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The Development of the Free Trade Area of the Americas: A Guide For Legal Research

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The Development of the Free Trade Area of the Americas: A Guide For Legal Research

MICHELLE S. VIEGAS*

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

At the 1994 Summit of the Americas, leaders of democratic nations in the Western Hemisphere committed to establishing a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by January 2005. The Declaration of Principles resulting from that Summit called for building on “existing sub-regional and bilateral arrangements in order to broaden and deepen hemispheric economic

integration and to bring the agreements together.”¹ Although ambitious, this endeavor was undertaken during a decade marked by an unprecedented proliferation of trade agreements. In 1991, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay agreed to initiate the formation of a common market now known as the MERCOSUR. Then in 1994, Canada, Mexico and the United States signed the North American Free Trade Agreement which replaced the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement. Later that year, nations around the world formalized the existing General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, creating the World Trade Organization. In 1997, the Andean Community of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela formalized its plans to establish a common market. Members of the Caribbean Community and Common Market also agreed in several protocols to further their economic and social integration. During the 1990’s, numerous other trade agreements were negotiated, and their development continues at the same rapid pace today.

GATT XXIV specifically sanctions the creation of free trade areas and customs unions.² In a customs union, member states eliminate tariffs on goods within the union and establish common tariffs on imported goods. In a free trade area, such as NAFTA, member states eliminate tariffs on goods within the area but maintain their individual tariffs on imported goods. If created, the FTAA will constitute the largest free trade area in the world. The 13-trillion-dollar market will involve 34 countries³ and their collective population of more than 800 million inhabitants. Spanning from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, this immense endeavor will unite the many and diverse economies of the Americas.

The period between 1994 and 1998 marked the preparatory phase of the FTAA negotiation process, which involved the convocation of four ministerial meetings and the creation of twelve working groups.⁴ In addition,

¹ 1994 Summit of the Americas Declaration of Principles. <http://www.summit-americas.org/miamidec.htm>.

² General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Apr. 15, 1994, art. XXIV, 33 I.L.M. 34, 34 (1994).

³ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela

⁴ Market Access, Investment, Services, Government Procurement, Dispute Settlement, Agriculture, Intellectual Property Rights, Subsidies, Antidumping and

the meetings resulted in the establishment of four fundamental guiding principles: (1) preservation and strengthening of the democratic community of the Americas, (2) promotion of well-being through economic integration and free trade, (3) eradication of poverty and discrimination in the hemisphere, and (4) guarantee of sustainable development and preservation of the environment for future generations. During this period, the trade ministers set a new precedent by disclosing the results of their discussions to the general public.

The Second Summit of the Americas in 1998 marked the initiation of the FTAA negotiations. Subsequent ministerial meetings and summits have resulted in three drafts of the FTAA agreement. During the process, the negotiating parties have emphasized the importance of civil society involvement and the recognition of the differences in the levels of development and size of the economies involved. The many bracketed portions of the most recent draft agreement and the failure of the negotiating parties to meet the January 2005 deadline, however, evidence the delicate balance that has yet to be achieved between nations of numerous contrasts⁵

Concerns regarding political instability, economic uncertainty and national security have further complicated the process. Many of the obstacles reflect the same issues being grappled with on a worldwide level in the WTO negotiations. Notably, the November 2003 Miami Ministerial resulted in a departure from the initial goal of drafting an agreement that would constitute a comprehensive, single undertaking. The current negotiations indicate that the final agreement may allow members to assume different levels of commitment and enter into additional bilateral and multilateral agreements in the region. Regardless of its outcome, the FTAA negotiating process will have great significance for both proponents and critics of the Free Trade Area of the Americas and for the economic future of the region.

USING THIS GUIDE

Scope and Limitations

Countervailing Duties, Competition Policy, Consultative Group on Smaller Economies, Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society, and Joint Government-Private Sector Committee of Experts on Electronic Commerce

⁵ These bracket portions include agricultural/industrial, developing/developed, civil law/common law, and North/South issues.

This guide provides information on resources and strategies for researching the development of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. The guide was written from a U.S. perspective but attempts to provide information from many of the participating countries, particularly those in which Spanish is spoken. The purpose of this research tool is neither to promote nor to criticize the FTAA, but rather to provide information on its development. For that reason, the sources of information include various governments, think tanks, anti- and pro-FTAA groups, news publishers, multilateral institutions and other experts in the areas of trade, integration and economics in the Western Hemisphere.

Audience

This guide provides research techniques for students, attorneys and researchers all over in the world. Most sources are in English, but researchers who also speak Spanish, French or Portuguese will find this guide even more useful. Some Westlaw and Lexis databases are included, but the most useful resources can generally be accessed free of charge via the Internet.

Organization

Sources are included by category, with the categories and their contents listed in order of utility. Within each section, the most efficient and relevant sources are listed first. Due to the new and rapidly changing nature of the FTAA process, most of the resources in this guide are accessible through the Internet. For those sources that are listed more than once, references to the initial listings are always included.

BEST SOURCES

www.ftaa-alca.org: see Internet Resources

www.sice.oas.org: see Internet Resources

Academic Search Premier: see Internet Resources

WorldCat: see Books

Dictionary of Trade Terms: see Miscellaneous

SEARCH TERMS

Overview

When researching the FTAA, it is important to use various combinations of search terms within each resource. Although “FTAA” is most commonly used to refer to the agreement, broader terms often result in more useful and numerous sources of information.

Library of Congress Subject Headings

Library of Congress subject headings are essential for efficient research in most libraries and are also often used by databases and indexes to organize materials. These headings can be found in the Library of Congress Subject Headings, 26th Edition, however, electronic databases such as library catalogues are preferable because they include more of the headings that are used for FTAA research.⁶ These headings can also be used as search terms in Internet search engines. The following headings, ordered from narrowest to broadest, categorize the most relevant sources of information on the FTAA:

Free Trade Area of the Americas (Organization)
Free Trade – America
United States – Foreign economic relations – Latin America
Latin America – Foreign economic relations – United States
Customs unions – America
America – Economic Integration
Commercial Treaties—America

Electronic Searching

Electronic searching can save the researcher time in finding and collecting materials, and it often allows for very specific searches using limiting functions. In an electronic search, the search phrase ““free trade” AND “America”” should usually be accompanied by search terms to avoid retrieving an unwieldy amount of information on the NAFTA. Title searches tend to result in far fewer materials than text searches, and thus are generally less preferable. The use of quotes will depend on the database being used. Here are some typical search phrases that can result in relevant information on the FTAA process.

⁶ *Library of Congress Subject Headings, 26th Edition*. Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office, Library Services. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Office, 2003.

“Free Trade Area of the Americas”

FTAA

“free trade” & America!

“western hemisphere” & trade

“free trade area” & “Latin America”

“free trade” & “western hemisphere”

ALCA (Spanish, Portuguese)

“libre comercio” & acuerdo (Spanish)

“Área de Libre Comercio de las Américas” (Spanish)

INTERNET, ORGANIZATIONS, NEWS, PEOPLE AND COLLECTIONS

INTERNET RESOURCES

Overview

The Internet is undoubtedly the best resource for research on the development of the FTAA. Like that of the WTO, the FTAA’s relative infancy makes it conducive for providing all relevant information online. In addition, the constant changes and progress resulting from the negotiations are most easily tracked via the Internet.

Internet Search Engines

Overview

Internet search engines play an indispensable role in research on the FTAA. Internet search engines can rapidly lead users to the most relevant sources of information because so much of the information on the FTAA process is available on the Internet. The Internet is a good venue for this information because it is rapidly changing and it is produced in numerous developed countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Useful Search Engines

www.altavista.com: This search engine is particularly useful because it displays a list of categories related to the most recent search performed. Those categories then lead the user to more specific information on the searched-for topic. Altavista.com can search websites worldwide or only those based in the United States, and will search all languages, one can narrow the search to or English and Spanish only. A simple search for “FTAA” will result in useful websites, but the computer-generated topics lead

to more relevant results. A search for ““free trade area of the Americas” ministerial,” in particular, will produce a list of many relevant websites. A search for “ALCA” is not very effective, but the user should be aware that the search engine does provide translation of words and phrases.

www.google.com: Google.com will also lead the FTAA researcher to relevant websites in various languages. A search for “Free Trade Area of the Americas” produces better results than “FTAA.” Regardless of the search term used, many anti-FTAA websites will be included in the list. This search engine allows for advanced searches and provides translation services. In addition, it performs searches within search results, thus narrowing the scope of the results. Sources in other countries can also be found by searching in country-specific google.com. This is done by adding the two-letter country indicator at the end of the Internet address, such as “mx” for Mexico (www.google.com.mx), “br” for Brazil (www.google.com.br) and “uy” for Uruguay (www.google.com.uy).⁷

www.hotbot.com: Hotbot.com allows for very specific basic searches, as well as more focused advanced searches. As with all of the search engines, a search for “Free Trade Area of the Americas” produces a useful list of sources in various languages. A search for “FTAA” will result in a list of the most relevant websites.

Finding Internet Resources

A helpful starting point for Internet research is to use one of the search engines discussed above. The most efficient strategy would be to find one or two good websites and then use the links from them to find other resources.

Selected Websites

www.ftaa-alca.org: The official website of the FTAA is the best starting point for any research on the negotiation of the agreement. It is the most comprehensive and up-to-date resource for information on the FTAA’s development. The website provides among other things, a thorough history of the negotiations, information on each negotiating issue, the latest draft of the agreement, dozens of links, information on current events and reports on the negotiating groups’ progress. The website can be viewed in English, Spanish,

⁷ A complete list of these Internet two-letter country domains can be found at <http://www.iana.org/cctld/cctld-whois.htm>

Portuguese or French and is maintained in large part by the Trade Unit of the Organization of American States.

www.sice.oas.org: The Foreign Trade Information System or SICE (Sistema de Información al Comercio Exterior) is an excellent resource for trade information about countries in the Western Hemisphere. Available in all four of the official OAS languages, this OAS website nearly achieves its goal of providing the “most complete information and documents on trade in the Western Hemisphere as possible.”⁸ The site is divided into the following topics: FTAA Process, OAS Trade Unit, Trade Agreements, News and Trade Issues. The various diagrams, particularly that of the FTAA process and its accompanying links, are helpful in understanding the process over the past ten years. This website also includes information on upcoming events, such as symposiums and classes.

www.sice.oas.org/tunit/tunite.asp: The OAS Trade Unit website, which can be read in English, Spanish or Portuguese, also provides information on the FTAA. It is less comprehensive than the websites discussed above and is specifically focused on capacity building, publications and studies, and the OAS’ role in the development of the FTAA. The Publications and Studies section of the website is especially useful. It includes links to full-text publications on the specific negotiating issues, studies, and articles written by OAS Trade experts.

