

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES*

Country Report, CDNLAO Meeting

October 20-23, 2008

National Diet Library

Tokyo, Japan

GENERAL OVERVIEW

June 2007 – September 2008

After the 15th CDNLAO meeting held in Bali, Indonesia on May 7, 2007, the National Library of the Philippines showed tremendous achievements in terms of providing library resources to the reading public. In coping up to a fast-paced technologies emerging in the world today, The National Library concentrated in upgrading and improving its facilities to render more global-oriented services to the Filipinos as well as foreign visitors, on-site and off-site who availed of its collection and facilities.

Major Accomplishments and Developments :

- ◆ Launching of the Philippine Presidents Room on July 7, 2007 at the Filipiniana Division with the Former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos as guest of honor.
- ◆ Rehabilitation and renovation of the Epifanio de los Santos Auditorium and water proofing of the side extension area of TNL 4th floor .
- ◆ Affiliation of additional 21 public libraries bringing a total of 1,157 public libraries.
- ◆ Organization of two (2) Public Librarians Conferences on November 27-29,2007 and on March 8-10, 2008 at Grand Men Seng Hotel, Davao City, with Dr. Varaprasad, CEO of NLB, Singapore and Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as Keynote Speakers, respectively.
- ◆ Co-sponsorship with the Philippine Librarians Association Inc. (PLAI) the 73^r National Book Week Celebration last November 24-30,2007. The theme was “ Family Literacy : Reading Begins with Us”.
- ◆ Inauguration of Tondo Congressional Library on July 7, 2007 with Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as Guest of Honor.
- ◆ Installation of the Philippine eLib kiosks in the Provinces of Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan , Iloilo, Bulacan, Sultan Kudarat and Negros Occidental; Cities of Alaminos, Cebu, Pagadian and Zamboanga and Municipalities of Tagoloan and Balingoan, Misamis Oriental .
- ◆ Held various exhibits commemorating significant events for each month at the ground floor lobby of The National Library .
- ◆ Celebration of the 120th and 121st Foundation Day of The National Library , August 12, 2007 & 2008; and,
- ◆ Continuous digitization of the TNL resources for collection build-up of the Phil e-lib project.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) originated from the Museo-Biblioteca de Filipinas which was established in 1887. It was inaugurated in 1891 with Don Pedro A. Paterno as its first Filipino director.

Executive Order No. 80 dated March 5, 1999, for policy and project coordination, The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) is among the cultural agencies attached to the

National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) of the Office of the President.

1. VISION, ACTIVITY EVALUATION

The full intellectual and cultural development of the Filipino people through love for and reading all forms of library materials, the lessons and insights of which, enable and empower them to adapt to global technological changes.

2. MANPOWER

NLP has nine (9) divisions grouped into non-reading areas: Financial and Administrative, Bibliographic Services, Catalog, Collection Development, Information Technology, Public Libraries and the Research and Publications Divisions and the reading areas, the Filipiniana and the Reference Divisions.

As of June, 2008, the Library has 142 permanent employees, with 71 professional librarians, and 71 support services staff. It has also 30 contracted hires.

3. LIBRARY USERS

- Since July 2000, the use of Reader's Card is a requirement before a library user can avail of the library resources. Reader's card fee is P50.00 or equivalent to US\$1.00. It is a lifetime membership card. Our database shows that **34,500** library users have applied for reader's card, majority of them students and professionals.

- During the period under review, readership totaled to **93,543** while materials used were **274,232** items, not including those who availed of the resources through the Internet.

- There are **1,157** public libraries situated in the different provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays of the country.

4. COLLECTION PROFILE

Its Filipiniana Division serves as the official repository of the country's printed and recorded intellectual and cultural heritage. For the period under review, it has a collection of **100,089** volumes of books, **72,267** issues of national newspapers, **98,016** issues of provincial newspapers, **168,812** issues of magazines, and **5,298** issues of journals. On the other hand, the Government Publications section which serves as the repository of the Philippine government publications had **37, 892** copies of monographs and **66,305** copies of serials.

