

2009 CDNLAO COUNTRY REPORT

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Filipino librarians observed a series of events in 2008 that further strengthened and developed their skills and expertise needed in their workplaces. For the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), it was another period of remarkable feats as it experienced rigorous challenges emanating from global and national events. It strengthened its workforce when it implemented the Government's rationalization plan aimed to deliver more effective and efficient services to the public. Guided by its Mission-Vision, valuable resources were acquired to strengthen its collection and keep in pace with the emerging technologies.

After the 3rd CONSAL Executive Board Meeting held in Ho Chi Minh City in April, 2008 and after also the 16th Meeting of CDNLAO held at the National Diet Library, Tokyo, Japan in October 2008, NLP as well as the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc (PLAI) takes pride in reporting the following accomplished activities/projects:

- The Auditorium of NLP has been completely rehabilitated and equipped with fiberglass gang- chairs and a state of the art lights and audio equipments.
- Fifty nine (59) public libraries were established or a total of 1216 affiliated public libraries.
- The second national conference/workshop of public librarians was held at the NLP auditorium last October 27- 28 with the theme: "Public Libraries: Moving on for More Effective Services". 436 public librarians participated in the two-day event. Annual book allocation followed after the conference.
- The Library for the Blind was renovated providing a room for DAISY recording, reading and recording services and a stack room for talking books and braille printing.
- Installation of the Philippine e-library kiosks in the public libraries of Negros Occidental and Isabela Provinces, Cities of Pagadian, Zamboanga , General Santos, and the Municipalities of Tagoloan and Balingoan in Misamis Oriental.
- Acquisition and installation of six (6) movable compactors or compact shelves for the collection of the Library for the Blind.
- Holding various exhibits commemorating significant events for each month at the ground floor lobby of the National Library.
- And continuing digitization of TNL resources for collection build-up of the e-library project.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, MISSION, VISION AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND SERVICES

- 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.
- The National Library of the Philippines is an attached agency of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) of the Office of the President by an Executive Order No. 80 dated March 5, 1999.

MISSION

- The National Library of the Philippines as the repository of the printed and recorded cultural heritage of the country and other intellectual, literary and information sources shall provide access and services to these resources for our people's intellectual growth, citizenship building, life-long learning and enlightenment.

VISION

- Service to the nation through the collection and preservation of the country's historical and cultural heritage and development and utilization of library information technologies to provide the research needs and linkages of individual and institutional users both inside and outside the country.

MANPOWER

- The National Library 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 readings areas: The Filipiniana and the Reference divisions.
- As of 2008, the library has **164** personnel, **142** permanent (71 from the library group and 71 from the non-library group), and **22** contractual who are assigned to perform non-librarian tasks, which are nevertheless vital to the interest of the institution, like security, maintenance, clerical and carpentry works.

LIBRARY USERS

- For the year 2008, the National Library served **144,073** an increase of 6.4% or 50,530 clients compared to year 2007's **93,543**. Our database shows that **34,841** library users have applied for reader's card.
- There are **1,216** affiliated public libraries in the different provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays of the country.

COLLECTION PROFILE

- The Filipiniana Division which is the official repository of the country's printed and recorded intellectual and cultural heritage has a collection of **102,700** volumes of books,

77,830 issues of national newspapers, 104,443 issues of provincial newspapers, 17,069 issues of magazines, and 4,898 issues of journals. On the other hand, the Government Publication Section which serves as the repository of the Philippine government publications had 37,498 copies of monographs and 69,136 copies of serials. There are more than one million mss and documents in the division.

- For the foreign literature collection, the Reference Division has 57,207 volumes of books in the main reading room, 14,617 volumes of UN books, and 48,752 issues of serials. Its Asia and Oceania section has 15,509 volumes of books and 19,059 issues of serials. The Library for the Blind section has 2,579 titles/6,690 volumes of books, 273 titles/1,009 volumes of large prints, 849 titles/5,682 pieces of tapes and 29 titles / 344 copies of serials, 65 titles/591copies periodicals/journals, 23 titles/111 copies large print, 692 articles of vertical files all in Braille and 6 titles/50 copies of newsletter.

2. NEW INFORMATION PRODUCTS

- **E-books**

NLP reading rooms are provided with computers for the patrons to gain access to the e-books as well as on-line journals subscribed by the Institution.

