

# News In-Print

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
Miguel de Benavides Library

Issue Nos. 109 - 111 | June - December 2020 | <http://library.ust.edu.ph/about-us.html#newsletter>

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UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
MIGUEL DE BENAVIDES LIBRARY



### OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library is committed to supporting the informational needs of the Thomasian community with timely access to its continuously expanding collection. Keeping its patrons' learning needs is the top priority of the Library ever since. Today, at this time of global health crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, it has never stopped providing services virtually to reach more library users as presential services were suspended in the University to contain the spread of the virus. The Library building may be physically closed, but the library staff is continuously providing and expanding its digital services which can be availed of by its patrons remotely.

In fact, since the start of the quarantine last March up to May 2020, the library staff has been addressing the queries and needed resources of the faculty members and students. Online reference service and support have been provided; access to library accounts has been extended, and access to electronic resources has been promoted and made accessible 24/7 for all the Thomasians. Since the beginning of the special term in the University (June-July 2020), the library has been enhancing the print and electronic resources to bring them closer to the users since they were not allowed to enter the campus.

Please note that for 1<sup>st</sup> term academic year 2020-2021, there has been a 50% reduction in the library fee of every student. This reduction may affect the maintenance of all our electronic resources, though we have been assured by the University authorities that we will receive the assistance needed and so not to be forced to cancel some of our subscriptions (journals and databases).

The library fee of every student has always been put into good use. We understand your complaints, but rest assured that all fees the Library collects from its students are returned to them by providing flexible services to give access to these significant resources even at these uncertain times. In effect, the Library is presently engaged in full-time preparation for the new normal. Guidelines for the different services for this new academic year have already been released. (*Please check this link <https://bit.ly/USTLibGuidetoNewNormal>.*)

In these challenging times for education, the UST Library is becoming even more essential for the enhanced virtual teaching and learning mode in the University. It faces the new reality with resilience to respond to this crisis. The Library will do its best to be more dynamic, creative, and responsive in giving its best service than ever before. It will always remain engaged, connected, and committed to supporting the information needs of every Thomasian.

Thank you very much!

UST MIGUEL DE BENAVIDES LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION  
August 7, 2020

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## Professional Training and Development Committee

*Jonas T. Sahagun*

The Professional Training and Development Committee aims to develop the library staff's skill, and professional/personal qualities to enhance their work performance and increase job satisfaction. The Committee organizes/provides seminars, trainings, benchmarking activities, team building, and other developmental activities.

### **Training and developmental activities**

- The Committee conducted two 'UST LIB Lecture Series' sessions entitled 'Professional Development, Competency-based Standards, and Qualifications for Library Leaders' last August 5, 2019, and 'Leadership Roles of Library Associations: PLAI's Perspective' on November 26, 2019.
- Seven sessions of 'UST Library Webinar Series' were also organized last June and July 2020.

June 23, 2020	- 'Virtual Office Training: Google Meet familiarization' - 'Online Communication for Education and Academic Libraries'
June 25, 2020	- 'Virtual Office Training: Blackboard Collab familiarization'
July 24, 2020	- 'UST Library Updates on the New Normal'
July 28, 2020	- 'Retooling Training: Computer Troubleshooting'
July 30, 2020	- 'Retooling Training: Canva Graphic Design Tool' - 'Filling up the Cup: Practicing Self-Care in the New Normal'

- All 32 librarians and 28 support staff attended at least two lectures/webinars organized by the UST Miguel de Benavides Library (MdBL) and other departments/institutions. A total of 5 librarians who officially represented the UST Library as participants in conferences/seminars conducted by other organizers.
- One librarian presented her paper at a conference last September 20, 2019. Four librarians and two support staff shared their knowledge on different topics in the UST Library Webinar Series held in June and July 2020.

### **Planning and Team Building activity**

- The UST Library Pre-Planning activity was held on December 11, 2019 in the UST Library Conference Room. It was attended by two Library administrators, the Council member, eight Committee heads, and the Library - Quality Management Representative.

### **Status of Librarians Graduate Studies**

- Kristi Ma. Fevie V. Macasaet, MLIS (UP), and Elein H. Geronimo, MALIS (UST), finished their graduate studies. The percentage of librarians with MA/MS degrees is 72% or 23 out of 32 librarians.

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## Professional organization membership and service

- There are eight librarian-officers of professional organizations for the academic year 2019-2020:

	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POISITION
1)	ALOMO, Anna Rita L.	- UST Library Science Alumni Association - UST Librarians Association	- President - Auditor
2)	DE LEON, Lady Catherine R.	UST Librarians Association	President
3)	FUCHIGAMI, Kaori B.	- UST Library Science Alumni Association - UST Librarians Association	- Secretary - PRO
4)	LONTOC, Raquel B.	UST Librarians Association	Treasurer
5)	PUZON, Edward H.	UST Library Science Alumni Association	PRO
6)	RAMOS, Lourdes Fatima C.	UST Librarians Association	Secretary
7)	SAHAGUN, Jonas T.	UST Librarians Association	Vice-President
8)	SAN GABRIEL, Michelle M.	- Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. - UST Library Science Alumni Association	- Board of Director - Treasurer

- All 32 librarians have paid their 2019 Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) membership dues. In addition, 31 librarians renewed their membership with PAARL; five for Philippine Association of School Librarians, Inc. (PASLI); two renewed for Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP); and one for membership with the Philippine Group of Law Librarians, Inc. (PGLL) and Network of Academic Law Librarians, Inc. (NALL).
- For institutional membership, the UST Library has renewed its local institutional memberships with PAARL and the Consortium of Engineering Libraries in the Philippines (CELPh), and its international institutional membership with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

These activities hope to develop the professional and personal growth of the UST Library Staff. The Committee aspires to provide more meaningful activities to achieve this goal even in this time of the pandemic.

## Community and Extension Services Committee

*Michelle M. San Gabriel*

The Community and Extension Services Committee is responsible for spearheading viable and efficient community development and outreach programs for chosen communities focusing on providing financial or in-kind donations, and conducting literacy and library-associated projects. It is anchored in the advocacy of compassion and help, and is tasked to make sure that the implemented programs will deliver long-term benefits to the lives of the people in the communities. Moreover, the Committee foresees the Miguel de Benavides Library as a community of competent, committed, and compassionate advocates for a better society.

Three major projects conducted:

- Outreach Services to Maneuver the Indigent Communities (COSMIC)* - encompasses a series of outreach programs that aim to guide and assist in providing the needs of the chosen communities by soliciting and giving donations and by conducting learning engagement activities such as storytelling, and seminars and talks.
- Giving Aid and Learning Activities (GALA)* - aims to extend financial or in-kind assistance to calamity-stricken communities.
- Library's Technical Assistance to Institutions with Muddled and yet Essential Resources (Lib TIMER)* - to provide assistance in organizing the libraries of selected institutions, including the management of their collections and library services.

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The committee aims to have a holistic approach to sustainable development for the welfare of the partner communities and institutions.

Effective AY 2019-2020, the Operational Plan (OP) format of the University was followed. In view of this, the Library community development advocacy programs have been aligned to the University's key performance indicator (KPI).

#### **Below are the outreach activities conducted in A.Y. 2019-2020**

##### Visit to Sitio San Martin de Porres Library, Bamban, Tarlac

Four Committees of the UST Library conducted different learning activities at Sitio San Martin and Sitio Buok in Tarlac:

- The **Extension Services Committee** visited on September 29, 2019. In connection with the Department of Health September's activity about rabies, the Committee promoted rabies virus prevention as it is widely known to be one of the causes of death of many children. Fun games and activities were conducted. In addition, children were also given mandala coloring sheets where they can express their creativity. After blissful hours of tasks, the group hand-in-hand cleaned the library.
- Last November 17, 2019, the **Human Values Committee** visited the community. The group taught the children how to pray the rosary and distributed prayer guides to each participant to instill the value of praying. Likewise, the Committee provided activity through coloring while teaching the Glorious Mystery.
- The **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee** went on October 20, 2019 to conduct a film showing activity for the Aeta children. A short-animated film entitled "Ang Tamad na Anak" teaches the viewers to be helpful, diligent, and "do the tasks with all their heart." This activity showed evidence that the group watched the film ardently since they answered the questions correctly and participated actively.
- The **Linkages and Research Committee** together with the library administrators, conducted an outreach activity on January 26, 2020. The Committee discussed some "money saving tips" and the importance of saving money, followed by the distribution of coin banks for them to start their small savings.

After every learning session, the groups distributed snacks to the children and young adults.

##### Visit to Cottolengo Filipino, Inc.

The visit was held last January 12, 2020 which was joined by four library committees. It was filled with fun games, performances, and heartfelt messages from the administrators of the library and the Cottolengo Filipino, Inc. After which, the group distributed food to the children and helped in feeding those with special needs.

##### Small Libraries assisted

Small libraries were given assistance in organizing and managing their collections and services. On March 8, 2020, the committee members visited and assessed the collections of the 'Our Lady of Manaoag' Library in Pangasinan.

##### Tulong Tomasino

This year, as an assistance to the calamity victims, the library donated the amount of P8,400.00 to the University-wide program entitled "Tulong Tomasino para sa Mindanao" Cash Donation Campaign of the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office. Likewise, the staff gave voluntary cash donation to Sitio Galilee in Bamban, Tarlac on May 2, 2020 to buy milk for the children of those parents who have no work due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **The following activities were cancelled due to the pandemic:**

- 3 scheduled visits to Bamban, Tarlac by the other committees
- Another visit to Cottolengo Filipino, Inc. by 3 committees
- Visit of Lumads Minorities
- UST Makibata
- Visit to House Orphanage
- Others University-initiated activities such as Tree Planting and the Bartolome De Las Casas Community Development poster exhibit

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library vows to extend love and aid to others by continuously embodying the Thomasian 3C's through the help and grace of God.



## Physical Facilities Committee

*Juanita D. Subaldo*

No library is perfect; we all know that unexpected events necessitate changes and updating to meet the library goals. Improving the library's physical facilities and environment is an on-going process. Thus, the Committee on Physical Facilities works closely with the Library administrators, librarians, Facilities Management Office, Purchasing Office, vendors, contractors, etc., and take into consideration the unique needs and ways of facilities planning leading to an excellent and proactive delivery of services that would encourage clients to come to the library.

