in various formats – paper, digital, microfilm, audio, and video. These documents, most of them unique, enrich the national historical legacy and offer different perspectives on Guatemalan society over time. The Historical Archive's collections, some recognized as national patrimony, date from the sixteenth century to the present, with an emphasis on the contemporary period starting from 1944. The archive currently houses 189 collections comprising more than eleven and a half million documents, as well as an important collection of antique maps.

archivohistorico@cirma.org.gt

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5ª Calle Oriente No. 5
La Antigua Guatemala

PBX (502) 7931-0300
cirma@cirma.org.gt
www.cirma.org.gt
find us on Facebook
or on Instagram as CIRMA