For the foreign literature collection, the Reference Division has **56, 205** volumes of books in the main reading room, **13,924** volumes of UN Books, and **45,804** issues of serials. Its Asia and Oceania section has **15,084** volumes of books and **18,010** issues of serials.

The Library for the Blind section has **2,579 titles/6,690 volumes** of Braille books, **273 titles /1,009 volumes** of large prints, **849 titles/5,682** pieces of tapes and **15 titles / 324 copies** of serials, and **65 titles/591 copies**, **23 titles /111 copies**, **6 titles/50 copies** of newsletter and **692 articles** of vertical files all in Braille.

- **UNIQUE AND RARE COLLECTIONS**

Unique collection includes the rare books, manuscripts, maps, photographs and special collections. There are **14,722** volumes of rare books, **881,200** manuscripts, **11,240** volumes of special collection books, **3,779** sheets of maps, **53,193** sheets of photographs and 19,424 articles of vertical files.

- **SECONDARY PUBLICATIONS**

The National Library of the Philippines serves as the national bibliographic agency in the country. The Bibliographic Services Division publishes every quarter with annual cumulation, the Philippine National Bibliography (PNB). Other publications prepared by the Division are special bibliographies such as Bibliography on Philippine Bibliographies, Manila Bibliography, Bikol Bibliography and the Bibliography of the following Presidents of the Philippines: President Gloria A. Macapagal-Arroyo, Corazon C. Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph E. Estrada.

The National Library through the Research and Publications Division publishes the TNL Annual Reports, the quarterly TNL Newsletter, TNL Research Guide Series; Directory of Printers and Publishers among others.

- **DIGITIZED MATERIALS**

Philippine eLib is a collaborative project of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, Commission on Higher Education, The National Library and the University of the Philippines.

The Project was officially launched on April 19, 2005. Philippine eLib has stored in its file servers more than a million bibliographic data, digitized more than 25 million images of Philippine materials including rare books and manuscripts, theses and dissertations.

- **AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS**

Multimedia Center, provides reading room services for non-print collection such as microfilm, CD, VCD, audiotapes, slides, etc. Collection includes 2294 CDs/DVDs/VCDs, 8980 reels of Microfilms, 23 filmstrips, 5,874 fiches of microfiche, 696 cards of microcards, 483 record plates, 2,196 slides, 71 beta, 5,594 cassette tapes and 282 VHS.

- **NATIONAL AND SPECIAL DATABASES**

The National Library of the Philippines has the following national databases under the framework of its Philippine Library Information Network (PHILIN):

Name of Database:	PNB Database
Total No. of Records:	Records
gathered annually :	3, 734 titles
Frequency	Quarterly and Annual
Status of Database:	Library Domain
Subject Coverage:	Filipiniana covering all areas of knowledge
Type of Databases:	Bibliographical
Local Online/International	
Online:	Local Online
Access and Availability:	Printing/CD-ROM

The Library.Solution software is used by the staff in the technical organization of the collections which can be accessed through the Online Public Access Catalog. Included too bibliographic data of copyright-registered materials in the

Philippines (but are not available for reading/borrowing).

5. SERVICES

- **REFERENCE**

More than 100,000 researchers were served in the reading rooms. Library hours are from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM from Monday to Saturday except on holidays.

- **LENDING**

On-Line Public Access Catalog (OPAC)

Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) is one of the Library's computerized projects. It facilitates access to the collections by the reading public. OPAC terminals are deployed at the second and third floor lobbies aside from the terminals at the Philippine eLib kiosk. Materials can be borrowed for room-use only.

Inter-Library Loan and Exchange Services

Southeast Asia's Inter-Library Loan and Exchange Services (formerly NLDC) links member countries collectively and cooperatively towards a free flow of information in any part of the world.

- **NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES**

The National Library of the Philippines is mandated to cater an efficient access to its national information resources which are provided through Philippine National Bibliography (PNB) and a National Union Catalog. :

Philippine National Bibliography (PNB)

A very important reference tool for librarians, scholars, publishers, researchers, etc., the PNB is a collection of bibliographic records of the country's national literature that truly reflects the intellectual and cultural growth and development of the Filipino people. It includes monographs, first issues of periodicals, printed music scores, government publications and conference proceedings and non-book materials such as sound recordings, maps, CDs, etc.

