I. Usability
This database is a resource for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners who seek to access materials on Latin American and Caribbean housing research. It is particularly useful for anyone looking to find specific publications based on certain criteria, such as a sub-topic or sub-region. It is also useful for anyone embarking on research who seek guidance in general topic areas. The database, which reference details for over 1,000 published pieces, organizes citation and classification information for each piece of literature. Users can search for specific pieces or browse by topic, as well as filter by specific criteria. For further directions, see the "Instructions" tab located at the bottom of the screen.

II. Context
Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), under the auspices of Cities Alliance (CA) and in partnership with several other leading housing organizations, established the Global Housing Research Initiative in late 2015 to examine how housing investment and policies effectively address the housing needs of a growing urban population, and particularly of the poor. As prescribed by HFHI, the Initiative’s larger intent is to “lead to widespread deployment of the most effective and scalable strategies for responding to the global housing deficit.”

The first product of the effort under this Initiative is a practitioner-accessible literature review of published housing-related scholarship in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Researchers at the Urban Institute collected approximately 1,000 documents published between the years of 2000 and 2016, identified through archival searches of academic sources and from recommendations from the project’s group of contributing researchers throughout the region. Documents were classified by subject matter, region, publication type, and level of evidence into this comprehensive bibliographic database, to ultimately produce an annotated bibliography and a synthesis review for housing practitioners’ and policymakers’ use.

III. Methods
This database is the product of extensive archival mining, bibliometric referrals, and peer input; exactly 1007 unique documents were reviewed. Each document’s attributes, including author name(s), document title, year, publication type, publisher, and language of publication (typically, Spanish, Portuguese, and English), were standardized during the bibliographic phase in April 2016.

IV. Organization & Classifications
For each unique document, this database provides citation information, including the title, author, year published, journal/publisher, document type, book title (if the document is a chapter within a book), and a public link to the document’s online source, if available. The database also provides classification information for each document, including the language of the piece, sub-region, topic (see below), sub-topic (see below), and evidence type.
V. Taxonomy of Housing Research Topics and Sub-Topics

1) Low Income Housing and Informal Settlement or Slum Upgrading
   *Includes research on housing dynamics in low-income communities, including physical quality of housing, technology and auto-construction, consolidation processes, upgrading, and displacement.*
   1a. Impact of physical housing quality on household and community dynamics
   1b. Process of auto-construction and consolidation
   1c. Barriers to housing improvement
   1d. Displacement
   1e. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

2) Land Use, Management and Policy
   *Includes research on land policy and markets, land regularization programs, and the impact of tenure and titling on low-income households.*
   2a. Regularization
   2b. Availability of land for low-income housing construction
   2c. Alternative forms of tenure (co-op; lease to own)
   2d. Housing segregation, disparity, and equity
   2e. Spatial distribution of housing and opportunity

3) Housing Finance and Investment
   *Includes research on means to mobilize capital for housing investment as well as the financial implication of housing access and investment for the poor.*
   3a. Financial incentives for housing construction
   3b. Taxation
   3c. Public-Private partnerships
   3d. Microfinance
   3e. Loan and mortgage contexts (including securitization)

4) Housing Policies and Enabling Environment
   *Includes research on housing policies and programs, often government-led, designed to create access to housing for low-income families*
   4a. Housing subsidies programs
   4b. Rental housing policy
   4c. Rural and urban planning policy
   4d. Neighborhood development programs

5) Social Organization
   *Includes research on social dynamic of housing and neighborhood development for low-income communities as well as alternative models for housing provision.*
   5a. Community-based housing solutions
   5b. Social capital impacts of housing programs
   5c. Community participation in housing programs
VI. Evidence Type
- Advocacy Monograph
- Case Study
- Experimental
- Policy Analysis
- Quasi-Experimental
- Scholarly Exploratory Study

VII. Sub-Regions
- Andean Zone
- Brazil
- Caribbean Basin
- Central America
- Latin America
- Mexico
- Southern Cone