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A study of teachers without library and information science education, working as librarians in public elementary schools in the 1st District of Quezon City\*

The study was conducted in twenty public elementary schools in the 1st District of Quezon City. Specifically, it aimed to: 1) determine how many public school libraries in Quezon City are manned by teachers who do not have Library and Information Science (LIS) education; 2) examine how these so-called teacherlibrarians lacking LIS education perform the tasks of professional librarians such as cataloging, classification, acquisitions, basic reference work etc.; 3) identify the problems faced by teacherlibrarians; 4) identify their needs for continuing professional education, and its effect in the quality of library services offered to the users; 5) analyze the implication of the practice of assigning teachers without LIS education to the school libraries to the implementation of RA 9246 and DECS Order No. 6 Series 1998. The descriptive survey method was used. Data were gathered through the distribution of survey questionnaires to the teacherlibrarians of each school and to their respective principals. For clarifications and additional information, informal interviews with the respondents were also conducted. The data gathered reveals that: 1) Majority of the public elementary school libraries in the 1st District of Quezon City are manned by teacher-librarians without LIS education. 2) Most of these teacher-librarians become engaged in the library service through the principal's appointment and most of them have probationary appointment. 3) All of them, based on the DECS Order No. 6, s. 1998 and RA 9246, do not qualify for the librarian position. 4) Majority of the library services (administrative,

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technical, reader and special) are not performed by the teacher-librarians assigned in the school library. 5) Library materials remain uncatalogued and unindexed. 6) The most perceived continuing education needs are modern trend in librarianship and cataloging and classification. 7) Seminar-workshops, trainings, short intensive courses are the three most preferred continuing education modes. 8) Majority of the school principals is aware of the DECS Order no. 6, s. 1998, yet no one complies with it. The results of the findings confirm the fact that the public elementary school libraries in the 1st District of Quezon City are still dealing with the problem of school library staffing. It is concluded that as of the moment, the most feasible way to cope with this problem is to utilize the manpower available. In this regard, the conduct of continuing education programs to provide teacher librarians with the adequate knowledge and skills in library management is highly recommended.