

Latin America Report

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Motivation

1. Get feedback from Latin American researchers on what role, if any, should NAACL play in helping promote NLP in the region
2. Gain an understanding of the backgrounds of the researchers in the region
3. Develop an up-to-date mailing list of the community

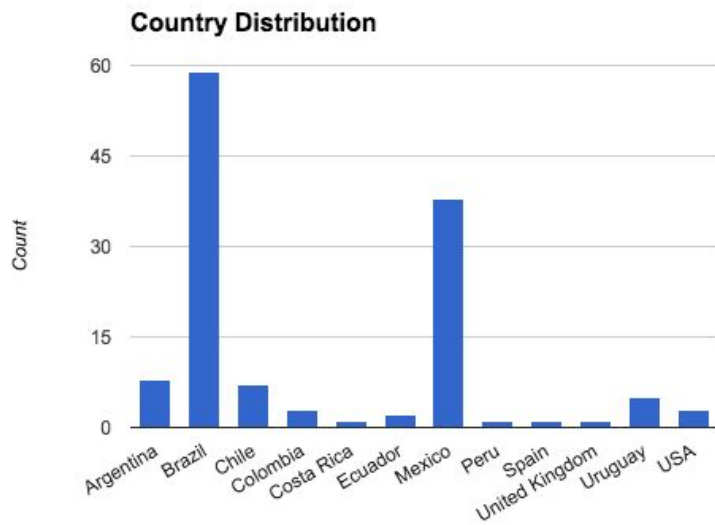
Survey

- Created google form in three languages: [English](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#)
- 32 questions (multiple choice, checkbox, free text)
- People can answer anonymously if they prefer (most did not)
- Ran for two weeks in late November
- Contacted people via:
 - Latin American google group set up in 2010
 - Lists from Priscilla
 - Manually finding authors on the ACL Anthology
 - Word of mouth
- **129** respondents

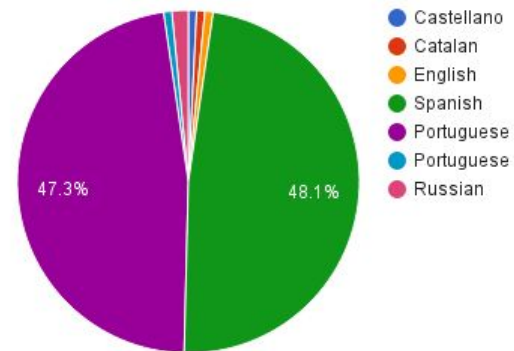
About the Respondents



Who they are

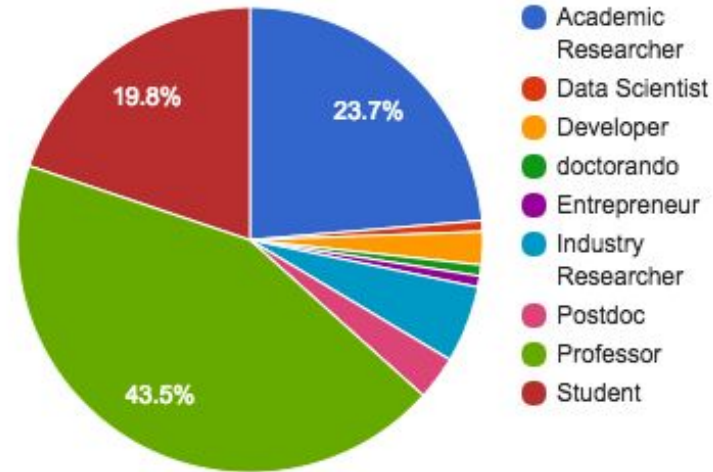


Native Language



Backgrounds

Backgrounds



Conference Attendance

Count	Reply
86	I have been to local NLP conferences
76	I have attended other events not listed here
56	I have been to one or more of the following NLP conferences: NAACL, ACL, COLING, EMNLP, EACL, etc.
54	I have been to NLP conferences and workshops in Latin America
12	I have not been to an NLP conference yet

Publishing

Count	Reply
84	I have published in other international conferences outside the above
72	I have published in Latin American conferences
57	I have published in NAACL, ACL, COLING, etc.
38	I have published in Latin American journals
35	I have published in journals outside Latin America (for example: CL, TACL, NLE, LRE, SEPLN)
16	I have not published yet

Reviewing

Count	Reply
66	I have reviewed for conferences other than the above
64	I have reviewed for Latin American conferences and journals
39	I have not reviewed yet
26	I have reviewed for NAACL, ACL, COLING, etc.