www.latn.org.ar: The Latin American Trade Network (LATN) provides numerous documents covering various aspects of trade in the region. LATN was established in 1998 with financial support from the International Development Research Centre in Canada. LATN’s membership is comprised of scholars, academic institutions, international organizations and public officials who analyze the on-going changes in international trade relations. News articles, editorials, working papers, negotiations reports and training materials are available in Spanish and English. The website provides invaluable documents to the researcher but has yet to be updated with 2004 information.

www.miamiftaa2003.com: The 2003 Americas Business Forum in Miami, the eighth of its kind, serves as an instrument within the FTAA negotiations process whereby business leaders analyze and propose various sections of the FTAA agreement. Although much of the information on the website relates

⁸ FOREIGN TRADE INFORMATION SYSTEM (SICE), WELCOME TO SICE (2005) at <http://www.sice.org/Welcomer.asp> (last visited Apr. 3, 2005).

to the Forum which already took place, it is an excellent source of general information on the history of the negotiation process. Specifically, it provides well-organized links to information on all of the previous business forums, summits and ministerial meetings. In addition, it includes dozens of position papers on each of the negotiating topics and substantial information on the city of Miami, which may be the future home of the FTAA Secretariat.

www.citizen.org/trade/ftaa: Global Trade Watch (GTW), a division of the U.S. group Public Citizen, functions as a grassroots effort to oppose the current mechanisms of globalization. It emphasizes the need for government and corporate accountability in the process. GTW criticizes the WTO, the FTAA and other trade agreements. Its website, available in English, Spanish and Portuguese, provides extensive information on its mission, its activities, daily developments in the U.S. Congress and ways in which citizens can get involved in its cause. In addition, it includes thorough critiques of each section of the FTAA draft.

ftaaimc.org/en/index.shtml: The FTAA Independent Media Center (IMC) is comprised of independent media organizations and journalists around the world who cover anti-FTAA stories and protests. It describes itself as a “democratic media outlet for the creation of radical, accurate and passionate tellings of the truth.”⁹ Its website posts dozens of articles and stories in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Because of the geographical diversity of its reporters’ locations, FTAA IMC provides coverage of stories that would otherwise be difficult for the international community to access.

www.amcham.com.br: The American Chamber of Commerce (Amcham Brazil) in São Paulo is a non-profit association of more than 4,000 companies and is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. In light of its goal of influencing “Brazilian and American public policy and promoting trade, investment and corporate citizenship,” the association’s website is a good resource for current trade information relevant to two of the major FTAA negotiating parties.¹⁰ It would be more useful, however, if it included more entries on its FTAA page. The website includes information in both English and Portuguese.

Proprietary Databases

⁹ FTAA INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER, MISSION STATEMENT AND POLICY (2005) at http://ftaaimc.org/en/static/mission_en.shtml (last visited Apr. 3, 2005).

¹⁰ AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SÃO PAULO, ABOUT US (2005) at www.amcham.com.br (last visited Apr. 3, 2005).

Overview

A proprietary database is one that you claim copyright to and do not permit others to freely copy, redistribute, and use. Proprietary databases are usually made available through subscription fees or other user fee structures and access to the resource is strictly controlled through measures such as passwords. Expense and restricted access are also their principal drawbacks. As a class of resources, though, these databases can provide a great deal of useful information about the FTAA.

The Most Useful Databases

Academic Search Premier: This database, managed by EBSCO Host Research Databases, is one of the best electronic resources for FTAA research. Not only does it include advanced search mechanisms, results lists in reverse chronological order, abstracts and titles of other publications by the authors, it provides full-text documents for almost all of the materials, thus eliminating the extra step of locating the publication. Both title and abstract searches using the term “FTAA” produce relevant and manageable lists of results. The additional search fields are ideal for researching more specific FTAA issues. The results from all-text searches tend to be too numerous to be useful.

WorldCat: As discussed in the Books section of this guide, WorldCat is an excellent database for locating the most relevant books on the development of the FTAA.

RLG Bibliographic File: This database of materials from around the world is also an invaluable tool for locating books written on the formation of the FTAA (see the Books section below for further information).

Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO): CIAO is one of the most useful proprietary databases for FTAA research. It includes full-text, English-language working papers, journals, policy briefs, case studies and books. CIAO’s coverage spans back to 1991, and therefore contains documents from throughout the FTAA negotiation process. “International Trade and Finance” and “Latin America” are useful subjects within which to perform a simple search. Searching for “FTAA” in all subject areas, however, will result in more documents. The advanced search function is particularly useful for researching specific aspects of the FTAA, such as agriculture or dispute resolution. This resource would be even more helpful if it listed the

search results in chronological or reverse chronological order. It does, however, allow for searches of specific time periods.

Public Affairs Information Service International (PAIS): PAIS manages an online version of its database, which is a useful tool for finding FTAA information in various formats, including websites, journals and books. The service indexes information in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. The user can restrict a search to specific materials and languages, and save the results in a personal account. Each result contains, among other things, an abstract and useful Library of Congress subject headings. Many search terms will result in materials on the FTAA, but a keyword search using “FTAA” or “Free Trade Area of the Americas” is the most efficient way to narrow in on the topic. The search page also informs the user of when the index was last updated. The one drawback to this service is that it does not provide full-text documents.

Journal of World Trade: This is an online version of a well-known trade journal. The website, which is managed by Kluwer Law International, contains articles from several trade-related journals. Therefore, instead of restricting a search to the *Journal of World Trade*, the researcher should perform an “FTAA” or “Free Trade Area of the Americas” search in all of the journals. The results are listed by relevance rather than date. Each search result is accompanied by an abstract and a PDF version of the article with the search term highlighted throughout. The database also allows searching by journal, year, volume and issue, so that all article titles from each issue can be viewed. This function is helpful for searches using citations.¹¹

LegalTrac: As discussed in the Periodicals section of this guide, this periodicals index is an efficient tool for locating journals and articles that cover topics related to the FTAA.

ORGANIZATIONS

Overview

Various research and intergovernmental institutions serve as useful sources of information regarding the development of the FTAA. Many of their addresses and phone numbers are provided below, but their websites

¹¹ *NAFTA: Law and Business Review of the Americas* is only available through 2002, but that later issues can be found in Westlaw and elsewhere under the title *Law and Business Review of the Americas*.

generally contain a substantial amount of information and tend to be the most efficient starting points for research on the topic.

Finding Organizations

www.iadb.org: The Inter-American Development Bank website provides a list of links to the most relevant intergovernmental and U.S.-based organizations. Although a few of the organizations focus on other regions of the world, the majority work solely on issues in the Western Hemisphere. To access the page, choose Departments → Research Department (RES) → World Links → Organizations.

www.latn.org.ar: The Latin American Trade Network is comprised in part of international organizations and academic institutions, many of which are based in South American countries. Its website contains links to its members' websites, many of which are resources for policy discussions on trade and integration in the region. On the English-language homepage, choose LatNews → Who are we?.

lanic.utexas.edu: LANIC, which is discussed below in the Finding Country-Specific Information section, provides a list of names with links to regional organizations. It contains the most relevant links for FTAA research, but the many non-trade related organizations on it make the list a less efficient research tool. From the LANIC homepage, choose Regional Resources → Latin America.

www.google.com: Search engines such as google.com can be helpful in identifying FTAA-related organizations. They should be used as a last alternative, however, as the lists are often too long to sort through and provide websites with questionable content.

Selected Organizations

Organization of American States (OAS)

17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006

U.S.A.

www.oas.org

202-458-3000

As a regional agency within the United Nations, the Organization of American States works to strengthen democracy, advance human rights,

promote peace and security, expand trade and address the problems of drugs, corruption and poverty in the Western Hemisphere. It was established in 1948, replacing the Pan American Union, and counts among its membership 35 countries in the region. The OAS is probably the most visible member of the Tripartite Committee that provides analytical, technical and financial support to the FTAA negotiation process. The OAS Trade Unit, in particular, is involved in many aspects of the process. Its responsibilities include providing support to seven negotiating groups, preparing studies and reports, hosting courses, aiding individual countries and disseminating information to the public via its website and the official FTAA website managed collaboratively by the Committee. The OAS is a useful source of general information about the history, structure and proceedings of the negotiations and serves as an appropriate starting point for researchers.

Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB)

1300 New York Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20577
U.S.A.
www.iadb.org
202-623-1000

The Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB) facilitates regional integration in the Western Hemisphere and is the primary source of multilateral financing for economic, social and institutional development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Founded in 1959, the IDB is the oldest and largest regional development institution. One of its four main priorities, to promote regional integration by forging links among countries that develop markets for goods and services, stems from its objectives of fostering poverty reduction, social equity and environmentally-sustainable growth. As a member of the FTAA Tripartite Committee, the IDB provides support to the FTAA negotiations process. The Bank is the repository of an immense amount of information on trade in the region, much of which can be accessed through its website. Because it focuses on Latin America, the IDB is not a good source of information regarding the positions and policies of the United States and Canada.

The Dante B. Fascell North-South Center (University of Miami)

1500 Monza Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33146-3027
U.S.A.
www.miami.edu/nsc
305-284-6868

Operating as part of the budget of the United States Department of State, the North-South Center was created to serve as a national and hemispheric resource for the development of trade, economic and migration policy. It functions as a non-partisan public policy and research institution dedicated to “advancing knowledge and understanding of the major political, social, economic and cultural issues affecting the nations and peoples of the Western Hemisphere.” The Center serves governments, non-profit organizations and the private sector. It partnered with the RAND Corporation in November 2003 and will likely expand into an excellent source of information in the coming months and years. Currently, its website is a useful resource for finding papers written on the FTAA and trade in the region. Each of the papers is accompanied by a summary and full-text PDF document. The website also contains publications that can be purchased online. Its events section contains information on the Miami Ministerial and links to relevant websites. Some information, such as the Quarterly Reports, is only available on the website through 2002 but can be obtained by calling the Center.

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)

Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3477

Vitacura, Santiago de Chile

www.eclac.cl/comercio

56-2-471-2000

Established in 1948 as one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) fosters economic and social development in the region. Unlike the other members of the FTAA Tripartite Committee, ECLAC has not dedicated a specific portion of its website to its involvement in the development of the FTAA. It does, however, provide access to hundreds of papers and reports related to the negotiation process and relevant economic issues. Because the search results for “FTAA” will include more than 200 documents, the researcher should consider narrowing the results using the topic categories provided. Aside from its document database, the ECLAC website is not a particularly useful source of information on the FTAA.

National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade (NLCIFT)

440 North Bonita Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85745-2747

U.S.A.

www.natlaw.com

520-622-1200

Located in Tucson, Arizona, this private, non-profit research and educational institute conducts studies and disseminates information on the laws, practices and attitudes affecting trade in the Western Hemisphere. Specifically, it strives to identify and eliminate structural legal barriers to trade in the region. Experts in the legal, commercial, academic, governmental and non-governmental organization sectors all collaborate in the NLCIFT's projects. Information on the Center's many publications and projects are included on its website, along with its renowned online InterAm Database. The database contains Latin American laws, regulations and materials that affect trade in the hemisphere. It can be searched by country and/or treaty name and provides a translation service for some of the documents. The Center is a great resource for research on free trade issues in the region, but access to its materials can be costly.

