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**FIFTY YEARS OF THE JOURNAL OF PHILIPPINE LIBRARIANSHIP:  
CELEBRATING THE PAST AND CHARTING THE FUTURE**

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**Abstract**

*This looks back into the past 50 years of publication of the Journal of Philippine Librarianship. It provides a review of the articles, authorship, circulation, cover design, editorship, and other aspects of the journal. It also examines the changes in the field and profession as it parallels on the publication and determines whether there is a need to change the name of the publication.*

**Keywords:** Journal of Philippine Librarianship, library and information science, journal, scholarship

**The Beginnings**

The Journal of Philippine Librarianship (JPL) was founded in 1968 and its purpose was “to meet the need for information on Philippine materials and libraries and to serve as medium for disseminating significant contributions to librarianship and its related fields.” Its first editor was Mae L. Furbeyre, then college secretary, and the managing editor was Ruby Mangahas, then director of the University of the Philippines Institute of Library Science. It was set to a semi-annual circulation and the expected contributors to the journal were “students, alumni, faculty of the institution, librarians in the field, those whose work and ideas influence the development of libraries” with topics ranging from various aspects of librarianship<sup>1</sup> that should be reflective of the “extent of thinking, awareness, problems, and challenges of Filipino Librarians” (Furbeyre, 1968, p. iii).

The first 10 volumes came out with two issues thereby keeping to its goal of becoming a semi-annual publication. A survey of its contents yielded the following types of articles: research articles,

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<sup>1</sup> Areas of librarianship as defined in 1968 include: printing and publishing, readers services, biography and library personality, administering of large library systems, commentaries of existing practices and tools, bibliographical control, Filipiniana accessibility, library survey reports and research results.

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opinion articles, and biography. The authors were from various fields aside from library science, such as anthropology, history, literature, bringing in interesting discussions on the concepts of library science.

It is interesting to note that the journal covers featured covers of rare books. However, the first issue shows the first lines of the prayer *Ama Namin* in an ancient Philippine script or *baybayin*. The artist, Rogelio Pagarigan, designed the cover to show a torn script from the facsimile of *Doctrina Christiana*.

Among the first articles include that of the National Library of the Philippines head, Serafin Quiason, entitled, *The National Library Today*. He narrated the inventory of the collection and what the NLP has done to improve its situation. According to Quiason (1968), “Innovations and changes for the improvement of the institution are often met with suspicion, indifference, and in most cases, all kinds of uncreative opposition” (p. 6), which we can still attest to be happening in most libraries and information centers even to this day. He has served as the director of the National Library of the Philippines from 1965 to 1986—the longest stint so far from among the National Library of the Philippines directors.

Another notable author is Isagani Medina, a librarian, historian, and part-time faculty at the Institute of Library Science, and his article on *Filipiniana in the North American Review 1854-1902*. This article shows what about the Philippines were included in the said magazine.

The focus of the publication was clear in the articles included in the first issue. Cataloging and classification concerns were the focus of the articles by Hermogena Ll. Carpio and Jacinta Ingles where the former sought to resolve the inconsistencies in the entries of Filipino names, and the latter looked into how Philippine government documents are classified. The article by Fe Alvarez is a historical account of a local printer and publisher Juan Martinez. It also lists the titles of the products of the publishing house, which showcases a rich collection of *corridos*, biographies, plays, and the like.

The life of Cirilo B. Perez, one of the pensionados and National Library of the Philippines director from 1924 to 1941, was beautifully written by Pat I. Nivera, social secretary of Philippine presidents Ramon Magsaysay and Carlos Garcia. Her biography of Perez came from her interviews and interactions with his relatives. She describes him as “a quiet and shy man...not likely associated with guerrilla tactics... he died a violent death... and love for his country” (Nivera, 1968, p. 62).

It is humbling to be reading the first edition of the JPL with the pillars of librarianship and library education pouring down their thoughts for the succeeding generations to learn from. Natividad P. Versoza, who worked with Gabriel A. Bernardo on *Philippine Retrospective Bibliography 1523–1699*, wrote about *The Education of Librarians at the University of the Philippines, 1914–1959*. This article was published in the second issue of the journal, noting that this should be the first source of

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anything written about LIS education in the Philippines.

### Authorship in the JPL

The JPL known to our generation of librarians, is a research journal of the University of the Philippines School of Library and Information Studies (UP SLIS) and most of the contributors are faculty and alumni. It is rare for non-UP SLIS alumni or students to be publishing here. In the past however, JPL has catered to various authors who have contributed to the literature in our field. One non-librarian is F. Landa Jocano, an anthropologist, who wrote about *Documentation as a Field Technique in Anthropological Research*. He differentiates the process of documentation as an office work and the work done by librarians and indicating the latter as a skill most important for anthropologists to acquire, and the reliance of anthropologists on libraries to provide substance to the materials they are annotating as source of cross annotation.