Other

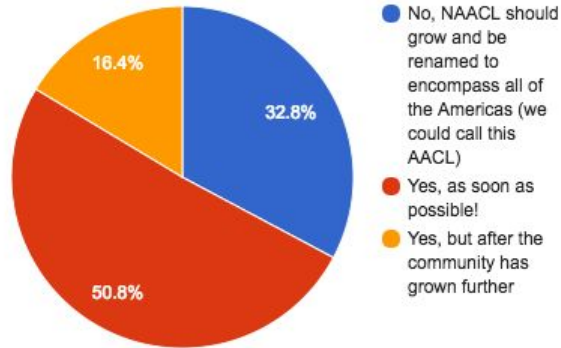
- 66% use the ACL Anthology
 - Others that are popular: PROPOR, STIL, google scholar, DBLP, arxiv, Springer, local/university libraries
- Academic Societies:
 - ACL, SEPLN, AMNLP, ACM, CE-PLN, SBC
- Only 31% had even heard of the Emerging Regions Fund!!

A Latin American CL Conference?

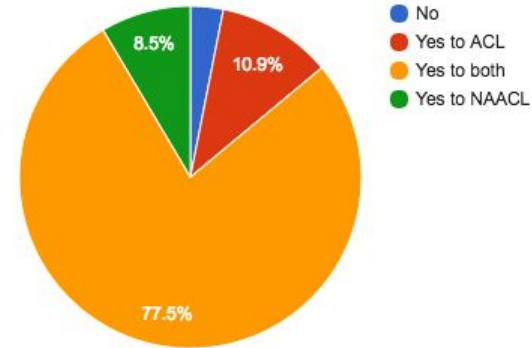


LAACL Conference

Should there be a "Latin American ACL" conference to mirror NAACL?



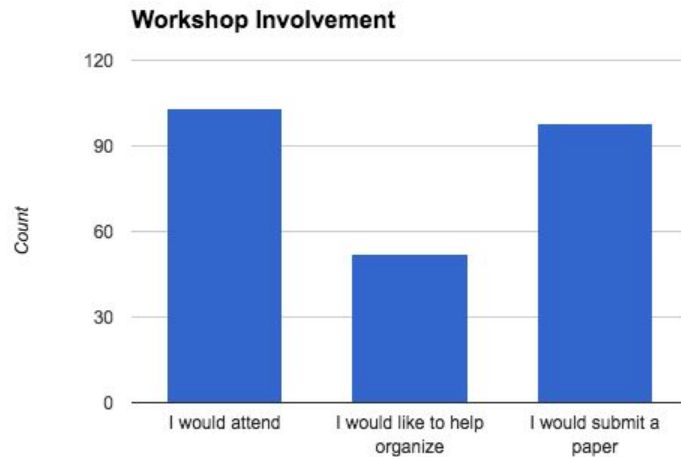
Should there be a NAACL or ACL conference in Latin America in the next five years?



- 108 - I would submit a paper
- 101 - I would attend
- 64 - I would like to help organize

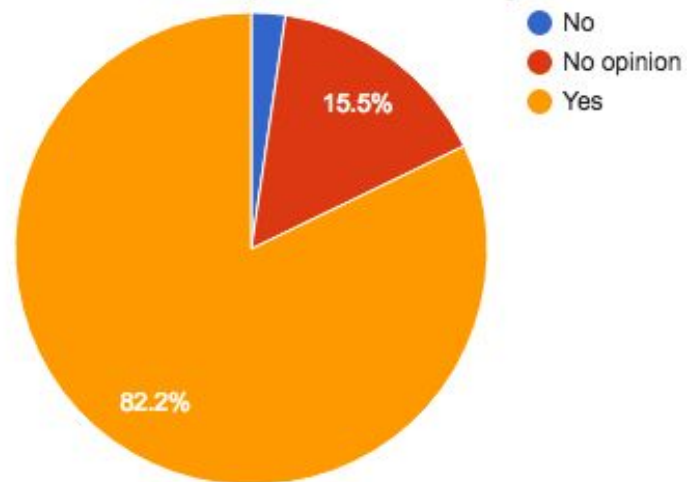
LAACL Workshop

- In the short term, should NAACL, in conjunction with members of the NLP communities in Latin America, support a workshop focused on NLP in this area?
 - Yes: 120
 - No: 9