The accomplishment of the Committee for AY 2019-2020 includes the following:

A. Improvement of the present structure

To make the Library aesthetically pleasing, functional and to motivate library patrons to use the library, repainting of the following had been done: concrete wall in-front of the elevators from 1st-6th floor, walls of the discussion and multimedia rooms at the Science & Technology, and the main stairway. The canopy, foyer, lights, door grills at the ground floor entrance, stair stoppers going to Science and Technology, Social Science & Humanities, counter doors for the Humanities section, drainage covers (inside & outside), and the walkways have been improved. Lastly, a mini exhibit area at the Junior High School Library has been set up. These are some completed projects; others are currently in the design stage.

B. Acquisitions and improvement of furniture, fixtures, equipment, etc.

To provide comfort to the multigenerational library users, the library acquired, improved, and replaced the out-modelled library furnishings. The following have been acquired; keyboard trays, vacuum cleaner, air cooler, smart TV, microwave oven, air-conditioning units, voice recorder, shredder (big & small), table (set), and computer chairs. Tables, cabinets, chairs, etc. have likewise been repaired, remodeled/fabricated.

C. Maintain and install safety devices and other safety measures

The Library assures its staff and patrons a clean, safe and healthy environment, thus, the Library continuously maintained and installed different safety devices such as: emergency lights and exit lights at the Health Sciences library which have been replaced; other devices like fire alarm, fire suppression system, fire extinguishers, earthquake recording instrument have been maintained annually; the hydrofluorocarbon (HFC), drinking fountain, and water tank have been maintained as the need arises; and to protect the staff and patrons from unexpected disasters, different drills/exercises have been practiced where everyone is required to participate.

D. Regular maintenance and monitoring of Library facilities

To keep the Library building, furniture, and equipment in proper operating condition and to ensure safety in the Library are non-stop processes. Maintenance activities include the following: restroom maintenance, pest control monitoring, building fumigation, regular cleaning of air-condition units, and regular cleaning of the library aside from the general cleaning before the start of every school term.

Unfortunately, due to the lockdown, some of the proposed/approved activities, projects, etc. for A.Y 2019-2020 have been shelved temporarily.



## Student Welfare and Services Committee

*Lady Catherine R. de Leon*

Student Welfare and Services is responsible for monitoring and ensuring that the library services and facilities are well maximized and enjoyed by the Thomasian students. It works collaboratively with the General Reference and Information Section, Circulation Section, and the Collection Development Committee. It provides the Thomasian students with the different services and facilities to support their academic endeavors.

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This academic year 2019-2020, the following are the KPIs and the data gathered:

- Number of titles per student  
The Library exceeded the target for having at least 6 book titles per student enrolled.
- Number of utilized library resources / materials  
This includes in house usage, photocopy statistics and number of borrowed printed books, journals and UST Publications. A total of 156,315 number of utilized library resources was recorded.
- 8,300,269 e-resources log-ins were generated.
- Total of 786,998 patrons visited the library
- Only 226 sections out of 349 sections requested and attended Freshmen Library Orientation. Also, 75 sessions of Electronic Resources Tutorials were conducted.
- 646 online inquiries were received and answered. The queries were sent through library email, social media accounts, and website.
- For the number of library facilities usage, 55,926 patrons used Internet computers; 4,434 for the Discussion Rooms; 20 for the Individual Study Rooms.
- For the Mean Score on student satisfaction rating in Library Service, the Library attained the following rank:
  - Degree of Importance – 3.82 (Moderately Important)
  - Degree of Satisfaction – 3.23 (Moderately Satisfied)



## Human Values Committee

*Arlene P. Matias*

It has always been the goal of the Human Values Committee to invite fellow library staff to be a part of the various spiritual formation programs that the Committee has prepared. As mentioned by Pope Francis, “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.”<sup>1</sup> Perhaps, the most important factor is that even during these trying times, our faith helps us overcome desolation through support from our families and activities provided by our organization, which, in this case is the Human Values Committee.

Below are the activities organized by the committee last academic year:

Monthly Birthday Mass — Thanksgiving Mass was offered for birthday celebrators every month. Also, a list of birthday celebrators per month was posted on the bulletin board at the staff area; and greetings at the Facebook closed group page of the Library staff.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary — Rosary leaders were assigned to pray the rosary after lunch break; members of the staff were encouraged to join in the recitation of the rosary.

Community Mass — This was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Wenifredo V. Padilla, III, O.P. on October 25, 2019 to commemorate the departed loved ones of the Library staff.

Prayers through Public Announcement — Recorded prayers were being run 3 times a day in the Library’s PA system; in the morning, there is the prayer before work; then in the afternoon, the angelus and the 3 o’clock prayer.

Prayers through Social Media — “The pandemic itself has become a fundamental test of faith in God and in God’s providence” (WCC, 2020)<sup>2</sup>. However, the situation has not stopped the Committee from continuing to reach out to the staff. By posting featured Saints, prayers, Bible quotes, schedules of Masses, it carried out its mission to the members of the library community. Through the social media, the Committee conveyed and encouraged fellow UST library staff to renew their personal encounter with God.

The Committee made sure that University activities, Integral Formation of other members of the community in the “Faith Ecosystem” were relayed properly, such as the block rosary, Misa de Apertura and Paskuhan Mass.

The following activities were held:

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**Trivia Quiz Bee** – The Committee prepared an on-line trivia quiz-bee per term. During the 1st term, questions about St. Dominic de Guzman were posted on the Library Homepage and Social media accounts. The activity was held from August 29-31, 2020, and on September 2-3, 2019. During the 2nd term, questions about St. Thomas Aquinas, was held from January 27 to February 3, 2020. Students from different colleges participated in the activity, each winner received Php300.00 worth of gift certificate from Starbucks.

**Fora on lives of Saints** – On August 28, 2019, Assoc. Prof. Richard G. Pazcoguín, MA, director, Center for Campus Ministry, delivered a talk about St. Dominic, entitled “The Burning Torch of Saint Dominic de Guzman.” Similarly, a forum on St. Thomas Aquinas was held on January 30, 2020 entitled “Angels and the Angelic Doctor.” The invited speaker was Sister Ma. Alma Immacolata S. Mangahas, SFSC, a student from the Faculty of Canon Law.

Most of the activities planned in the middle of the 2nd Term of 2019-2020 were cancelled: Forum on the “Life of Fr. Miguel de Benavides, OP,” University-wide Retreat, and the Treat to graduating San Lorenzo Ruiz Scholars (SLRS).

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<sup>1</sup> Francis (2013). *Apostolic Exhortations*. Evangelii Gaudium, 3.

<sup>2</sup> World Council Churches (2020). *Healing the World: Eight Bible Studies for the Pandemic Era*.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/healing-the-world-eight-bible-studies-for-the-pandemic-era>



## Collection Development Committee

*Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos*

The Collection Development Committee is responsible for planning and building a useful and balanced collection of library materials based on the library clientele's information needs. Members of the Thomasian community, including administrators, faculty, librarians, and students, collaborate to build a collection that would support and enhance the curriculum and instructional programs that the University offers.

The Committee strives to achieve its goals through activities such as the acquisition of library materials (printed books and journals, non-print materials, electronic resources, etc.); conduct book fairs and consult publisher's catalogs, and check/evaluate accreditation results to know the strengths and weaknesses of the different programs/disciplines in terms of library collection.

For the AY 2019-2020, the Library acquired the following:

### *Thru purchased:*

- 4,312 titles of printed books
- 593 titles of e-books
- 159 titles of audiovisual materials

### *Thru donations, gifts, etc.:*

- 134 titles of theses and 17 titles of dissertations from the UST Graduate School and the UST Ecclesiastical Faculties
- 30 titles of journals as gifts

The Committee shall continuously ensure to acquire library resources that would support its clientele's learning, teaching, and research needs, aligned in the mission and vision of the University and the Library.

## Linkages and Research Committee

*Raquel B. Lontoc*



The Linkages and Research Committee assists in forming the Library's cooperation through reciprocal and beneficial sharing of resources with partner libraries/institutions of the Miguel de Benavides Library.

For AY 2019-2020, the Library has maintained its partnership with nineteen (19) existing institutions, one of which is due for renewal.

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Aside from assisting the Library's partnerships, the Committee also promotes research among its librarians and staff. It encourages them to conduct research studies for publication to scholarly journals. Edward H. Puzon, acting head librarian of the Graduate School Section, published his research paper entitled "Not your final destination: A grounded theory study on adjustment among Filipino librarians who experienced job rotation." The study was a collaboration between Mr. Puzon and Dr. Allan B. de Guzman, full professor (UST) and 2011 Metrobank Foundation Most Outstanding Teacher in Higher Education. The paper was first published online in the Journal of Librarianship and Information Science (JOLIS) last January 2, 2020. Moreover, Mercy C. Bano, assistant head librarian of the Health Sciences Library, presented her paper and poster during the Asia Pacific Consortium of Researchers and Educators (September 18-19, 2019) and Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) 2019 National Congress (November 20, 2019), respectively.

Likewise, the Committee organized a series of research-related seminars which were opened to the whole Thomasian community. It aimed to enable participants to gain a broader understanding of the essential parts of the publishable research article and provide guidelines for writing and publishing a research output in a peer-reviewed journal. The seminars were entitled "Research Praxis: Presenting and Publishing your Opus" presented by Asst. Prof. Ronald M. Castillo (UST Faculty of Arts and Letters) which was held on November 21, 2020 and "Writing a Great Paper and Getting It Published" was presented by Mr. Nicholas Pak (Solutions Consultant, Research Solutions Sales, Elsevier) which was held on November 26, 2020 at the UST Library Conference Hall.

Also, Volume II of the Library publication entitled "Ensayo de Una Síntesis de los Trabajos Realizados por las Corporaciones Religiosas Españolas" is still in the process of indexing and lay-outing of pictures. In addition, all four issues of the News-in-Print (the Library newsletter) were published for AY 2019-2020.

Furthermore, the Committee had the opportunity to visit the adopted community of the Library at Sitio San Martin, Bamban, Tarlac last January 26, 2020. The group taught the kids about money-saving tips and distributed piggy banks along with snack packs.

The Committee hopes to provide more meaningful and useful activities for the next academic year.



## Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee

*Lejempf V. Flores*

To ensure the effective performance of the UST Library employees, the Miguel de Benavides Library Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee designed the **Information Technology Awareness and Knowledgeability (InTAK)**. This project aims to develop IT skills of all library staff.