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS):

1800 K Street, N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006
U.S.A.
csis.org
202-887-0200

The Center for Strategic and International Studies is a private, non-partisan think tank that contributes to the development of national and international policy. 190 researchers and support staffers concentrate on the areas of technology and public policy, international trade and finance, and energy under the leadership of former Deputy Secretary of Defense, John J. Hamre. The CSIS's Americas Program, in particular, focuses on economic integration and other regional and domestic issues in the Western Hemisphere. Information on its publications, projects and priorities is accessible through the Center's website. The CSIS is a useful resource for trade information relating to individual countries but does not focus specifically on the FTAA.

NEWS

Overview

Because new developments in the FTAA negotiating process are constantly arising and the 2005 deadline is fast approaching, research on

FTAA issues will not be complete without the latest information from news sources. Online services often disseminate daily news from a breadth of sources, and are thus most useful in obtaining information from throughout the Western Hemisphere. Some of the sources included below are in available in print, leaving the decision regarding format to the researcher's discretion.

Finding News

The best strategy is to perform online searches of well-known newspapers or bulletins to determine each publication's coverage of FTAA and Western Hemisphere trade issues. In addition, organizations that focus on trade in the region often publish newsletters or provide links on their websites to articles or news sources.

Selected News Sources

Google News (news.google.com): This website provides the most comprehensive and current news articles about the development of the FTAA. Updated throughout the day, Google News displays a reverse chronological listing of articles gathered from more than 4,500 sources worldwide. By clicking on the titles, the user is taken directly to the articles on the publishing sources' websites. In addition, Google offers a news alert service, whereby users can receive "once a day" or "as it happens" emails on any topic of choice. This site is not desirable for a researcher looking for news only from specific sources or countries.

Foreign Trade Information System: The SICE website, as discussed in the Internet Resources section above, is an excellent source of the most current FTAA developments. The homepage contains a scrolling list of the latest news and is updated at least weekly. Although the coverage is not extensive, it provides a brief summary of the most relevant and notable news.

Latin America, West Indies and Caribbean News (LATNEWS): LATNEWS is a Westlaw database of news materials from dozens of sources in and/or covering the region. The Scope section of the database lists all of the news sources, which can be individually searched as well. The most relevant full-text articles on the FTAA will be retrieved by narrowing the search using fields such as Summary and/or Title. In addition, it is important to note that searches can and often should be performed in the native language(s) of the countries from which information is sought. For example, a search for "ALCA" may produce as many, if not more, results than a search

for “FTAA.” Although its Latin American coverage is broad, this resource is lacking in Canadian and U.S. sources.

Wall Street Journal: The Wall Street Journal is a useful source of business and political news relating to the Free Trade Area of the Americas. The Journal can be accessed online, in print or through Westlaw or Lexis. This newspaper provides useful information, though solely from an American perspective.

The Economist: This weekly British publication covers news from around the globe. The section called “The Americas” often contains articles on the development of the FTAA and provides the reader with synopses and analyses of the most significant developments in the region. *The Economist* can be read in print, online or through Westlaw or Lexis. The electronic versions are most useful for searches of specific topics published in many issues, whereas the print version is an efficient means of gathering the most relevant information on a week’s current events.

FTAA Independent Media Center: As discussed in the Internet Resources section above, this group’s website posts daily news articles on anti-FTAA topics.

U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Information Programs (usinfo.state.gov/regional/ar/trade/ftaa.htm): Through its website, this Bureau disperses news from a U.S. perspective on the latest developments in the FTAA negotiations. All of the articles are listed with links, thus making it easy to scan through the titles and choose relevant stories. The website would be more useful if it contained more recent articles.

Latin American Weekly Report: Chiltern Magazine Services Limited in England publishes this weekly report offering news about and analysis of economic, political and social issues in Latin American countries. Compiled by experts and policymakers in the region, this publication provides the reader with in-depth information on issues deterring and propelling the FTAA negotiations. This report is not, however, for readers on a low budget. A subscription currently costs about \$1000 a year.

WestClip (Westlaw)/Eclipse (Lexis): Both Westlaw and Lexis provide news alerts via email as requested by the user’s search terms and delivery preferences. These alerts will be most useful for the databases mentioned throughout this guide that are available through one or both of these resources. On Westlaw, direct access to the CLIP database is not permitted

but the user can choose “Result Options” after having performed a search in order to request regular updates on the FTAA process. These emails are priced per transaction. On Lexis, the user must first perform a search and then will be given the option to submit an Eclipse request.

Western Hemisphere Trade Digest: This monthly newsletter, published by Texas A&M International University’s Western Hemispheric Trade Information Center, highlights and analyzes the most noteworthy trade developments in the hemisphere. Although it does not specifically report on FTAA developments, its articles provide the reader with information on current trade issues and thus background knowledge for a better understanding of FTAA discourse. An annual subscription costs \$30. Although not available online, a preview of the digest can be viewed at http://freetrade.tamtu.edu/ic/nafta_center_publications.asp.

PEOPLE

Overview

Because of the large number of countries involved in the FTAA negotiations, numerous academics, economists and trade-policy experts have been involved in the process itself and/or the policy discussions surrounding it. A researcher can efficiently gather relevant research materials by focusing on a few of these people.

Finding People

The most useful names can be found in the bibliographies, websites, books and other resources included in this research guide. The following websites also list many experts involved in the process.

www.netamericas.net (network of scholars and researchers specializing in hemispheric integration)

www.latn.org.ar/pdfs/plenaria03/Reporte_5_plenaria.pdf (conference “Participants”/academics from throughout Latin America)

www.redmercosur.org.uy (“Researchers” in MERCOSUR countries)

www.ftaa-alca.org (“Governmental Contact Points” in all FTAA countries)

www.sice.oas.org/tunit/aboute.asp(OAS Trade Unit specialists)

drclas.fas.harvard.edu (network of scholars and professors throughout the region)

The Experts

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs: Originally from Costa Rica, Mr. Salazar-Xirinachs now serves as the Director of the Trade Unit of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C.. An expert in international trade, regional economic integration and development economics, he has written extensively on trade issues in the Western Hemisphere. Prior to being named to his current position, Mr. Salazar-Xirinachs served as the Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica and the Vice President of the Board of the Central Bank of Costa Rica. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Cambridge. The OAS Trade Unit website contains links to several of his publications. Visit www.sice.oas.org/TUnit (Publications and Studies → Articles by Trade Unit Staff Members) or www.netamericas.net (Research Community) for more information.

Ernesto Stein: Mr. Stein's areas of expertise include political economy, institutional economics and regional integration. As an economist at the Inter-American Development Bank, he has published several articles and papers. After working for Argentina's Secretary of Industry and Foreign Trade, Mr. Stein earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley. For direct access to his work relating to the FTAA, visit www.iadb.org (Departments → Research Department → About Us → Who's Who in RES).

Antoni Estevadeordal: Before becoming the Principal Trade Economist of the Integration, Trade and Hemispheric Issues Division of the Inter-American Development Bank, Mr. Estevadeordal coordinated the IDB's technical assistance to the FTAA development process. Since receiving his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University, he has specialized in trade and investment policies, and regional integration and cooperation agreements in Latin America. In addition to teaching at both Harvard University and the University of Barcelona, Mr. Estevadeordal has published many articles and papers and the book *Integrating the Americas: FTAA and Beyond*. For more information on his accomplishments and publications, visit www.netamericas.net (Research Community).

Jerry Haar: As a research associate/affiliate at the University of Miami's North-South Center, the Wharton School of Business of the University of

Pennsylvania and Harvard University's Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Mr. Haar specializes in trade policy and regional economic integration, business-government relations and multinational corporate strategy. Mr. Haar is currently a Clinical Professor of Management and International Business at the Florida International University and has held visiting appointments at several universities, including Harvard and Stanford. As a result of his consulting and research experience, Mr. Haar brings private sector expertise to FTAA discourse. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University and has published numerous articles and books.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Overview

Bibliographies can be invaluable in researching free trade in the Western Hemisphere. In addition to saving a researcher time, bibliographies provide numerous helpful titles in various languages, and the names of the most influential scholars and organizations in this developing area of international law.

Finding Bibliographies

Because free trade in the Western Hemisphere is still in its infancy, bibliographies dedicated to the topic are sparse. The most efficient method of obtaining a bibliography of FTAA resources is to consult books and articles on the FTAA. Such publications tend to have thorough lists of sources covering the issues and developments relating to trade in the Americas during the last ten years. Some such publications are listed in the "Books" section of this manual. Otherwise, Internet search engines such as google.com can be useful. Sorting through online search results, however, can be cumbersome. Searches such as "FTAA, bibliography" and "free trade, America, bibliography" will result in numerous sources.

Documentation Center of the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL): Created in 1965, INTAL is a joint effort between the government of Argentina and the Inter-American Development Bank and is the best source of bibliographies on trade agreements. The Center has compiled bibliographies for each year beginning in 2000 on the following topics: FTAA, NAFTA, MERCOSUR, Andean Community, Caribbean Region, Central America, Dollarization and E-Commerce. The Center's website (www.iadb.org/intal/ingles/i-default.htm) is easy to navigate and the extensive bibliographies can be viewed at no charge

in PDF format. The bibliographies are divided into alphabetical listings of publications and alphabetical listings of conference papers by title of the conference. They include sources in English, Spanish and Portuguese, with the majority being English or Spanish-language materials. Each bibliography also includes several direct links to full-text documents and/or the information necessary to obtain them, thus serving as an efficient research tool.

Selected Bibliographies

Available Bibliography on FTAA: January to December 2003: Compiled by INTAL (discussed above) and updated in December 2003, this bibliography contains English, Portuguese and Spanish-language papers, books, articles and conference papers by NGOs, scholars and intergovernmental organizations from several different countries. The bibliography is organized in alphabetical order and contains the information necessary for locating the materials. The direct links to some full-text documents are especially useful. The works included in this list relate to diverse and relevant topics such as services, labor, regionalism, negotiating coalitions, agriculture and the negotiating process. Abstracts are not provided but the absence of this feature results in a concise, 11-page research tool.

