

PRESERVING NATIONAL HERITAGE FOR THE FUTURE: ACCESS, PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF MATERIALS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LIBRARY

By

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INTRODUCTION

I would like to extend my felicitations to the organizers of this seminar, especially to the Library of the University Sains Malaysia, who is celebrating her 35th Anniversary this year. The University of the Philippines (UP) where I come from will be celebrating her Centennial on 18 June 2008; while the University Library just celebrated her 83rd Anniversary last 9 March 2005.

The University of the Philippines is the premier state university of the Philippines. It was established in 1908 to provide advanced training in the arts and sciences. Throughout its history, UP has played a leading role in responding to the needs of the nation, stressing academic excellence and quality learning. This role finds expression in the University's principal functions: instruction, research and community service. It offers a wide variety of courses and has produced renowned experts in various academic fields. Many national leaders have graduated from the University. Regarded as the "bastion of freedom," it has produced intellectuals whose critical thinking continues to influence all walks of life. It enjoys international recognition for the academic and non-academic achievements of its students and faculty members.

After 97 years, UP has become a "multiversity." It has now established its presence in all major islands and groups of the archipelago through its seven autonomous units which have evolved into centers of excellence: **UP Diliman** (unit for arts and sciences), **UP Manila** (health sciences), **UP Los Banos** (agricultural sciences), **UP Visayas** (fisheries and aquatic resources), **UP Mindanao** (environmental management), the **Open University** (distance education) and **UP Baguio** (arts and sciences).

The University Library System is a network of libraries located in seven campus universities, each of which has a Main Library managed by a University Librarian and several college or unit libraries staffed by professional librarians. UP Diliman, the flagship campus is composed of a Main Library and 33 college libraries.

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NATIONAL HERITAGE MATERIALS

The most distinct holdings of the UP Diliman University Library are the Filipiniana collection which includes materials about the Philippines, written by Filipinos, or published in the Philippines. These comprise our national heritage documents. Our Filipiniana holdings consist of:

1. Books that are circulated for home reading; textbooks and collateral readings placed on reserve at the Arts and Letters and Social Sciences and Philosophy for certain courses and basic reference sources. The Filipiniana book collection is strong in literature, history, political science, economics, and sociology. Our holdings show a record of 100,000 Filipiniana volumes.
2. The Filipiniana serial collection consists of periodicals published by academic and research institutions, government agencies, societies, commercial publishers, and extensive sets of national and regional newspapers, current as well as retrospective, and rare periodicals published in English, Spanish and in the vernacular dialects. They number 5,000 titles.
3. Special Collections are rare, unique, out-of-print, unpublished, ephemeral or fugitive materials as well as non-textual materials. These collections supplement or offer information in various subjects not readily available in the Book and Serial departments. The unique collections of the Library are the following:
 - a. Rare Books, mostly on history
 - b. Historical Papers, mostly on the Japanese Occupation
 - c. Vernacular Collection, the largest being on Tagalog literature
 - d. Theses Collection
 - e. Philippine Left (Radical Papers), mostly against the Marcos dictatorship
 - f. Local History, mostly conference papers
 - g. Bartlett Collection, on ethnography, history and linguistics
 - h. Harnish Collection, using early photographic techniques
 - i. Newspapers
 - j. Maps/Atlases Collection
 - k. Art Works
 - l. Audio-Visuals
 - m. Biography File
 - n. Filipiniana in Foreign Serials
 - o. Government Documents
 - p. Picture File
 - q. Poster Collection

- r. Speech File
- s. Archive Collections, foremost of which are the UP Presidential Papers
- t. Other Personal Papers

PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND DISASTER-PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS

The Library has a Preservation Program and a Disaster-Preparedness and Recovery Program carried out through the University Archives and Records Depository (UARD). Since the 1970s, the preferred means of preservation was microfilming. In 2000, the Library also ventured into digitization.

ACCESS TO NATIONAL HERITAGE MATERIALS

Most of the Special Collections are available in microfilm and access to the collection is facilitated through databases available on site. Other access points are the various Research Guide Series to individual papers/collections.