At the start of every semester, our Committee organizes at least one IT related training, forum, seminar or exposure activity. Five trainings were held in AY 2019-2020 in coordination with the Educational Technology Center, General Reference and Information Section Librarians, Professional Training and Development Committee, and some publishers. InTAK also involved several librarians who will work with the staff of the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library (AVdRHL) to sustain the Library digitization project. The lead person for the said project is Ms. Diana V. Padilla, assistant chief librarian. There were three (3) technicians and seven (7) ICT personnel who attended the ICT related trainings this year. We also had two (2) members from the ICT Committee namely, Christian Barlan and Fides Arrogancia who were speakers from the last In-House Seminar organized by the Professional Development Committee.

The ICT Committee also designed the **Library Information Technology Enhancement (LITE)**. This is a year-round project that focuses on the enhancement of IT equipment and services. For the months of June and July, coordination with the head librarians and library network technician was established, the outcome of which was the purchase of sixteen (16) IT paraphernalia to improve library services. In addition, LITE was organized with the Library suppliers to properly renew software and hardware maintenance agreements.

The Committee also designed the project **Media Mileage for Education (MeME)** which aims to increase the Library visibility and exposure outside the University. The UST Heritage Library was lucky to be featured on GMA-7 i-Witness aired on September 21, 2019. There was also the "Recuerdo de Filipinas Exhibit" which was opened on January 29, 2020 and ran until May 20, 2020.

For the project **Library Assistance to Principal and Important Troupes (LAPIT)**, there was a total of five (5) persons who attended benchmarking activities; 231 visitors and 4 walk-in guests were given a library tour; the number of visits to our Library website reached 224,934 while the Digital Library reached 325,436 usage and 14,002 (February-July 2020) views. We also have 12,598 Facebook followers; 642 and 550 followers for Twitter and Instagram, respectively.

Overall, it was a productive year. The Committee will continue to organize and conduct activities in order to provide a more conducive learning and working environment for Library visibility and exposure to all the library patrons and to the Thomasian community as well.



# Webinar Series on Media and Information Literacy UNESCO-GAPMIL Response to COVID-19

Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio

# Lib Talks

Media and Information Literacy, Critical Thinking/Creativity, Literacy, Intercultural, Citizenship, Knowledge and Sustainability (MIL CLICKS), together with Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL), organized a series of WEBINARS which focused on media and information literacy in the midst of Coronavirus pandemic. It ran from April 30 to July 9, 2020.

## Series One – April 30, 2020

**Title: A Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Response to the Infodemic**

**Speakers:**

- Mr. Alexandre Sayad, a Journalist, Educator, and UNESCO-GAPMIL co-chair.
- Ms. Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a coordinator of Media and Information Literacy, and a faculty member of Information Sciences where she trains librarians.

For starters, 'Infodemic' or information pandemic is the rapid spread of excessive information to a problem which causes harm and difficulty in solving it. Being literate in MIL can be advantageous and important in a real and tangible way. Before, people perceived MIL as beneficial, only academically to hone their skills set related to school activities. But today, they turn to news and other resources in order to produce media that can help flatten the curve – infographics, and video tutorials for some. MIL is everywhere every single day.

Ms. Hinchliffe mentioned that part of a librarian's work is to curate the collection and to determine if the material is meant for beginners or for advanced readers. However, library patrons should understand what science proved years ago does not mean they are still applicable today or they have an advanced study of it. Librarians can instill a mindset to patrons where they can understand how science is done, how information develops, and how publication works; and even during a lockdown, librarians can make it happen by providing research guides and online sessions. Mr. Sayad shared that trust is not easily given overnight. Trust is like a Lego block that librarians need to build up in order for them to have a strong foundation and before they can be trusted. But given the work they have done before the lockdown, it was noticed that librarians have already done a good job by providing patrons with credible materials that are accessible online.

Ms. Hinchliffe encourages the patrons to talk to librarians since in any library, the most useful source, which is readily available, is a professionally trained information specialist. Patrons can talk to the librarians free of charge. They usually have advanced knowledge in some subjects and most of the time, there is no need to make an appointment. Librarians may not be onsite but they provide numerous means on how patrons can reach them. They can offer vast resources available in the midst of lockdown. Librarians have made patrons' lives easier by making the collection accessible remotely. If athletes need a coach to instruct them on how to execute their play, patrons need a librarian to guide them on how to utilize and maximize the information that libraries offer. Mr. Sayad seconded the idea of initiating a conversation with the librarians in order to hone the skills that are helpful in MIL. Ms. Hinchliffe added that librarians have the longest standing job in scouting reliable information; they even use triangulation in gathering multiple, independent sources of the same information which is important in the digital age where things can be re-published without proper citation.

## Series Two – May 7, 2020

**Title: Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Parenting**

**Speakers:**

- Ms. Sherri Hope Culver, an associate professor at Temple University in USA and co-vice-chair of UNESCO MIL Alliance International Steering Committee
- Ms. Rachel Fischer, an information ethicist and co-chair of Centre for Information Ethics
- Mr. Alton Grizzle, UNESCO representative, acted as Moderator

For UNESCO, MIL Parenting is when one is equipped with MIL competencies and tools to enable children and the youth to become independent and critical thinkers about information, technology engagements, and media content. It is not only referring to parents but to guardians as well and to MIL providers such as teachers and librarians as well as those who offer and support home learning.

Ms. Fischer mentioned that everything is free flowing at this point in time while using the technology – people socialize, work, and study online. However, they should still consider ethics and values online or offline. Integrity should always be present whether they are socializing on social media chat rooms, working from home, or taking examinations online. For librarians, they have the 'Code of Ethics for Librarians' to live by; they need to observe the Copyright Law in replicating materials, and some other policies they need to follow and observe.

## Series Three – May 14, 2020

**Title: Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and Critical Online Presence to Deal with the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond**

**Speakers:**

- Ms. Divina Frau-Meigs, professor in Sorbonne Nouvelle University in Paris and a UNESCO chair Savoir-Devenir
- Mr. Michael Hoechsmann, an associate professor and Education Programs chair at Lakehead University in Canada
- Mr. Alton Grizzle, moderator

The objective of this dialogue is to help people seek resilience to resist the infodemic found online in connection with the COVID-19 through MIL during and way beyond the crisis. Online presence means the life people have online – the interactions, socialization, work, and pleasure combined. This session tackled personal encounters as practitioners with the lockdown, implications of COVID-19 online, and how MIL competencies can be applied to manage an institution's critical online presence.

Ms. Frau-Meigs established that e-presence should complement MIL and metacognition by providing three (3) layers of critical online presence:

- Cognitive presence is where people can learn to learn (metacognition) via available media and presented information, and with the help of pedagogical tools and strategies. Libraries provide electronic counterparts of the printed collection found in the physical library.
- Social presence is being online with others but without seeing the usually visible facial cues when meeting face-to-face that may help in detecting unspoken words. This competency is compatible with MIL since it encourages collaboration, empowerment, and engagement. Even before the pandemic, the library has been religiously active in its various social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Google Mail) to promote its services and to answer queries directly sent to them.
- Designed presence is about the interface of the social media platform where people converse online such as Zoom and Skype. However, these platforms are not pedagogical unlike the licensed learning management systems such as Moodle and Totara Learn. UST Miguel de Benavides Library recently provided a "Virtual Office" (VO) in lieu of the face-to-face ask-a-librarian service. This service is exclusive for the Thomasian community since online clients must log in their UST GSuite email accounts before entering the meeting room.

## Series Four – May 20, 2020

**Title: Cases on Youth Engagement to Address COVID-19 Disinformation**

**Speakers:**

- Ms. Eva Reina from Brussels, director of European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA), an independent, strategic European Organization that aims to uphold the right of young people to full and reliable information which helps them make the choices they face in their lives, and which promotes their autonomy, ability to think critically, and active participation in society.
- Mr. Mohammed Foboi from Liberia, one of GAPMIL Youth Ambassadors for Africa
- Ms. Beatrice Bonami from Brazil, a GAPMIL Youth Ambassador for Latin America and Caribbean
- Mr. Alton Grizzle, moderator

"Youth are the future of tomorrow" as the adage goes. The minds of the youth today can give a glimpse into the world years from now. Equally relative to the abovementioned saying, youth are also an instrument today – they are now participating and creating incredible change and impact; they want to be engaged earnestly in social development. The questions evolved in this dialogue are the speakers' motivation in working with youth organizations and how young people can encourage others to join social groups that promote youth empowerment and development.

Ms. Reina shared the projects ERYICA which focuses on webinars and podcasts that tackle COVID virus, how to stay safe, and issues about mental health. They also increase the availability of digital services through chats, FB Live, Instagram stories, and even Tiktok videos. In a way, an explosion of misinformation opens up opportunities to conduct activities that involve life checking because there is so much information to produce that is somehow difficult to differentiate. Just like what the UST Library has been doing during these past few months. It promotes active participation in free webinars brought by reliable database distributors organized by the UST Library Association (USTLA) so that the Thomasian community may learn a thing or two even during the lockdown.

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## **Series Five – May 28, 2020**

**Title: Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Opportunities for Business and Entrepreneurs in a Transformed World**

**Speakers:**

- Ms. Veronica Yarnykh, head of Global Programs at the Moscow Pedagogical State University
- Ms. Laura Cervi, an associate professor of Political Communication at the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona; she represented Mr. Jose Manuel Tornero, UNESCO chair on MIL and Quality Journalism at the same University
- Mr. Chi Kim Cheung, founding chairman of Hong Kong Association of Media Education and an Education professor at the University of Hong Kong
- Mr. Ilya Stechkin, chief marketing officer of TechComLab.com
- Mr. Karen Kazaryan, chief analyst of Russian Association for Electronic Communication
- Ms. Irina Zhilavskaya, head of UNESCO Chair on MIL at the Moscow Pedagogical State University
- Mr. Alton Grizzle, UNESCO Programme specialist as moderator

Traditionally, people consider MIL in relation to developing social groupings such as children and students. However, presently, it may also be in need for those who manage socio-political and financial processes. After a series of consultations with business experts, it was noticeable that MIL is highly in demand in the field of commerce. MIL provides a whole range of communicative competence for business – viability to communicate, ability to present, and adequate ideas. In addition, there are skills for quick analysis for facial and emotion management. All these knowledge, skills, and abilities can be provided through MIL.

