

The School of Library and Information Studies' Notable Achievements Since Its Establishment in 1961

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Abstract

Traces the growth and development of the University of the Philippines School of Library and Information Studies from its inception as a course in 1914 to the present. Describes the school's curricular offerings both in the undergraduate and graduate levels, including its graduate diplomas in law and medical librarianship. Further enumerates the various activities undertaken by the school: as host for the Post-Graduate Training Course for Science Information Specialists in Southeast Asia, as a national distributing center for CDS/ISIS software in the Philippines, the summer institutes, lecture series, extension programs and services, and the research outputs of its faculty and students.

Introduction

The School of Library and Information Studies of the University of the Philippines (formerly the Institute of Library Science and the Institute of Library and Information Science) holds the distinction of being the oldest and pioneering library school in the Philippines which offers a professional degree both in the undergraduate and graduate levels. It is the first LIS school in the country equipped with computer laboratories that are used as teaching and learning tools for the testing of software packages for application in the field of library and information studies, and the development of applications using the various database management softwares already developed. It has a full-time faculty complement and is supported by part-time lecturers who are acknowledged experts in their respective fields. The School has separate physical and library facilities.

“The first courses in library economy were offered in 1914 at the University of the Philippines College of Liberal Arts” (Vallejo, 1994, p. 21). This was elevated to university level in 1916 with the institution of the

academic degree of Bachelor of Science in Library Science (BSLS). The primary objective of the degree program was to “prepare students for professional work in libraries and for teaching library science courses” (Vallejo, 1994, p. 21). In response to the insistent demand for professional library education, the Institute of Library Science was created by the Board of Regents as a separate degree-granting unit in the University in 1961. Library Science courses offered at the then College of Liberal Arts were absorbed by the Institute. In addition to this, a graduate degree program, the Master of Library Science, was instituted in 1962 (Vallejo, 1994).

Change of Name from Institute to School of Library and Information Studies

The members of the Faculty unanimously agreed in its January 11, 2006 meeting to request for a change of name from Institute of Library and Information Science to School of Library and Information Studies for the following reasons: 1) it is the first library school in the country equipped with computer laboratories for the use of its students and faculty; 2) the Institute is the oldest library school; 3) it served as host institution to the Post-Graduate Training Course for Science Information Specialists in Southeast Asia, a Unesco project from 1978-1984; 4) it has matured into a premier institution that offers undergraduate and graduate programs; 5) its faculty members are engaged in research and extension services; and 6) its graduates have excelled in the Licensure Examination for Librarians annually since 1992.

The reasons for changing from Science to Information Studies include the following: 1) Information Studies serves a meaningful umbrella function since it is more inclusive and more accurate in detailing the full nature of the research and teaching in which the School is now engaged; 2) it is the most acceptable nomenclature as evidenced by the numerous foreign universities that have chosen this name; and 3) the School has four major tracks of concentration, namely: library science, information systems, archival studies, health and medical librarianship and law librarianship. The change of name was approved by the Board of Regents in its 1219th meeting held on March 29, 2007 (Proposal of the Institute of Library and Information Science to rename the Institute to School of Library and Information Studies, 2006).

SLIS Upholds the University of the Philippines' Standards in Higher Education

The University of the Philippines sets high standards and introduces innovations in higher education in all subject areas and UPSLIS has continually upheld this as exemplified in its curricular programs. UPSLIS offers the Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) program in the undergraduate level; the Diploma in Librarianship, in the post-baccalaureate level; and the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) in the graduate level.

The Bachelor of Library and Information Science Degree Program

Although the BLIS curriculum has undergone revision regularly in the past in the form of institution of new courses, revision of course titles and course descriptions, and abolition of irrelevant courses, it was in 2000 that the Curriculum Committee of the School decided to completely revise the BLIS curriculum to reflect the transformation of the Philippines into an information society and to meet the needs of library and information professionals to acquire the requisite knowledge and skills in information and communications technology. This was approved in 2002. The current program has a total of 138 units and is broken down into the following:

- the basic library and information science (LIS) subjects, 45 units;
- 18 units of LIS electives in the information systems (IS), archives and records management, health/medical librarianship or law librarianship tracks;
- 45 units of general education subjects;
- 12 units in Philippine government and politics, General psychology, the Life and Works of Jose Rizal, and General Sociology;
- 12 units in one foreign language; and
- 6 units of any subject offered in the Diliman campus.

