A Brief History of the PALABRA Archive
(The Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape)

• Hispanic Division is founded in 1939

• Literary readings at the Library of Congress begin to be recorded and archived (Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature is born)

• In 1943, the first session for the PALABRA Archive is recorded.
Pablo Neruda recording for the PALABRA Archive in 1966
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• Juan Ramón Jiménez is Recorded in 1947

• Gabriela Mistral records in 1950 and advises the LOC to also record writers in their native countries.
Cradle Song
(by Gabriela Mistral, translated by Langston Hughes)

The sea cradles
its millions of stars divine.
Listening to the seas in love,
I cradle the one who is mine.

The errant wind in the night
cradles the wheat.
Listening to the winds in love,
I cradle my sweet.

God Our Father cradles
His thousands of worlds without sound.
Feeling His hand in the darkness,
I cradle the babe that I have found.
Francisco Aguilera, first curator of the Archive

• 162 recordings are captured in Latin America between 1958 and 1961 by F. Aguilera.
A Brief History…

Latin American ‘Boom’ writers record in the 1970s

Gabriel García Márquez and cover of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1965)

Carlos Fuentes and cover of *The Death of Artemio Cruz* (1962)

Julio Cortázar and cover of *Hopscotch* (1963)

Mario Vargas Llosa and cover of *The Green House* (1966)
A Brief History...

- 2006 – born digital recording begins
- 2013-2017 – Digitization of analog recordings
- 2015 – Recordings are made available online
- 2020 – New brand
- Today the Hispanic Division continues recording authors
Highlighting Indigenous Languages

Maya Tseltal playwright Isabel Juárez Espinosa reading from her work

About this Item
Title
Maya Tseltal playwright Isabel Juárez Espinosa reading from her work

Summary
Ms. Juárez describes her experience as a Maya Tseltal playwright and reads an excerpt from her work.

Contributor Names
Juárez Espinosa, Isabel, 1958-

Created / Published
2019.

Part of
The Polabara Archive
Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape (Library of Congress)

Format
Audio Recording

Contributors
Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape (Library of Congress)

Maya writers Manuel Bolom Pale, Isabel Juárez Espinosa, and Juan Álvarez
Accessing the PALABRA Archive

- The PALABRA Archive Online Feature contains a portion of the archive available for online streaming.

- The PALABRA Archive Research Guide provides reference to the complete archive.
The PALABRA Archive in the Classroom
Former U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera

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