
INTRODUCTION

In 1968, seven years after the establishment of the UP Institute of Library Science as an independent degree-granting unit, the first issue of the *Journal of Philippine Librarianship (JPL)* was born. The *JPL* is the only refereed library journal in the Philippines that features scholarly articles on all areas of library and information science.

This year, the 31st volume of the *JPL* marks the 50th founding anniversary of the School of Library and Information Studies. The theme for this issue, *SLIS: Reviewing the Past and Creating Visions for the Future*, highlights the history and notable achievements of the School through the years as well as its plans for the near future. This issue also mirrors the overall theme of the golden anniversary of the SLIS: *Upholding the Tradition of Excellence in LIS Education*, which explains the inclusion of articles such as R.B. Faderon's *Landmarks in SLIS History: 1961-2011*, which gives the readers a chronology of the significant events in SLIS history. V.V.M. Aguirre's *The UP School of Library and Information Studies: Continuing the Tradition of Excellence in LIS Education* discusses the traditional and new competencies of library professionals, relevance and improvement of the LIS curriculum and other important components of LIS education such as faculty, research initiatives and various outreach programs. R.R.U. Apolinario's *BLIS Graduates' Perceptions on the BLIS Program and the Alumni Support Community* focuses on the graduates' perceptions regarding the BLIS program that they underwent, what

were the most important subjects that have helped them in their current jobs and what support the alumni can provide to further enhance the undergraduate curriculum as well as help the undergraduates in their studies as the School fulfills its commitment to continually provide excellent training and education to library and information science professionals. Dean J.F.A. Cabbab focuses on what UPSLIS can do beyond 2011 in his article entitled, *UP School of Library and Information Studies: Upholding the Tradition of Excellence for 50 Years (and Beyond)*. A very current issue on environmental concerns especially in some academic libraries is tackled in R.D.C. Salonga-Silverio's *Greening in the Library: Sustainable Library Practices and Trends of Selected Academic Libraries in Metro Manila*. The UP SLIS also believes that parallel to the library education and training that it provides is its duty to the society to make the professionals and library practitioners aware of their emerging social responsibilities as knowledge providers who know how to provide, identify, and use credible information ethically. This is the focus of Prof. Z.E. Lee's *Truthfulness and the Information Revolution*.

The UP SLIS truly upholds excellence, both in LIS education and its devotion to elevating the profession and serving the entire community. The UP SLIS looks forward to the next 50 years or so, as it continuously fulfills its mission and vision for the future.

The Editors