LIS electives in the Information Systems track include Information Handling and Processing, Computer-based Information Systems, Analysis and Design of Library and Information Systems, Telecommunications and Networks for Library and Information Science, and Programming and Database Structures in LIS.

LIS electives in the Archives and Records Management track include Introduction to Archives and Records Management, Archives Principles and Practices I and II, Introduction to Archives Conservation, Foundations of

Audiovisual Archives, and Managing Heritage Institutions: Archives, Libraries and Museums.

LIS electives in the Health/Medical librarianship track include Health Sciences Literature, Introduction to Methods in Medical Information Research, and Digital Health Information Management.

LIS electives in the Law librarianship track include Legal Bibliography and Legal Information, Introduction to Methods of Legal Information Research, and Organization and Dissemination of Legal Information.

The revised BLIS program of SLIS served as the model for:

- the terms of reference adopted by the Board for Librarians of the Professional Regulation Commission for the Librarians' Licensure Examination in the late 1990s; and
- the LIS modules developed by the Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (PATLS) for the different library schools in the country.

The Diploma in Librarianship Program

Although the then Institute of Library Science had been offering a professional graduate program, the Master of Library Science degree program, there was a felt need among the Philippine Group of Law Librarians (PGLL) and the Medical and Health Librarians of the Philippines (MAHLAP) to have formal training programs in special fields such as law and the medical/health sciences. The general objective of the program is to provide formal training and develop the requisite knowledge and skills of those who will work in law and health sciences libraries in the Philippines. The program was instituted in June 1990 after its approval in the 21st meeting of the University Council in December 1989. Many librarians working in law and medical and health libraries enrolled in the program. However, only three (3) students graduated with the degree of Diploma in Health Librarianship while only one (1) graduated with the degree of Diploma in Law Librarianship. But with the passage of R.A. 6966 which called for the professionalization of librarians, enrollment in the diploma program stood still. R.A. 6966 has been repealed by R.A. 9246. To date, the courses included in the diploma program are still being taken by MLIS students who want to specialize in law or medical/health librarianship.

The Diploma program consists of 24 units and is broken down into the following:

- 12 units in basic LIS subjects, i.e., Foundations of Library and Information Science, Organization of Library and Information Resources, Introduction to Information Science and Information Systems Analysis and Design;
- 9 units of LIS electives in the subject areas of law librarianship (Law Library Management, Legal Bibliography and Legal Information, and Practicum in Law Library and Information Services) or medical/health librarianship (Health Sciences Library Management, Information Sources and Systems in the Health Sciences, and Practicum in Health Sciences Library and Information Services).
- 3-unit elective from any college in Diliman or Manila.

The Master of Library and Information Science Degree Program

The then Institute had been offering the Master of Library Science (MLS) program since 1962. Its objective was to offer professional competence for careers in academic, special, public and research libraries and in related occupations such as managing archival collections and teaching library and information science (University of the Philippines Diliman General Catalogue, 2004-2010, p. 232). The name of the program was changed to Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) in 1995 to keep pace with the rapid growth of knowledge and the influx of technology.

The MLIS program consists of 30-33 units of formal LIS courses and 4-6 units of special problem or thesis. It requires satisfaction of 6 units of one foreign language. Just like the BLIS program, it offers four (4) tracks of specialization: (1) Information Systems; (2) Archival Studies; (3) Health/Medical librarianship; and (4) Law librarianship.

The Master of Library and Information Science program provides advanced training to professionals, scientists and scholars on account of the tracks or specializations incorporated in the curriculum. For MLIS students pursuing the Information Systems track, they acquire knowledge, skills and hands-on training on the basic functions of modern information storage and retrieval systems, programming and database development, systems analysis and design for library system development, advanced programming, database structures and database management systems, overview of digital libraries, and trends and issues in ICT as applied to Philippine libraries. Furthermore,

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they go on site visits to various libraries and information centers which already have integrated library systems for demonstrations and sharing of experiences.