Bibliography of Law Journal Articles on Statutes Administered by the United States International Trade Commission and Related Subjects, Vol. 5, 2000-2003. United States International Trade Commission. Washington, D.C.: USITC, 2004. 105 p. Completed in February 2004, this bibliography is available in PDF format at www.usitc.gov/lawbib.htm. Law librarians compiled the list and include their contact information for questions and further information. The bibliography contains an extensive subject index in the first several pages and then lists the English-language publications in reverse chronological order under each heading. The Countries and Trade Agreements sections contain a few titles related to the FTAA. The 105-page bibliography, however, lists many publications relating to Latin American countries, and can be an invaluable tool for research on general trade issues related to the FTAA.

www.afsc.org/trade/learn/ftaa-background.htm: The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization, includes on its website a list with links to “FTAA Background Materials.” The organization espouses the view that current rules governing trade are particularly detrimental to the poor and the environment. The articles referenced on this website present several criticisms of the FTAA and are useful in identifying non-governmental

organizations involved in trade issues. The website also includes several Canadian sources. The list is divided by topic and is easily navigable.

www.thebriefingroom.net/trade_bib.html#2: The Briefing Room, a Global Trade Communication Programme, provides on its website a bibliography of papers, reports and policy studies on trade issues in the Americas. The list includes works published between 1997 and 2002 and has a particular focus on Central America. It is organized into five sections: Jamaica Manufacturers' Association, Research Department, Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) Technical Papers, CRNM Policy Papers, CRNM Issue Papers and CRNM Reports. The website does not provide links to full-text materials, but does include the names of the publishing organizations. The papers and reports may also be located by contacting the following groups/people: the Jamaica Manufacturers Association (jma@cwjamaica.com), Nand Bardouille, Communications Officer, CRNM (nand.bardouille@crnm.org) or CRNM (www.crnmm.org). Access to some of the titles may also be acquired using Internet search engines. Otherwise, The Briefing Room itself is helpful in locating the information. The Briefing Room is a private sector initiative in Jamaica that is partly funded by USAID. Due to financial problems, its website is only sporadically updated, but is a good source of information nonetheless.

MATERIALS FOR ANALYSIS AND ARGUMENT

BOOKS

Overview

Although books do not constitute the best sources for research on the continuing negotiation of the FTAA, a few authors and editors have published thorough analyses of the agreement and negotiation process.

Finding Books

WorldCat: This database is perhaps the best one for finding books on the FTAA. WorldCat catalogs numerous publications and other materials from 41,000 libraries in 83 countries. A keyword search using "FTAA" will result in more than 100 books on the topic. The advanced search options are particularly helpful for both broader and narrower searches. Results can be arranged by date for efficient researching. In addition, the results list contains all of the relevant information for locating the materials, including language, format and which libraries in the world own them.

RLG Bibliographic File: This database contains the most relevant books on the FTAA. The keyword search for “FTAA” will result in a useful list. The database also allows for searches using Library of Congress subject headings. A subject search for “Free Trade Area of the Americas (organization)” or “Free Trade Area of the Americas (proposed)” will result in useful titles as well. The results can be listed in reverse chronological order. The results lists are not as user-friendly as those of other databases, however, because the full titles can only be viewed by clicking on each individual result. Some titles are accompanied by links to full-text documents and all entries list libraries which own the publication. Included in the results is information on bibliographies as well. RLG indexes publications in numerous languages. Additional materials on the FTAA can be found using the RLG database Handbook of Latin American Studies, which is accessible on the RLG homepage and contains books, papers and articles from hundreds of sources.

www.amazon.com: This website is an excellent source of already published and forthcoming books and documents on U.S. perspectives of the FTAA process. A simple search for “FTAA” will result in more than 200 titles. A search for “free trade,” “Latin America” also provides many useful titles. The website does not list the books in order of relevance or date published, so the user must scroll through all of them. Some of the titles are accompanied by a summary, information about the authors and PDF versions of the introduction and table of contents. In addition to book titles, amazon.com contains information on congressional documents and provides links to related websites, such as the trade section of the World Bank and the WTO. The website contains a limited number of Spanish-language materials. Search results can be narrowed using the following Amazon subject headings:

Subjects → Business and Investing → Economics → Economic Policy and Development

Subjects → Business and Investing → Economics → General

Subjects → Business and Investing → General

Subjects → Business and Investing → International → General

Subjects → Nonfiction

Subjects → Spanish → Negocios y Inversiones

Felipe Herrera Library, Inter-American Development Bank: The IDB’s library within its Integration and Regional Programs Department is an excellent source of books on the FTAA. Although the library is located in Washington, D.C., all of its holdings can be viewed online at www.iadb.org/lib/index.htm. The database allows for simple, advanced and cross library searches, and contains numerous current and relevant titles.

www.globalbooksinprint.com: Bowker's Global Books in Print catalogues English-language books recently published in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States. The database does not contain many books relating to the FTAA, but does provide extensive information on the books that it does list. In some cases, it also provides a summary, reviews and the option to purchase used copies online. This database is helpful for a researcher outside of the United States because it explicitly states in which country the item is being sold. As a result, however, several titles are listed more than once. The search term "FTAA" will result in a few very relevant titles, whereas searches for "free trade" and "America" and "Latin America" provide many more, but less relevant results. The site is easy to navigate and the results can be sorted by date in either chronological or reverse chronological order. A researcher can sign up for the BIP Alert Service, through which Bowker's will send email alerts on new books in user-specified subject areas. This feature will be especially useful once the FTAA agreement enters into force and many more books are written on the subject. Finally, the user can create a private list of titles with a password or create a list for public viewing.

Selected Books

Free Trade for the Americas?: The United States' Push for the FTAA Agreement. Paulo Gilberto Fagundes Vizentini & Marianne Wiesebron. New York: Zed Books, Limited, 2004. This compilation of works explains the history and on-going negotiations of the FTAA. It provides an updated discussion of the interests of the United States, Latin American countries and existing trading blocs. Its discussion highlights the integration of South American economies, the increasing influence of Brazil in the trade negotiations and the vast economic and political inequalities among the 34 countries. Special attention is given to the United States advocacy of a NAFTA-like agreement and the implications of such an agreement on other countries in the hemisphere.

Toward Free Trade in the Americas. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs & Maryse Robert. Washington, D.C.: Organization of American States & Brookings Institute Press, 2001. 334 p. This OAS Trade Unit publication presents a compilation of various authors' analyses of trends, developments and possibilities related to economic integration in the Western Hemisphere. The specific focus on trade and investment flows, regional trade agreements and security concerns is a product of the Trade Unit's involvement in the

negotiations process. Chapter 14, in particular, provides an in-depth history and explanation of the FTAA negotiations and is followed by a useful list of references to relevant publications. The book also includes an extensive index, allowing the reader to easily zero in on very specific topics.

South American Free Trade Area or Free Trade Area of the Americas: Open regionalism and the future of regional economic integration in South America. Mario Esteban Carranza. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2000. 245 p. This text provides an in-depth discussion of the role of South American regionalism in the development of the FTAA. It is an excellent source of background information and insightful analyses into the on-going tension in the FTAA negotiations between the United States' desire for a NAFTA-like agreement and the Brazilian-lead South American bloc of countries' advocacy for their interests. The author is a specialist on the MERCOSUR and regional integration in the Western Hemisphere. He based his work on extensive research throughout Latin America and the United States, as evidenced by the wealth of Spanish and English language sources found in the endnotes following each chapter and in the bibliography at the end of the book. This Argentina native and United States college professor offers an English-language discussion on trade issues in South America, a rarity that makes it a must-read, particularly for researchers who do not speak Spanish or Portuguese.

ALCA y Tratados de Libre Comercio: Desafíos y Oportunidades para la Integración Centroamericana. Nehemías Obed López Carrión. Nicaragua: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2003. 260 p. Also available in PDF format online at www.fesnica.org.ni/publicaciones, this excellent Spanish language book presents the concerns, issues and opportunities of Central American countries and their smaller economies arising out of free trade agreements and the FTAA negotiations. The authors, Central American experts in business, development and integration, discuss the implications of regional free trade on Central American economies. The work advocates for increased economic integration in the region as a means of gaining greater international negotiating power for these smaller economies and as a mechanism for addressing domestic social and economic problems. In addition, it gives attention to the increasing role of civil society in trade discussions. The book lacks an index and a comprehensive bibliography, but the tables in the Annex provide useful statistics on commerce in the region.

¿Qué es el ALCA? Globalización, Estados Unidos y América Latina. Oscar-René Vargas. Nicaragua: Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Nacional, 2002. 191 p. This Spanish-language publication presents a critical analysis of the

United States' role in the FTAA negotiations. It discusses the implications of the economic inequalities between the negotiating parties and the detrimental effects that the FTAA could have in the social, economic, environmental and health spheres of Latin American countries. Its well-organized table of contents makes the book very easy to navigate.

Mercosur - Estados Unidos - ALCA: Globalización y Regionalización en el cambio del siglo. Wilson Nerys Fernández. Montevideo: Fundación de Cultura Universitaria, 2000. 395 p. An accomplished author and professor in the areas of international relations, economics and politics in Latin American countries, Mr. Fernández presents a technical analysis of the relationship between the United States and the MERCOSUR countries and their policies toward each other. The book discusses the effects of globalization on domestic economic, political and social issues and the implications of a FTAA for these negotiating powers. Filled with data and statistics, this publication is an excellent source for a researcher seeking the facts behind a thorough policy analysis.

Trade Negotiations in Latin America: Problems and Perspectives. Diana Tissue. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003. 221 p. The Latin American Trade Network (discussed above in the Internet Resources section) compiled this English-language collection. The analyses of the FTAA negotiations are written in light of current politics, changing economies and developing coalitions. The authors give special attention to the agriculture, services and telecommunications sectors, and to the implications of WTO negotiations for trade discussions in the Western Hemisphere. The extensive use of tables and the thorough index and bibliography contribute to the utility of this work.

Greening the Americas: NAFTA's lessons for Hemispheric Trade. Carolyn L. Deere & Daniel C. Esty. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002. 452 p. This book makes proposals for the FTAA negotiations on the environment through an analysis of NAFTA's North American Agreement to Environmental Cooperation and environmental issues in South American countries. It highlights the inescapable linkage between trade policy and environmental objectives and discusses the integration of trade and environmentally-responsible policies. The books' focus on an existing environmental agreement in the Western Hemisphere is especially relevant to the FTAA negotiations. The papers included in this book contain extensive reference lists. The experience of each of the contributors and editors is also described in the Appendix, along with useful websites and a chronological overview of the FTAA process.

PERIODICALS

Overview

Periodicals offer on-going reviews and analyses of FTAA developments. Most articles are written by experts on Western Hemisphere and/or trade issues, thus providing not only useful information, but also author names for use in further research.

Finding Periodicals and Articles

Academic Search Premier: As discussed above, this electronic resource is an excellent source of current articles on the FTAA. Many full-text articles are included, and the reverse chronological listing allows the researcher to easily find the most current information. The database searches several publications and is not limited to legal scholarship.

Kluwer Law International: This source, as discussed in the Internet Resources section of this guide, is a database of trade-related journals and articles. Although not comprehensive, it is useful for finding a concentrated group of relevant articles.

International Law Review Articles, Combined (Lexis): As discussed in the Westlaw/Lexis section of this guide, this Lexis resource is an excellent source of full-text articles collected from hundreds of English-language law reviews.

Index to Legal Periodicals (ILP): This resource indexes legal periodical articles from English-language journals throughout the world. It is available in print¹² and online. Lexis and Westlaw offer versions of the ILP on their services, and there is also a stand-alone version of this database available at some libraries. In ILP, the search term “FTAA” or “free trade & America” will result in numerous relevant articles. The articles are listed in reverse chronological order and date back to the initiation of FTAA discussions in 1995. Links to many of the full-text documents are provided and new articles are added within a week of their publication. The print version is organized by date and is thus a less efficient means of locating articles. Each volume represents a year and will list the most relevant articles under the Library of Congress subject heading “Free Trade Area of the Americas (Proposed).”