Mr. Kazaryan shared the factors to consider for a business to survive in this challenging time – creative programs, reliable equipment, and Cloud services. However, the most important vector is an MIL-inclined individual who can manage the jobs and can attune with the environmental demands of technology. These given factors can also be applied in the field of librarianship. Libraries can continue their operations by developing creative programs that go with the students' performance tasks with the help of library coordinators. These programs will also serve as promotions and marketing vehicles for the library. Reliable equipment aids librarians to execute their work and programs in a seamless manner; it will lessen troubles and distractions caused by technical problems. Cloud services such as real-time messaging and video conferencing make student-librarian communication and virtual orientation possible.

Ms. Yarnykh stated numerous concerns in competencies like different levels of knowledge in MIL according to generations (Gen X, Millennials, & Gen Z) since the workforce is usually composed of diverse generation groups. But with a new learning approach in business education for evolving times, digital knowledge gaps might be filled in. Home communication space and mentoring between senior and junior librarians can be observed for constant communication flow and sharing of relevant information.

## **Series Six – June 4, 2020**

**Title: Media and Information Literacy (MIL), Media, and Mindset**

**Speakers:**

- Mr. Olunifesi Suraj, senior lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication at the University of Lagos in Nigeria
- Ms. Radwa Hemida, librarian at the Central Library of Cairo University in Egypt
- Mr. Jesus Lau, a researcher in Universidad Veracruzana in Mexico and GAPMIL co-chair who acted as moderator

Two (2) fields were presented that MIL covers – (1) media, and (2) information or library matters. The objective of this session is to reflect on people's MIL mindset in order to make critical decisions in any aspects – personal, professional, political, or even business.

Ms. Hemida mentioned how challenging it has become to reach out for their students during the pandemic, and as a solution, creation of new tools and learning new skills to stay connected with the learners even during a lockdown were ideal. Modification of previous services is likely to meet the needs of the users virtually. Librarians can still conduct online workshops and assist the students in doing research through online consultation. To be an effective librarian, one should train patrons on how to identify credible resources, how to access, evaluate, and use the information, and how to detect fake information in every possible means. For Mr. Suraj, librarians and other information professionals are custodial of knowledge and libraries are institutions for managing verified information. These entities can transform the "information wants" into "information needs." They can influence the patrons' attitudes and perspective towards studying, doing research, and improving MIL skills that can be integrated in their daily lives.

## **Series Seven – June 11, 2020**

**Title: Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and Public Policies**

**Speakers:**

- Ms. Dorothy Gordon, chair of Information for All Programme (IFAP) of UNESCO

- Mr. Peter Bruck, chairperson of World Summit Awards; professor and adviser to Australian government
- Ms. Maha Bashri, associate professor in the United Arab Emirates University
- Ms. Carolyn Wilson, consultant and lecturer in Western University in Canada; former chair of GAPMIL
- Mr. Alton Grizzle, UNESCO Programme Specialist as moderator

Media and information literacy (MIL) concerns competencies, knowledge, skills, and attitudes people need in order to maximize the benefits of access to information, technology, and media while minimizing or self-protecting from threats and risks. For UNESCO, MIL is an umbrella term – an integrated set of data, media, and digital competencies which includes being able to critically evaluate, use, and contribute to information and media content wisely, to purposefully use technology, knowledge about one's rights online, and understanding the ethical issues surrounding access to information. The current infodemic has reinforced the necessity of MIL for all. Like basic literacy, in order to achieve MIL for all, policies are needed whether institutional or public policies.

As shared by Ms. Gordon, in IAFP, there is a mandate to promote inclusive knowledge societies. However, this inclusion should start with the MIL providers' (parents, guardians, teachers, information specialists) new skill sets in order to perform based on the demands of 21st century learners. Students should acquire new learning that can be beneficial throughout their lives. Both MIL providers and learners should be adaptable to change most especially in these trying times. With the guidance of well-written policies, implementation might be easy since the strategic program is already plotted.

## **Series Eight – June 18, 2020**

**Title: Media and Information Literacy (MIL) for Quality Journalism**

**Speakers:**

- Ms. Alice Lee, journalism professor at Hong Kong Baptist University; the column writer of "Parenting the Next Generation"
- Ms. Nozima Muratova, vice rector for Science and Innovation; a professor of Journalism and Mass Communications in University of Uzbekistan
- Mr. Jose Manuel Tornero, UNESCO chair on MIL and Quality Journalism; professor in Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona; and blogger of gabinetecomunicacionyeducacion.com
- Ms. Sheila Webber, director of Centre for Information Literacy Research in University of Sheffield; a professor of Information Literacy and Information Behavior in the same University, and a blogger of information-literacy.blogspot.com
- Ms. Ghita Berrada, senior manager of High Authority of Audiovisual Communication of Morocco as moderator

A quality media in the presence of a crisis is critical because journalists should always be up-to-date about the current status of the world in general and they should deliver the news efficiently and accurately. Currently, a lot of fake news circulates around the globe, so quality journalism promotes verification of sources. Journalists also monitor not only the movement of a certain topic but also what surrounds it. Good journalism is like a constructive social dialogue, inviting the audience to think critically.

As the Library has its own newsletter, the News-In-Print, librarian-contributors may consult these criteria of quality journalism when they write an article.

- It serves the public interest as well as it is true and deals with important issues.
- It serves as an instrument in analyzing and interpreting news events in relation to the library and its librarians.
- It should be accurate – contributors must make every effort to relay facts correctly, clearly, and completely.
- It should be written objectively; personal opinions and biases should be avoided.
- It should be independent, no one controls and influences its coverage as long as it is library-related news.

## **Series Nine – June 25, 2020**

**Title: Media and Information Literacy for Indigenous People**

**Speakers:**

- Mr. Dale Murray, director partnerships in Edmund Rice Education Australia
- Ms. Luciana Batalla Bunn, lawyer with specialization in human rights; co-founder of Costa Rica Indígena, an NGO that seeks to contribute to the well-being of indigenous peoples and communities, strengthening their social and economic development process, respecting their culture and exercise of rights.
- Ms. Claudia Wandereley, a permanent researcher in University of Campinas.

Health, economic, and structural challenges produce high levels of stress and require adaptation of tightly held cultural values. But with MIL, the learning culture prevails with the help of literacy-promoting organizations like libraries, museums, and nonprofit organizations. Websites and podcasts are also useful tools in gathering information since people cannot easily go out due to the pandemic. Equity of access to information and its organization play vital points in preserving culture. Knowledge centers at far-flung areas where aboriginal communities live are now the trends in Latin America.

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The UST Library has a partner community in Bamban, Tarlac wherein they conduct different sessions for Aeta children which are beneficial to their school needs. They visit the community on a quarterly basis. Over the years, the Library organized numerous activities such as upcycling of household materials, rosary making, storytelling, how to practice good hygiene, time telling activity, and training on how to use MS PowerPoint. A book mobile has been donated to encourage the love for reading. These undertakings helped the children to appreciate the importance of education and their eagerness to learn as was manifested during each session.

#### Series Ten – July 2, 2020

**Title: Media and Information Literacy as a Defense against Privacy and Data Protection Infringements**

**Speakers:**

- Ms. Sonia Livingstone, professor, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Mr. Joe Cannataci, professor and UN special rapporteur on the Right to Privacy
- Mr. Hopeton Dunn, a professor in the University of Botswana
- Mr. Toby Mendel, professor of law and democracy and executive director in Centre of Law and Democracy
- Ms. Gretchen King, assistant professor in Lebanese American University
- Mr. Alton Grizzle who acted as moderator

The ability to know what information we want to share virtually and what information we want to remain private is quite difficult since every log credential is already programmed in cyberspace. But being media and information literate, one can have the most effective shield on how everyone can protect and secure their information online.

Education and resources are as important as the implemented law and policy – how the internet works, how malware really works, how to maximize the use of subscribed databases. An interactive database of useful guides containing ready reference queries collated by librarians might be helpful for young people nowadays who have shorter attention spans or for those who are meek to ask questions. This project also benefits educators and parents since not all of them are aware of the dangers of the Web. Also, additional training relating to rights and responsibilities of information dissemination for media and information providers are advantageous most especially in this fast-changing world. It is very challenging for teachers to provide high quality information due to limited access to resources since they are not experts in it. But with the help of librarians who are in-charge in maintaining high value educational materials, teachers may pull off the lessons well.

## “Knowing the right news in the digital age”

Symon Lagao

In support of curbing the spread of misinformation and disinformation, the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) conducted a webinar on “information literacy” on May 8, 2020. More than 500 participants attended through Zoom and a livestream was made available via YouTube. Dr. Shantanu Ganguly, a Fellow of TERI, acted as moderator during the discussion.

As the public faces the perils of infodemic in this time of pandemic, libraries and librarians have reinvented themselves to combat fake news. The advent of social media has greatly contributed to the spawn of fake news. Thus, information literacy remains an important skill more than ever.

Dr. Sanjay Bihani, a member of the IFLA Governing Board, delivered the first presentation. He focused on the efforts of IFLA in advocating information literacy against fighting the infodemic. He also shared the key resources for libraries in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as resources on global library closures, providing services remotely, and re-assigning library resources, among others. IFLA encourages libraries to maximize resource sharing.

#### Series Eleven – July 9, 2020

**Title: Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and Public Policies (Part II)**

**Speakers:**

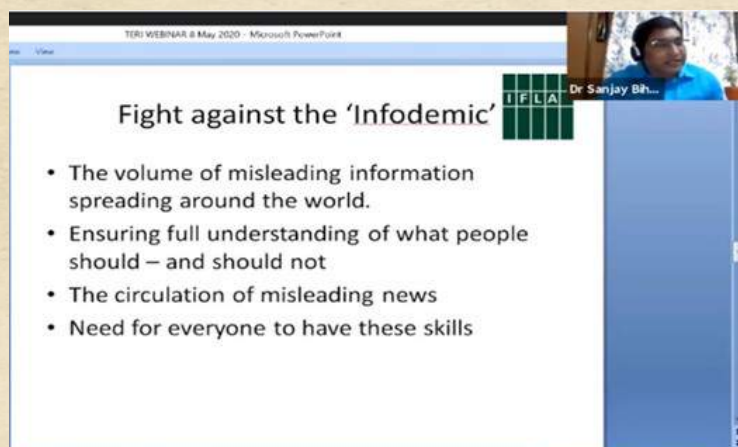
- Ms. Tessa Jolls, president and CEO of Center for Media Literacy; regional representative of GAPMIL America and Europe
- Ms. Maja Zaric, head of Media Department in the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia
- Mr. Ramon Tuazon, president of Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication; secretary general in Asian Media Information and Communication Center
- Mr. Wallace Gichunge, executive director of Centre for Media and Information Literacy in Kenya; regional representative of GAPMIL Africa
- Ms. Irene Andriopoulou, GAPMIL co-secretary general, National Centre of Audiovisual Media and Communication of Greece

This is a continuation of the MIL and Public Policies webinar aired on June 11, 2020. It focuses on the lockdown period and its aftermath since a series of misinformation and disinformation have transpired in the past few months.

