

8-2010

# Public Access Computing in Latin America: taking stock of an international study

Ricardo Gomez Ph.D.

*University of Washington, rgomez@uw.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://aisel.aisnet.org/amcis2010>

---

## Recommended Citation

Gomez, Ricardo Ph.D., "Public Access Computing in Latin America: taking stock of an international study" (2010). *AMCIS 2010 Proceedings*. 235.

<http://aisel.aisnet.org/amcis2010/235>

This material is brought to you by the Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS) at AIS Electronic Library (AISEL). It has been accepted for inclusion in AMCIS 2010 Proceedings by an authorized administrator of AIS Electronic Library (AISEL). For more information, please contact [elibrary@aisnet.org](mailto:elibrary@aisnet.org).

## Tutorial and Workshop Proposal for AMCIS 2010

<b>Submission Date:</b>	
<b>Workshop/tutorial Title:</b>	Public Access Computing in Latin America: taking stock of an international study
<b>Duration:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Day <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Half Day
<b>Classification:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tutorial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workshop

### Abstract

Public access computers (such as those offered in libraries, telecentres and cybercafés) are helping bring the benefits of information and communication technologies to a broader sector of the population. What happens in these public access places, and how do people use them to improve their lives? The workshop will present findings and lessons presented by Latin American participants in an international study of public access computing in 25 countries.

### Workshop Leader Information (Please attach a copy of your resume in your email submission)

Name:	Ricardo Gomez, PhD
Affiliation:	Assistant Professor, The Information School, University of Washington
Postal Address:	Mary Gates Hall, Box 352840, Seattle, WA 98195 USA
Telephone:	206 685 1372
Cell:	425 269 1271
Fax:	206 616 3152
Email:	rgomez@uw.edu

### Additional Workshop Presenters (copy for each one)

Name:	Kemly Camacho
Affiliation:	Cooperativa Sulá Bastú
Postal Address:	Montes de Oca, San Jose, Costa Rica
Telephone:	506 2253-1326
Cell:	
Fax:	506 2253-1339
Email:	Kemly@sulabatsu.com

**Speakers' background, description of workshop, and envisioned activities during the workshop (please provide information for each speaker)**

The University of Washington led an international study of public access computing in 25 countries, including 9 Latin American countries. Through a combination of surveys, interviews and document reviews conducted by local researchers in each country, the study describes the landscape of public access computing across multiple countries and across different types of venues: libraries, telecentres and cybercafés. Unprecedented in its magnitude and global scale, the study had a particular emphasis in Latin America, which resulted in the publication of a book, "Puntos de Acceso Publico", to be launched in Peru in August 2011. This book offers an in-depth look at public access computing experiences in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras and Dominican Republic, as well as a discussion of some of the common trends and salient similarities and differences in the region.

During this workshop the authors will present the key findings from each country, and engage in a conversation about the opportunities and challenges of public access computing in each country and in the region, as well as the difficulties of conducting research across multiple countries using a shared methodology and approach.

Speakers include Gomez and Camacho (above) as well as Fernando Bossio (Peru), Marta Voelckr (Brazil), Adrian Rozengardt (Argentina). Gomez will facilitate the discussion in a participatory dialogue that goes beyond a series of speakers, to engage audience participation and dynamic discussion.

### **Special Requirements**

none

### **Audience**

Researchers and practitioners in the field of information and communication technologies for development and community informatics. A global audience, with a particular emphasis on Latin America.

