

## Directory of Printed, Regional Newspapers of Puerto Rico: 2022 Update and Applications to Research<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** Together with traditional and social media, printed regional newspapers are useful means to disseminate knowledge to a broad readership and engage people in research. An updated directory of Puerto Rican printed regional newspapers is provided. During 2022, ten printed, regional newspapers circulated in the island continuing their decreasing trend in total number.

**Key Words:** directory regional newspapers, Puerto Rico, research, public education, Nathan Leopold

### Introduction

Through my career, I have enjoyed profoundly sharing news about my research interests with the broader public. Earlier in my career, I appeared on television shows, participated on radio interviews, distributed flyers, and wrote articles for magazines directed to a broader audience, as well as for national and regional newspapers. In addition to those more traditional venues, in recent decades I have also used social media (e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) to spread news of interest to me.

Occasionally, some of my research interests bring me back to Puerto Rico, where my career began many decades ago. In the early 1980's, I needed to disseminate a request for help in getting me specimens of the group I was studying, the scorpions of the Greater Puerto Rico Region (Santiago-Blay 1984). I used every broadcasting venue available to me and was successful in spreading the word about my work. Consequently, my collecting efforts were multiplied rapidly thanks to the generosity of other people. However, when it came to the regional newspapers, I had little to rely on besides two scholarly references about Puerto Rican newspapers (Pedreira 1969, Romeu 1985) that, as far as I could tell, did not address the regional newspapers phenomenon. Thus, back in 1983, I endeavored to compile such directory, which was published several years later (Santiago-Blay 1989/1990) and updated it some twenty years later (Santiago-Blay 2003).

Currently, I am collaborating in a research project on a small chapter in the history of science, the life of Nathan Freudenthal Leopold (1904, Chicago

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Illinois, USA to 1971, San Juan, Puerto Rico) in Puerto Rico (1958-1971). Leopold was a precocious scientist who was already published as an adolescent! In 1924, his life changed dramatically as he and his partner in crime and love, Richard Loeb, were sentenced to life plus 99 years for the murder and kidnap, respectively, Robert (Bobby) Franks, a 14-year young boy. Leopold spent over 33 years in prison and returned to the life of doing science in Puerto Rico from 1958 until his death in 1971 (Fiorini 2013; Reban 2023, in press). What better way to, once more, include regional newspapers, to inform the broad public of this project and perhaps garner a few contacts who may remember Leopold?

### **Directory of Printed Regional Newspapers of Puerto Rico that Circulated in Puerto Rico during 2022**

Herein, I include an updated directory of regional newspapers of Puerto Rico that circulated during 2022, listed in strict alphabetical order. Only those newspapers that appeared in printed form are listed. Online newspapers only are excluded.

This directory follows this template: 1) Year when the newspaper was founded. 2) Current format of the newspaper, if a digital version of the printed version is known digital, the URL is provided. 3) Frequency of the newspaper, whether weekly or biweekly; the number of printed copies typically produced, and the geographical area where the printed version of the regional circulates. If the specific municipalities where the printed version of the newspapers are reported to circulate, they are listed in alphabetical order. 4) Name of a contact person. 5) Contact information for communication.

All the newspapers herein listed are written almost completely in Spanish, are available free of charge, and have a strong digital social media presence (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

The information rendered in this directory was obtained through phone calls or the web and confirmed via phone calls and/or emails during May 2022 and/or December 2022.

#### **01. *Editorial Semana, Inc.***

*Founded:* 1963.

*Current format:* Printed and digital, <https://www.lasemanapr.com/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Weekly, usually on Thursdays; approximately 80,000 copies; typically in southeastern Puerto Rico, including the municipalities of Aguas Buenas, Caguas, Cayey, Cidra, Gurabo, Humacao, Juncos, Las Piedras, Naguabo, San Lorenzo, and Yabucoa.

*Contact person:* Ricardo Angulo (Presidente).

*Contact information:* This newspaper used to be known, and it is still known colloquially, as *Periódico La Semana*. Post Office Box 6537, Caguas 00726 Puerto Rico. Phones: 787-743-3346, 787-743-6637, 787-743-5606. E-mail: [lasemanaelpionero@gmail.com](mailto:lasemanaelpionero@gmail.com) .

*Comments:* This is the oldest regional newspaper currently circulating in Puerto Rico. It has a subtitle, “*El Regional con Fuerza Nacional*”, the regional [newspaper] with national strength or presence.

## **02. *Es Noticia***

*Founded:* 2015.

*Current Format:* Printed and digital, <https://esnoticiapr.com/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Biweekly; in central and southern Puerto Rico, including the municipalities of Adjuntas, Arroyo, Coamo, Guánica, Guayama, Guayanilla, Juana Díaz, Patillas, Peñuelas, Ponce, Salinas, Santa Isabel, Villalba, and Yauco.

*Contact person:* Ms. Sandra Caquíes Cruz (Director).