Cataloguing-in-Publication Program (CIP)

NLP thru its Catalog Division has been implementing Cataloguing-In-Publication (CIP) Data as part of the expansion of the PNB System. This program provides a bibliographic description in advance of publication. CIP as a cataloguing tool for librarians minimizes unnecessary duplication of cataloguing data.

Standard Numbering Systems

It is the responsibility of the National Library to conform, establish and maintain national and international standards in library and information services.

International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

In 2007, **5,518** ISBNs and **319** publishers' prefixes were added to the system, making a total of **89,460** ISBNs issued and **4,158** registered

authors/publishers.

International Standard Serials Number (ISSN)

Assigning ISSN to **395** serial publications as of December 2007 does not only allow accessibility to periodical literature but also advertise them through the Philippine ISSN Register. **322** serial titles were registered to International Center (IC) in Paris through the Virtual Client System.

International Standard Music Number (ISMN)

A standardized international numeric code for the identification of music publication can be used wherever information needs to be recorded or communicated.

- **READING PROMOTION**

NLP is actively taking participation in the promotion of books and good reading habits to children and young people with public and private organizations such as the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY), Reading Association of the Philippines (RAP), Children's Literature Association of the Philippines (CLAPI) and Alitaptap Storytellers, Inc. and librarians associations.

- **INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAMS**

NLP has outreach programs, which promote reading to teachers, parents, children and the general public. Storytelling and puppetry are promotions that drum up children's interests in the use of libraries and books.

- **ACQUISITION, DONATION, GIFTS AND EXCHANGE**

It is the responsibility of NLP to acquire books and other library materials to fulfill its dual functions – the national library function and the public library function.

Acquisition of materials through purchase

The National Library acquired through purchase **1,327 titles** in **10,972** volumes of books and 86 sets of encyclopedias in 2007.

Gifts and Donations

The National Library received through gifts and donations **1,447 titles/6,239** volumes of books ; **1,945 titles / 11,061** copies of serials ; **757 titles/volumes** of theses, **240 titles /** volumes dissertations, **93 titles /** volumes of Baby theses, **13 titles / 15** copies of Braille materials. Non-book materials were also acquired of which **130 titles / 385** copies (CD-ROM), **192 (VHS)**, **56 (Tapes)**, **22 titles / 1, 165** copies (Microfilm), and **29,827 titles / 30, 106** copies of topographic maps.

Exchange

The Gifts/Exchange Section of the Collection Development Division received from several exchange partners, materials that help enhance the National Library's collection. This year, **277 titles / 382** volumes of books, **373 title / 1,727** copies of serials and **74 titles / 74** copies of CD-ROM to foreign were sent to exchange partners.

Legal Deposit

Another method of acquiring library materials is through implementation of Legal Deposit Law known as PD 812 wherein all government offices including those in the provinces and municipalities, government owned or controlled corporations are directed to furnish the National Library for at least two (2) or fifty (5) copies of the publications for exchange commitments for both national and international as well as for preservation in the Heritage Collection of the National Library.

Due to the high cost of publishing, only local newspapers, magazines and government publications are continuously being received by the Collection Development Division totaling of **873** titles consisting of **5,898** copies.

- **DIGITAL LIBRARY**

The Digital Library Collection of the National Library of the Philippines is part of the resources of the Philippine eLib Project and also for the Multimedia section of the Filipiniana Division..

Digitized Library Collections:

A. Theses and Dissertations

B. Philippine Insurgent Records

C. Philippine Daily Express

D. Picture of landmarks, structures and places found in the Philippines

E. Picture of events, celebrations, rites and similar activities observed in the Philippines

F. Picture of Philippine organizations, and institutions, including government institutions

G. Picture of personalities and groups of persons

H. Miscellaneous pictures about the Philippines and other topics

I. Philippine Journal of Science

J. Presidential Collections .The collection contains pictures, manuscripts, books, theses, and other materials of, by and about the Philippine Presidents and their family. Already in digital format are the collection of :

Pres. Emilio Aguinaldo

Pres. Manuel L. Quezon

Pres. Sergio Osmena Sr.