**Impact on Libraries and on Librarians:**

As Ms. Tessa Jolls stated, the principles behind MIL boil down to being able to access, analyze, evaluate, create, participate with media in all its forms. With the broad definition it possesses, MIL can be applied to all subjects and contents for it does impact all facets of society. The library, as an information repository, holds credible data that can be used as an instrument to produce quality public policies that benefit all walks of life. In order to deliver a good policy, the person responsible in formulating policies should first and foremost, be a media and information literate. He can acquire competencies needed through formal and informal learning.

MIL CLICKS is an innovation about Media and Information Literacy (MIL) which was started as a shared effort of UNESCO, partners and every participant who aim to support the development of MIL skills through learning, creating and engaging you to think critically and click wisely. GAPMIL is a UNESCO-led groundbreaking effort to promote international cooperation to ensure that all citizens have access to media and information competencies.



Dr. Sanjay Bihani talks about IFLA's efforts to promote information literacy in the era of infodemic.

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## Implication of Fake News

- ✓ Undermine democracy
- ✓ Social unrest/communal riots
- ✓ Hamper social fabric
- ✓ Devalue information
- ✓ Breach of peace
- ✓ Mob lynching
- ✓ Influencing election
- ✓ Sedition
- ✓ Criminal conspiracy
- ✓ Defamation

Dr. Gurujit Singh discusses regulating fake news



The second speaker was Dr. Michael Seadle Humboldt. His presentation delved on the steps taken by the German government in preventing the spread of fake news. He mentioned that libraries must be digitally active since they are an important source of reliable information. This was followed by Dr. P N Vasanti who talked about infodemic in India.

Dr. Gurujit Singh, the last speaker, discussed issues and challenges in regulating fake news. He mentioned that it is important to identify the creator, distributor, and consumer of fake news. He, likewise showed its implications, technical, and regulatory measures on how it can be controlled.

Undoubtedly, misinformation and disinformation run rampant in these trying times. Hence, libraries are constantly challenged to thwart its spread by educating its patrons in locating, evaluating, and effectively utilizing information available in the world wide web.

## Webinars 'on media and information literacy in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic'

Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio

The Philippine Association for Media and Information Literacy (PAMIL) together with Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL), organized a series of webinars which focused on media and information literacy in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The first of these **Webinars** happened last May 8, 2020 at 3:00 PM entitled "Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Initiatives Against Infodemic: The Philippine Youth Response." It tackled initiatives of a youth organization regarding how MIL addressed infodemic and to promote the importance of MIL not only as an academic but as a lifelong learning skill as well. The speaker for this session was Mr. Dun Oliver Abiera, a cum laude graduate from Ateneo de Davao University with a degree of International Studies and has a postgraduate degree in Environmental Preservation and Peace Building Program of Northern Illinois University-USA. He is the founder and executive director of Youth Advocates Building Opportunities and Network in Governance (YABONG) Philippines, an Organization which focuses on youth empowerment, governance, and MIL. This was established in 2018 that takes opportunity in using social media for social good and envisions the youth as being game changers and change makers to create credible information space through a three-tier solution such as:

- **Thinking** which enhances critical thinking skills through leadership camps, mentorship programs, and digital camping workshops.
- **Embarking**, inviting as many communities as YABONG can by means of digital camps on fake news, hate speeches, and privacy rights hoping to emit positive messages not only within but also across borders.
- **Creating**, from thinking and embarking, YABONG can produce a culture of well-informed and responsible netizens who engage in healthy dialogues and collaborations.

In the middle of COVID-19, people tend to find ways on how to cope with the nationwide quarantine and the anxiety brought by the pandemic – playing video games, binge watching, trying new recipes. However, it is unsustainable because the above mentioned distractions are only available temporarily. Humans are innately sociable, awareness-seekers, and connection-craving entities with what is happening around. In case these situations are not met, they fear the concept of missing out on substantial information.

With this, social media is acting as a bridge in order to fill the gaps between being aware and connected and missing out information. Social media becomes a necessity since it gives people access to the world but at the same time, it also gives a plethora of complications – misinformation, disinformation, mal-information. The longer hours people spend in using these platforms, the more it causes them to dissent opinions and hate speeches, damage relationships, spread fake news, and has taken its toll not only on physical health but also on the psychological and emotional aspects.

Locally, Filipinos tend to use social media as the medium where they can play the "blame game" which paves way to the infamous line, "Ano ambag mo?" ("What is your contribution?"). When this heated argument arises, they unconsciously evade how they can contribute and extend helping hand to the vulnerable and marginalized communities. As a response, YABONG launched the digital camping "Ano ang bag ko?" ("What is my bag?" or "What is my contribution?") that signifies two (2) purposes: 1) a bag, an essential starter pack to remind netizens on how to become responsible social media users; and 2) a contributor to a healthy discussion over social media and as a reflection that one should not ask another what are their contributions but rather ask "what are our contributions?"

In order to avoid the prolonging unhealthy spaces in social media (socmed) during this pandemic, YABONG created easy to grasp infographics on socmed usage that tackles the following:

- Engaging in healthy discourse online
- Relationships become deteriorating as physical distancing emerged in 6 feet and beyond one another
- How to spot and stop the spreading of fake news
- How to keep overall health on point – physical, emotional, psychological, and even spiritual
- How to extend a helping hand in the communities in need?

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Over the discussion, the speaker shared that society needs a systematic change more than individual change since most of the population could not grasp the complex concept of MIL and the responsible usage of socmed as well. In this case, introspective reflection comes in where an individual can contemplate what is his “bag” or contribution he can give any time of the day but should take note that this “bag” should not be an additional baggage but rather, a carrier of the contribution to society.

Mr. Abiera also mentioned tips on how youth can contribute during this time of COVID-19. Young individuals can start an organization, online movement, or initiative with likeminded people – friends, family, colleagues. He mentioned that if putting up an organization is not possible; one can volunteer online. There are several non-profit organizations that need a pair of hands. He also encourages us to strike a conversation since everyone has a story to tell, thus, “share it to the world!” And last, led by example. He made himself an example in this suggestion by telling the audience that he considers his mindset in posting an entry in his socmed accounts. He said, he usually thinks first if this entry promotes better understanding or will it ignite another misunderstanding.

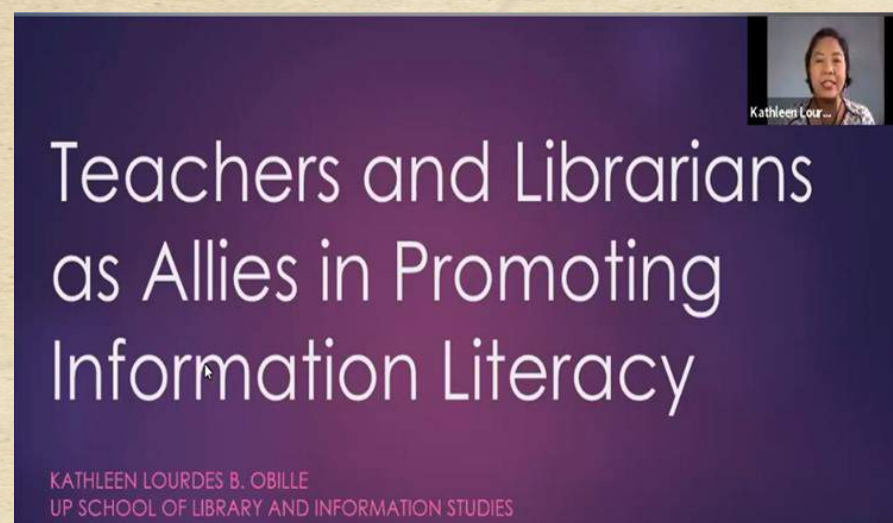
After the speaker’s presentation, Mr. Abiera accommodated questions about hate speeches, misinformation/disinformation, freedom of speech, and slacktivism of the millennials and Gen-Z, among others. He ended his talk by emphasizing that the current generation is not difficult to manage nor hard to understand; it only happened that millennials and Gen-Z only want to be stimulated and engrossed to know and figure out the reason behind everything.

## Engaging in teacher-librarian partnership towards promoting information literacy

Symon Lagao

In its effort to continuously update professionals in their respective fields, the Vibal Group sponsored a webinar entitled “Teachers and Librarians as Allies in Promoting Information Literacy.” It was held on May 20, 2020 and was made available through Facebook live attended by thousands of educators and librarians. Invited as resource person was Prof. Kathleen Lourdes B. Obille, Ph.D., former dean and currently, a professor at the UP School of Library and Information Studies.

Prof. Obille expounded comprehensively on the importance of developing information literacy (IL) skills from early grades up to the high school level. She mentioned that teachers and librarians can collaborate by:



Prof. Obille delivered her talk via Facebook live sponsored by Vibal Group.

- integrating IL in various subjects besides English;
- determining topics and areas where IL skills may be integrated;
- planning for the curriculum and arranging for schedules;
- providing resources for class given by teachers; and
- conducting storytelling and reading aloud, as in the case of early grades.

While we live in an era where information is widely available and is increasing at a rapid pace, students equipped with IL skills can readily acquire the ability to analyze information, think critically, and solve problems efficiently and effectively. By working together, teachers and librarians can develop information literate students.

Collaboration between teachers and librarians is important in ensuring that the library supports the teaching and learning process. There are diverse ways to collaborate but they ultimately lead to various kinds of learning opportunities for students. Certainly, teachers and librarians share the same passion – to join forces and develop lifelong learners.