*Contact information:* SCC Comunicaciones LLC, Med Centro Galería, 1046 Hostos Avenue, Suite 114, Ponce 00716 Puerto Rico. Phone: 787-973-5000. E-mail: [redaccion@esnoticiapr.com](mailto:redaccion@esnoticiapr.com) .

## **03. *Periódico El Expreso de Puerto Rico***

*Founded:* 1995.

*Current format:* Printed and digital, <http://www.elexpresso.com/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Weekly (on Thursdays); approximately 75,000 copies; in 19 municipalities in northern Puerto Rico, including Arecibo, Barceloneta, Bayamón, Cataño, Ciales, Comerío, Corozal, Dorado, Florida, Guaynabo, Hatillo, Manatí, Morovis, Naranjito, San Juan, Toa Alta, Toa Baja, Vega Alta, and Vega Baja.

*Contact person:* Mr. Ángel Fret, journalist and Director.

*Contact information:* Barrio Media Luna, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico. P. O. Box 465, Dorado 00646-2133 Puerto Rico. Phone: 787-794-2000. E-mail: [anuncios@elexpresso.com](mailto:anuncios@elexpresso.com)

## **04. *Periódico El Oriental***

*Founded:* 1978.

*Current format:* Printed and digital, <https://periodicoeloriental.com/quienes-somos/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Weekly; approximately 70,000 copies; in southeastern Puerto Rico, including the municipalities of Caguas, Ceiba, Gurabo, Humacao, Juncos, Las Piedras, Naguabo, San Lorenzo, and Yabucoa.

*Contact person:* Ms. Magda Pierantoni (President and Editor).

*Contact information:* El Oriental, Inc., Calle Cruz Ortiz Stella 36, Humacao 00791 Puerto Rico. Phone: 787-953-3932. E-mail: [redaccion@elorientalpr.net](mailto:redaccion@elorientalpr.net) .

#### **05. Periódico El Sol de Puerto Rico**

*Founded:* 2013.

*Current format:* Printed and digital, <https://periodicoelsolpr.com/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Biweekly; 40,000 copies; in southwestern Puerto Rico, including the municipalities of Villalba, Juana Díaz, Ponce, Peñuelas, Guayanilla, Yauco, Guánica, Sabana Grande, Lajas, San Germán, Hormigueros, and Cabo Rojo.

*Contact person:* José Pérez Hernández (Presidente-Editor).

*Contact information:* Pérez Hernández Group, LLC, 3ra Extensión Urbanización Santa Elena, 72 Calle Santa Clara, Guayanilla 00656 Puerto Rico. Phones: 787-636-9625, 939-992-9060. E-mail: [periodicoelsolpr@gmail.com](mailto:periodicoelsolpr@gmail.com) .

#### **06. Periódico La Cordillera**

*Founded:* 1992.

*Current format:* Printed and digital, <https://www.facebook.com/LaCordillera/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Weekly; circulates in central Puerto Rico, including the municipalities of Aguas Buenas, Aibonito, Barranquitas, Cayey, Cidra, Corozal, Comerío, Naranjito, and Orocovis.

*Contact person:* Mr. Eliezer Maldonado.

*Contact information:* Barrio Rincón, Sector Campo Bello Finca 9-A, Cidra, Puerto Rico 00739 Puerto Rico. Post Office Box 1834, Cidra 00739 Puerto Rico. Phones: 787-739-3094. E-mail: [lacordi@gmail.com](mailto:lacordi@gmail.com) .

*Comments:* I could not reconfirm this information during December 2022.

#### **07. Periódico La Esquina**

*Founded:* 1975.

*Current format:* Printed and digital, <http://www.laesquina.com/web/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Biweekly; 60,000; southeastern Puerto Rico, including the municipalities of Arroyo, Guayama, Humacao, Maunabo, Patillas, San Lorenzo, and Yabucoa.

*Contact person:* Héctor Iván De Jesús, President and Editor.

*Contact information:* Calle Muñoz Rivera # 69, Maunabo 00707 Puerto Rico; Post Office Box 1339, Maunabo 00707 Puerto Rico. Phone: 787-861-3305. Fax: 787-861-1334. E-mail: [pesquina@gmail.com](mailto:pesquina@gmail.com) .

**08. Periódico La Perla del Sur**

*Founded:* 1982.

*Current format:* Printed (until June 2022), <https://www.periodicolaperla.com/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Weekly; 75,000 copies; municipalities of Coamo, Juana Díaz, Peñuelas, Ponce, Salinas, Santa Isabel, and Villalba.

*Contact person:* Mr. Juan J. Nogueras Soroeta (President).

*Contact information:* Parque Industrial Sabanetas, Calle A#22 Mercedita, Ponce 00715 Puerto Rico. Phone: E-mails: [laperla@periodicalaperla.com](mailto:laperla@periodicalaperla.com) , [noticias@periodicalaperla.com](mailto:noticias@periodicalaperla.com) .

*Comment:* This newspaper reappeared in digital form only and with new administrators in September 2022.

**09. Periódico Presencia**

*Founded:* 2013.