For those pursuing the Archival Studies track, they acquire knowledge, skills and hands-on training on history of archives administration, archival ethics, current trends in archival research, records management practices on creation, maintenance and disposition of records, administration of archival, audiovisual and manuscript collections, and archives preservation and conservation. They have hands-on training on these topics and they also go on site visits to various archives within and even outside the country to observe practices and procedures.

Those pursuing the Health/Medical and Law librarianship tracks also acquire knowledge, skills and hands-on training on the various aspects of these tracks.

The School of Library and Information Studies: a Training Center for Leadership in Library, Archival and Information Studies

The graduates of SLIS have almost always garnered all or majority of the ten (10) top slots in the librarians' licensure examination. Since 1992, when the first board examination for librarians was held, SLIS has been occupying the first top position among library schools in the Philippines.

The graduate program offered by the School of Library and Information Studies provides advanced training to information professionals and scholars, most of whom served or continue to serve as faculty members, chief librarians, and archivists in the National Library of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Santo Tomas, Philippine Normal University, Centro Escolar University, University of the East, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, University of San Carlos, Lyceum of the Philippines, Far Eastern University, Silliman University, University of the Philippines, Congressional Library Bureau of the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court Library, to name a few and in other countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, China, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and some parts of the United States, Australia and Canada.

Through the years, numerous UP SLIS alumni have served as leaders, head or chief librarians in various types of libraries: academic, school, special, and public, here and abroad, as well as in archives: Gabriel

A. Bernardo, Grace Fabella-Bulaong, Reynaldo Alejandro, Marina G. Dayrit, Rosa M. Vallejo, Ursula G. Picache, Belen B. Angeles, Rosvida R. Rosal, Corazon Magday-Nera, Myrna Feliciano, Antonio M. Santos, Milagros Santos-Ong, Prudenciana Cruz, Salvacion M. Arlante, Emma M. Rey, and Yolanda C. Granda, to name a few.

Others have joined international organizations and agencies here and abroad and some have occupied important positions in these agencies: Ester M. Ronquillo (Unesco), Andrea Ponce Carlos (Asian Development Bank), Teresa S. Montesa (International Monetary Fund), Constanca Basilio and Julio Dizon (World Health Organization office in Manila), etc.

A few other distinguished librarians and alumni have joined the faculty of the School and some of them were appointed as deans of SLIS, i.e., I. V. Mallari, Mauro P. Garcia, Filomena M. Tann, Isagani R. Medina, Rosvida R. Rosal, Patricia B. Carino, Juan C. Buenrostro, Jr., Salvacion M. Arlante, Ricardo L. Punzalan, Rosa Menguito-Vallejo, Ursula G. Picache, Ruby K. Mangahas, Josephine C. Sison, Ma. Divina Pascua-Cruz, Rosalie B. Faderon, Herminia H. Santos, and Vyva Victoria M. Aguirre, among others. Other alumni have pursued other fields of endeavor either as Information Manager, Director of Libraries or Information Centers, System Administrator, Management Analyst, Information Specialist, Audiovisual Administrator, Database Designer, System Project Planner, Cataloger, Indexer, Abstractor, or Archivist.

SLIS: Host Institution for the Post-Graduate Training Course for Science Information Specialists (PGTCSIS)

The Institute of Library Science (SLIS' former name) is the pioneer library school in the teaching of information technology. As early as 1975, upon Prof. Vallejo's return from the International Training Course in Information Retrieval and Information Retrieval Systems that she attended in Katowice, Poland in August 1974, the Institute initiated the first Summer Institute on Information Science in May 1975. The theme was on the fundamental principles of information storage and retrieval systems. Other summer institutes followed after this.

It is not surprising then that the Institute was chosen by Unesco to serve as host institution for the Post-Graduate Training Course for Science Information Specialists in Southeast Asia from 1978 to 1984.

This Unesco project is an example of national, regional and international cooperation in information manpower development. The project

contributed to and supplemented the following:

- capability and facilities for development of library and information manpower in the Southeast Asian region;
- training of potential teachers of library and information science;
- continuing education programs for library and information personnel;
- transfer of information technology, i.e., teaching and use of information technology;
- development of teaching aids and course materials;
- better understanding of the challenges and problems of developing information science courses in the region; and
- development of cooperative links between the program at the then UPILS and other institutions, organizations and programs at the national, regional and international levels (Neelameghan and Picache, 1981, pp. 34-35).

