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# Building Bridges in the Clouds: Connecting Researchers and Hidden Works

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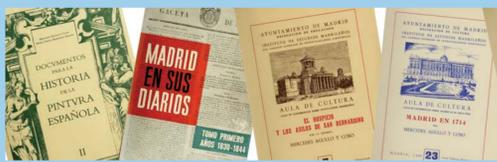


# Building Bridges in the Clouds: Connecting Researchers and Hidden Works

Andrew Elder, Joanne Riley, and Daniel Ortiz-Zapata | Joseph P. Healey Library, UMass Boston  
Ann Blum and Reyes Coll-Tellechea | Latin American and Iberian Studies, UMass Boston

## MERCEDES AGULLÓ Y COBO DIGITAL LIBRARY

## RITA ARDITTI'S INTERVIEWS WITH *LAS ABUELAS DE PLAZA DE MAYO*



### Building a Physical Collection and Securing Rights

Archives staff, with assistance from the Dean and the faculty member from Latin American and Iberian Studies, approached Agulló about donating physical copies of her work to the Library, to which she enthusiastically consented. Once these arrived, they were cataloged as part of the Library's Special Collections.

The original publishers of each work were contacted regarding permission to digitize each work and to make each work freely and openly available online. All but a few of the original publishers agreed.



### Digitization Process

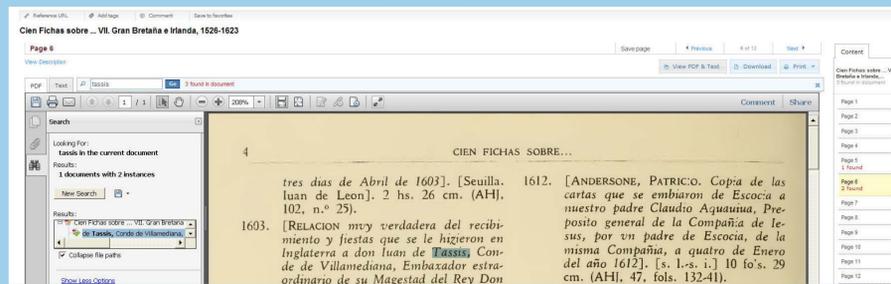
Volumes were sent to the Internet Archive Scanning Center at the Boston Public Library where they were digitized and run through OCR software to make them fully searchable.

### The Collection

Mercedes Agulló y Cobo is a Spanish historian who, over the course of her career, has produced important scholarly reference works in the historiography of the book, painting, sculpture, and theater. The Library at UMass Boston was approached by a faculty member in Latin American and Iberian Studies interested in providing broad access to Agulló's extensive, though largely inaccessible, body of work. The faculty member had been in correspondence with Agulló for some time about Lazarillo de Tormes, about whom the faculty member was working on a book. The Dean of Libraries saw this as an opportunity for the Library to address the growing interest in global engagement at the University and enlisted University Archives & Special Collections staff to oversee the endeavor.

Explore Open Archives at UMass Boston. Visit [openarchives.umb.edu](http://openarchives.umb.edu)

**Statistics**  
Agulló Digital Library, Total Item Views (8/2011 to 4/2013): 25,774



A publication by Agulló in the Open Archives repository.

### Providing Access and Moving Forward

Once volumes in the Agulló collection were returned to the Library from the Internet Archive, high quality PDFs were uploaded to the Archives' CONTENTdm repository, Open Archives.

There are more than 50 publications currently in the digital library, with plans to identify, acquire, digitize, and publish more. In addition, the Library will be publishing a new work by Agulló on the Library-sponsored institutional repository and open access publishing platform, ScholarWorks at UMass Boston.



### Cataloging the Interviews

After assigning the Rita Arditti materials accession and collection numbers, Archives staff entered data about interview files into a working Excel database. The files had previously been digitized by the donor.

### Transcribing the Interviews

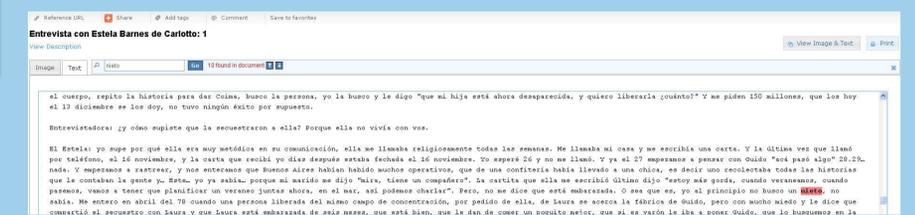
A graduate student familiar with Argentine Spanish was hired to transcribe each interview. Staff used Dragon Naturally-Speaking dictation software, which allows the transcriber to listen with headphones to recordings at a slightly slowed-down speed and to speak aloud into a microphone using regularized language that the software has been trained to recognize (the transcriber's voice) and ultimately create a text transcription. Transcriptions were placed in the Archives' repository, Open Archives.

### The Collection

In the 1990s, Argentine-born activist and educator Rita Arditti traveled to Buenos Aires from the U.S. to interview the Abuelas (Grandmothers) of the Plaza de Mayo, a group founded in 1977 to search for children who were abducted or born into captivity during the military dictatorship that ruled Argentina from 1976 to 1983. This group's work led to the creation of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team and the National Genetic Data Bank. Arditti incorporated the interviews into her book, *Searching for Life: The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the Disappeared Children of Argentina* (1999), and followed the Grandmothers' work and spoke publicly about them until her death in 2009. The interview materials were donated to the Archives by Estelle Disch, the Executor of Arditti's estate and Professor Emerita of Sociology from UMass Boston.

Explore Open Archives at UMass Boston. Visit [openarchives.umb.edu](http://openarchives.umb.edu)

**Statistics**  
Arditti Collection, Total Item Views, inc. photographs (11/2011 to 4/2013): 10,711



Above: A section of transcription from Arditti's interview with Carlotta, in the Open Archives repository. Below: The audio of that interview on Soundcloud.



### Handling Audio of Interviews

Due to audio streaming limitations of CONTENTdm, staff investigated alternative streaming solutions and settled on Soundcloud, Audio from interviews, as well as images of interviewees, were added to Soundcloud and linked with the Open Archives repository, which includes images, transcriptions, and other materials related to the Abuelas.



Estela Barnes de Carlotta was interviewed three times by Rita Arditti, in 1993, 1994, and 2006.