E. Arsenio Manuel, also wrote a couple of articles for the JPL. He was an academic, a historian, and anthropologist and is referred to as *Father of Philippine Folklore*. His contributions include a biography of *Jose Clemente Zulueta* (vol. 1, no. 2), *Report of the Appraisal Committee on the Velarde Collection* (vol. 2, nos. 1&2), *On the Imprint Date of the Pasyong Kandaba Published by Libreria de J. Martinez, Manila* (vol. 3, no. 2), *Authorship via Librarianship* (vol. 11, nos. 1&2), and *The Teodoro M. Kalaw Collection of Revolutionary Memoirs, Documents and Biographical Tracts* (vol. 19, nos. 1&2). He has, so far, the most number of contributions to the journal from a non-librarian.

Another non-librarian contributor worth mentioning is Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio, now 2018 National Artist of the Philippines for Theatre. Her tribute to Gabriel A. Bernardo, the Doyen of Philippine Librarianship, during the 1977 Gabriel A. Bernardo (GAB) Memorial Lecture was published in volume 6, number 1. She described how she first met Prof. Bernardo and how her initial perception of him as a lion turned later on as a lamb. This anecdote she shared would show how much of a lamb Prof. Bernardo can be. When she came to work for Prof. Bernardo, her tasks included handling some of the correspondences (i.e., typing of routine letters) and arranging/organizing his files, which she extended to organizing his desk full of piles of papers and books. When she did so, Lapeña-Bonifacio recounted, "Very gently, Prof. Bernardo said, 'Mely *iha*, thank you for arranging my desk but please don't touch it. It took me all of these days to find my things again'" (Lapeña-Bonifacio, 1982, p. 4).

Other non-librarian authors include: Maria Luisa T. Camagay of the Department of History of the UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy; Aurora Roxas Lim, dean of the UP Asian Center; Alvin Marcelo, of the Medical Informatics Unit of UP Manila; Antonio Carpio, then one of the associate justices of the Supreme Court; Zosimo E. Lee, former dean of the UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy; and Iris Thiele Isip-Tan, also of the Medical Informatics Unit of UP Manila. All of them have delivered a lecture in the GAB Memorial Lecture Series and the paper version of their lectures have been published in the journal.

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Quite a few keynotes, lectures, and paper presentations to various library conference and/or events have also been published in the journal. To name a few are: A Neelameghan, the project coordinator of the Post-Graduate Training Course for Science Information Specialists (PGTCSIS) in Southeast Asia; Namnama Hidalgo, librarian of the UP College of Education; Euan Smith of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Adriano Arcelo, then President of Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE); and Robert Stewart of the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and then visiting professor among others.

Most authors are either faculty members, students, alumni, archivists, librarians and information professionals of varying topics. Most are research articles that look into librarianship concerns like collection development, cataloging and classification, LIS education, library management and related concerns, biographical and bio-bibliographies, bibliographies, and abstracts of completed theses and special problems from the UP ILS/ILIS/SLIS. The previous deans have also contributed much to the journal as authors or editors.

### **Circulation**

When the journal first came out in 1968, it was for subscription at PhP5.00 for local or \$3.00 for foreign subscription per year. Single copies were at PhP3.00 or \$2.00. Ten years after, in 1971, the subscription cost increased to PhP8.00 local and \$5.00 foreign. After another ten years, in 1981, the subscription cost was PhP29.00 local and \$14.00 foreign. The subscription cost increased gradually until the late 1990s when it became PhP175.00 for local and \$25.00 foreign.

The JPL was set out to be a semi-annual publication but like other publications, it has had its challenges in terms of its circulation. In 1971, there was only one article published for vol. 1 no. 1 which spanned 90 pages. This was *Philippine Political Parties, 1900-1965: A Selected Annotated Bibliography of Printed Materials*. Issue number 2 came out 5 articles but after 1971, the next publication was in 1981. The editorial of volume 5 started with the lines “Alive again naturally!” attributing the hiatus from 1972 to 1980 to the crisis government that ensued along with financial and human resources concerns. The faculty endeavored to release volume 5 in time with the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the UP Institute of Library Science. After it came out in 1981, it became an annual publication with occasional additional or special issues.