Pres. Manuel Roxas

Pres. Elpidio Quirino

Pres. Ramon Magsaysay

Pres. Carlos P. Garcia

Pres. Diosdado Macapagal

Pres. Ferdinand Marcos

Pres. Corazon Aquino

Pres. Fidel V. Ramos

Pres. Joseph Estrada

Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

- **PROJECTS**

- **SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.**

The management does not only consider the collections or the sophisticated equipment or financial support as its important resources, but also the warm bodies, the

human beings who manage and utilize these resources for the clientele. Management therefore places a premium on the development of its professional librarians and support staff. NLP invests some funds when availing of training either local or abroad so that the learning and experiences the staff gain can contribute to the development and improvement of the Library's service programs. The management also encourages its staff to pursue higher studies in their special field of interest, join professional associations and concern themselves with their continuing professional education.

The Human Resource Office recorded 198 employees who attended seminars, trainings, and conferences (190 locals and 8 Foreign).

- **LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL**

- LOCAL**

- The Children's Library promotes the importance and enjoyment of reading to the Filipino children and young adults. The Library has lined up the following activities:

- Storytelling Session**

- Puppet Show**

- Craft and Coloring activities**

- Kidsmart Program** (Computer Software)

- Public Libraries in different part of the Philippines are technically supervised by the National Library of the Philippines but are under the administrative supervision of their Local Government Units. These libraries include the Barangay Reading Centers, which provide space where people from all ages learn to read. These are not necessary located in libraries; they could be placed in community centers or within various organizations including schools.

- REGIONAL**

- ASEAN COCI DIGITIZATION PROJECT**

- The National Library Board of Singapore with the funding from the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) launched a project that aimed to consolidate digitized local content materials from national libraries of the ASEAN region. Provided with the necessary hardware and software and after the hands-on training conducted by the proponent national library, national libraries of the region were asked to submit a quota of digitized materials. NLP had already fulfilled the quota requirement and hopefully each member national library will be provided the Project's output

- The Inter Library Loan of Materials in the Region through the national library.** This is a project which has been sustained by each member library.

- **PHYSICAL FACILITIES**

- Data Center Project**

- The Data Center of the Phil eLib Project is at the National Library of the Philippines with its Director as the Project Manager.

- Philippine eLib Kiosk**

- It has more than a hundred kiosks nationwide deployed in selected public libraries of

NLP, all campuses of the University of the Philippines, zonal research centers of the Commission on Higher Education, and regional offices and research institutions of the Dept. of Agriculture and Science Technology. Resources and facilities of the Project can now be accessed by students, faculty members, scholars, researchers, farmers, out-of-school youth and ordinary housewife. Philippine eLib can also be accessed internationally.

The National Library of the Philippines maintains a kiosks of forty computer terminals of the Project.

Centralized OPAC

NLP OPAC. With the completion of the bar coding activity of the collections, NLP has slowly put into semi-retirement the traditional card catalog and put the centralized on-line public catalog (OPAC) at the second and third floor lobbies in addition to the terminals of the Phil eLib kiosk..

The installation of the Electronic Alarm System (EAS) at the Exit door at the Ground Floor

This facility is aimed at reducing if not totally eliminating the pilferage or illegal taking out of any material be it a monograph, serials or any government property of the Institution.

Swiping machine for the circulation of materials (charging and discharging of books)

Putting up of the swiping machines in the reading rooms for the easy charging and discharging of the library materials though these materials are for reading room use only.

○ **AFFILIATIONS, COOPERATION, MEMBERSHIP (Local and foreign)**

NLP is involved several conventions, programs and activities at national, regional and international level.

At national level the NLP has maximum participation in library-related and similar undertakings with government organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

1. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts -National Committee on Libraries and Information Services (NCCA-NCLIS) – the Committee takes charge of coordinating all library and information-related projects of library associations and institutions primarily for the development or enhancement of libraries and information services in the country.

A union Catalog of library materials about Region I - Ilocos Region is one of the projects undertaken by the Committee.

