Liam Sims

Sara Kittleson

Latin American, Caribbean & European Division

**Title:** Self-Publishing from Brazil’s Margins: Literatura de Cordel

**Infographic Summary**

The infographic introduces the major topics of the Story Map on Literatura de Cordel created for this project, which highlights and contextualizes the Library’s physical and digital collections of Brazilian Cordel literature. The topics are arranged along a timeline following the narrative of the Story Map, and each is paired with an image from the Library’s collections.

**Infographic Content**

Self-Publishing from Brazil’s Margins: Literatura de Cordel

Sara Kittleson & Liam Sims, 2021 Junior Fellows

[*Top background image:* black and white photograph, *“Main street of Bahia, Brazil”* <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2016821482/> ]

[*Top left* *image:* Library of Congress logo]

[Timeline]

[*Timeline background image:* color map of Brazil*, “Carta da republica dos Estados Unidos do Brazil”,* <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g5400.ct000636/> ]

[Left]

[Title:] What is Cordel?

[Text box:] It is a form of popular poetry originating from Brazil’s Northeast which is traditionally printed on inexpensive paper pamphlets for distribution in marketplaces. These pamphlets or chapbooks are hung from string, or cordel, where their dazzling woodblock print covers are in full view. Excerpts are read to entice potential buyers, often accompanied by music.

[*Left inset image:* *Lampiões by Alexandre José Felipe Cavalcanti d'Albuquerque Sabaó Saboia [a.k.a. Dila]*, no date (acquired 1986). AFC 1970/002:M00156. <https://www.loc.gov/folklife/Symposia/litcordel/cordelgallery1.html>]

[*Right inset image*: *A Vaca Misteriosa que Falou Profetizando (The Mysterious Cow that Spoke, Prophesying)* by José Costa Leite, no date (acquired in 1978). AFC 1970/002:M00921. <https://www.loc.gov/folklife/Symposia/litcordel/cordelgallery1.html>]

[Left Center]

[Title:] The Northeast

[Text box:] Northeastern culture is often marginalized despite its immense cultural influence. Emphasizing the Northeast in the Storymap allowed us to use photos from the Library’s digital holdings and address themes of social inequality, urban migration, ordinary life, and the expansion of the Cordel tradition. This presents a view of Brazilian culture that extends beyond major cities like Rio de Janeiro

[*Inset Image:* Religião Afro-Brasileira Quilombola, Andre Cypriano, 2005, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2021636697/> ]

[Right Center]

[Title:]Themes

[Text box:] As a form of popular literature, Cordel themes vary and include topics like folk heroes, politics, religious tales, fables, home remedies, public service announcements, and current events both inside and outside of Brazil.

[*Inset Image:* O beijo, Andre Cypriano, 1993, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2021639993/>]

[Right]

[Title:] Finding Cordel in the LOC

[Text box:] The Library of Congress hosts the largest collection of Cordel outside of Brazil, including over 10,000 physical chapbooks, peripheral materials like woodcuts, and an extensive web archive as Cordel transitions to the digital sphere.

[*Inset Image:* Screenshot of the LOC webpage showing records in the Brazil Cordel Literature Web Archive]