# Online retooling training sessions of the UST Library

Fides C. Arrogancia

Gaining new knowledge and learning something new did not stop at the UST Library despite the pandemic as the Professional Training and Development Committee, in cooperation with the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee, conducted UST Miguel de Benavides Library's first Online Retooling Training Sessions via Google Meet.

The first session entitled **"Retooling Training: Computer Troubleshooting"** transpired last July 28, 2020. The resource speaker, Engr. Christian P. Barlan, is UST Library's Network Technician and a member of the ICT Committee. In the training, it was first discussed what a computer is which was followed by the description of a desktop computer. Next, the parts of the computer and the parts of the CPU were presented. After which, the troubleshooting process was explained in 5 steps:

1. Identify the problem
2. Find probable cause
3. Test different solutions
4. Test the device if fully working
5. Document

Scenarios and a live troubleshooting process were demonstrated. The first scenario is "When the computer does not open." The probable causes for the said scenario are:

- the computer is defective;
- the power cable is not properly connected; and
- there is no electricity in the outlet.

In testing different solutions, the sense of sight, hearing, and touch should be used. A live demonstration was shown for this step. To test the power cable, it was connected to another unit. To know if there is electricity in the outlet, a multimeter tester was used. It was mentioned that if there is no multimeter tester, a phone charger can be used to test the outlet. Once the charger is plugged in, connect it to a phone.

The following are the other scenarios presented:

- CPU has defective power supply/motherboard/memory
- A computer program froze on screen
- Mouse/keyboard has no light
- Cursor is moving slowly

The Library Staff were also reminded that computers have different speeds and capabilities. Multiple computer programs and websites cannot be opened at the same time if the computer you are using has low memory and poor storage capacities. Lastly, performing disk cleanup, error checking, disk defragmentation, deleting cache in Google Chrome, and resetting & cleaning-up Google Chrome were shown.

Retooling Training: Canva Graphic Design Tool session last July 30, 2020 was conducted to educate the UST Library Staff on graphic design and to instruct them on how to use the platform called Canva. Ms. Fides C. Arrogancia, the Marketing Staff of the UST Library and also a member of the ICT Committee, was the resource speaker.

For everyone to have a clearer understanding on the technicalities of graphic design, some design terms and design principles were first defined. One of the design terms is "Canvas" which means the workspace or the work area of the graphic designer. A trivia was mentioned that in an interview, Canva co-founder Cliff Obrecht, explained how the name Canva came about: One of Canva's French engineers said that Canvas was pronounced "Canva" in French. The founders were inspired by that thought and made them name the platform, Canva.

Afterwards, the UST Library 'Style Guide' was shown. It was said that having a Style Guide is important for it will help the viewers identify or easily incorporate a certain look to a brand. Next, the description of Canva was discussed and then the step by step process of creating a Canva account followed. In the latter half of the session, familiarization of Canva's main interface & design window and a live demonstration on creating a design with Canva transpired.

To wrap up, a contest on creating a "Welcome Back Thomasians" pubmat for the 1st Term of A.Y. 2020-2021 was announced. The winning design will be posted in all the social media pages of the Library and will be used in the presentation for Library Orientations.

## "Retooling Training: Computer Troubleshooting"



**Resource Speaker:**  
**Engr. Christian Barlan**  
**Network Technician**  
**UST Miguel de Benavides Library**

**Online via Google meet platform**  
**July 28, 2020 | 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

*Poster of the first session.*



*Live demonstration of testing the power outlet.*

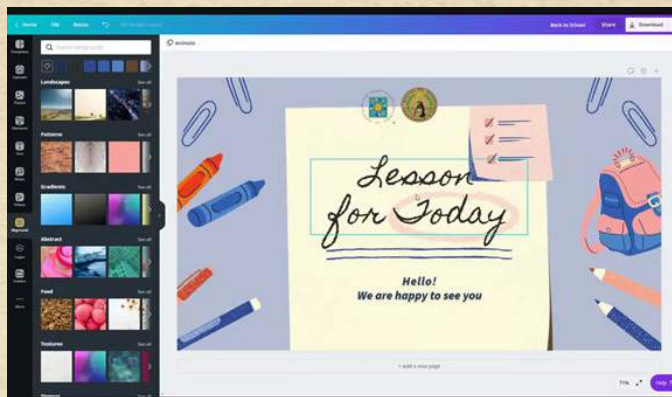
## "Retooling Training: Canva Graphic Design Tool"



**Resource Speaker:**  
**Ms. Fides Arrogancia**  
**Marketing Staff**  
**UST Miguel de Benavides Library**

**Online via Google meet platform**  
**July 30, 2020 | 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

*Poster of the second session.*



*Live demonstration of creating a design in Canva.*



## **UST Librarians attend first in-house virtual training**

*Kristi Ma. Fevie V. Macasaet*

As part of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library's continuous commitment to support the Thomasian community's teaching, learning and research endeavors, thirty (30) librarians together with the Library administrators, attended the first ever in-house virtual training held on June 23 and June 25, 2020.

In the four sessions organized by the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee, the group was taught and trained on how to use, manipulate, and manage two video-conferencing applications (Blackboard Collaborate and Google Meet) that will also be used for the Library's virtual services.

As all classes have moved online, the Library's goal to maximize the electronic accessibility of the resources and services remains. Aside from the "Ask-A-Librarian" service where library patrons send inquiries via phone call, email and through the Library's official social media pages, the two video-conferencing apps will also be used to offer virtual orientations, tutorials and specialized instruction services.

The sessions were facilitated by Lejemp V. Flores, Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio, and Kristi Ma. Fevie V. Macasaet.

## **UST Library organizes Webinar series**

*Jonas T. Sahagun*

Tasked to provide professional development and training to the library staff even in this time of pandemic, the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Professional Training and Development Committee in collaboration with the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee and the UST Librarians Association (USTLA), arranged a webinar series for June and July 2020.

The UST Library Webinar Series had seven sessions starting with two sessions last June 2020 and another five in July 2020. The June 2020 sessions were spearheaded by the ICT Committee, with 'Virtual Office Trainings' on Google Meet and Blackboard Collaborate held last June 23 and 25, respectively. Trainers for both sessions were ICT Committee Head Lejemp V. Flores, and members Kristi Ma. Fevie V. Macasaet, and Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio.

The first of the July 2020 sessions was held last July 23 with the topic "Online Communication for Education and Academic Libraries." Invited resource speaker was UST Communications Bureau Assistant Director for Online Mr. Philippe Jose S. Hernandez, MEng. It was followed by a July 24 session on the topic "UST Library Updates on the New Normal" with UST Library's General Reference & Information Section Head, Raquel Lontoc, as resource speaker.

The next two sessions were again a collaboration between the ICT Committee about 'Retooling Trainings,' first on computer troubleshooting held last July 28, with UST Library Network Technician Engr. Christian P. Barlan as the trainer; and second, on the Canva Graphic Design Tool held on the morning of July 30, with UST Library Marketing Staff, Ms. Fides C. Arrogancia, as the trainer.

Lastly, the July 30 afternoon session was a collaboration with USTLA, on the topic 'Filling Up the Cup: Practicing Self-Care in the New Normal' with UST Counseling and Career Center Senior Guidance Counselor Ms. Angelie D. Bautista, MA, RGC, as resource speaker.

The webinar series were held via the Google Meet platform, except the Blackboard Virtual Office Training, via Blackboard Collaborate. Two of the sessions, the July 23 session of Mr. Hernandez and the July 30 session of Ms. Bautista, were also shared online for free via UST Library FB live stream.

The Committee, headed by yours truly, and with all its members, are dedicated to providing meaningful and useful online learning sessions for the professional and personal development of the library staff in this new normal of learning.



## Webinar on ScienceDirect best practices

Marivic G. Usita

A webinar entitled “Discover, Read, Download the Highest Quality Journals ScienceDirect Best Practices” was an event held last September 18, 2020 from 10:00am to 12:00nn by Elsevier in collaboration with the University of Santo Tomas Miguel de Benavides Library through the Library and Linkages and Research Committee via google meet platform. The Resource speaker was Mr. Johan Jang, Customer consultant of Elsevier South East Asia joining from Jakarta, Indonesia. This was participated by the UST library staff who registered online, and this was streamed via the library’s FB page. The agenda includes the following topics:

- How to search for research articles effectively?
- How to search for research collaborators?
- How to find and understand research topics?
- How to integrate ScienceDirect with Mendeley?
- How to integrate Scopus with ScienceDirect?

Mr. Johan Jang started by discussing new knowledge and skills that can help during the research process. He gave a quick introduction of Elsevier Publishing Company for research papers and Global information analytics company which aims to help everybody around the world to progress in science and research. Mr. Jang also mentioned their mission, which is to lead the way to science, technology, and health with various solutions. He focused on the two platforms, the ScienceDirect and Scopus and included other solutions such as the Sci Val, Clinical Key and other solutions published by their Company. Scopus.com and ScienceDirect.com are both called freemium platforms. Since the UST Library has subscriptions on both, they can access the premium functions which means they can only explore things with subscriptions and the freemium functions which means there are free things that they can do or access even without subscription to these databases platforms. The Scopus Usage and ScienceDirect Best Practices were discussed on how to find research ideas, explore articles and how to research effectively to provide researchers a more comprehensive tutorial on research trends and publications.

Questions and answers on the chat box followed after the session for everyone’s information on their queries.

Research needs higher quality of articles based on the researcher’s expertise using both Scopus and ScienceDirect, Mr. Jang added. In conclusion, he said, “Scopus is very useful if you need to grasp generic ideas based on research topics you can search for journals, documents and affiliations while ScienceDirect will allow you to download full articles”.

These databases can fulfill researchers’ needs. They just need to make sure to use it and be aware of it. A better practice in utilizing these databases makes researchers become more productive, thus creating higher quality of research output.

## PAMIL hosts first ‘International Youth Virtual Summit’

Symon Lagao

In celebration of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week 2020, the Philippine Association for Media and Information Literacy (PAMIL) hosted the first **International Youth Virtual Summit on Media and Information Literacy**. The Summit’s plenary sessions were held on November 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2020 in the Philippines via Zoom with 100 youth representatives from around the world. It was made public and made available on Facebook Live on November 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2020 for the global audience.