¹² *Index to Legal Periodicals and Books*. Richard A. Dorfman. New York, NY: The H.W. Wilson Company.

Legal Resource Index (online)/Current Law Index (print): This resource tracks English-language articles from around the world. It covers more periodicals and uses narrower subject headings than the ILP, but indexes fewer articles related to the FTAA. Westlaw provides the best online version of the index, but it can also be accessed through Lexis or LegalTrac. Because there are few articles on the subject in this index, a non-restricted search will produce a more comprehensive list of results. The search terms “FTAA” or ““free trade” /s America!” & Latin” or “Free Trade Area of the Americas” all result in useful titles. Many full-text articles are available on Westlaw through this database. The Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP) on Westlaw should always be referenced when using LRI in order to check for the newest additions to the database. This is cumbersome, however, as each of the weekly updates must be checked separately. The print version¹³ is a much less efficient means of finding articles. Because there are so few articles written on the subject, a search under all applicable subjects for a particular year could result in only one useful title. Potentially useful search terms are “Free Trade,” “International Trade” and “Foreign Trade Zones.”

www.ingenta.com: Ingenta is an English-language database that contains more than 16 million articles. Although the website contains relatively few articles on the FTAA, those articles have been authored by some of the most well-known names in the field. Ingenta users can obtain these articles online or via fax machine. The site is somewhat misleading in that full-text articles are only available to subscribers of the publications or if purchased through Ingenta. The website nonetheless serves as a free and useful articles index.

Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP): The IFLP indexes articles covering international, comparative and domestic laws from countries other than the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. This multilingual index is available on Westlaw and as a stand-alone database. Both keyword and advanced searches in the E-Resources version produce only a few results, most of which are dated. The print version¹⁴ of this index is organized by date, so that the researcher must look in a separate volume for each year. Useful search terms are “Economic Planning and Integration” and “International Trade, America.” Although this resource is not particularly

¹³ *Current Law Index*. Amanda Quick. Farmington Hills, MI: The Gale Group, Inc..

¹⁴ *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals: A Subject Index to Selected International and Comparative Law Periodicals and Collections of Essays*. Thomas H. Reynolds. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

useful today, it may contain many more titles in the future when the FTAA is further developed.

Index to Canadian Legal Literature: This index catalogues articles and other legal scholarship from Canadian periodicals in both English and French. It has been updated monthly since it was first published in 1987. The use of Library of Congress subject headings facilitates use by U.S. researchers. Although most articles found in this index relate to NAFTA, the Index should be a helpful source of information as the FTAA develops. Subscribers to Quicklaw can access the index online.

LegalTrac: This database indexes thousands of articles from numerous sources including law reviews, legal newspapers, bar journals and general interest publications. Periodicals and articles covering the FTAA can be researched using keyword, author, date, subject or one of the many other search functions. The subject guide, in particular, is useful in that it lists numerous subjects related to the search term/phrase and articles included in each.

Selected Periodicals

Law and Business Review of the Americas (formerly NAFTA – Law and Business Review of the Americas): Published by Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, this periodical contains numerous articles relating to the FTAA and free trade in the Western Hemisphere. As an interdisciplinary publication, it addresses the social, political, economic and business implications of regional integration. Older issues can be viewed online through the Kluwer International Law website discussed in the Internet Resources section of this guide. Articles from all issues dating back to 1998 are also available on Westlaw (LBUSRAM) and Lexis (listed under former title). For more information on the journal, visit www.smu.edu/ilra/lbra.

Inter-American Trade Report: The National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade publishes a monthly report on timely trade issues in the hemisphere. It highlights legislation, Latin American court decisions, regulations and other notable developments. Information is gathered by experts and attorneys throughout the region. The table of contents of each issue published since 1997 can be viewed online at www.natlaw.com/bulletin/report.htm. Full-text articles published through 2002 can also be viewed on the website. More recent issues, however, are only accessible through paid-for subscriptions. Because this publication is solely focused on trade in the region, it serves as an efficient and informative

research material. Several of the articles are followed by additional sources of information, such as names, websites and papers, which can be invaluable to the researcher.

University of Miami Inter-American Law Review: Published three times a year, this periodical focuses primarily on legal issues in the Western Hemisphere and is therefore an ideal publication for research on the FTAA. Not only do its issues include numerous articles specifically about the Free Trade Area of the Americas, they also cover topics being addressed in the negotiations. In addition to substantive articles, each publication includes lists of inter-American source materials and periodical articles, resolutions of the inter-American Bar Association and legal memoranda prepared by major law firms throughout the hemisphere. An annual subscription for the journal costs less than \$25. The articles can also be viewed on Westlaw (UMIAIALR) or Lexis. Either of the online databases can be used, as both provide full coverage beginning in 1994 (when FTAA talks began) or earlier. For more information on the journal, visit the following website: <http://currentstudents.law.miami.edu/ialr/index.html>

Economic Perspectives: This electronic journal constitutes one of the various means by which the U.S. Department of State articulates its policies and values to foreign audiences. Although the publication does not focus regularly on trade in the Americas, Volume 7, Number 3, October 2002 is devoted entirely to issues surrounding the FTAA. Its contents include congressional commentary, articles by U.S. officials and leaders of other Western Hemisphere nations, trade statistics, key contacts and a bibliography. Find it here: <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/1002/ijee/ijee1002.htm>.

Informative Articles

TAYLOR, J. Michael. “Dispute Settlement Under the FTAA: An apparent melding of WTO, NAFTA and MERCOSUR approaches.” *Journal of International Arbitration*. 19 (2002): 393-422. In addition to discussing the dispute resolution sections of the draft agreement, this article presents a thorough history of trade agreements in the region and detailed explanations of the dispute resolution mechanisms set forth under each of the three major trade agreements in the hemisphere. In addition to its substantive content, this piece includes an extensive bibliography which is a useful resource for researchers.

BRUNER, Christopher. “Hemispheric Integration and the Politics of Regionalism: The Free Trade Area of the Americas.” *University of Miami*

Inter-American Law Review. 33 (2002): 1-68. Written by an attorney, this article offers an in-depth look into the negotiating goals and strategies of the FTAA nations. It is particularly relevant today in light of the North/South or United States/Brazil negotiating obstacles that are leading to a “watered down” agreement.

ALTIERI, Laura. “NAFTA and the FTAA: Regional Alternatives to Multilateralism.” *Berkeley Journal of International Law*. 21 (2003): 847-877. This student-written article presents an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of regional trade agreements to the United States. Its background discussion and detailed explanation of U.S. policies and political processes provide the researcher with a better understanding not only of the United States’ positions in the FTAA negotiations, but also of the debate within the United States about the liberalization of regional trade.

COLLINGSWORTH, Terry. “An Essential Element of Fair Trade and Sustainable Development in the FTAA is an Enforceable Social Clause.” *Richmond Journal of Global Law and Business*. 2 (2001): 197-211. In recommending protections for the working class, this article articulates constructive criticisms of the current FTAA negotiations and suggests potential improvements. As a labor and human rights attorney specializing in trade and international labor rights issues at the International Labor Rights Fund, the author argues that citizen welfare must be given as much if not more attention than corporate interests in the final agreement.

PAPERS AND REPORTS

Overview

Because they are written by researchers and experts in the field, papers and reports often constitute the best sources of information on the development of the FTAA. Their authors usually provide substantial background information and address the major policy issues involved in the process.

Finding Papers and Reports

The best sources of papers and reports are generally the organizations mentioned above which are dedicated to trade issues in the Western Hemisphere. Because they are usually available through websites, these materials are easily accessible.

www.ssrn.com/lan/index.html: The Latin American Network, sponsored by the Social Science Research Network, is unquestionably the best database of working papers written on the FTAA, free trade and regional integration in the Western Hemisphere. This electronic library contains more than 66,000 abstracts and 43,000 papers written by over 37,000 authors. The researcher can search abstracts or titles by author or keyword and by date. The search results are listed by order of relevance and each includes information on the author, institution and date posted. Full-text papers can be downloaded for free and both abstracts and documents can be emailed. The database contains several papers related to trade in the Americas. The articles are not listed in reverse chronological order, so recent articles will be dispersed throughout the results list.

Dante B. Fascell North-South Center: In carrying out its role as a resource for policy development in the Americas, the North-South Center publishes and disseminates several English-language working papers, books and policy reports for free through its website (www.miami.edu/nsc/). Rather than scrolling through all of the titles, the user can more efficiently locate relevant materials on the FTAA using the “Search Index of Publications” function. Because the results are listed in the order of their relevance, each title/link must be opened in order to determine the date of publication.

Latin American Trade Network (LATN): Both through its website (www.latin.org.ar) and regular mail, LATN makes available several working papers, reports and briefs in English and Spanish. The materials are written by experts in their respective fields and cover trade issues in Latin American countries. The most recent additions to the collection were made last year, so this organization is not the best source of the most current documents on the topic.

Research Department, Inter-American Development Bank: The many publications of the IDB are the work of renowned experts in economic and political issues in Latin America. Through its website (www.iadb.org/res/index.cfm), the Department makes available numerous papers, reports and books in one or more of the languages spoken in the region. Publications on issues surrounding the development of the FTAA can be found by scanning the various subtopics located on the homepage, or by using the search function on that same page. Although useful, the results list provides little descriptive information, thus requiring the researcher to open each document.

Integration, Trade and Hemispheric Issues Division, Inter-American Development Bank: This unit of the IDB focuses specifically on trade issues in Latin America and on the IDB's involvement in the development of the FTAA. Many of the reports and studies produced by the IDB in its capacity as a member of the FTAA Tripartite Committee are available through this division's website (www.iadb.org/int). Although the publications are not numerous, they contain technical data rarely available elsewhere. In addition, they provide the researcher with insights into the role of the IDB in the FTAA development process.

Policy File/Harvard Law School International Legal Studies Reference: The Harvard Law School library website contains a database of public policy research from numerous sources. The database contains several FTAA-related English-language papers. Searching in both the text and the title produces many results. The website also allows for searches by author, institute and predetermined subjects. Most of the titles appear by date in reverse chronological order, making the database an efficient search tool. Each title is also accompanied by an abstract, organization contact information and links to the full-text articles. The Policy File can be accessed through the following website: www.law.harvard.edu (Foreign and International Law → Foreign and International Law Resources → Indexes, Catalogs and Directories → Policy File).

Informative Papers and Reports

The following materials are just a few of the numerous papers and reports written on the subject.