At the outset, this inter-country program included Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. At the end of the program in 1984, 149 information professionals from 14 Asian countries, including the Philippines, were graduated. They formed the corps of information specialists in their respective countries. Approximately one third of these information professionals remained in the Institute to finish the Master's degree program.

The nine-month post-graduate course included foundation courses on communication, systems analysis and operations research, information technology, statistical and research methods. The basic courses focused on Information and Society, Information Processing and Handling, Information Services, Information Systems and Information Technology. Electives covered information services for industry, agricultural development, socio-economic development and health sciences (Neelameghan and Picache, 1981, p. 39).

In addition to these, two or three regional seminar-workshops devoted to specific topics and designed to serve as refresher or updating courses were conducted each year and were attended by the participants to the nine-month program. To meet the specific needs of individuals or institutions, hands-on experience on a particular information system was conducted for two to twelve weeks.

SLIS is National Distributing Center of CDS/ISIS Software in the Philippines

CDS/ISIS (Computerized Documentation Service/Integrated Set of Information Systems), a software developed by Unesco in 1969 in answer to the need expressed by libraries and information centers in developing countries for inexpensive but efficient technologies to manage their information processing activities, was made available to UPILS. A course on this for computer specialists was conducted and implemented, thereafter, in the computer facilities of the Agricultural Resource Center in Los Baños in 1979. In 1985 the Mini-Micro CDS/ISIS was developed and released to run on small computer units. **In 1987, the Institute was designated by Unesco to be its national distributing center in the Philippines.** A Windows version was distributed in 1999. With the increasing number of users of this software, the ISISPHIL – the Philippine CDS/ISIS Users Group - was organized in 1988. By 1991, there were 184 registered user-organizations in the country. To date, more than 1,000 libraries and information centers are using this software.

SLIS Summer Institutes

The School (then Institute of Library Science and Institute of Library and Information Science) started sponsoring Summer Institutes in Information Science in May 1975 on the fundamental principles of information storage and retrieval systems. This was intended for librarians and other professionals who were engaged in information work. This was succeeded by three more on the same topic and were held on May 16-21, 1977, May 8-12, 1978 and May 14-19, 1979. Other summer institutes were held in 1982 onwards and dwelt on topics like computerized information systems, advanced technology for information management, information consolidation, applications of mini-micro CDS/ISIS and Superdoc software packages on library and information work, NATLINE bibliographic network and others that were related to information science.

As the Institute's contribution to continuing education on special areas in librarianship, the first Summer Institute on Library and Information Services was organized from May 18-29, 1987 for a group of librarians belonging to Bible and theological schools all over the country. The two-week training course included modules on Introduction to Librarianship, Collection Development, Cataloging and Classification with emphasis on theology and

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related subjects. Other Summer Institutes for LIS focused on topics like abstracting and indexing, managing and servicing information, records management and archives administration, organization and maintenance of audiovisual materials, digitization, etc.

Research Activities

The faculty and students of the School of Library and Information Studies and the institution itself are very much involved in research.

Institutional Research Activities:

Three ongoing institutional research activities handled by a group of faculty members are:

1) ***Philippine Medical and Health Information Sources, 1990-2007***

– a systematic compilation of information of Filipiniana resources basic to research in the areas of medicine and health. It includes published and unpublished materials from 1990-2007 and brings together a total of approximately 1,500 publications, reports, studies, researches, conference proceedings, textbooks and other materials related to health and medicine in the Philippines. Its main objectives are: a) to serve as a reference and retrieval tool for health and medical scholars, researchers, practitioners, policy makers, teachers, librarians and students of Philippines studies; b) to facilitate exchange of information among medical and health scientists; and c) to serve as a basis for directing, enhancing, coordinating health research and development activities in the country.