NLP and NCLIS jointly take charge of the plans and activities to celebrate November every year as Library and Information Services Month in consonance with Proclamation 837 issued in November, 1991 by President Corazon C, Aquino.

NCLIS also undertakes technical and submits to NCCA for possible financial assistance library-related programs which and activities and provides technical assistance to local government units and other agencies which need help in putting up libraries and information centers in the country.

2. The annual midyear conference and demo fest of the Reading Association of the Philippines.
3. Celebration of the annual National Children's Book Day every third Tuesday of July with the Philippine Board on Books for Young People(PBBY).
5. The regular storytelling every Saturday at the Children's Library in cooperation with Alitaptap Storytellers, an association which handles workshops to promote storytelling for children..

At regional level the National Library takes part in:

1. CONSAL (Conference of Southeast Asian Libraries)
2. CDNLAO (Conference of Director of National Libraries of Asia and Oceania)

At international level the National Library is a loyal member of:

1. IFLA (International Federation of Library Association)

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

• NUMBER OF LIBRARY COUNCILS, ASSOCIATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, ETC.

Library Associations

There are 8 major libraries associations in the Philippines namely: Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) which is composed of 16 regional councils nationwide, Philippine Association for Academic and Research Libraries (PAARL), the Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science (PATLS), the Association of Special Libraries in the Philippines (ASLP), Agricultural Libraries Association of the Philippines (ALAP), Philippine Group of Librarians (PGLL), Philippine Association of School Librarians PASL), Medical and Health Libraries Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP) and the Philippine Public Librarians and Libraries Inc (PPLLI).

○ PUBLIC LIBRARIES, INCLUDING MOBILE AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

The National Library of the Philippines acts as the central node of the public library system throughout the country.

It also provides guidance and technical assistance to local government units (LGU) in the establishment, development and maintenance of public libraries and plans and conducts training programs, meetings, seminars and conferences for public librarians.

As of present it has **1,157** affiliated public libraries situated in the different provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays. Additional twenty-one (21) newly affiliated public libraries were noted as follows: **2** city libraries, **2** congressional

libraries, **3** municipal libraries and **15** reading centers.

of The National Library and the local government units execute a Memorandum Agreement to effect the establishment and operation of these public libraries.

Bookmobile services are catered by selected public libraries in the country. Due to budget constraints, there have been no additional units acquired by NLP for the past recent years.

o **SPECIAL LIBRARIES /UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES / SCHOOL LIBRARIES/ ECCLESIASTICAL LIBRARIES**

Special libraries are libraries of different government and private agencies or companies, which are fairly autonomous and responsible only to the corporations and institutions they serve. These libraries and documentation centers in the country are mostly located in Metro Manila although a few are sparsely organized and maintained in some provinces and cities. Statistics from **229 special libraries** indicate that a large majority are government supported while sixty percent fall in the subject areas of business-finance, medicine-public health, science-technology, and social sciences. The Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP) is working actively to encourage the establishment and development of special libraries and to improve the status of librarians by adopting standards and increasing opportunities for continuing education.

There more than a thousand college, university or research libraries in the country although not all of these libraries are active member of the Philippine Association of Academic and Research Libraries of the Philippines (PAARL)

Not all of the 32,000 elementary schools have their school libraries. Due to budget constraints and the lack of librarians to man these school libraries, the Department of Education resulted to organize the Library Hub Project. This is a warehouse of books put in bins. These books are brought to the different classrooms to be borrowed by the schoolchildren. School children are not allowed to go to the Hub. Books are released to the school through the school official who is responsible for the books taken to the classrooms.

From the Philippine Librarians Association and also validating it from the Board for Librarians of the Professional Regulation Commission, there are less than 6000 librarians who are license holders as of this year. Another board examination is scheduled on November 12 and 13 this year.

• **CURRENT FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO LIBRARIES, e.g. Cafés, reading and book clubs.**

An Internet Café at Makati's Filipino Heritage Library (Manila, Philippines).

Aside from storytelling and puppetry, reading clubs and book clubs are encouraged in public and school libraries.

Children's Library

- To support the process of learning to read, and to promote books and other media

for children.

