

**Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL)
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Philippine Country Report

Name of Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Name of Library: **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES (NLP)**

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I NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES

A. GENERAL OVERVIEW

Historical Background

In 1900, Act No. 96 accepted the gift of the American Circulating Library Association of Manila in establishing a library of some ten thousand or more volumes as a memorial to those officers and men of the United States military and naval forces who lost their lives in the Philippines. The objective of the association was to establish a source of instruction and the dissemination of useful knowledge and literary diversion for all the residents of Manila as well as for the American officers.

In 1901, Act No. 222 established the Department of Public Instruction. Under its executive control was the Public Libraries and Museums. Act No. 1849 established the Philippine Public Library. Act No. 1935 consolidated all libraries belonging to any branch of the Philippine Insular Government to create The Philippines Library. The Philippines Library was divided into divisions that were necessary and proper for the correct and advantageous classification of the materials belonging to the library such as a Filipiniana Division, a Law Division, a Scientific Division, and a Circulating Division.

On 1918, Act No. 2572 merged the Philippine Library with the Executive Bureau's Division of Archives, Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks and with the Law and Library Division of the Philippine Assembly. It was named the Philippine Library and Museum. Act No. 3477 changed the name of the Philippine Library to the National Library. Pursuant to Republic Act No. 10087 (2010), its name now is the National Library of the Philippines.

B. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

At present, the NLP is at the forefront of the development and preservation of the nation's cultural heritage under the Office of the President's Other Executive Offices. It is one of the cultural agencies under the administrative supervision of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) which was established pursuant to Republic Act No. 7356 (1992).

C. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

1. Services

The paramount role of the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) is to serve as the repository of the printed and recorded cultural heritage of the country. Towards this end, it acquires, organizes, and provides access to these resources to its clientele. The more accurate the information provided and the faster the delivery of the information, the higher the quality of the library's services and efficiently and effectively fulfill its mission.

1.1 The Reading Rooms

The NLP has two major reading rooms. These are the Filipiniana Division and the Reference Division. They are open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm to continually cater to the information needs of the students, researchers, scholars, and visitors.

The Filipiniana Division is the official repository of the country's intellectual and cultural heritage. Reading materials as well as other sources of information pertaining to the Philippines written by either Filipino or foreign authors can be found here. This Division is composed of the following sections: the General Books and Theses and Dissertations Section, the Serials Collection, the Government Publications Section, the Multimedia Section, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, the Special Collections and Presidents Collection Section, and the Conservation Section.

On the other hand, the Reference Division is the primary reading room for foreign information resources in printed and electronic formats. General clients include children, adults, and persons with disabilities who find their way around the library with ease. Special collections which consists of publications in book and serial formats written in

vernacular languages is also part of the resources. The division maintains resources of foreign publications and children's collections and services through the following sections: the Children's Library Section, Foreign Serials and United Nations Publications Section, General Book Section, the Library for the Blind, and the Asia and Oceania Section. In addition to the five existing general sections, four sub-sections were opened as requested by some foreign embassy officials. These are the Iranian Studies Section, Window on Korea, American Shelf, and the Chinese Reading Room.

For 2011, both reading rooms served a total of 134,460 readers. The total number of library materials used this year totaled 242,604 materials

LIBRARY MATERIALS USED

TYPE OF MATERIAL	FILIPINIANA DIVISION	REFERENCE DIVISION	TOTAL
Books	35,530	47,355	82,885
Theses & Dissertations	66,087		66,087
Serials	60,054	13,746	73,800
Non-Book	19,197	32	19,889
U.N. Publication		603	603
TOTAL	180,868	61,736	242,604

1.2 Issuance of ISBN, ISMN, ISSN

The Bibliographic Services Division (BSD) is concerned with the bibliographical activities of the NLP. It is mandated to maintain and provide an efficient access to the different information resources and services of the NLP. The division serves as the national bibliographic agency of the country, an up-to-date Philippine National Bibliography (PNB), and the administration of the international standard numbering systems namely: the International Standard Book Number System (ISBN), International Standards Serials Number System (ISSN), and the International Standard Music Number (ISMN).

In 2011, there were 6,327 ISBNs issued while 331 publishers' prefixes added to the Philippine ISBN system, making a grand total of 113,399 ISBNs issued and 5,652 registered authors or publishers. 479 ISSNs were issued. The International Center (IC) in Paris, through the Virtual Client System, registered 1,900 serial titles. For ISMNs, 7 were issued.

1.3 Tours

The Research and Publications Division handles library tours, educational trips, and training workshops. This year, it accommodated a total of 30,030 visitors from 181

schools in the Philippines. Guided tours may vary depending on the level, age, comprehension, and degree of profession of guests.