Since 2000, the Library has been requested to develop specialized bibliographies on Philippine humanities and social sciences by UP units, Philippine government bodies, private foundations and Asian and Southeast Asian research centers and consortia, to facilitate research in specific areas. Since, bibliographies, indexes, catalogs and other finding tools also help promote the Library's Filipiniana Collection as well as the Philippine heritage, the Library became involved in **collaborative e-bibliographic projects**, wherein it builds comprehensive bibliographies from databases of libraries in the Philippines and other countries; produces print and electronic copies of said bibliographies; and uploads some of the bibliographies on the Main Library Website at <http://www.mainlib.upd.edu.ph> for public access.

1. Funded by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the **Filipino Language Resource Center**, a database on Filipino and Philippine Languages, was requested by the UP Sentro ng Wika and the UP Dap-ay Filipino. It is available at the University Library website and comes in a CD-ROM as well as in 14 printed volumes.
2. Also funded by NCCA, the **Union Catalog of Local History Materials in Region I**, a database on Ilocos history and culture was proposed by the National Committee on Libraries and Information Services (NCLIS). Available in CD-ROM and print, this database serves as a referral and locator center for researchers on local history in Region I, Philippines.

Region I librarians contributed records to the database. Said project is a pilot project for a comprehensive database on local history materials in all the 16 regions in the Philippines.

3. Funded by the Legislative Body of the Philippines, the **Mindanao Bibliography**, a comprehensive bibliography on Mindanao especially in relation to agrarian issues, environmental issues, land use planning, official development assistance (ODA) projects, federalism, regional security, democratization, peace process, arms trade and clan conflicts, is a collaboration of the Library and the UP Third World Studies Center.
4. Funded by the President Manuel A. Roxas Foundation and UP National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), **An Annotated Bibliography on President Manuel A. Roxas**, the last President of the Commonwealth and first President of the Republic of the Philippines, was developed to provide the research base for the Manuel A. Roxas Studies Program, mostly on politics and economics, instituted by a Memorandum of Understanding between UP and the Foundation. Distinguished by scanned images, the Roxas Bibliography is available at the Library website.
5. To develop its Philippine Studies Program, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) Library, Kyoto University, awarded me a Visiting Professorship to Kyoto to build a database of **materials on Philippine Studies** and upload it to their computer. The database is also available in CD-ROM and printed format.
6. Funded by the Japan Foundation, the **Masterlist of Southeast Asian Microforms (MSEAM)** is a database of documents and publications on Southeast Asia already reproduced in microfilm, to which the UP Library and 59 other institutions with microfilm collections have contributed records. The database is available at <http://202.0.149.246>. MSEAM is a project of the Southeast Asian Consortium for Access and Preservation (SEACAP), of which the Philippines is a member, Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) and Southeast Asian Regional Branch of the International Council of Archives (SARBICA).

PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL HERITAGE MATERIALS

By Microfilm

1. Materials on UP activism and the Filipino people's struggle against oppression comprise the most popular national heritage materials in the UP Library. Cornell University, University of Wisconsin-Madison funded the indexing and microfilming of the **Radical Papers** consisting of materials produced by local radicals, student activists and other participants in the long history of Filipino protest against foreign dominion and political repression. These materials include underground or subversive newspapers, oral histories, diaries, personal papers, people's court records, human rights depositions and others.

The UP Press published the Research Guide to the Radical Papers as part of its series of publications celebrating the Centennial of the Declaration of Philippine Independence in 1998. Cornell University and University of Wisconsin-Madison purchased the Radical Papers in 25 microfilm reels and received complimentary copies of the guidebook. Soon after, the Library of Congress, the Kyoto University Center for Southeast Asia, and the Lopez Foundation bought microfilm copies and a guidebook to search for materials pertinent to its founder to be used in the celebration of his anniversary. With more than one library in possession of the Radical Papers in microfilm, the university is assured of the preservation of prime documents in Philippine history, within as well as outside and beyond its library walls.

2. Encouraged by the preservation of the Radical Papers in microfilms and the accompanying index that facilitated access to the papers, the Samahan ng Mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Para sa Amnestiya (SELDA), an organization of former political prisoners during the Martial Law regime, some of whom were involved in a class action suit against then President Marcos, donated their **Human Rights Papers** to the Library. These included original transcripts and videos of human rights depositions. A government official, Bayan Muna Party List Representative Satur C. Ocampo donated PhP 850,000 or \$16,000 to the Library for the construction and furnishing of a Human Rights Reading Room, **microfilming the papers** and gathering more papers from chapters of the organization of ex-detainees from the different regions in the Philippines.