The 4-day month-long Summit with the theme “MIL for All: The Youth as Vanguard for Responsible Social Media for Civic Engagement,” gathered MIL educators, students, librarians, archivists, and various media and communication professionals to share and discuss experiences and issues related to MIL. It also aimed to craft a Philippine Youth Declaration Statement on MIL to recognize the role of the youth in addressing issues related to MIL. The first virtual Summit invited various speakers to deliver diverse topics on MIL as follows:

### Day 1

- “Youth for MIL: The Role of GAPMIL in Promoting Responsible Social Media Engagement Among the Youth” *Mr. Alexander Le Voci Sayad*, co-chairman, UNESCO GAPMIL International Steering Committee
- “Critical Media Literacy Pedagogy for Raising the Youth’s Media Consciousness” *Dr. Jeff Share*, Teacher Education Program professor, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- “Enhancing the Youth’s Information Literacy Skills to Promote Responsible Civic Engagement through Social Media” *Mr. Joseph Yap*, senior expert Librarian and Information Literacy coordinator, Nazarbayev University Library in Kazakhstan

*cont’d on next page*





Speakers and participants of the virtual Summit pose for a photo opportunity during the opening ceremony.

#### Day 2

- “Creating and Sharing Stories that Matter” *Mr. Val Amiel Vestil*, founder, Association of Young Environmental Journalists
- “Maximizing Cyber Platforms and Influence to Make an Impact” *Mr. Jules Guiang*, co-founder, Quarantalk Media
- “Exploring Art, Activism, and Social Change” *Ms. Sophie Sandberg*, founder, Catcalls of NYC and Chalk Back Org

#### Day 3

- “Laws and Policies Related to MIL” *Atty. Ernesto Neri*, director, Xavier University Center for Legal Assistance
- “Making Tech More Humane” *Ms. Nadia Tjahja*, co-founder, Sunium.EU
- “Smart Internet Surfing and Fact-Checking” *Ms. Janine Vicente*, co-founder, Break the Fake Movement

#### Day 4

- “Philippine MIL Youth Declaration Statement” *Mr. Dun Oliver Abiera*, founder, YABONG Philippines and GAPMIL Asia-Pacific Youth Coordinator

The Summit was co-organized by the United States - Philippine Exchange Alumni, Youth Advocate Building Opportunities Network in Governance (YABONG) Philippines, and the Global Alliance on Partnerships for Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL) Asia-Pacific.

Among the selected youth representatives was Mr. Symon Lagao, the assistant head librarian of the UST Junior High School Library.

## MdBL by the numbers AY 2019-2020

Raquel B. Lontoc

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library continues to provide services, resources, and support to the Thomasian community's informational needs, having in mind its patrons' learning needs as its top priority.

Amidst the unforeseen circumstances caused by the pandemic, the Library remains fundamental to play its role by effectively providing relevant resources and delivering quality services. In the last AY 2019-2020, the Library's utilization was manifested by the following data:



Moving forward in this new normal situation, the “Library will continue to remain engaged, connected, and committed to supporting the information needs of the Thomasians.”



# UST Library's guide to the 'new normal'

Fides C. Arrogancia



**UST Miguel de Benavides Library**  
Guide to the 'New Normal'

**ON-GOING SERVICES**



**Remote Access to E-Resources**

Access the library's e-resources 24/7 using your active library account. Just visit [library.ust.edu.ph/e-databases.html](http://library.ust.edu.ph/e-databases.html) and choose from the library's list of subscribed databases.

Also, check our digital library collection at [digilib.ust.edu.ph](http://digilib.ust.edu.ph)

For more information on this service, check out these links: [bit.ly/USTLibRemoteAccessGuide](http://bit.ly/USTLibRemoteAccessGuide) & [bit.ly/USTLibEResourcesBySubject](http://bit.ly/USTLibEResourcesBySubject)



**Online Library User Education**

The library conducts library orientation, e-resources tutorial, and specialized instruction to teach library research skills and promote information literacy.

Know more through this link [bit.ly/USTLibOnlineUserEd](http://bit.ly/USTLibOnlineUserEd)



**Ask a Librarian**

Provides reference service through e-mail ([library@ust.edu.ph](mailto:library@ust.edu.ph)) or through social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @ustmdblib)



**Current Awareness**

Informs library users about new acquisitions of the library through its website ([ustlib.ust.edu.ph/friis/](http://ustlib.ust.edu.ph/friis/)) and social media accounts.



**Document Delivery**

Get full-text electronic journal articles and book chapters from various subscribed databases and open & free access resources.

To avail of this service, fill-out the form on [bit.ly/USTLibDocuDelivery](http://bit.ly/USTLibDocuDelivery)



**Turnitin Service**

Faculty Members and Graduate School students may request to run their research papers through Turnitin software.

Go to [bit.ly/USTLibTurnitinRequest](http://bit.ly/USTLibTurnitinRequest) for more details.



**UST MdB Library Guide to the 'New Normal'**

**ON-GOING SERVICES**



**Grammarly**

Grammarly account may be requested by Faculty Members and currently enrolled Graduate School Students.

Fill-out this form [bit.ly/USTLibGrammarlyForm](http://bit.ly/USTLibGrammarlyForm) to get one.



**Suggest a Purchase**

Enhance the library's collection by sending your suggested library materials for purchase to [alalomo@ust.edu.ph](mailto:alalomo@ust.edu.ph)

For more details, visit [bit.ly/USTLibSuggest](http://bit.ly/USTLibSuggest)



**Clearance Signing**

Requests for clearance signing can be directly coordinated with the head librarian of the General Circulation Section, Ms. Sabina C. Viernes.

Send an e-mail to [scviernes@ust.edu.ph](mailto:scviernes@ust.edu.ph)



**Borrowing of Library Materials**

You may check-out library materials by following the Circulation guidelines of the library.

For policies and other information, read on [bit.ly/USTLibBorrowingPolicy](http://bit.ly/USTLibBorrowingPolicy)

To avail of this service, fill-out the form on [bit.ly/USTLibBorrowLibMat](http://bit.ly/USTLibBorrowLibMat)



**Returning of Library Materials**

Library Materials may be returned by using the book drops located at España Gate 1 and Dapitan Gate 10.

A book drop is also available at the Central Library's foyer.

Check [bit.ly/USTLibReturnBorrowedMats](http://bit.ly/USTLibReturnBorrowedMats) for more details.



**UST MdB Library Guide to the 'New Normal'**

**REACH US!**

**E-mail**

- [library@ust.edu.ph](mailto:library@ust.edu.ph)

**Website**

- [library.ust.edu.ph](http://library.ust.edu.ph)

**OPAC**

- [ustlib.ust.edu.ph](http://ustlib.ust.edu.ph)

**Digital Library**

- [digilib.ust.edu.ph](http://digilib.ust.edu.ph)

**Contact Numbers**

(632) 8-731-3034 ; (632) 8-786-1611 loc. 8343 ; (0961) 721-9748

**Social Media Accounts**

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @ustmdblib

**Contact persons for specific concerns**

Library Account, Borrowing & Returning of Library Materials, Lost & Damaged Books, Clearance Signing

- Ms. Sabina C. Viernes ([scviernes@ust.edu.ph](mailto:scviernes@ust.edu.ph))

Online Library User Education

- Ms. Raquel B. Lontoc ([rbontoc@ust.edu.ph](mailto:rbontoc@ust.edu.ph))

Turnitin

- Mr. Edward H. Puzon ([ehpuzon@ust.edu.ph](mailto:ehpuzon@ust.edu.ph))  
Ms. Kristi Ma. Ferie V. Macasaet ([kvmacasaet@ust.edu.ph](mailto:kvmacasaet@ust.edu.ph))  
Mr. Maynard M. Vitug ([mmvitug@ust.edu.ph](mailto:mmvitug@ust.edu.ph))

Suggest a Purchase

- Ms. Anna Rita L. Alomo ([alalomo@ust.edu.ph](mailto:alalomo@ust.edu.ph))

Gifts & Exchange

- Ms. Rosemary B. Balbin ([rbalbin@ust.edu.ph](mailto:rbalbin@ust.edu.ph))

**Helpful Links**

- Library Account Update form - [bit.ly/USTLibAccountUpdateForm](http://bit.ly/USTLibAccountUpdateForm)
- Guide to E-Resources by Subject - [bit.ly/USTLibEResourcesBySubject](http://bit.ly/USTLibEResourcesBySubject)
- Remote Access to E-Resources - [bit.ly/USTLibRemoteAccessGuide](http://bit.ly/USTLibRemoteAccessGuide)
- Online Library User Education - [bit.ly/USTLibOnlineUserEd](http://bit.ly/USTLibOnlineUserEd)
- Document Delivery - [bit.ly/USTLibDocuDeliveryRequest](http://bit.ly/USTLibDocuDeliveryRequest)
- Turnitin - [bit.ly/USTLibTurnitinRequest](http://bit.ly/USTLibTurnitinRequest)
- Grammarly - [bit.ly/USTLibGrammarlyRequest](http://bit.ly/USTLibGrammarlyRequest)
- Suggest a Purchase - [bit.ly/USTLibSuggest](http://bit.ly/USTLibSuggest)
- Borrowing of Library Materials - [bit.ly/USTLibBorrowingPolicy](http://bit.ly/USTLibBorrowingPolicy)
- Returning of Library Materials - [bit.ly/USTLibReturnBorrowedMats](http://bit.ly/USTLibReturnBorrowedMats)
- Overdue Fines Payment Method - [bit.ly/USTLibPayment](http://bit.ly/USTLibPayment)

**FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES, KINDLY CONTACT THE LIBRARY**

**Interlibrary Loan (ILL)**

Borrowing of physical library materials from other partner institutions and vice versa.

**Referral**

Issuance of referral letters for interested library users who wish to visit other libraries/institutions.

**Reprographic Services**

Photocopying, printing, and scanning services.

**Gifts and Exchange**

Donations and exchanges of library materials.

"Hey, 'new normal', challenge accepted!" is the response of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library during this difficult time brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Library continues to be committed in carrying out its primary Mission to continuously provide the Thomasian community a round-the-clock access to the Library's vast collection and helpful services.

In response, the Library released a **Guide to the 'New Normal'**. With this, library users can still obtain their informational needs in the comfort of their own homes. Specified in the said guide are the on-going services, services on a case-by-case basis, contact details, and helpful links. This was posted on the Library's official Facebook page ([fb.com/ustmdblib](https://fb.com/ustmdblib)), Twitter page (@ustmdblib), and Website ([library.ust.edu.ph](http://library.ust.edu.ph)).