- To provide special events for children like story telling and activities related to the library's services and resources.
- To encourage children to use the library from an early age as this will make them more likely to remain users in future years.

DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES

In the last decade, every library has experienced tremendous advances in the area of information technology. The National Library of the Philippines has undertaken activities that will preserve primary source materials such as historical documents, presidential papers, and literary manuscripts which are part of our cultural heritage that must be preserved for posterity.

Digitizing these valuable Filipiniana collections is one of the main projects of NLP to provide Filipinos easy access to these treasured cultural and historical resources.

However, digitizing the whole of the Filipiniana collection needs adequate funding so, NLP as the Project Management office has been given the priority attention from the eGovernment funds through the Philippine eLib project.

Currently, NLP staff scanned **193,972** documents, edited **201,628** entries and converted **170,373** photos to different image formats or **1,306,107** pages from the collections of the Filipiniana Division.

Despite of limited financial resources, the NLP management was able to become more productive. It has never ceased in its efforts to upgrade the Library's collections and its library system applications and sought ways to improve the library services as well. NLP has successfully continued in its search for more effective methods to increase and encourage readership responding to the government's call for a well-informed Philippine society. The management, likewise, has endeavored in protecting and preserving the Library's priceless collections that embody our culture and heritage as Filipinos.

● **LIBRARY AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT**

The professionalizing the practice of librarianship in the country has made the profession significant advances and recognition. When RA 6966 was signed into law in 1990 after more than two decades of lobbying in the Congress, librarians became

● **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The National Library of the Philippines at present is providing updated information to the public through the agency's website -<http://www.nlp.gov.ph> . The website includes updated description of the agency, news, links to different information sources, past and upcoming events of the Library. It also includes Special Services offered by National Library such as application forms for Copyright Registration, International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), International Standard Music Number (ISMN) and other reference materials which can be downloaded for free. Additional features of the website are the Bulletin Board which the staff and clients of the agency can interact with each other and a medium for them to air their concerns and share their knowledge to others. The Online Public Access Catalog and e-Lib website are also a media to share resources and information to the people. Word Press and Wikimedia are also features of the website which

the staff of the agency can inform their fellow colleagues and clients about the news of their respective divisions and other library matters.

Telecommunications facilities utilized at present are Bayantel and Belltel. In the Bayantel system the connection subscription is DSL with 128 kilobytes per second. The other connection is through the fibre optic connection from the Belltel Corporation. External network is managed by DOST-ASTI (Department of Science and Technology-Advance Science Technology Institute) and the internal network is managed by the Information Technology Division of the Institution. Wifi internet connection is provided to library clientele.

PRESERVATION

The National Library of the Philippines has been undertaking a digital conversion of library materials as way of preservation to safely store the original. More than 1,000,000 images of historical pictures, rare maps, presidential papers, Philippine Insurgent Records, rare newspapers, journal, thesis and dissertations have been digitized. Greenstone digital library software is used for access and retrieval, selection, organization and maintenance of digitized materials.

As an inherent function to collect the national literature, NLP is tasked to preserve the cultural resources recorded in print and non-print forms. It is its responsibility to the nation and to future generations, to preserve these materials for posterity. Filipiniana primary source materials are of utmost importance. Preventive measures and damage control have been among the priority concerns of the management. A policy and program for preservation and conservation have been formulated and implemented. A heritage collection is maintained to ensure that a copy of current Filipiniana materials is kept for posterity.

Original hard copies of rare and out-of-print Filipiniana materials are no longer served to clientele. Only their microfilmed or digitized copies are catered to library users.

● **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Continuing Education for Librarians

With Republic Act 6966 known as the “Philippine Librarianship Act”, a law regulating the practice of librarianship and prescribing the qualifications of librarians, the quality of librarians entering the profession has improved. However, they are still encouraged to take a continuing education program to further develop, upgrade and broaden the base skills of information workers. Seminars, workshops, conferences and other training programs held locally or abroad sponsored by library associations are vital in providing opportunities for professional growth and keeping abreast with the latest techniques in information service.

Licensure Examination and Registration

The Board for Librarians was created by the Professional Regulation Commission of the Government to conduct annual licensure examination that started in December, 1992.