- **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, 33,300 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 special bibliographies such Bibliography of the Presidents of the Philippines: President Gloria A. Macapagal-Arroyo, Corazon C. Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph E. Estrada are also prepared. A bibliography of the Directors of the National Library of the Philippines is now another project in the pipeline.

- 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.
- Bibliographies and 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 gathered annually :	Records 1909 titles
Frequency:	Quarterly and Annual
Status of Database:	Library Domain
Subject Coverage:	Filipiniana covering all areas of

Type of Databases:	knowledge 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 On-line Public Access Catalog. Included too bibliographic data of copyright-registered materials in the Philippines (but are not available for reading/borrowing).

3. NEW INFORMATION SERVICES

Reference

The National Library served **144,073** researchers in the reading rooms. Library hours are from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM from Monday to Saturday except on holidays. Not included in the data are those clientele served in the more than 1000 public libraries.

Lending including interlibrary loans

On-line Public Access Catalog (OPAC)

On-line 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 2008, there were **5,819** ISBNs and **365** publishers' prefixes were added to the system, making a total of **92,279** ISBNs issued and **4,523** registered authors/publishers.

International Standard Serials Number (ISSN)

For 2008, there were **449** ISSN issued does not only allow accessibility to periodical literature but also advertise them through the Philippine ISSN Register. **150** 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.

- **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 **1,414 titles** and **23,008** volumes of books and 86 sets of encyclopedias in 2008 while gifts and donated library materials totaled to **641 titles/8,131** volumes of books ; **726 titles / 17,309** copies of serials ; **1,390** titles/volumes of theses, **174** titles / volumes dissertations, **117** titles / volumes of Baby theses, **14** titles / **20** copies of Braille materials. Non-book materials were also acquired of which **257** titles / **293** copies (CD-ROM), **1** (VHS), **18** titles / **42** copies of topographic maps and posters and those which are acquired through exchange from exchange partners to help enhance the National Library's collection. were **327** titles / **1,065** volumes of books, **412** titles / **2,219** copies of serials and **12** titles / **132** copies of CD-ROM to foreign were sent to exchange partners. A total of **426** titles/**476** volumes of books, **315** titles/**535** copies of serials were also received from foreign 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 1570 titles consisting of 6,944 copies.

- **DIGITAL LIBRARY**

The Information Technology Division (ITD) handles all technology-related services to support the administrative and operation functions of the Agency. This unit manages the computer networks and accessibility of On-line public Access Catalog (OPAC), Library•Solution/KOHA, Publin and the Phil. E-lib.

ITD was able to digitized **150,163** printed materials, **4,305** AV materials and provided Information resources and services both to the Agency and its affiliated Public Libraries.

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

NLP IN COLLABORATION WITH PLAI AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

- **READING PROMOTION**

NLP and PLAI are 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.

One of the major national daily newspaper in the country is actively spearheading a very notable project "Read Along" which is done in different schools and barangay centers in the country every week. Invited to handle the book reading and storytelling sessions are popular personalities like actors, officials in the government, media people, etc. "Read Along" has gained the attention of every Filipino who dreams of making the country a place where books and reading are vital components for a fully developed people.

- **INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAMS**

NLP and PLAI jointly undertake with other related association in 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.

NEW and ON-GOING PROJECTS

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

Philippine librarians do not only consider the collections or the sophisticated equipment or financial support as their important resources, but also the warm bodies, the human beings who manage and utilize these resources. NLP management in particular 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 hone the staff and continue develop their professional knowledge for the improvement of the service. 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 **228** employees who attended seminars, trainings, and conferences (220 locals and 8 Foreign).

Other libraries are doing the same encouragement to their staff. Local, regional and international trainings are given same importance by their library managers or administrators.

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 and Craft and Coloring activities**

Public libraries in different parts 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 for 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

ASEAN UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

The Philippines through the Libraries of University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and the De La Salle University has been actively involved in the various projects and activities of the AUN.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

NLP has maintained the Philippine eLib Data Center and a kiosk for NLP researchers at the ground floor of the NLP. There are also more than two hundred kiosks nationwide established in selected public libraries, the 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 the Department of Science Technology.

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..