Beyond Borders: The Regionalism in Latin America (Economic and Social Progress in Latin America 2002 Report). Inter-American Development Bank. Washington, D.C.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. 291 p. In this lengthy report, the IDB provides an in-depth analysis of the on-going integration among countries in the Western Hemisphere. In addition to discussing the FTAA and trade agreements in the region, the report highlights the systemic changes that will be necessary to support such integration. Social and economic effects of these developments are also addressed. The product of many experts in the region, this extensive report is available in both Spanish and English, in print and online at www.iadb.org/res/index.cfm?fuseaction=Publications.Ipes.

The FTAA Bulletin: Analysts Comment on their Country and the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Danielle Goldfarb. Toronto, Ontario: Howe Institute, January 2004. In light of a departure from the all-or-nothing approach originally taken in the FTAA negotiations, Ms. Goldfarb explores the interests of and key issues for each of several of the countries involved in the process. The bulletin is divided into country sections, with information in each gathered from academics, research institutions and trade-policy experts. Much of the bulletin is available in English and Spanish and can be viewed on the LATN website. Each section of the bulletin is a separate PDF document. By substituting the word “introduction” in the link to the introduction (www.latn.org.ar/pdfs/op_alca_introduccion.pdf) with various country names, the viewer can access individual country analyses.

The FTAA Process: What Has it Achieved and Where Does it Stand? Roberto Bouzas & Gustavo Svarzman. Coral Gables, FL: The Dante B. Fascell North-South Center, 2001. 24 p. Written by Argentine experts in international economics and inter-American integration, this paper provides a thorough summary and analysis of the FTAA negotiations process through the year 2000. The material can be accessed through the North-South Institute’s website: www.miami.edu/nsc/publications/pubs-white-pdf/BouzasFTAA.pdf.

Thinking Strategically About 2005: The United States and South America. Georges A. Fauriol. Washington, D.C.: The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 1999. 46 p. The CSIS Americas Project produced this publication to summarize its results from a two-year project funded by the Ford Foundation called *South America 2005*. Although the report is somewhat dated, its contents remain timely. The project’s participants included influential policy makers, academics and investors from both South America and the United States. The publication discusses regionalism, security, civil society participation and other relevant issues arising out of the United States-South American relationship. In particular, it discusses why and which policy negotiations must take place in addition to trade discussions in the development of the FTAA. In addition to the in-depth analysis, the brief history of the FTAA and the neatly organized sections make this an informative resource.

A Free Trade Area of the Americas: Implications of Success or Failure for the Members of the OAS (Paper No. 7, Working Paper Series). Stephen K. Keat. Coral Gables, FL: The Dante B. Fascell North-South Center, August 2002. 23 p. This paper offers a brief, but thorough discussion of the background, history, key issues and potential outcomes of the FTAA negotiations. The detailed analyses of individual countries’ interests and

negotiating strategies make this paper especially useful in understanding the current obstacles following the 2003 Miami Ministerial Meeting. The author has more than 20 years of experience with the U.S. State Department and is presently working in its Economic Bureau. The paper is available online at www.miami.edu/nsc/publications/pubs-WP-pdf/WP7.pdf.

Inside the Fortress: What's Going on Inside the FTAA Negotiations. Marc Lee. British Columbia: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, April 2001. 36 p. A Research Economist for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Mr. Lee dissects the issues involved in the formation of the FTAA in this working paper. He offers one of the few published critiques of the FTAA, arguing that the new trade agreement will benefit corporations while undermining democratic processes. This paper is available at www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/inside-the-fortress.pdf.

Engaging with Civil Society: Lessons from the OAS, FTAA and Summits of the Americas. Yasmine Shamsie. Ottawa, Ontario: The North-South Institute, January 2000. 24 p. As a doctoral candidate at Canada's York University, Ms. Shamsie published this piece on the participation of civil society organizations (CSO) in multilateral institutions in the Americas. This paper was the first in a series focusing on the role, motivations and effects that CSOs have in multilateral bodies and processes. Drafters of the FTAA have welcomed input from these groups and this article provides insights into their past and potential contributions. This paper is available at www.nsi-ins.ca/ensi/pdf/SHAMSIE.PDF.

DISSERTATIONS

Overview

Because the FTAA is not yet a reality, few dissertations have been written on the topic. The nature of the work and extensive research involved, however, make the few dissertations on the FTAA that do exist all the more valuable sources of information. Their bibliographies in particular are excellent resources for further research.

Finding Dissertations

ProQuest Digital Dissertations: This electronic resource not only indexes dissertations from more than 1,000 universities, but provides free PDF full-text documents and 24-page previews for works published after 1997. Keyword searches for "FTAA" and "Free Trade Area of the Americas" both result in the most extensive list of dissertations of any other index or search engine. The database includes advisor, institution, degree, author and other

relevant information. In addition, each dissertation is accompanied by a short summary.

Dissertation Abstracts Online (Westlaw: DAO): This extensive database indexes virtually all dissertations accepted by accredited U.S. institutions dating back to 1861 and by dozens of Canadian institutions as well. Searches using the terms “FTAA” and “free trade” /p “Latin America” result in a few relevant titles, particularly from Canadian institutions. This database is updated monthly, and as the FTAA develops further, it is likely that more dissertations will be written on the topic. DAO provides information on the author and academic institution of each dissertation, but does not include links to full-text documents. The results are listed four to a page, which makes this resource less user-friendly. Most of the dissertations can be located through the academic institutions at which they were written or through the interlibrary loan system.

www.google.com: This and other search engines can be used to find dissertations written on free trade and the FTAA by entering the appropriate search terms along with the word “dissertation.” Search engines, however, are very inefficient resources for finding dissertations because the majority of results will not be helpful.

Selected Dissertations

BOURÉLY, Nadia. “Economic Integration of Developing Countries and Regionalism in Latin America and the Caribbean: Prospects for a Free Trade Area of the Americas.” Institute of Comparative Law, McGill University, Montréal, 2000. 156 p. This thesis presents an excellent discussion of the FTAA negotiations in light of the trend toward regionalism around the world and particularly in the Western Hemisphere. More than a third of the work is devoted to analysis of the FTAA, while the preceding materials set the stage for the discussion by detailing the worldwide and regional trade developments during the 1990’s. The author focuses in particular on the interests of developing countries, their use of regional economic agreements to gain influence in multilateral negotiations. The bibliography is a particularly valuable source of information and is divided into sections on books, articles, international materials and database articles. This thesis is available on microfiche through the interlibrary loan system from the National Library of Canada.

STEELE, Eric Dane. “The FTAA Negotiations and the Prospects of Western Hemispheric Economic Integration.” Alliant International University, San

Diego, CA, 2002. 109 p. This dissertation explores past and current economic integration in the Western Hemisphere. It focuses in particular on the largest trading blocs in South (the MERCOSUR), Central (the CARICOM) and North (the NAFTA) America. The conclusion of the analysis is that the integration will continue with or without the FTAA. This is particularly relevant now that many of the FTAA negotiating parties, especially the United States, have expressed the intention of continuing bilateral and regional negotiations outside of FTAA discussions. This dissertation provides relevant information on a hemispheric level, rather than on specific issues arising out of the FTAA negotiations. The work is easily accessible through ProQuest Digital Dissertations.

SILVA DE LA VEGA, Rodrigo Javier. "Free Trade Area of the Americas: The Viability of a Regional Legal Order." Institute of Comparative Law, McGill University, Montreal, 2000. 146 p. This dissertation offers a legal and institutional analysis of the formation of the FTAA. It presents detailed discussions and comparisons of the existing trade agreements in the region in terms of institutional and legal capacities. This work is particularly useful for research on dispute settlement under the FTAA. The abstract is written in both French and English, but the work itself is written in English. This dissertation's bibliography is also helpful for further research and is divided into sections by books, articles, international documents, government documents and websites. A microfiche copy of this work is available through the interlibrary loan system from the National Library of Canada.

BASSETT, Michael James. "Challenging the FTAA Disconnect: the Political Economy of State-Civil Society Relations in the Free Trade Area of the Americas Process." Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, 2001. 174 p. In his work, Mr. Bassett presents a multidisciplinary analysis of economic integration in the Western Hemisphere. The dissertation explains the history and political economy which lead to the FTAA negotiations. The author asserts that state interventions and not merely neoliberal policies were necessary for the creation of self-regulating markets. Much of the work also focuses on the role of civil society organizations in the negotiations and criticizes the Committee of Government Representatives on Civil Society. Some background in economics is useful, though not necessary for finding this technical dissertation helpful. It is available on microfiche through the interlibrary loan system from the National Library of Canada. It can also be accessed through ProQuest Digital Dissertations.

SECONDARY REACTIONS: GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

OVERVIEW

While much relevant information regarding the FTAA can be found in articles and through multinational organizations, an understanding of specific country trade policies and interests is a necessary part of thorough research into the obstacles and strategies in the current negotiations. Although the amount and usefulness of information disseminated to the public by governments varies from country to country, it is worthwhile to investigate these potential sources of substantive information.

FINDING COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

www.ftaa-alca.org: The official site of the Free Trade Area of the Americas provides numerous links to country-specific information for each of the 34 negotiating countries. “Links to FTAA Countries” takes the user to an alphabetical list of the negotiating countries with links to separate pages for each country. Because each country page contains a list of links subdivided by specific FTAA negotiating themes, official country sites and unofficial sites, this website constitutes the best online resource for specific country trade information, laws and government agencies

www.gksoft.com/govt/en/america.html: Governments on the WWW, a German and English-language database, contains links to governmental institutions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches, as well as political parties, embassies and consulates of several countries. The website states appears to be up-to-date as evidenced by current links. This database is particularly useful for a researcher looking for government information because it does not include links to academic, non-governmental, business or other organizations. “American Governments on the WWW” provides listings for all Western Hemisphere countries.

www.law.cornell.edu/world: Cornell Law School’s Legal Information Institute is an excellent database of worldwide legal materials. Its website is easily navigable and is organized first by continent, then by country and then by type of legal material. The links lead the user to various government documents and agency websites. Many of the links also indicate the language of the materials provided.

lanic.utexas.edu: The Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC) website, managed by the University of Texas at Austin, provides a thorough listing of trade-related and country-specific websites. Although only 12

countries are listed, resources listed for those countries include governmental, academic and private sector institutions and are thus very useful. From LANIC's home page, clicking on Economy → Trade will lead the user to this list of links.

www.findlaw.com: Findlaw.com is an online legal resource that provides comprehensive and free information on numerous legal topics. By choosing Findlaw for Legal Professionals → Legal Subjects → International Trade Law → International Trade Law Web Guide → Government Agencies → Individual Countries (or stay there for all U.S. agencies), the researcher can obtain immediate access to numerous country-specific websites. Findlaw.com provides many links for several countries, but the lengthy alphabetical lists are not organized by subject or type of institution and many of the linked websites are not trade-related.

www.comunidadandina.org/enlaces.htm: The Andean Community website offers many links to government agencies of the Andean Community member countries and some additional links for each of the other Western Hemisphere countries. In contrast to a long and overwhelming list, this is a good starting point for research. Research on this website can be performed in English or in Spanish.