The turn-over of the Human Rights Papers was made to coincide with the launching of the Human Rights Room and an exhibit on the series of large student demonstrations that swept Manila throughout the first quarter of

1970 known as the "First Quarter Storm". The turn-over inspired other UP alumni to pledge other underground periodicals in Hawaii and donate other human rights depositions to the Library for posterity.

By Digitization

1. The UP Library has been publishing an Index to Philippine Periodicals (IPP), now covering 500 Philippine periodical titles, in print format since 1946. In this format, it has a number of local and foreign subscribers. In 2000, the Library published a **Cumulative Index to Philippine Periodicals 1995-2000** in CD-ROM.
2. A UP professor of Architecture doing his research in Philippine Architecture during the American Occupation received a grant from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to preserve, restore, digitize in CD-ROM and make accessible, outmoded glass negatives in the Main Library's **Harry Whitfield Harnish Collection (1898-1907)**. This is the Library's most unique collection. Harnish was an American soldier who photographed people and structures throughout the Philippines after retiring from the army. The CD-ROM also contains essays on issues covered by the photographs, like gender, ethnicity locality and race. In this digitization project, the Library collaborated with the Studio-Lab on Architectural History, Theory and Criticism of the UP College of Architecture; Art Studies Foundation, Inc.; and the Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts (OICA). Professors and students of history and art expressed interest in the Harnish Collection in CD-ROM.
3. To facilitate University policymakers' access to University Records, the UP System Administration funded the digitization of the **Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Regents 1925-2006**. The Board of Regents is the governing body of the University.
4. The Library's biggest project paid from national government funds is the P12-million (\$218,181) digitization of the **publications, scholarly researches, Filipiniana and other Special materials in the UP Library System**, which the University is contributing to the **Philippine eLib**, a newly formed **national information resource-sharing consortium** composed of the **Department of Science and Technology, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Agriculture, the National Library and the UP Library System**. The first four named agencies are non-degree granting. One of the aims of the consortium is to share these national heritage materials with other

state libraries and universities in the Philippines as well as with the farmer and fisherfolk.

I quote the objectives of the project as follows:

- Provide a portal that contains a union catalog of the holdings of the parties and provide links to these resources;
- Digitize resources which are produced locally such as, but not limited to, theses and dissertations, scholarly publications in the humanities, social sciences, and science and technology, and materials that represent the country's cultural heritage
- Share subscriptions of online databases and make these available to a wider audience;
- Facilitate access to these resources, particularly to State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and the Filipino citizenry in general; and
- Establish a mechanism of income generation to sustain the Project

End quote

The Philippine eLib Project is the most ambitious project because it pools together the writings and distinctive materials of the participating agencies and their sub-agencies for nationwide use.

The UP has around 100 research centers and institutes, academic departments, science and technology parks, and cultural and artistic productions, often in collaboration with business and industrial sectors, international organizations, government and non-government agencies and other higher educational institutions. The research centers publish their own indexes of the latest research, with annotations or abstracts. These are included in the Philippine eLib digitization project.

The Philippine eLib Project which links UP with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Science and Technology and their affiliate agencies definitely compliment the UP Library Collections.

Preservation of Researches in the Philippines

The UP theses and dissertations as well as scholarly researches were digitized. Some of the researches are from the **University Center for Integrative and Developmental Studies (UCIDS)** with four programs. First, the **State of the Nation Assessment Program (SONAP)**, which deals on Population Resources, Environment and

Sustainable Development; Values, Culture and Communication in Relation to Nation-Building and Development; Basic Human Needs; Governance, Public Welfare and Social Justice; and Well-Being, Welfare and Development of People among others. Second, the **Peace Conflict Resolution and Human Rights Program (PCHRP)** has a subprogram on **Psychosocial Trauma**. Third, the **Educational Research Program (ERP)** publishes *UP Research Digest* containing abstracts of studies completed by the different academic units of the UP. Fourth, the **Special Programs (SP)** includes Marine Affairs, Biodiversity Conservation, Mindanao Studies, Pinatubo Studies/Disaster Management, European Studies, Local Regional Studies, Mega Issues, Urban Concerns, Regional Industry Mapping/Industry Studies and the Emerging World Environment, UP Centennial Discussion Series, Studies on Overseas Contract Workers, Filipino Well-Being Index Project, Studies on the Elderly and Solid Waste Management.