UPDATES ON THE PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION : ORGANIC STRUCTURE, AFFILIATIONS, COOPERATION, MEMBERSHIP (Local and foreign)

The NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS-NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES (NCCA-NCLIS), NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES (NLP) and the PHILIPPINE LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION, INC. (PLAI) have been jointly undertaking projects and programs including conferences, workshops at national, regional and international levels. They also cooperated with other government agencies, NGOs and the private sector on activities and programs identified with the field and those related to arts and culture. Both NLP and PLAI are members of CONSAL and IFLA. NLP is an active member of the CDNLAO.

NLP and PLAI were the implementers of an IFLA-FAIFE Internet Manifesto Trainers Workshop held at the NLP on July 21-22, 2008. It was a regional event with participants from seven ASEAN countries. Resource persons were officials of IFLA FAIFE and two other local experts. The two-day training was followed by the national

conference on Information Access: Internet and Libraries from July 23 to 25, 2008. Aside from the ASEAN trainers other participants of the national conference were librarians and IT persons of the country.

NLP and PLAI with the financial support of NCCA-NCLIS jointly took charge of the programs and activities to celebrate the 2008 Library and Information Services Month, November 2008. To drumbeat the celebration, library associations and city libraries of the National Capital region were asked to join the motorcade around the Rizal Park vicinity and held on November 3, 2008. Two months prior to the event, a search of outstanding city libraries in Metro Manila was undertaken with the announcement and awarding of winners held during the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Libraries and Information Services month.

The celebration of the annual book week every last week of November is another PLAI affair with the NLP as its conduit. Opening ceremonies and other activities of the weeklong celebration were held mostly at the NLP auditorium.

NLP participated during the annual midyear conference and demo fest of the Reading Association of the Philippines held in May and November, 2008.

NLP and PLAI celebrated with the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) in July, 2008 the National Children's Book Day.

During the year in review also, storytelling sessions were undertaken every Saturday and on weekdays, if requests are made at the Children's Library in cooperation with Alitaptap Storytellers, an association which handles workshops to promote storytelling for children.

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- **NUMBER OF LIBRARY COUNCILS, ASSOCIATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, ETC.**

Library Associations

Philippine Librarians Association (PLAI)

The Philippine Librarians Association, Incorporated (PLAI) is the nationwide PRC-accredited association of professional librarians. Professional librarians are those who are issued license by the Government through the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

PLAI has 17 Regional Councils. In its structure, it has the House of Delegates composed of three members for each council that elect the PLAI National Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees (BOT) from themselves elect the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Auditor, PRO as the five officers while the ten remain as BOT members. A Secretary is appointed by the President. PLAI has a total of more than 1,000 members vis-à-vis the more than 5000 licensed librarians. PLAI is tasked to undertake major activities which other library associations may not be legally authorized to undertake. These major activities are: PLAI as the PRC-Accredited Professional Association (APO) has the responsibility of undertaking the search of a librarian who may be conferred the most prestigious Outstanding Professional of the Year award by the Professional Regulatory Commission of the Government. So far,

sixteen(16) professional librarians have been conferred the award. Is further designated as the Secretariat of the Continuing Professional Education Council (CPEC). Also, the task to recommend the Chairman and Members of the PRC Board for Librarians is given to PLAI by the Government.

While PLAI is the PRC APO-accredited association, there are still other associations whose membership is according to specialization or by region or geographic location. Among the associations whose membership is identified through work specialization or type of libraries are: 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.

At present there are **1,216** affiliated public libraries in different provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays. In 2008, fifty nine (**59**) newly affiliated public libraries were added as follows: **1** congressional library, **29** municipal libraries and **29** reading centers.

The National Library and the local government units execute a Memorandum of Agreement to effect the establishment and operation of these public libraries. Bookmobile services are catered by NLP through selected public libraries in the country. Due to budget constraints, there have been no additional units acquired by NLP for the past recent years.

- **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.

MAJOR EVENTS (May, 2008 to April, 2009)

The IFLA-FAIFE Internet Manifesto Trainers Workshop, July 21-22, 2008.

Conference on Information Access: Internet and Libraries, July 23-25, 2008.

The National Seminar of Public Librarians, October 27-28, 2008.