2. Collection (NLP)

The NLP has a total collection of **1,691,030** which includes government publications, manuscripts, books, special collections, theses and dissertations, rare books, journals, magazines, serials and newspapers, audio/visual materials, CDs/DVDs/VCDs, photographs, maps, and brailled materials for physically challenged individuals found at the NLP's Library for the Blind Section.

2.1 Book Purchasing Allotment

The Collection Development Division (CDD) performs a central role in the delivery of basic library services as collection development is a core service in all libraries and is the basis of the entire library service program. The selection and evaluation of books and other library materials are among the main functions of the CDD. However, librarians from the reading rooms of NLP and public librarians in the field also provide input and recommendations as to the books and other library materials to be acquired based on the needs of their respective clientele. Despite the fact that the NLP was not given a book purchasing allotment for 2011, the CDD strove to provide the greatest number of library resources to meet the information needs of the library users and its affiliated public libraries.

2.2 Copyright Deposit and Registration

Collection build up was not exclusively centered on the purchase of books but also through gifts and donations from local and foreign donors, exchange programs with institutional partners, and through the implementation of the Presidential Decree of Cultural and Legal Deposits Presidential Decree No. 812 (1975).

Another means of acquiring library materials is by copyright deposit. The Collection Development Division (CDD) is in charge of the country's copyright service under Republic Act No. 8293 (1998) also known as the Intellectual Property Code. This code requires the owners to register and deposit their works to the NLP. For 2011, the CDD was able to generate ₱ 1,327,400.00 through copyright registration fees, recordals, and certified true copies.

As a contribution to the collection development of NLP, the Copyright Office has managed to send 889 reading materials to the CDD. The Copyright Office received a total of 6,136 applications and issued the same number of copyright certificates.

D. INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Restoration of the NLP building

With the recent catastrophes and tremors that visited our country and other parts of the world the NLP building, which was once considered condemned and which is fifty (50) years old, needs to be retrofitted. Recently, the NLP Building was inspected by the Task Force on Building and Bridge Inspection of the Bureau of Design, DPWH and provided the NLP with the summary of their inspection report signed by Director Gilberto S. Reyes. The building was recommended for a detailed evaluation by a private structural engineering consultant with experience in structural evaluation to assure the safety of the building. The seismic investigation report recommended the retrofitting of the building which necessarily entails millions of pesos.

Further, another amount was approved from the DPWA fund for the waterproofing of the NLP rooftop. The project is in coordination with the Office of District Engineer and Bureau of Maintenance of DPWH – NCR, South Manila Engineering District.

2. Annex Property Office

To lessen the building of its present load even before retrofitting, an annex building to house the property section and maintenance personnel is now being constructed which will eventually house the property office. Meanwhile, unloading activities are being done to unload the building with heavy equipment and includes such activities such as disposal, weeding out as well as transfer, and space allocation of offices.

E. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

1. General Overview

- a) Through copyright registration and legal deposits, an increase in collection development was noted.
- b) Exchange program with foreign and local institutions.
- c) In pursuance of a Memorandum from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), theses and dissertations submitted to NLP are in both soft and hard copies.
- d) Only latest edition publications on science and technology are considered for purchase.
- e) To support local authorship, priority is given to locally published books for allocation to public libraries.

2. Library networking and exchange of materials between ASEAN and other countries

This system promotes an international network with other ASEAN countries who participate in UNESCO's Universal Availability of Publications. This allows researchers to avail national publications or national imprints of other countries at reasonable rates and at a reasonable time through Inter Library Loan (ILL) requests. There were 8 ILL requests received this year. 2 of which were endorsed to other information centers.

3. Establishment of Public Libraries

The NLP currently has 1,337 affiliated public libraries situated in the different provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays of the country. The Public Libraries Division (PLD) performs the public library function of the NLP. This year, eighteen (18) additional public libraries were affiliated.

The PLD continues to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people by elevating the literacy level of every Filipino. This is done by focusing on establishing and maintaining public libraries throughout the country.

It is the plan to have a Legislative Agenda towards a national development plan for public libraries. Round-table discussions are being held between and among public librarians on a regional or island cluster basis to discuss issues, concerns, and recommendations for the eventual crafting or revision of the law affecting public libraries.

F. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

1. Presidential Decree of Cultural and Legal Deposits Presidential Decree No. 812 (1975).

The NLP is supposed to be the recipient of deposits of Filipiniana publications since it is mandated to be the depository of cultural heritage. Pursuant to the Legal Deposit Law and the Copyright Law which require deposits when registered and from which the Philippine National Bibliography is to be based. Since the law's implementation is wanting in terms of non-compliance for deposit the present thrust of the NLP is a massive drive to collect all Filipiniana materials as collection of the NLP. The Collection Development Division is presently tasked to fulfill this drive.

G. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS

1. Digital services

In the last decade, every library has experienced tremendous advances in the area of information technology. The NLP 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 collection is one of the main projects of the 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 the NLP, as the Project Management Office of the Philippine eLib Project, has been given the priority attention from the eGovernment funds and from the Cultural Agency Fund of

the NLP from the NCCA fund. The NLP plans to expand this digital library services of the NLP with the Philippine eLib Kiosk as a nucleus.

The Information Technology Division (ITD) handles all technology-related services of the NLP. KOHA is now being used by the NLP and Public Libraries. This year, the ITD handled 3,776 face to face client transactions including 54,192,683 client system transactions. We have digitized 19,790 minutes of AV materials and 948, 893 pages of printed materials.

Complimenting the Philippine E-library, Emerald database, EBSCO database, and Gale database, more computers were provided for on-site access at the Philippine E-library Kiosk, Internet Room, and Multimedia Section. Free public wifi was also made available on-site. An improved network operations center was achieved through better and cost-effective solutions using Vyrra Network and Security Management System, Oracle-Sun Virtual box (server virtualization), Drupal Content Management System, and related technologies.

2. Information System Strategic Plan

The ITD was able to work out software updates and managed transactions As part of the 2009 – 2011 Information System Strategic Plan (ISSP), the Public Library Information Network (PUBLIN) was further strengthened through the deployment of Free and Open Source KOHA Integrated Library System, replacing the commercial TINLIB and the The Library Solution.

In 2011, 222 KOHA servers, including Hardware and Digital Library (each server contains 217, 481 pages), were deployed to public libraries. Additionally, 6 city libraries and 1 provincial library were provided with the KOHA System and Digital Library. Most of the public libraries with the KOHA system include a Digital Library containing a total of 55,022,639 pages (49,803,149 pages deployed in 2011). The ITD also conducted various trainings attended by 272 participants this year.

The Kulturalink System, a Philippine Culture and Arts Database, was developed using the KOHA library system. The ITD designed, installed, and configured enabling technologies. The division also performed the conversion and migration of data from five cultural agencies and performed by clients using the KOHA software and provided information resources and services both to the agency and its affiliated public libraries.

H. COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1. The Philippine eLib Project

The Philippine eLib is a collaborative project of the National Library of the Philippine (NLP), University of the Philippines (UP), Department of Science and Technology

(DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

The Philippine eLib project is: One of the eleven government funded projects through the Information Technology and E-Commerce Counsel (ITECC) now Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICT).

Funded through the e-Government Fund of the Philippine Government, the project provides the information needs of all sectors of society in a convenient, affordable, and efficient way of delivery.

2. Library Networking and Exchange of Materials between ASEAN and other countries

Promotes international network with other ASEAN countries participating in UNESCO's Universal Availability of Publication (UAP). This allows the Library's research to avail national publications or national imprints of other countries to reasonable cost and other reasonable time through inter-library loan (ILL) request.

3. Cultural Collaborations

There has been cooperation and close collaboration among the cultural agencies of the government (National Archives, National Museum, National Library, Cultural Center of Philippines, and the Commission on Filipino Language) to implement Republic Act No. 10066 (2010), which is an Act providing for the protection and conservation of the National Cultural Heritage. All these cultural agencies are under the umbrella of the NCCA.

The NLP also collaborates with other Library associations/organizations, other institutions such as the Goethe-Institut Philippinen, the United Nations Information Center, and other agencies for exhibits and various events which is important to the country.

4. Conservation and Preservation

The NLP champions the conservation of our nation's cultural gems for the enlightenment and cultural development of the Filipino people. Through its Conservation Center, one of the sections attached to the Filipiniana Division, the NLP fulfills its mandate to preserve and ensure the posterity, integrity, authenticity, and development of all the country's written and printed Filipiniana materials. The German Government, through Dr. Pitt Heltmann and First Secretary of Cultural Affairs Mr. Thomas Schrod, the original manuscripts of Jose Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere*, *El Filibusterismo*, *Mi Ultimo Adios*, and *Guillermo Tell* were conserved and preserved.

The manuscripts were exhibited for public viewing just in time for the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of our national hero. The restoration and conservation project

would not have been successful without the fervent support of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany as a part of their Cultural Preservation Program. They have invested a total of

□ 6,000,000 throughout all three phases. The preservation of these manuscripts ensures the passing of a legacy to future generations and will serve as a reminder to every Filipino on the significance of our freedom and liberation.