2) ***Philippine Multilingual Medical Thesaurus*** – a compilation of *MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)* terms translated into the 7 major Philippine languages and their corresponding equivalent, hierarchical and associative relationships. This will have a very heavy impact on:

- a) health institutions and/or organizations – this will fill the void in available tools for the organization, storage and retrieval of health/medical information and knowledge in the Philippines, especially in integrated computerized information systems;
- b) medical doctors all over the country – the multilingual medical thesaurus will facilitate their one-to-one communication with their respective patients because they

- will speak in the language understood by the latter;
- c) health professionals (nurses, midwives, etc.) and personnel (caregivers, nursing aides, etc.) – they will be able to do preliminary communication with the patients and pass on the resulting information to the medical doctors;
 - d) health and medical students – they will appreciate and benefit from the vocabulary database, learn about the appropriate translations, and make use of these during their internship and future medical practice;
 - e) the public – to enable them to easily express their health/medical problems in a language they are most familiar with;
 - f) the International community – particularly the National Library of Medicine which is the compiler of the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS), since this multilingual thesaurus can eventually be integrated into the UMLS, disseminated throughout the international medical and health sciences community; and
 - g) researchers and scientists of language studies – the thesaurus, when compiled, could help produce more output on Philippine languages for further studies. The word and spoken corpora can be used for in-depth linguistic studies.
- 3) ***Filipiniana Reference Sources (FILREF)*** – an annotated bibliography of Filipiniana reference sources in the social sciences, the humanities, and the sciences covering the years 1880-1988. This is currently being updated.

Other institutional researches handled by the faculty of SLIS in the past include:

Survey of Information Use and Needs of Population Information Users, 1992-1993 – aimed at identifying the needs of the users of population information; determining the types and level of information sought by population information users; determining how population information is actually used; identifying the users' sources of population information; and knowing what users think of the information services and products of POPIN (Vallejo, 1994, p. 4).

POPIN Plan, 1990-1991 – When the Commission on Population (POPCOM) reactivated its Philippine Population Information Network (POPIN), the Institute was called upon to assist in formulating the POPIN

Plan, designing the POPIN database, conducting two training courses on Micro-CDS/ISIS and cataloging and classification, and convening a consultative workshop to discuss the POPIN Plan.

Information Manpower Development and Training Needs in Nepal, 1988 – The then Institute of Library Science headed by Dean Vallejo undertook a consultant mission to Nepal upon the request of the Nepal ASTINFO officer and national representative to make a comprehensive study of the library and documentation requirements of Nepal and to conduct an appropriate short term course on practical aspects of library work. A comprehensive report was compiled by former Dean Rosa M. Vallejo, Prof. Patricia B. Cariño and Prof. Rosalie B. Faderon. Institutions visited included special libraries/information or documentation centers on science and technology, agriculture, engineering, environment, forestry, industry, medicine, mining and geology, Nepal National Library and Tribhuvan University Library (Information Manpower Development and Training Needs in Nepal Mission Report, 1988, p.1-2).

Testing and Evaluation of the ***Unesco Teaching Package on the Application of Information Handling Standards***, 1988 – this activity was undertaken to find out if the teaching package developed by Unesco could be used in the training of information personnel in developing countries.

Development of the ***Thesaurus on Filipino Women*** (for the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women), 1987 – a controlled vocabulary focusing on the various aspects of the Filipino women. This will facilitate the storage and retrieval of information on Filipino women.

A Survey of the Position Classification and Salaries of Librarians in Special Libraries in Metro Manila. May 1987 – a commissioned research undertaken by the Institute for the Association of Special Librarians in the Philippines to look into the various positions and salaries of special librarians in Metro Manila.

A Survey of Institutional Facilities and Information Programs and Users' Information Needs and Uses of Institutions Involved in New and Renewable Sources of Energy. November 1985 – a commissioned research undertaken for the PNOC-ERDC. This includes institutional facilities, information programs, users' information needs and uses of institutions that are in new and renewable sources of energy.

Individual Faculty Researches:

Professorial chair lectures have been delivered by Dr. Ursula G. Picache, Prof. Rosa M. Vallejo, Prof. Ma. Divina Pascua-Cruz and Dr. Juan C. Buenrostro, Jr.