SELECTED SOURCES LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY COUNTRY

Argentina (www.cancilleria.gov.ar): Argentina's Ministry of Exterior Relations, International Commerce and Worship maintains a Spanish-language website that is easy to navigate and includes information about the bilateral and multilateral negotiations in which the country is involved. Specifically, Comercio y Negociaciones Economicas → Negociaciones Multilaterales → ALCA, contains general information on the FTAA and on the Argentine and MERSOCUR perspectives and interests.

Brazil (www.desenvolvimento.gov.br): Brazil's Secretary of External Commerce website provides a basic Portuguese-language history of the FTAA and information on its structure and initial meetings. This website is helpful for basic background information, but has not been kept current. To access the information go to Comércio Exterior → Negociações Internacionais/Área de Livre Comércio das Américas – ALCA.

Canada (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca): The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade website is an excellent resource for FTAA information in both English and French. By choosing International Trade →

Trade and Economic Policy → The Free Trade Area of the Americas, the researcher can obtain not only general and up-to-date FTAA information, but also documents on Canada's involvement in the process and details on Canada's positions and proposals organized by negotiating topic.

Chile (www.direcon.cl): Chile's General Office for International Economic Affairs, which is under the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, manages an excellent website that contains thorough information on the FTAA and Chile's positions regarding the negotiations. In addition, the website includes daily news updates on FTAA developments and civil society involvement. This Spanish-language information can be found by navigating to *Acuerdos Económicos Internacionales* → *Acuerdos Regionales*.

El Salvador (www.minec.gob.sv): In addition to fairly recent local news regarding FTAA developments, El Salvador's Ministry of Economy's website provides an excellent interactive database of trade statistics and tariffs in four languages. The Hemispheric Database for the Personal Computer was developed by the Inter-American Bank at the request of the governments participating in the FTAA negotiations. Although this is an excellent source of statistics, the database would be more useful if it were updated beyond 2001. All FTAA information can be accessed through the main webpage.

Mexico (www.economia-snci.gob.mx): Mexico's Ministry of Economy provides brief but useful Spanish-language information on Mexico's participation in the FTAA negotiations. The document "La negociación del Área de Libre Comercio de las Américas (ALCA)" is particularly helpful in providing a thorough summary of Mexico's interests and positions in the negotiation process. To access this information, click *Inteligencia Comercial* → *Subsecretaría de Negociaciones Comerciales Internacionales* → *Organismos multilaterales* → *ALCA*.

United States (Congressional Resource Service/CRS): With an operating budget of almost one hundred million dollars, the CRS provides the United States Congress with up-to-date, thorough and non-partisan research, analysis and information throughout the legislative process. Although not accessible by the general public, some of its incredibly thorough summaries and analyses of the FTAA process can be obtained through congressional offices. Some of the documents are confidential, but the fine quality of the documents could make a call to a local representative's office worthwhile. In addition, some CRS documents have been made available to the public through the United States Department of State website (fpc.state.gov/c10779.htm). For further information on the CRS, visit www.loc.gov/crsinfo.

United States (www.ustr.gov): The United States Trade Representative's website provides many of the transcripts, agreements and reports from the ministerial meetings and other negotiations. In addition, it provides data on the United States' negotiating team, positions and press releases. Much of the information on this website is provided in both Spanish and English. Although the material is not well-organized, its content justifies taking the time to visit the site. The information can be accessed through World Regions → Western Hemisphere → FTAA.

United States (usinfo.state.gov): The United States Department of State's International Information Programs website provides the most current news and information on the United States' trade involvement in the Western Hemisphere. This resource is useful for current information, but not for general information or the history of the FTAA. The Western Hemisphere trade information can be found by clicking on Regions → Western Hemisphere → Regional Trade.

United States (thomas.loc.gov): Launched at the beginning of 1995 under the direction of the 104th Congress, Thomas provides access to the most comprehensive collection of recent congressional documents online. Materials on this website include full-text bills, House and Senate voting records, the index and text of the *Congressional Record* and House and Senate committee reports. The most useful resources on Thomas for FTAA research are the links to House and Senate committee homepages. Copies of the committee hearings on the FTAA can be accessed through these websites. Listed below are relevant hearings, document numbers and website addresses where they can be found.

Status of the Free Trade Area of the Americas: Negotiations and Preparations for the Miami Ministerial. Hearing before the Subcommittee on International Trade of the Committee on Finance, United States Senate. May 13, 2003. S. HRG 108-179 (<http://finance.senate.gov/hearings/90156.pdf>).

Outcome of Summit of the Americas and Prospects for Free Trade in the Hemisphere. Hearing before the Subcommittee on Trade of the Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives. May 8, 2001. Serial No. 107-22 (<http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS16387>).

Trade in the Americas: Progress, Challenges, and Prospects. Hearing before the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade of the Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives. September 22, 1999. Serial No. 106-80 (<http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS 4387>).

PRIMARY DOCUMENTS: MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

OVERVIEW

Included below are the most significant multilateral trade bodies and agreements or drafts of agreements in the Western Hemisphere. Background knowledge of each is useful in understanding the current debate over the structure and terms of the FTAA. The agreements are particularly relevant to an understanding of the positions of the negotiating coalitions that have formed during the process. Electronic and print sources are included. Many of the electronic sources also serve as useful starting points for more in-depth research on specific treaties.

FINDING MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

www.sice.oas.org/tradec.asp: Through this website, the OAS Trade Unit provides a well-organized list of all of the major trade agreements in the Western Hemisphere. Each of the treaties along with accompanying protocols and relevant documents are provided in full-text in at least two languages. The website is particularly easy to navigate because it lists the names and relevant dates in the initial menu for each agreement.

www.wroldlii.org: As a non-profit, global research facility, the World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII) provides free access to its more than 270 databases and 15,000 links to law-related websites in every country in the world. The WORLDLII website is an excellent resource for research on multilateral trade agreements. Links to all of the trade agreements discussed in this guide are accessible by navigating through the following options: Categories → International → Treaties & International Agreements → International Organisations & Bodies. Some of the links are broken, but each of the treaties should be accessible through one of the various links provided.

www.google.com: Because all of the trade agreements relevant to FTAA research have developed primarily during the past fifteen years, an efficient method of finding full-text versions is to use an Internet search engine. A search by the acronym of any of these agreements will usually provide a website containing the agreement or a link to it within the first three results. These websites are also generally the official websites of the secretariat of the agreement, thus providing additional useful information. The treaties generally appear in the language(s) of the signatories.

www.natlaw.com/treaties.htm: Discussed in the Organizations section of this guide, the National Center for Inter-American Free Trade's website contains links to many Western Hemisphere treaties in various languages. In addition, the Center provides translation services for public and private documents. Access to the treaties is limited, however, to subscribers who pay between \$450 and \$595 a year.

www.law.harvard.edu: The Harvard Law School International Legal Studies Library includes on its website a list with links to several international trade agreements, international government organizations and national trade ministries of numerous countries. Although it does not contain all of the agreements discussed in this guide, the website is an excellent source of free information on the NAFTA, the MERCOSUR and the WTO. A few of the links are broken, but enough are provided such that documents should be accessible for each of the agreements. To access this resource, choose Harvard Law School Library → Foreign and International Law → Foreign and International Law Resources → Trade.

United States Treaty Index: 1776-2000 Consolidation, Volume 13, Geographical Subject Index. Igor I. Kavass. Buffalo, N.Y.: William S. Hein & Company, 2002 Revision. This index is useful for finding treaties to which the United States is a party, but involves many more steps than locating full-text treaties on the Internet. The index provides a KAV number corresponding to the full-text treaty, which can then often be found through resources such as HeinOnline Treaties and Agreements Library.

Inter-American Treaties and Conventions: Signatures, ratifications and deposits with explanatory notes. General Secretariat, Organization of American States: Washington, DC: 1993. This publication is a compilation of Inter-American treaties and conventions. Although it does not provide full-text documents, it provides extensive information on each agreement, including notes about reservations and declarations, important dates and where the treaty can be obtained. In the Regional Agreements section, treaties are organized by sub-region. Because this is the most updated version of the publication, it will not contain most of the agreements discussed below. When the next edition is published, it should be very useful in obtaining information about more trade agreements in the region.

FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA)

Description

As discussed in the Introduction section of this guide, the draft of the FTAA agreement is currently being negotiated. If the agreement is completed as scheduled, the FTAA will constitute a free trade area involving 34 countries in the Western Hemisphere in 2005. Current discussions indicate that the FTAA Secretariat will be located in Miami, Florida. The following names should be used for research on the agreement in those respective languages:

Spanish: Área de Libre Comercio de las Américas (ALCA)
Portuguese: Área de Livre Comércio das Américas (ALCA)
French: Zone de libre-échange des Amériques (ZLEA)

Full-Text Draft

www.ftaa-alca.org: The official website of the FTAA is the only source for the most updated version of the draft agreement. The link to the Third Draft appears on the homepage of the website as the first document under “Key Documents.” The link leads to an electronic table of contents with links organized by chapter and title. Brackets, which surround much of the draft’s language, indicate the terms which have yet to be agreed upon. One of the main benefits of this website is that it provides the draft agreement in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. In addition, the site includes the guidelines, meeting summaries and press releases for each of the Negotiating Groups. The dissemination of this information to the public marks a significant step in informing the general population about the details of trade negotiations.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

Description

Established on January 1, 1995, the WTO is an outgrowth of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which was established in the wake of World War II. Created during the Uruguay Round of negotiations, the WTO is the only global trade organization in the world. The WTO Agreement and its Annexes govern trade between the 146 member countries and are administered out of the WTO’s Geneva, Switzerland headquarters.

Full-Text Documents

www.wto.org: The WTO website is a superb source of full-text WTO agreements and supplemental information. The “Documents” section of the

website not only includes both PDF and Microsoft Word versions of the agreements, but also contains summaries, interpretations, explanations, side agreements and the original 1947 GATT Agreement. The amount of information is somewhat overwhelming, but the website is easy to navigate and relevant documents can be located within seconds of entering the site.

2002 Documents Supplement to Legal Problems of International Economic Relations, 4th Edition. John H. Jackson, et al.. St. Paul, MN: American Casebook Series/West Group, 2002. 1263 p. This book includes topical and regular tables of contents. This supplement also contains all of the WTO agreements and annexes. It's not only an excellent source of WTO documents, but also of NAFTA and IMF documents and U.S. trade laws.

www.jus.uio.no/lm/international.economic.law/wto: The Lex Mercatoria website is a joint endeavor of the University of Oslo, the University of Norway and the Pace University School of Law. The website serves as a resource for information on international commercial law and provides a thorough list of links to WTO treaties, declarations and press releases. Coverage on the official WTO website is more extensive, but Lex Mercatoria provides the most relevant documents along with linked tables of contents to easily navigate through them.

NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)

Description

The NAFTA, a free trade agreement between the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States, entered into force on January 1, 1994. Pursuant to the Agreement, the process of establishing a free trade area (FTA) encompassing the three countries will be completed by 2008. This regional trading bloc is one of the two wealthiest in world. The NAFTA Secretariat offices are located in Ottawa, Mexico City and Washington, D.C.. The following names of the Agreement should be used for research in those respective languages:

Spanish: Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte (TLCAN)

French: L'Accord de libre-échange nord-américain (ALÉNA)

Full-Text Documents

www.nafta-sec-alena.org: The official site of the NAFTA Secretariat is the best source for the full-text Agreement. A link to the Agreement and its

annexes can be found in the dropdown “Legal Texts” menu. The Table of Contents is organized by Parts, Chapters and Annexes with links to each. In addition, the site contains the Code of Conduct, Rules of Procedure and thorough information regarding dispute resolution. The treaty and all other parts of the website are kept current (as indicated at the bottom of each page) and are available in English, Spanish and French. The homepage also includes “Frequently Asked Questions” and “Glossary” sections which contain practical information on trade and the NAFTA.

LexisNexis Congressional Universe: The CIS (Congressional Information Service) Index, which is available through LexisNexis Congressional Universe, indexes all U.S. legislative publications since 1970. A “Title” search for NAFTA will result in several relevant documents. This website is an efficient tool for locating not only the treaty and its supplemental agreements, but also all related U.S. congressional documents, including the NAFTA Implementation Act, the Statement of Administrative Action and the required supporting statements. The index provides the date, the committee, a description of the document and other useful information. A print version of CIS is also available at many libraries, but is divided by years and is thus a more cumbersome research tool.

2000 Documents and Supplement to NAFTA: A Problem-Oriented Coursebook. Ralph H. Folsom, et al.. St. Paul, MN: American Casebook Series/West Group, 2000. 586 p. This book contains most of the NAFTA and its annexes, procedural rules, codes of conduct and side agreements. Its table of contents is particularly helpful in locating specific sections of the Agreement.

United States Treaty Index: 1776-2000 Consolidation. This index provides information on how to locate treaties to which the United States is a party. The NAFTA and its accompanying KAV number are listed under its name in the Multilateral section of the Geographical Subject Index.

MERCADO COMÚN DEL SUR (MERCOSUR)

Description

In 1991, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay entered into an agreement to begin the process of creating a common market called the MERCOSUR. This market is gradually being developed through a series of treaties, the most significant of which are the Treaty of Asunción and the Protocol of Ouro Preto. In recent years, Bolivia and Chile have been included

as satellite members. The end result will involve an arrangement with a greater degree of integration than a free trade area or a customs union, and will likely be similar to that of the European Union. The MERCOSUR is currently the third wealthiest regional trading organization in the world and maintains its Secretariat in Montevideo, Uruguay. The following names of the Agreement can be used for research in those respective languages:

English: Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR)

Portuguese: Conselho do Mercado Comun (MERCOSUL)

Full-Text Documents

www.mercosur.org.uy: The official website of the MERCOSUR Secretariat contains all of the MERCOSUR agreements in both Spanish and Portuguese in its “Normativa” section. Using this source is the fastest way of obtaining the full-text documents. Because of the lack of a table of contents with subjects or links, however, the researcher must scroll through the documents to find specific chapters and articles. Nonetheless, the website provides relevant information on the history and most current developments of the trading bloc. This website will not appear in the results of a google.com search, but another site, www.rau.edu.uy/mercosur, will be listed and provides a link to the Secretariat’s website and a breadth and depth of information not found elsewhere.

www.sice.org: As discussed above, the OAS Trade Unit website, The Foreign Trade Information System, provides access to all of the MERCOSUR agreements with linked tables of contents. In addition to offering most of the documents in English, Portuguese and Spanish, the Trade Unit has included information on all of the trade agreements that the MERCOSUR has entered into with third parties.

ANDEAN COMMUNITY

Description

The Andean Community, made up of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, constitutes a subregional customs union with plans to fully integrate into a common market by 2005. With a foundation set by the Cartagena Agreement (the “Andean Pact”) in 1969, the Community was established in its current form by the subsequent Protocols of Trujillo and Sucre in 1997. Lima, Peru is home to the Andean Community’s General

Secretariat. The name “Comunidad Andina” (CAN) should be used for Spanish-language research.

Full-Text Documents

www.comunidadandina.org/endex.htm: The official website of the General Secretariat of the Andean Community contains the Spanish and English-language versions of the Cartagena Agreement and subsequent Protocols in its “Documentation Center: Treaties and Legislation.” Note that the link to the Spanish-language documents is found at the bottom of the screen rather than along the right side. The website does not include a table of contents for any of the documents, but it does contain a plethora of information about the structure and development of the trading bloc.

Instruments of Economic Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, Vol. I. Inter-American Institute of International Legal Studies. Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana Publications, Inc., 1975. 362 p. Although this book is dated, it is an excellent source of the full-text documents that set the foundation for the Andean Community. The documents include declarations, regulations and agreements.

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AND COMMON MARKET (CARICOM)

Description

Initially established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973, CARICOM membership today includes 15 Caribbean countries.¹⁵ Development of the Community has occurred through nine separate protocols and has led to the creation of an economic and political force more powerful than any of its individual constituents. In addition to external trade, the CARICOM’s agenda includes domestic economic and social development. Its Secretariat is located in Georgetown, Guyana.

Full-Text Documents

¹⁵ Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

www.caricom.org: This English-language website is the official site of the CARICOM Secretariat and contains the original Treaty of Chaguaramas and all subsequent internal and external agreements. The documents are located in the section called “Information Services: Treaties and Protocols.” The webpage is an excellent resource for researching the Community’s activities and agreements, but the list is in alphabetical order with amendments to the original Agreement interspersed among treaties entered into with non-Member countries. The original Agreement, the last entry on the list, contains a table of contents but does not include links to specific sections. Thus, when using this website, one must “piece” together all relevant agreements and protocols establishing the Community and its *modus operandi*. Aside from treaty information, this is an excellent resource for current development and a thorough history of the CARICOM.

Instruments of Economic Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, Vol. II. Inter-American Institute of International Legal Studies. Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana Publications, Inc., 1975. 473 p. Despite it being published thirty years ago, this book is a good source of the full-text documents that established the CARICOM. They include declarations, agreements, notes and treaties, and are organized in the table of contents by Common Market documents and Caribbean Community documents.

WESTLAW/LEXIS

Overview

Westlaw and Lexis provide an immense amount of information through their many databases. Their usefulness is limited though for research on multilateral trade agreements such as the FTAA. Because they focus on U.S. laws and English-language publications, they provide little relevant information on this topic. Moreover, the numerous organization and institutional websites and library resources provide extensive and much less costly information.

Useful Databases

Legal Research Index/Index to Legal Periodicals: As discussed above in the Periodicals section, both of these indexes are available on Westlaw and Lexis and are useful in finding English-language periodical articles on the FTAA. Unlike the print versions, these online services often make available the full-text articles.

Latin America, West Indies and Caribbean News (Westlaw: LATNEWS):

As discussed in the News section of this guide, this is an excellent source of regional news on the FTAA. The database includes articles from numerous local newspapers, journals and transcripts in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Searches can be performed in the LATNEWS database or in one of the many databases within it. When using this resource to locate materials from Latin American countries, it is important to remember to conduct the searches in the native language(s).

International Law Review Articles, Combined (Lexis): This full-text database of law review articles contains a substantial number of titles related to the FTAA. A keyword search results in hundreds of articles, whereas a title search produces a more manageable list. This is an excellent source of periodical articles, but it only includes English-language journals and does not list them chronologically by the date they were published.

MISCELLANEOUS

DICTIONARIES OF TRADE TERMS

The following resources provide brief explanations of trade terms and topics commonly used in discussions about the FTAA negotiations:

Dictionary of Trade Terms. FTAA Tripartite Committee. Washington, D.C.: FTAA Tripartite Committee, November 2003. 46 p. Although not explicitly stated in its title, this dictionary of trade-related terms was specifically compiled for use in the context of the FTAA negotiations. The listings are divided alphabetically by topic and then alphabetically within each topic. In addition, an index in the initial pages allows for efficient searching. The dictionary is available in PDF format in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish on the OAS, ECLAC and IDB websites. To access it directly, visit www.sice.oas.org/FTAA/Dictio_e.pdf.

Comprehensive Guide to International Trade Terms. United States Department of Commerce, Office of Administration. 1994. This publication provides an extensive list of trade terms relating to issues and agreements around the globe. Although the information is useful, manually scrolling through the long list is cumbersome. This source is most useful for terms not related to trade in the Western Hemisphere. To view the guide, visit www.ntia.doc.gov/lexcon.txt.

CUSTOM RESEARCH

Bureau of National Affairs (BNA): BNA services business and government professionals, providing extensive news and analysis of legal and regulatory developments in print and electronic formats. The Bureau includes among its services custom research and monitoring. By contacting the office directly, a researcher can obtain an estimate free of charge for this service, which can include tracking trends, compiling data and producing reports. This is an ideal option for the researcher who has relatively little time and a budget that will accommodate using such a service. You can find this service at this site: www.bna.com/bnaplus/research/index.html for more information.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

As the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in multilateral processes increases, information about the organizations and the policies they promote will become more relevant. The following websites contain lists of CSOs involved in the region and/or the FTAA process:

www.ftaa-alca.org: The “Civil Society” section of the official FTAA website contains extensive information on CSO involvement in the development of the FTAA and the relationship between national governments and CSOs in the negotiating countries. The FTAA Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society has prepared extensive reports which are all available on the FTAA website.

www.miami.edu/nsc/pages/ATSDFpartners.html: The University of Miami’s North-South Center website contains a short list with links to CSOs, some of which are involved in FTAA discourse. This list is less helpful though because the researcher will have to view each website to discern whether the organization’s work is related to the FTAA process. The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and the Caribbean Policy Development Centre devote much attention to the trade in the Americas.

CONCLUSION

As is evident from this research guide, several resources provide information on the development of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Because the agreement creating the free trade area is still being negotiated, the Internet provides access to the most up-to-date information on and analyses of the process. Only a limited number of print publications will prove useful in FTAA research today. Similar to what occurred with the NAFTA, it is likely that books and print indexes will provide more relevant information following the entry into force of the FTAA agreement. Unlike other legal issues, this

topic can be researched extensively at no cost. While more costly electronic resources like Westlaw and Lexis contain some useful databases, most of the information they contain can be found elsewhere for free.

Although this guide focuses on general research of the FTAA, several of the sources are just as useful for research on specific aspects of the negotiations. For research projects with strict time constraints, the resources in the Selected Sources sections are conducive to efficient and effective research. Enough sources with English, French, Portuguese and Spanish-language materials are provided so that language should not present an obstacle in the use of this guide. As mentioned in the Introduction, resources are arranged by utility. Of course, in the event the Free Trade Area of the Americas is actually formed, the resulting proliferation of scholarship on the subject may affect the research value of many of these resources. In the meantime, the material and suggestions in this guide will enable the user to perform comprehensive and efficient searches on all aspects of the development of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.