Other researches are from the **UP Center for Women's Studies (UCWS)** focusing on advocacy for women, development of feminist values and programs in reproductive health and the **Sentro ng Wikang Filipino (SWF)** featuring the 150 languages of the country, 8 of which are major languages.

Still other UP researches are as follows: The **National Engineering Center (NEC)** has researches on water resources hydrology; hydraulic structures; coastal structures; river control; sediment transport. The **Natural Sciences Research Institute (NSRI)** researches on biology, chemistry, mathematics, meteorology, physics, molecular biology and biotechnology. The **Marine Science Institute** researches on Red Tide and Seagrass. The **Law Center** has four institutes: The **Institute of Government and Law Reform (IGLR)** focusing on legislative reform; **Institute of Judicial Administration (IJA)** focusing on recommendations to improve the administration of Philippine courts; **Institute of International Legal Studies (IILS)** focusing on Philippines in World Economy, Law of the Sea, International Environmental Law, Asian Legal Systems, Economic Regionalism, Independent Foreign Policy, Intellectual Property Rights, Special Problem Areas; and **Institute of Human Rights (IHR)** with researches on political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights of the people, especially those of the urban poor, indigenous peoples, the working class and the peasantry.

More UP researches follow. The **Local Government Center (LGC)** researches on decentralization; management systems and procedures of local government; rural development; metropolitan governance,

urbanization and urban planning; local financial management; local personnel administration.

The **Third World Studies Center (TWSS)** evolved from a colloquium of faculty members from different disciplines, brought together by shared perspectives sensitive to the realities in the Third World which could be applied to teaching and research in the social sciences. Research outputs of the center are in the areas of political economy, popular movements, local politics and culture. The center has undertaken the Philippine Democracy Agenda Project in cooperation with USAID and has fostered collaborative linkages with **Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP)** for the promotion of Southeast Asian Studies. **Asian Center** researches on the Philippine Revolution, the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) and Brunei Darussalam – Indonesia – Malaysia – Philippines East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

The **School of Labor and Industrial Relations (SOLAIR)** researches on Organizing Strategies for Women Workers in Export Processing Zone (EPZ); Toward Strategic Adjustments in Industrial Relations; Documentation of Employee Stock Ownership Plans; Typology of IR/HR Responses to Globalization; Assessment of Tripartism in Selected Asian Countries.

The **Economics Research Center (ERC)** researches on economic history, agricultural/rural economics, demographic economics, health economics, monetary economics, public economics, urban and regional economics.

The **Institute for Small Scale Industries (ISSI)** researches on market and product research, socio-economic surveys, industry studies, project feasibility studies.

The **Population Institute** has researches on Philippine Family Planning, abortion and reproductive health, women's status and fertility in Asia, study of the elderly in Asian countries, reproductive health risks of women in the Philippines, maternal and child health, young adult fertility and sexuality, national demographic and population surveys.

The **College of Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD)** has researches on feminist pedagogy.

UP Baguio has a **Cordillera Studies Center**, featuring researches on the highland tribes.

From **UP Manila**, the **National Institutes of Health** have researches on schistosomiasis, cancer, medicinal plants, eye diseases, diarrheal diseases, AIDS, epidemiology, hepatitis, environmental health, disaster management. We can also search the Inventory of Health Research 1946-1996 through the **Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)'s Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN)**.

There is also a **Manila Studies Program** focused on urban development, ecological waste management for communities, history, culture and the arts.

From **UP Los Banos** we have researches on agriculture, forestry and biotechnology.

From **UP Visayas**, we have researches on fisheries, West Visayan Studies, Leyte-Samar Heritage.

The **Department of Science and Technology** researches come from their affiliated institutes, namely:

1. Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI)
2. Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI)
3. Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI)
4. Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC)
5. Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI)
6. Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources and Research and Development (PCAARD)
7. Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI)

The **Department of Agriculture** researches come from their affiliated institutes, namely:

1. Department of Agriculture
2. Department of Agricultural Research
3. Bureau of Agricultural Statistics
4. Bureau of Soils and Water Management
5. National Irrigation Agency
6. Philippine Rice Research Institute
7. Bureau of Post Harvest and Research Extension

The **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)** has theses and dissertations submitted by institutions of higher education in the private sector.