Despite the small number of regular faculty and their heavy teaching load, they continue to do research. The recently concluded researches of the faculty are:

1. Design and Implementation of a Web-Based Online Database of the UP Main Library's *Index to Philippine Newspapers (IPN)* (Chito N. Angeles)
2. Culion Sanitarium Archives and Memory of Leprosy in the Philippines (Ricardo L. Punzalan)
3. Archives of the New Possession: the Fate of Spanish Colonial Records in the Philippines under the American Regime (Ricardo L. Punzalan)
4. Archives in the Museum Context: a Case Study on the Application of Archival Principles and Practices in the Jorge B. Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center, U.P. Diliman (Ricardo L. Punzalan)
5. Archiving the Archives: Managing Image Collections and the Photo Digitization Project of the U.P. Vargas Museum (Ricardo L. Punzalan)
6. Cognitive Styles of Students and Their Performance in LIS Courses (Grace Marie B. Gonzales)
7. Authorship Structure of Scholarly Disciplines: an Empirical Study of Philippine Research Journals (Nathalie N. Dela Torre)
8. An Evaluation of Standards for Academic Libraries in the Philippines (Kathleen Lourdes B. Obille)
9. Computer Workstations in Selected Academic Libraries in Metro Manila: a Study on Ergonomics (Christine B. Timoteo)

The current researches of the faculty are on the following topics:

1. Analysis and Expansion of the Library of Congress Class K for Philippine Legal Materials (Dean Vyva Victoria M. Aguirre)
2. Reference Service and Provisions on Access of Selected Archives of Government Institutions in Metro Manila (Iyra S. Buenrostro)
3. Expansion of the Dewey Decimal Classification System on Philippine History (Nathalie N. Dela Torre)
4. The Teaching of Information Skills to Secondary School Students in Marikina City (Grace Marie B. Gonzales)

5. Computer-Assisted Instruction in Computer-based Information Systems (Marie Desiree R. Carcellar)
6. Software Development – iLib Integrated Library System (Sharon S. Esposo)
7. Collections of Recorded Music Performances in Academic and Special Libraries and Archives in the National Capital Region (Grace Marie B. Gonzales)

Past individual faculty researches focused on various aspects of Philippine libraries and librarianship, thesaurus construction, CDS/ISIS software, and library automation and using formats such as indexes, bibliographies, directories and abstracts.

Two faculty members, Prof. Rosalie B. Faderon and Dr. Juan C. Buenrostro, Jr., wrote their respective textbooks on cataloging and classification and reference work in Filipino in 1997: *Panimula sa Pagkatalog at Pagbukod ng Mga Babasahin: Batayang Aklat* and *Gawaing Reference at Impormasyon: Introduksyon*. These are two pioneering library science textbooks written in Filipino which are used in the courses on cataloging and classification and reference work.

The graduate and undergraduate students of SLIS also undertake research for their theses. These focus on topics such as the development of different software for library application, development of thesauri for specific subject areas, designs of various information systems for specific collections in ethnomusicology, radiology, users' information needs and behavior, development of specific library classification schemes in local history, architecture, etc.

All these researches have been and continue to be disseminated in numerous lecture series to which librarians, information professionals, archivists, classificationists, and other interested parties have been invited. Some of these are also published in the School's *Journal of Philippine Librarianship*, the sole library journal in the Philippines.

Gabriel A . Bernardo Memorial Lecture Series

Thirty four years ago, in March 1974, the then Institute of Library Science initiated the first of a series of memorial lectures in honor of the late Prof. Gabriel A. Bernardo, doyen of Philippine librarianship. The series of lectures were meant to pay tribute to the late Prof. Bernardo for blazing

the trail in library education and practice. Mr. Alberto D. Benipayo, then Chairman of the National Book Development Council of the Philippines, delivered the first lecture on the Book Development Council. The second to the fifth memorial lectures focused on the different facets of the late Prof. Bernardo's life. The succeeding lectures were delivered by other renowned personalities: Dr. Francisco Nemenzo, Jr., Dr. Armand Fabella, Dr. Isagani Medina, Prof. Bienvenido Miranda, Dr. Ma. Luisa Camagay, Prof. Aurora Roxas-Lim, Atty. Myrna S. Feliciano, Ms. Delia Torrijos, Prof. Ambeth Ocampo, Dr. Alvin Marcelo, Dr. Ana Maria Labrador, Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, Dr. Fortunato dela Pena, Prof. Rosa M. Vallejo, Manuel L. Quezon III and Dr. Luis Gatmaitan and foreign lecturers like Prof. A. Neelameghan, Dr. William Nasri, Mr. Eric Vajda, Dr. Peter Jacso, and Ms. Sharon Henry. Their lectures focused on various aspects of information systems and technology, the Philippine academic profession, the use of the Pilipino language in scientific discourse, women's rights under Philippine law, strategies for library education, intellectual property code and libraries, libraries, archives and museums, information sharing, medical informatics, e-library for the judiciary, the Philippine e-library project, the legacy of Gabriel Bernardo and children's books.