From 1981 to present, JPL was continuously published as a print resource. However, in 2007, due to increasing cost of publication, UP SLIS published the JPL in electronic version. The UP Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Development (UP OVCRD) hosted the electronic publication of UP Journals via Open Journals System. When before, JPL was for subscription, it was made free and open access in time for its first publication online. This move was made to increase its circulation among library and information professionals, LIS schools, and other interested individuals.

Having the JPL online also paved the way for its being indexed via EBSCO in 2012 and

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ProQuest sometime in 2013, again through the efforts of the editorial board under Iyra S. Buenrostro and the UP OVCRD.

### Cover Design

The cover designs of JPL are worth noting as well. The earlier publications featured covers of rare books from *De Mollucis Inculis*, versions of the *Doctrina Christiana*, *Epitome de la Biblioteca oriental i occidental, nautica i Geografia*, *Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas*, *Arte y Reglas de la lengua tagala*, *vocabulario de lengua tagala*, *Relacion de las islas de Filipinas*, *Diciunario Tiruray-Español*, *Bocabulario de Pampango en Romance y Diccionario de Romance en Pampango*, *Diccionario Bagobo Español*, *Jurisprudencia civil*, *Expediente*, *España: Sus monumentos y artes – su naturaleza e historia: Cuba, Puerto-Rico y Filipinas* among others. All these rare books are from the Main Library collection. It also featured in its cover the first illustrated periodical. However, there were also covers that simply featured a painting, the logo of the college, or stylized patterns, swirls, overlays of images and the like. In the recent years, the cover designs by Johann Frederick A. Cabbab adopted stylized patterns and symbolisms of the articles contained in the articles within the volume.

What is worth noting is when the Institute of Library Science moved to the location at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor right wing of the Gonzalez Hall, the JPL cover of volume 17 also featured a photograph of the said wing. During the Philippine Centennial, it also featured the painting by Carlos Valino of General del Pilar at Tirad Pass, which is from the University of the Philippines Diliman Main Library art collection.

### Editorship of JPL

Editors of the JPL have always been full time faculty members of the ILS/ILIS/SLIS. Sometimes, the chair of the Research and Publications Committee also assumes the managing editor post and later on the business manager post. From time to time, issue editors were assigned, which are either full-time or part-time faculty members of the Institute of Library Science. Past editors include: Ruby K. Mangahas, Ursula G. Picache, Rosa M. Vallejo, Juan C. Buenrostro Jr., Leticia B. Dizon, Josephine C. Sison, Rosalie B. Faderon, Divina Pascua-Cruz, Vyva Victoria M. Aguirre, Ricardo L. Punzalan, Nathalie N. dela Torre, Kathleen Lourdes B. Obille, Johann Frederick A. Cabbab, Iyra S. Buenrostro, and Mark Anthony A. Santos.

In 2000, an editorial board was constituted to include: Perla T. Garcia, Ursula G. Picache, Delia E. Torrijos, and Rosa M. Vallejo. The editorial board was not continued. Mid-2000, there was a move again to form an editorial advisory board to include non-ILIS faculty members such as those from the international community. While it was discussed by the faculty that an international advisory board may not sit well with the goal of the journal, it was deemed that for the journal to reach greater heights, the international advisory board should be formed. However, due to lack of funds and limited human resources to fully manage the publication, the move was tabled.

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In 2007, the policy on blind peer review was instituted as well. The reviewers were from the pool of experts in the LIS field in the Philippines. There have been difficulties in sourcing out willing and available reviewers. No honorarium was given since the journal then became free and open access. However, there were those while few at first, gave their time and effort to review a number of articles. While the Open Journal Systems included a review process, this was not fully exploited. A mix of print and electronic processes were in place and still is up to this date, though more on the electronic side.

### **JPL as Reflection of UP ILS/ILIS/SLIS and the Profession**

The journal has always been reflective of the profession and of the UP SLIS as an institution. Notable reflection of the UP ILS/ILIS/SLIS history is in terms of its content bearing developments of and relating to the school. In the first volume, Natividad P. Versoza wrote about *The Education of Librarians in the University of the Philippines*. The abstracts of theses and special problems of UP ILS graduates appeared in volume 3, number 2. When the journal emerged from its hiatus in 1981, the articles featured mostly that of UP ILS—landmarks in the history of UP ILIS for 20 years, its deans and directors (by Patricia Cariño), college secretaries (by Rosalie Faderon<sup>2</sup>), and its Masters theses and special problems (Juan Buenrostro, Jr.). A history of the University of the Philippines Library Science Alumni Association (UPLSAA) was written by Rosemarie Bamba, former president of the association. Then college secretary Rosa Vallejo (who later on became dean) wrote about the history of Philippine Librarianship. Dean Vallejo wrote about the profession, LIS education, and LIS researches.