5. Translation of historical documents

The initiative of the NLP to be instrumental in the massive growth of research and publications on Philippine history, arts and culture, has been realized through the project grant by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Conceptualized in October 2009, the NLP, through the initiative of its Filipiniana Division, sought to translate selected Spanish documents pertaining to Philippine history, culture and arts. We understand and learn about our roots through studying historical documents that contain culturally rich information. Scholars and historians research on the nation's history through our collections of rare books, manuscripts, and documents. One of the biggest challenges of scholarly research though is the difference in language. Many of the historical sources of information in the Philippines remain unnoticed because they are in another language, usually Spanish. The NLP decided to translate the Philippine Incunabula and rare books on geography and history.

6. Community Relations

6.1 Storytelling/ Story Writing/ Puppetry

The NLP is not only dedicated to the enlightenment of the Filipino people within the confines of our walls. Being public servants, we make it a point to reach out and personally interact with the community to better instill a sense of pride in our culture and cultural heritage. We feel fulfillment and gratification knowing that we are able to aid the intellectual and cultural development of the Filipino people.

The Children's Library Section (CLS) promotes the importance and enjoyment of reading to Filipino children and young adults through its services. The dedicated librarians of the CLS conduct storytelling sessions, puppet shows, arts and crafts workshops, film screenings, and educational tours. This year, they have gone to the following places to share their stories to eager children: Tanauan City Library, Malabon City, Palms Country Club, Makati City, SM Dasmariñas Cavite, Bulacan Provincial Library, and St. Paul University.

6.2 Arts and Crafts Workshop for Children and Youth with Disabilities

The NLP, in cooperation with the Philippine Association for Citizens with Developmental and Learning Disabilities Inc. and the Rotary Club of Makati Damariñas conducted an Arts and Crafts Workshop for Children and Youth with Disabilities. Volunteers taught and assisted the children in clay molding, painting, drawing, and other arts and craft

making activities. The children enjoyed creating works of their own while interacting with others. They were able to express their feelings and showcase their artistic talents to foster the importance of getting and working together.

I. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Training and Conferences for NLP Employees

The NLP values the welfare and development of its staff. Throughout 2011, we have sent our librarians and non-librarians to various seminars, training programs, workshops and conferences such as:

19 th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania	May 16 -19, 2011	Seoul, Korea
Training Project for ASEAN Children's Librarians	September 15 – October 1, 2011	Seoul, Korea
Conference on Copyright Documentation and Infrastructure	October 12 -15, 2011	Geneva, Switzerland
Conference on International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI) and Conference of Librarians Association of New Zealand (LIANZA)	October 26 – November 2, 2011	Wellington, New Zealand
International Standard Serial No. Training Session for the National Center	November 12-22, 2011	Paris, Franc
Representative of the Philippines as member of the Regional Science Film Festival Jury	December 15 – 17, 2011	Bangkok, Thailand
National Seminar of Public Librarians “Public Libraries and Public School Libraries Surviving Challenges and Threats Through the Years”	March 8-12, 2011	Tagbilaran City
Seminar on Enhancing Competence of Professional Librarians: Trends in Organization, Management and Use of Library Information Resources	March 29-April 3, 2011	Hotel Supreme, Baguio City
Challenges and Opportunities of Librarians and Information Professionals in the Age of New Technology	April 26-May 1, 2011	Bamboo Garden, Dipolog City
Basic Communication Skills and Personality Enhancement for Para-Professional Staff	March 27-31, 2011	Hotel Supreme, Baguio City
International Conference on Libraries, Archives and Museums Services (I-CLAMS)	August 29-30, 2011	College of St. Benilde, Malate

National Seminar Workshop on Updates in the Organization of Library Materials	August 4-5, 2011	Ateneo de Manila University
Story Writing and Storytelling for Kids	November 10-12, 2011	Baguio City
Lecture Forum on Becoming a Library and Information Professionals: Requirements for Continuing Education and Development of Librarians	March 17, 2011	NLP Auditorium

II LIBRARY PROFESSION

A. Library Education

In 1914, the University of the Philippines offered the first courses in Library Education in the country. The University would later establish the first separate library school in 1961 called the Institute of Library Science later called the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) in 2007. This school is not directly under the supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) of the government because it is under the University of the Philippines System which outside CHED. There are other private school, state colleges, and universities, which are CHED supervised, which has been offering the Bachelor Degree and Master's Degree in Library Science as well as Bachelors of Science in Education with major/minor in Library Science as well as Bachelor of Arts major in Library Science as well as specializations. Over the years, about forty, more or less, schools and departments offering units in library education.