LAACL Shared Task

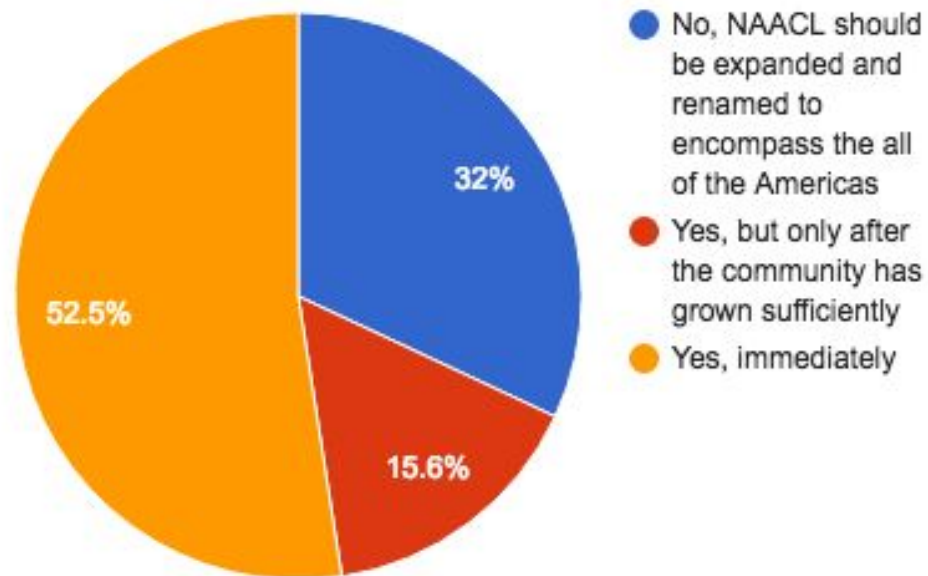
Should NAACL, in conjunction with members of the NLP communities in Latin America, support a shared task in Spanish and Portuguese?



A Latin American ACL Chapter?



Should there be a LAACL Organization?



How can NAACL help?



Best ways for NAACL to help?

Count	Recommendation
98	Funding assistance for travel to NAACL for students and researchers
84	Funding assistance to support seminars or short visits of researchers from USA and Canada to Latin America
76	Encourage and invite researchers to review for NAACL
67	Sponsor a smaller NLP conference in South America
65	Use the ACL Wiki to make a better repository of resources for NLP research in Spanish and Portuguese

Best ways for NAACL to help?

Count	Recommendation
53	Identify thematic networks between US / Canada and Latin America and make specialized ACL Wiki pages
47	Discounts for students to become ACL members
46	Better advertising of NAACL and ACL in the region
44	Provide resources that formally document the impact and relevance of the AC
40	Funding assistance for students in graduate school

Free Text Comments (paraphrases)

- Many researchers commented that their university and funding systems favor journal publications which makes it hard to submit or attend an ACL / NAACL
- Researchers would benefit from interacting with top scientists from North America: short stays, invited speakers, send students to conferences and internships
- One person did note that a LAACL org might segregate the two communities
- Many respondents noted that they were happy to receive this survey

Summary



Summary of Results

- 129 Respondents:
 - Majority from Brazil and Mexico
 - 43.4% have attended an international *CL conference
- Majority support a Latin American event:
 - 96.9% support a NAACL/ACL in the next five years
 - Most would submit, attend, or help organize such an event
- Mixed opinions on forming a LA chapter of ACL:
 - 52.5% (yes) vs. 32% (No)
- Many good suggestions about less costly ways to help grow NLP in LA:
 - 93% support a workshop on NLP in LA (maybe we could do another workshop like we did in 2010)
 - Shared Task

Next Steps

- Need better communication with the LA community:
 - Only 31% of respondents had heard of the Emerging Region Fund!
- Consider the feasibility of having NAACL/ACL there in the near future
- Other ways to help:
 - Shared tasks in processing Spanish and Portuguese
 - Support an NLP workshop in LA
 - More funding for students and/or researchers to conferences, summer schools
 - NA professors and scientists to give talks down there
 - Summer school in LA
 - LA members on the NAACL Board
 - Build out ACL Wiki to have a LA section