In 2008, Dean Rosalie B. Faderon traced the notable achievements of the UP SLIS since 1961. She also updated this in 2011 in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> foundation anniversary of the School. Also in volume 31 are articles of Dean Vyva Victoria M. Aguirre on *Continuing the Tradition of Excellence in LIS Education* which “discusses the traditional and new competencies of librarians” and how UP SLIS endeavors to accomplish its role in the education of LIS professionals. Dean Johann Frederick A. Cabbab also wrote about the present and future goals of the School in his article *UP SLIS: Upholding the Tradition of Excellence in LIS Education for 50 years and beyond*.

Aside from the achievements of the School, the journal also featured tributes. For one, it features papers read during Gabriel A. Bernardo Memorial Lecture Series. At one point, it also issued special issues as tribute to a couple of faculty members who have passed away like that of Patricia Cariño and Dean Josephine C. Sison.

When the UP SLIS hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Asia-Pacific Library and Information Education and Practice, a special issue was published featuring papers of Filipino authors who have presented in the Conference. While a conference proceedings was published electronically, these articles were featured as some opted to release only the abstract of their papers in the proceedings.

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<sup>2</sup> In 1981, she was assistant professor of the Institute. She also assumed college secretary post and became dean in 2005.

The recent articles of the JPL, at least from 2000 onwards, are more of the researches completed by students, librarians, and faculty members. The articles have become more progressive and expansive in its reach such that of ICTs in terms of development and use of these in libraries and information work, information literacy, archives and library education, clinical librarianship, web ontologies, libraries and the community, among others. More and more researches are being published in the journal now that it has become online and open access.

### **From JPL to PhJLIS: Charting the Future**

In 2009, after we have published the journal online, we have received a couple of requests from foreign authors for article submission. However, since the journal was titled *Journal of Philippine Librarianship*, it was quite obvious that we could not accept and publish such submissions. Discussions on the international advisory board and possible renaming of the journal and revisiting its goals and objectives ensued among the faculty members. Arguably, we have already accepted the developments in the field in that we are no longer dealing with just libraries and librarianship but information and its related concerns as well. The education of librarians is no longer limited to libraries, but it also included that of information theories, information technologies and its applications, archives theory and practice, digital humanities, big data, and more. To maintain the term “Librarianship” in the title, in a way, limits the journal. Especially with the membership of the UP SLIS to the iSchools consortium, the journal should also be reflective of the rich and dynamic research topics of the iSchools as a direction that the UP SLIS is also endeavoring to achieve and implement.

While the faculty members were already in agreement as regards renaming the journal, the appropriate name was yet to be identified. Among the suggestions include, *Impormasyon: Philippine Journal of Information Studies*; *Himaton: Philippine Journal of Information Studies*; to *Philippine Journal of Information Studies and Librarianship*, or, *Philippine Journal of Librarianship and Information Studies*. During the UP SLIS Executive Committee meeting on October 25, 2018, it was decided thus that the journal be renamed as *Philippine Journal of Librarianship and Information Studies (PhJLIS)*. The title was chosen to reflect that the journal is not only about the Philippine Libraries and Information field/profession but it is indicative merely of its geography, that it is from the Philippines and that it can now accommodate articles from all over the world about libraries, information science and its related fields and concerns.

Given this change in name, we envision the PhJLIS to increase the number of articles published in an issue with the expansion of its scope. It is thus aimed that the number of publications per year will increase from 1 to 2, then eventually 4 issues in three years’ time. It is also the goal to have an international advisory board, with international reach for its authorship and readership. Being one of the few LIS journals in the Asia-Pacific region published in the English language, we envision the PhJLIS to publish articles from authors primarily within the region and elsewhere as long as they meet the requirements and standards of publication set forth. With its continued growth targeting 5 years’

time, we envision the PhJLIS to be indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, gradually becoming one of the top tier LIS journals in the region. The numbering will be kept, to continue the history of the JPL whose past publications will be closely associated to the PhJLIS through a dedicated website. Thus, the PhJLIS will be numbered at volume 39 with the goal of two issues for 2019.

Acknowledging and being truly grateful of the efforts of the authors and editors who came before this new and current generation of authors and editors, and taking pride from the 38 volumes of the *Journal of Philippine Librarianship* (JPL), we close this chapter and turn on to the next. From 2019 henceforth, we open a new chapter of the *Philippine Journal of Librarianship and Information Studies* (PhJLIS).

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