However, the passage of Republic Act No. 6966 and Republic Act No. 9246, popularly known as the Philippine librarianship Act paved the way for the CHED to revisit the library education.

The CHED Technical Committee had recommended and has approved a CHED memo to have exclusive programs for library schools and four-year and two-year programs for Bachelor's Degree in Library Science (BLIS) and Masters Degree in Library Science (MLIS), respectively. At present, there are at least five schools which was approved by CHED offering the new program and applicant schools are being evaluated and assessed by the technical committee for final approved by CHED.

Meanwhile, the UP SLIS are exploring, on representation of the NLP, the open/distance education to pave the way for the public librarians being enrolled to earn a degree in library/professional librarian especially the non-availability of library school in remote areas in the country.

B. Licensure Examination and Registration

The practice of a profession in the Philippines is governed by a professional regulation law enacted by the legislative body. The government agency mandated to regulate the profession, now numbering to about forty three (43) is the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

In the case of the library profession, Republic Act No. 9246, popularly known as the Philippine Librarianship Act, created the Professional Regulatory Board (PRB) for Librarians which is the body that administers the licensure examination for librarians before they can be admitted to practice librarianship.

To date, twenty (20) examinations have so far been conducted which yielded a total of 4632 registered librarians through examination; a total of 1873 registered librarians through exemption of examinations, totaling to 6505 professional librarians.

Shown hereunder is the statistics on licensure examination for librarians.

**STATISTICS on BFL Licensure
Examination for Librarians**

Date of Examination	No. of Examinees	No. of Examinees Passed	No. of Examinees Failed	Percentage of Passing
1. December 1992	342	124	218	36.26%
2. December 1993	28	14	14	50.00%
3. December 1994	200	101	99	50.50%
4. December 1995	263	136	127	51.71%
5. December 1996	419	186	233	44.39%
6. December 1997	451	245	206	54.32%
7. December 1998	431	217	214	50.35%
8. December 1999	536	295	241	55.04%
9. November 2000	621	331	290	53.30%
10. November 2001	688	351	337	51.02%
11. November 2002	656	344	312	52.43%
12. November 2003	724	370	354	51.10%
13. November 2004	599	174	425	29.04%
14. November 2005	762	240	522	36.72%
15. November 2006	825	303	522	36.72%
16. November 2007	878	278	600	31.66%
17. November 2008	1003	237	766	23.62%
18. November 2009	947	284	663	30.00%
19. November 2010	699	191	508	27.00%
20. November 2011	764	211	553	27.61%
T O T A L	11836	4632	7204	39.00%

Total Registered Librarians through Examination: **4632**

Total Registered Librarians through Exemption: **1873**

Total Registered Librarians as of year 2011 (Completed): **6505**

C. Library Associations

The Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI), the national association of professional librarians was established on October 23, 1923. It was incorporated as a non-stock corporation on October 9, 1925 as the Philippine Libraries Association, Inc. but on May 5, 1989 it was renamed Philippine Librarian Association, Inc. for purposes of the professionalization of librarians.

PLAI was accredited by PRC as the PRC Accredited Professional Organization (APO) pursuant to PRC Res. 6 S. 1993. As such, PLAI became the position of the PRB for librarians in the implementation of the Philippine Librarianship Act. PLAI has a role in the selection of the members of the Board Examiners in the selection of the Outstanding Professional Librarians of the Year, participate in the formulation of the Code of Ethics for Librarians, represented in the membership of the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Council, administer oaths to licensed librarians, membership to the Philippine Federation of Professional Association and in the formulation of Standards for Philippine Libraries.

The PLAI has sixteen (16) chapters throughout the country. Each region has its PLAI Regional Council with its regional offices constitute of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer. These regional officers are represented in the House of Delegates who elect the National Board of Trustees from where the National PLAI officers are elected during the general assembly and national convention. PLAI holds an annual National Conference in different regions.

The other non-professional library association numbering to about forty association established in the basis of geography, subject areas, island clusters are too numerous to mention. To mention a few: Philippine Group of Law Librarians (PGLL), Medical and Hospital Association of the Philippines (MAHCA); Agricultural Association of the Philippines (ALAP); Philippine Association of Research and Academic Librarians (PAAAR); Mindanao Librarians Association (MINLA); Bohol Librarians Association (BOLA); Cebu Librarians Association, Inc. (LAI); Misamis Oriental Librarians Association (MISORLA); Library Association of region Two (LART), etc.