*Current format:* Printed and digital, <https://www.presenciapr.com/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Weekly; approximately 75,000 copies; circulates in northeastern Puerto Rico, Canóvanas, Carolina, Ceiba, Culebra, Fajardo, Humacao, Loíza, Luquillo, Naguabo, Río Grande, San Juan, Trujillo Alto, and Vieques.

*Contact person:* Ms. Diana Cámara, Presidenta, P. O. Box 1928 Carolina, Puerto Rico 00984. Phone: 787-946-1391. E-mail: [yolanda.lebron@presenciapr.com](mailto:yolanda.lebron@presenciapr.com) .

**10. Periódico Visión**

*Founded:* 1985.

*Current format:* Printed and digital, <https://www.periodicovision.com/> .

*Frequency; approximate number of copies printed; and circulation area of the printed version:* Weekly (typically on Thursdays); see Comments section.

*Contact person:* Féizal Marrero Rodríguez (President).

*Contact information:* Calle Ramón E. Betances Sur # 178, Mayagüez, 00680 Puerto Rico. Phone: 787-834-6829. E-mail: [periodicovision@gmail.com](mailto:periodicovision@gmail.com) .

*Comments:* Two versions of this newspaper circulate in Puerto Rico: one in western Puerto Rico, called *Periódico Visión Oeste*; the other in northern Puerto Rico, called *Periódico Visión Norte*. The printed version of *Visión* for western (*Oeste*) Puerto Rico has a typical circulation of approximately 66,000 copies in the municipalities of Aguadilla, Aguada, Añasco, Cabo Rojo, Hormigueros, Isabela, Lajas, Mayagüez, Moca, Rincón, Sabana Grande, San Germán, San Sebastián, and Yauco. The printed version of *Visión* for northern (*Norte*) Puerto Rico has a typical circulation of approximately 40,000 copies in the

municipalities of Arecibo, Barceloneta, Florida, Morovis, Camuy, Hatillo, Quebradillas, Lares, Utuado, Manatí, and Vega Baja.

### Discussion

The number of printed regional newspapers has decreased for the second time in each of the approximately 20 years between the publication of the directories (Figure 1). The downturn of the Puerto Rican economy in recent decades, natural disasters (e.g., Hurricane María), and greater reliance in obtaining news from the internet may have contributed to this decline. The area of circulation of the newspapers continues being nearly the entire island (75 out of the 78 municipalities of Puerto Rico). The only exceptions I have detected are the municipalities of Jayuya, Las Marías, and Maricao, located in the mountains of central Puerto Rico, where no regional newspapers appears to target them. The headquarters of printed regional newspapers overwhelmingly continue being located in larger metropolitan areas. All printed, regional newspapers in Puerto Rico are filled with advertisements. The gender abyss in the top leadership continues, with men at the helm in most (8 out of 10) printed, regional newspapers in Puerto Rico.

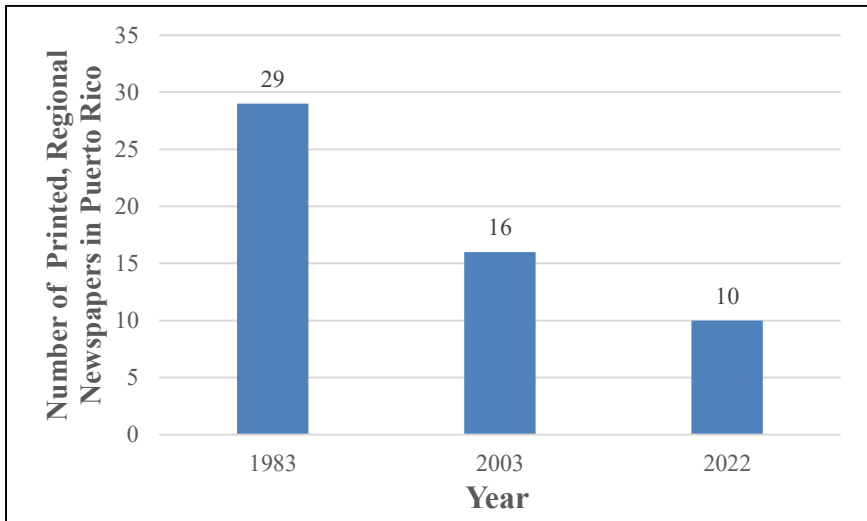


Figure 1. Number of printed, regional newspapers circulating in Puerto Rico approximately every twenty years, beginning with 1983. In Santiago-Blay (1989/1990, 2003), I reported 26 and 13 newspapers for 1983 and 2003, respectively. However, I overlooked three printed regional newspapers in each 1983 and 2003 (Multiple authors no date), hence a number closer to the truth for 1983 is 29 and for 2003 is 16.

Perhaps, the most notable change in printed, regional Puerto Rican newspapers is that all of them have a presence on the web and, at least, one of them, *Periódico La Perla del Sur*, is available only in digital version.

Together with more traditional printed insular newspapers and, more recently, social media, regional newspapers are useful methods to disseminate news of interest to a broad readership and to engage readers in useful activities

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