The practice of librarianship in the Philippines is regulated through license issued the PRC. Therefore any unlicensed librarian even if he or she has obtained the appropriate degree but not a license holder is not allowed to get employed in any type of library. At present, there are more than 5000 licensed librarians in the country

COPYRIGHT AND LIBRARY ACT

Library Act

Philippine Librarianship Act

In 1990, **Republic Act No. 6966** entitled “**An Act Regulating the Practice of Librarianship and Prescribing the Qualifications of Librarians**”, otherwise known as **Philippine Librarianship Act**, was enacted into law on September 19, 1990.

Fourteen years later, the law was repealed by **Republic Act No. 9246**, entitled : “**An Act Modernizing the Practice of Librarianship in the Philippines** “

R.A. 7743, An Act to Establish Congressional, City and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers all over the Country was passed and signed into Law by President Fidel V. Ramos on June 17, 1994.

Code of Ethics for Registered Librarians, Resolution No. 02, Series of 1992

Librarians are imbued with lofty ideals and service to people through books and other records of knowledge, they believe is their best way to serve humanity, enrich people’s lives and attain self actualization.

Through the years the librarianship has developed and a codification of ideal practices and relationship has become necessary to guide the practitioner in maintaining standards of ethical behavior in his relation with state and society, with clients, with profession and colleagues, with agency, and with oneself.

Legal Deposit Law. Presidential Decree 812 is the Philippine Legal Deposit Act.

It mandates that within one month from the date of printing of any book, the publisher is obliged to furnish the National Library of the Philippines two copies of the book, and a copy each to the University of the Philippines Main Library, the University of the Philippines Library in Cebu City, the Mindanao State University and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It also required the heads of the various departments, agencies, bureaus and branches of government including government-controlled and government-owned corporations , all local government units to furnish the National Library two copies of their publication and a copy each to the aforementioned libraries. However, due to high cost of printing only a few publishers are complying the Law.

Philippine Law on Copyright

Copyright in the Philippines can be traced back in 1879 when the Intellectual Property Law of Spain was enforced to its colonies including the Philippines. Similarly, the U.S. Copyright Law was also enforced in the Philippines after the country was handed by Spain to the United State of America in 1898. On March 4, 1924, the Philippine Legislature enacted Act 3134, the first Philippine Law on Copyright. Then Presidential Decree 49 otherwise known as the Decree on Intellectual Property was issued and took effect on December 6, 1972. The Decree repealed Act 3134.

At present, NLP implements Book IV, Law on Copyright of Republic Act 8293 known as Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines which took effect in January 1998. The Library disseminates information to intellectual creators with regards to creator’s rights, protection and remedies available to them under the law.

The Philippines is a signatory to the Berne Convention,, Universal Copyright Convention, Rome Convention, World , World Trade Organization (WTO), WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) (both internet treaties)

Copyright associations, organizations, and clearance centers

The Philippines has several copyright organizations. These organizations represent a wide range of interest ranging from writers to composers and artists. Copyright organizations concerned primarily with music include FILSCAP (Filipino Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), OPM, PARI and KATHA. Organizations concerned with literary works are the Publishers Representatives Organization of the Philippines, the Book Developers Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Repographic Rights Organization.

Major Changes in Copyright Law

There have been no major changes in the Philippine Copyright Law which is one of the major components of the Intellectual Property (IP) Code, the law which encompasses copyright in the Philippines. However, there are proposal currently lodged in the Philippine Legislature rearguing amendments of the IP Code and its provisions on copyright. These proposals deal primarily with the IP Code compliant with the provisions of the WIPO Internet Treaties which is the addition of provisions on technological protection measures, further remedies for infringement and issues on the limitations of copyright. .

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The National Library of the Philippines shall continue its leadership role among the nation's libraries. Its mandate shall be guiding principle in the exercise of its duties and responsibilities. For the past 121 years of existence, the Institution has gone through many challenges and concerns, nevertheless it has proven its contribution to the cultural, social, educational and economic development of the Filipinos as well as its relations with peers in the global village.

- **by Prudenciana C. Cruz**
Director, National Library of the Philippines