The **National Library of the Philippines** has local history materials, Papers of the Presidents of the Republic and materials on heroes of the country.

RESTORATION OF NATIONAL HERITAGE MATERIALS

Bibliophiles, poets, scholars in language and literature have donated additional incunabula and **Rare Books** to the Library, which they then requested me as University Archivist to restore. These out-of-print, hard-to-find materials written during the Spanish times are national treasures.

1. The son of Filipino poet and essayist Ildefonso Santos donated ***Meditaciones by Pedro de Herrera, 1645*** and
2. ***Barlaan ni Josafat published in 1837***. Prior to the donation, I restored a copy of Barlaan ni Josafat in the collection of the Far Eastern University Library for Filipino poet Virgilio Almario better known as Rio Alma, who was translating it and writing a book about it.
3. Napoleon and Vicente Rama, friends of former UP President Jose V. Abueva, requested the restoration of a **1583 Visayan, Tagalog and Spanish Dictionary**. The Ramas gave photocopies of the restored book to the Supreme Court Library and another library in Cebu.
4. Also restored were **Biblioteca Hispana Nova dated 1788** and
5. **Arte y Reglas de la Lengua dated 1832**.

Contemporary materials indicative of architectural landmarks, social mores or campus heroes which I have restored include:

6. The original **plan of the Carillon Tower in UP Diliman** campus drawn by National Artist for Architecture Juan Nakpil. The original plan was microfilmed and printed out for the use of the contractors who bid for the restoration of the building, a landmark on campus.
7. Issues of the **Philippines Herald Magazine** during the 1920s donated by Dr. Clemen Aquino, professor of Sociology

8. **Posters of UP student activist Lean Alejandro and of the Desaparecidos.** The last term refers to radicals in hiding who have been declared missing

FACILITIES

The Library has availed itself of appropriate facilities and equipment in line with its Preservation and Disaster-Preparedness Programs. The assistance of donors from private foundations, research centers, national and regional consortia have greatly improved the facilities.

The University Library has two rooms for microfilm production, a Microfilm Laboratory and a Camera Room. It has a Microfilm Reading Room and Microfilm Storage Room in the Media Services Section.

Electronic preservation environment monitors (PEM) have been installed in the Media Services to record the temperature, humidity, acidity and aging of microfilms. The records are stored in SRAM cards that are sent to Cornell University which reads, analyzes and sends biannual reports to the Library. The Library got these monitors since it is enrolled in the Environment Monitoring Program based in Cornell University and funded by Ford Foundation. The program is a project of the Southeast Asian Consortium for Access and Preservation (SEACAP).

The **University Archives and Records Depository (UARD)** established in 1974 is mandated to:

1. Collect and maintain archival materials that will assist researchers in tracing the development of the University and reflect the professional careers and achievement of University administrators, faculty and alumni; and
2. Provide service relating to the establishment and maintenance of an efficient and effective records management program.

The UARD (or Archives for short) has a Conservation Laboratory. It has a Reading Room for Theses and Dissertations and UP Publications. It has a computer room for the database on University Records, and rooms for Personal Papers, University Records, Philippine Centennial Records, Memorabilia. Microfilm readers are made available to readers. It has a digital laser printer/copier; preservation scanner and document scanners. The UARD is equipped with sprinklers, fire hoses, water tanks and is fully air-conditioned.

The Main Library and college libraries have installed security system gates and magnetic strips for their respective collections. The Main Library has also installed a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in the reading rooms.

CONCLUSION

The need to preserve momentous events in the history of our respective nations and institutions and the value of collaborations and modern information and communication technology (ICT) in the access, preservation and restoration of national heritage materials cannot be denied. In closing, I would like to share with you a little-known preservation tool that the Southeast Asian Consortium for Access and Preservation (SEACAP) has devised. It has designed a "Library Preservation and Conservation Tutorial" at www.librarypreservation.org in the glossary of which I have contributed Filipino terms. This will help promote preservation of national heritage documents among the next generation in my country.