SLIS Lecture Series

The SLIS Lecture Series was launched in January 2005. Its main objective is to disseminate for free, information on current issues and trends in the field of library and information studies. Since 2005, seventeen lectures have been delivered: nine of these were delivered by 2 BLIS and 6 MLIS graduates based on their theses; four, by alumni of the School, Grace Fabella-Bulaong, Fides Datu-Lawton, Elvira B. Lapuz and Vernon B. Totanes; four lectures, by Prof. Ricardo L. Punzalan, a full-time faculty member of the School who is currently pursuing his doctoral studies in the University of Michigan; and one, by Prof. Paolo Manalo of the Department of English and Comparative Literature. The past lectures have touched on divergent topics in the realm of library and information studies: information literacy, extensive mark-up language, cognitive styles and academic performance of LIS students, competency assessment program for special librarians, analysis, design and development of web-based thesaurus manager, historical perspective of Philippine libraries and librarianship, design and implementation of a web-based online database of the UPD Main Library's *Index to Philippine Newspapers*,

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development of a classification system for Philippine local studies materials, promoting research and scholarship through open access and e-publishing, information literacy and library 2.0, the first book printed in the Philippines, visualizing leprosy archives, leprosy and collective memory, and what does it meme: spam, online quizzes and the last song syndrome cognitive poetics and useless information.

SLIS: a Public Service College

The School of Library and Information Studies is a public service college like no other in the country. It performs an array of services, i.e., extension, training, consultancy and research for the government, the private and public sectors.

Since 1961, its year of establishment, the faculty members, well-known for their respective subject expertise in library and information studies, have been invited to speak in numerous international and national training programs, seminars, workshops and conferences on the various aspects of library and information studies and archives. Majority of the faculty members have served and continue to serve as resource persons in training programs, seminar-workshops and conferences organized by international national, regional, provincial and municipal library associations, private companies and government agencies. These associations and institutions include the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Unesco, UNDP, International Federation on Documentation (FID), FAO, ASTINFO, Philippine Librarians' Association, Inc. (PLAI), the Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians (PAARL), Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (PATLS), Philippine Association of School Librarians (PASL), Association of Special Librarians of the Philippines (ASLP), Philippine Group of Law Librarians (PGLL), Medical and Health Librarians' Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP), the National Library, PNOC-ERDC, Congress of the Philippines, National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCAA), Land Registration Systems, Inc. (LARES), Asian Development Bank, Bureau of Energy Development, National Teachers' Training Center, DOLE, Commission on Population (POPCOM), LWUA, Information Network on New and Renewable Energy Resources for Asia and the Pacific (INNERTAP), and many others.

Some faculty members have gone to Nepal to conduct a training course on library and information studies and to survey the manpower needs of libraries and information centers there. This was funded by Unesco. A faculty member has served as consultant to the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women in the development of its *Thesaurus on Women* (1985-1987) and represented the Commission in the Asian regional meeting for the development of a thesaurus on *Women in Development* for the Asean Clearinghouse for Women from 1987 to 1990.

Many faculty members have also served and continue to serve either as officers and members of various library and other associations and national committees as well as consultants in government and non-government agencies such as National Commission on the Arts, National Committee on Library and Information Services, PAASCU, Board for Librarians of the Professional Regulations Commission and other offices and committees in the University like UPCIDS to compile a *Glossary on Psychosocial Trauma*, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Development, University Council Committees on Curriculum, Faculty Welfare, etc.

Some faculty members have been rendering extension and voluntary service in their respective communities here in the Philippines and some are members of task forces.

The School has been serving and continues to serve as the review center for the librarians' licensure examination in the Philippines since 1991. It offers review courses for 12 consecutive Sundays and an intensive one, for two (2) weeks. It serves around one hundred reviewees who come from various parts of the country annually.