The Search of Outstanding City Libraries in Metro Manila, November, 2008

The National Conference of Librarians with the theme: Multicultural Landscape of Philippine Librarians, Davao City, November, 2008.

The 74th National Book Week, 24-30 November, 2008.

Study visit and tour of libraries and other cultural institutions in Tehran, Iran upon invitation of the Government of Iran through the Director General of the National Library of Iran, February 14-17, 2009.

Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the National Library of Iran and the National Library of the Philippines, National Library of Iran, February 17, 2009.

Participation as Resource Person in the Training of DepEd Library Hub officials and Staff, February 18, 2009.

The 109th Public Library Day, March 9, 2009.

6. (FOR CDNLAO) THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES' 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.

ON OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

Library•Solution to KOHA

The vital role of information and communications technology in nation building is to create an information friendly environment which supports and ensures the availability, diversity and affordability of information technology products and services.

The National Library plans to switch all of its automation software, from operating systems to web tools to Open Source software. The Information Technology Division of NLP is working on the use of the internet to offer some cutting edge information services to our library patrons.

NLP realizes the freedom to change things, to change the code, if necessary, because the types of things the Division wants to do are not going to appear in commercial library software. In utilizing a commercial software a big portion of the license fee goes to upgrading and development of the system over which the library has no control, while with Open Source that same money can fund the development of the software modules that the library really wants.

One open source is the KOHA, a first open-source Integrated Library System (ILS). In use worldwide, its development is steered by a growing community of libraries collaborating to achieve their technology goals. It includes modules for circulation, cataloging, acquisition, serials, reserves, patron management, branch relationships, and more. It uses a dual database design that utilizes the strengths of the two major industry-standard database types (text-based and RDBMS). This design feature ensures that Koha is scalable enough to meet the transaction load of any library, no matter what the size. It is built using library standards and protocols that ensure interoperability between Koha and other systems and technologies, while supporting existing workflows and tools. Koha's OPAC, circulation, management and self-checkout interfaces are all based on standards-compliant World Wide Web technologies--XHTML, CSS and Javascript--making Koha a truly platform-independent solution.

It is an important part of the open-source promise that there is no vendor lock-in: libraries are free to install and use Koha themselves if they have the in-house expertise or to purchase support or development services from the best available source.

Open Source Software/Free Software (OSS/FS) (also abbreviated as FLOSS or FOSS) are program whose licenses give users the freedom to run the program for any purpose, to study and modify the program, and to redistribute copies of either the original or modified program (without having to pay royalties to previous developers).

An open format is a published specification or an implementation of an open standard for storing digital data (this includes office documents, videos, music, images, and other “soft”data). Like an open standard, open format specifications are also available to anyone to read and implement. Example of open formats; jpeg, png, svg, vrmg, html, OpenDocument, Office Open XML, pdf and XML.

The Philippine government is the biggest consumer of ICT goods and services. It spends billions of pesos to implement systems for public use. Government data are public data. They should be available to the people. Having an open format on data storage protects the public from not being able to access and read government documents.

Mandating the use of FOSS to government agencies will lower cost of ICT implementation. Rather than spending on software which have FOSS equivalents, additional hardware can be acquired instead. FOSS more importantly, reduces dependence on proprietary technologies which are owned by foreign companies.

The National Library, in support of the **House Bill no. 1716 : FREE OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (FOSS) Act of 2007**, an act promoting the development and use of Free open standards, open formats, and FOSS in its data storage, communications, documents and ICT goods and services, adopted the KOHA/ILS (Integrated Library System).

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 digitized **150,163** printed materials, **4,305** AV materials.

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.

DIGITAL 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.

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.

NLP still continues to digitize its collections. This is a full time activity of eight staff concentrating or giving priority to the Presidential papers, rare manuscripts and rare books collection of the Institution. Member institutions of the Philippine eLib are also undertaking the same task.

Thank you for your listening pleasure.

Philippines: Country report submitted by National Library of the Philippines Director PRUDENCIANA C. CRUZ to the 3rd Executive Board Meeting of the CONGRESS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN LIBRARIANS, National Library of Vietnam, April 20, 2009 AM and to the 17th Meeting of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) April 20,2009 PM (activities of pre CONSAL XIV, April 21-24,2009, Hotel Melia)