The School of Library and Information Studies leads as a regional college

The School (then Institute) was designated UNESCO Chair in Information Science and Technology Applications from 2000-2002. The Institute held a series of curricular restructuring workshops in January 2000 and May 2002. These efforts have resulted in a revised Bachelor of Library and Information Science curriculum that is closely attuned to the pressing need of Philippine society for trained information professionals. Dr. Robert D. Stueart of the School of Advanced Technologies, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand was a short-term Visiting Professor. Other outputs of this project included:

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1. The design, development and implementation of a web-based portal for the Institute, called *ELLIS (Electronic Resources for Library and Information Science)*;
2. The compilation of a CD-ROM database with 3000+ entries on Filipiniana Reference Materials (FILREF) from 1900-2000;
3. The design and implementation of an ILS Web OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog), a Web-based graphical user interface of the ILS Library collection using a UNESCO software called CDS/ISIS
4. The College-wide implementation of UVLE (University Virtual Learning Environment) for all LIS courses; and
5. The initiation of a long-term research program with the Medical Informatics Unit (MIU) of the U.P. College of Medicine in the following areas: developing a framework for indexing medical information for effective retrieval; developing a *Philippine Medical Thesaurus*; designing a heuristics-based medical portal for the UPCM; and representation of medical information on handheld devices.
6. Inauguration of an IT Applications Laboratory in March 2002 to be devoted to research activities on the concerns of library and information science.

The School (then Institute) was chosen by Unesco to host the nine-month Post-Graduate Training Course for Science Information Specialists in Southeast Asia (PGTCSIS) from 1978-1984. This already shows the stature that the School enjoys not only within the Philippines but also in the Southeast Asian region (please see pages 4-5 of this report for an extensive write-up on the PGTCSIS). The 149 graduates of this course have become the heads of their various libraries and information centers and have implemented what they have learned.

Numerous scholars, professors and practitioners have come to SLIS as visiting professors, lecturers, researchers and visitors. Most of these visitors were from UNESCO who came over to the Institute in the 70s to discuss the establishment of a regional program in the Philippines. For the entire duration of the Post-Graduate Training Course for Science Information Specialists in Southeast Asia, 1978-1984, numerous professors from the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Sheffield and College of Librarianship, Wales came to the Institute to give lectures on various topics. In the same years, two or three Asian regional training programs were hosted by the Institute on topics like database

management, information handling and processing, standards, communication formats, bibliometrics and scientometry, computer applications in the library and information systems, media, library and information processing, MINISIS, CDS/ISIS, and archives. The resource persons came from different countries. Majority of the participants came from the Asean region.

Visiting professors and lecturers have visited the School either to discuss and compare current trends in library and information studies programs or to give a lecture on topics falling within the purview of LIS. They came from Australia, different parts of the United States, South Korea, IFLA, Unesco General Information Programme, IDRC, University of British Columbia Canada, Yugoslavia, Thailand, India, Hungary, Rome, Germany, China, and South Africa.

Student Profile

Presently, the School has around 400 students in the undergraduate and graduate programs. The undergraduate students are very versatile in the application of technologies in the various aspects of library and information services and this trait is very much evident in the undergraduate theses they have produced. Some have even done systems analysis and design for the Dept. of Radiology of the UP Manila College of Medicine and the Center for Ethnomusicology of UP Diliman. Others have developed bilingual medical thesauri based on the *Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)*, analyzed information behavior and information needs of numerous sectors of Philippine society, did content analysis of researches done by UP and other LIS students and many more.

Facilities

SLIS holds the distinction of being the first library and information science school equipped with computer laboratories. It has a total of 45 desktop computers and 4 multimedia projectors. These are used for courses in information systems and technology, cataloging and classification, indexing and abstracting, reference and information services and medical and law librarianship.

The School has its own library which boasts of 11,000 titles of books, 300 serial titles, audiovisual materials, and electronic resources. The collection is utilized by the its faculty, students, library staff and researchers coming from other institutions. The SLIS Library has its own online public access catalog using the iLib system of the University of the Philippines.

The SLIS' Notable Achievements Since Its Establishment in 1961

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