This pandemic may be a big challenge, but this will not hinder the Library's support in the Thomasian community's educational pursuits whether on site or online.



## Education High School latest events

Marjorie Irish A. Suarez

The Education High School (EHS) Library in collaboration with the Book Lovers' Club and The Rosarian Club, celebrated the 'English Week' and the 'National Book Week' last November 18-20, 2020 with the theme, "Cosmos: Navigating through Language and Literature." The Book Lovers' Club prepared three activities for the EHS students.

The first activity was the "Epiphany: the unsung story of a song" which is a short story writing contest that showcases students creativity in writing, through their expression of feelings and imagination. The judges for this activity were UST Librarians: Rosemary B. Balbin, Marilou G. Palermo, and Maynard M. Vitug. The winners for this contest were:

- Champion – Grade 9 - **Honesty**
- Champion – Grade 9 - **Simplicity**
- 1st runner up – Grade 8 - **Piety**
- 1st runner up – Grade 8 - **Responsibility**
- 2nd runner up – Grade 10 - **Justice**

The second activity was the "Orama: a glimpse of your imagination" This is a digital arts contest that helps students showcase their imagination through the use of digital arts. The winners were the following:

- Champion – Grade 10 - **Dignity**
- 1st runner up – Grade 7 - **Respect**
- 2nd runner up – Grade 8 - **Responsibility**

The last activity was the "Persona: a Character to Remember." In this activity, students were given a chance to portray famous and beloved literary characters from books, movies, comics, theatrical plays, etc. through their use of creativity, specifically, thru photoshoot. The winners in this contest were the following:

- Champion – Grade 10 - **Justice**
- 1st runner up – Grade 8 - **Responsibility**
- 2nd runner up – Grade 10 - **Dignity**

The judges for the second and last activities were: Mercy C. Bano, Leonila M. Manuel, both UST Librarians, and Ms. Ruth Jamel B. Castillo, UST EHS faculty member.

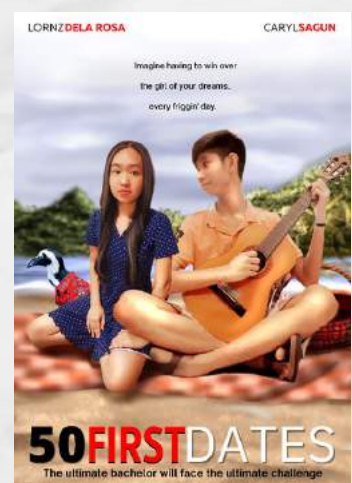
Awarding of winners was done on December 12, 2020 via the 'Blackboard Collaborate'.



Publication material for "Epiphany".



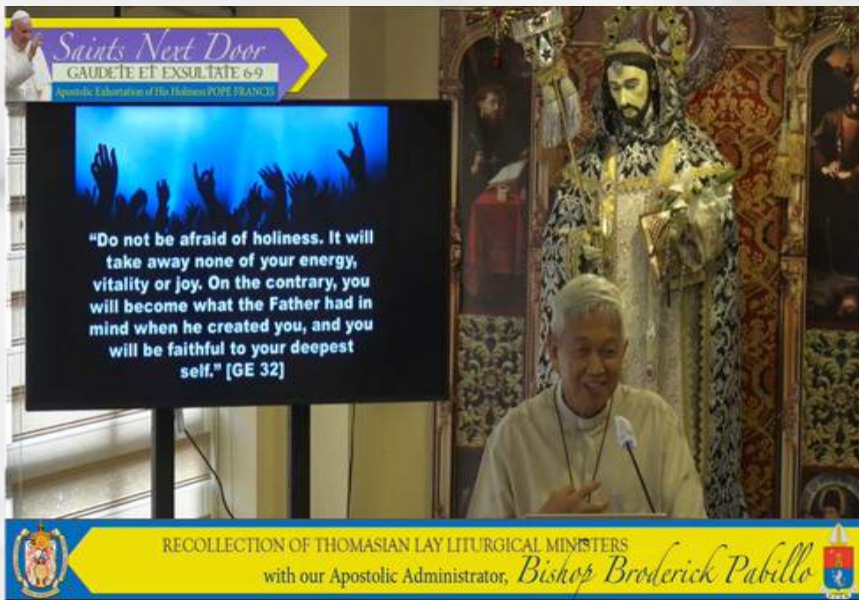
Winning entry for "Orama" from Dignity.



Winning entry for "Persona" from Justice.

## Abad and Balbin attend online formation as lay liturgical ministers

Rosemary B. Balbin



Pre-commissioning Recollection of our Thomasian Lay Liturgical Ministers with Bishop Broderick Pabillo

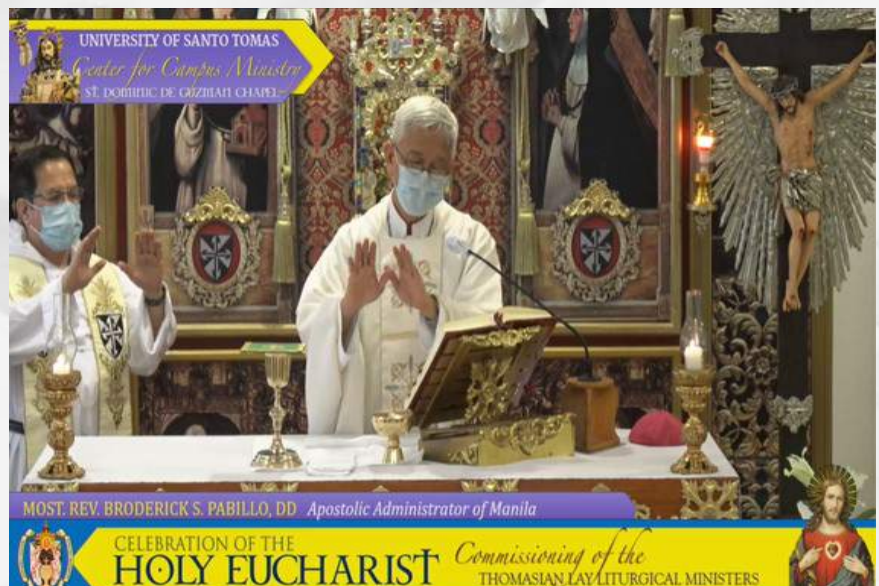
It has been a yearly tradition for the Thomasian lay liturgical ministers to renew their vows of service and commitment and be commissioned during the celebration on the Feast day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Despite the challenges and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in our present situation, the UST Center for Campus Ministry (CCM) collaborated with the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission, did not waver in their advocacy and pursued even more this significant annual formation program through online.

Last September 4, 2020, in compliance with the quarantine guidelines, Rosemary B. Balbin and Ma. Arleen M. Abad from the UST Miguel de Benavides Library, attended the online Recollection and Holy Mass at home via live streaming through the UST CCM Facebook page. Most Rev. Broderick Pabillo, D.D., Apostolic administrator of

Manila, was the Recollection speaker and Mass presider during the onsite event held at the UST St. Dominic Chapel, Tan Yan Kee Student Center Bldg. It was a concelebrated Mass with Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., UST Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs.

Before the notable event, The UST Center for Campus Ministry (CCM) headed by Assoc. Prof. Richard G. Pazcoguín, MA, director, Asst. Prof. Girly V. Constantino, MA, assistant director, gave the Renewal of Commitment Guidelines as Thomasian Lay Liturgical Ministers. They were conveyed to watch the Online Formation program prepared by the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission-Manila headed by its commissioner, Fr. Genaro O. Diwa, entitled, "Sa Piging ng Panginoon" which was streamed live on July 15-17, 2020. All Thomasian lay liturgical ministers were required to attend the said online formation or view the recorded videos through their Facebook page.

Ms. Abad and Ms. Balbin renewed their promise of service and commitment to the Lord and were commissioned through an online commissioning rite. They participated in the mass and rite at their home's comforts wearing their ministry uniform and were later encouraged to take pictures with the family. "With an ardent heart, we submit ourselves to the Lord, especially during this struggling time. Have a strong faith that this, too, shall pass. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of ministry and community."



Thomasian Lay Liturgical Ministers' Recollection and Commissioning Mass with Bishop Broderick Pabillo concelebrated with Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., UST Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs.



# - MEMOIRS -

*The graduating San Lorenzo Ruiz scholars of the Library batch 2020*

## **MICAH AUBREY B. GERAY**

*BPE major in Sports and Wellness Management \* Institute of Physical Education and Athletics \* Graduate School Section*



Many students aspire to become a scholar in the University of Santo Tomas and I would say that I am lucky to be one of them. It was really challenging to balance between work and school; sometimes it gets a bit stressful especially during thesis moments. After two and a half years of being a student assistant, I gained valuable working experiences because of the persistent guidance of my superiors, namely, Ms. Anna Rita L. Alomo, Ms. Jenneth G. Capule and Mr. Edward H. Puzon. They taught me how to be patient and responsible to people around me. Likewise, I thank the UST Library for accepting me as one of their student assistants. I will forever be grateful to the generosity and support I received from the Library family. I promise to continue to work hard and eventually, give something back by helping others. To my co-scholars, "let us strive hard to achieve our dreams. We have a bright future ahead of us! Again, thank you UST Miguel de Benavides Library administrators, librarians and support staff."

## **RICA-ELLA M. POLLANTE**

*BPE major in Sports and Wellness Management \* Institute of Physical Education and Athletics \* Music & Internet Section*



No ordinary student hopes to have a life as grueling as a San Lorenzo scholar. Having a 'dual' role is not an easy feat, dahil sa totoo lang, ang hirap to be deprived of a social life! As a student assistant for almost four (4) consecutive years, all my strength had been zapped out! But I should say "it's all worth it!" I never gave up nor thought that life was unfair. I knew then that in my journey, I would encounter many challenges that would test myself and my faith. Whatever happened, I had to maintain my scholarship through any means necessary just to continue my studies. Just like any other student assistants, I endured by diligently doing whatever needed to be done. I have learned to sail on my own and weather the storms of a student's life. Oftentimes, I experienced sleepless nights being bombarded with overloaded works, deadlines and the "feverish thesis." But I learned to balance my time in school and at work. It even honed me to be a better version of myself. Amidst those difficult times were merriment and light days that came along the way which I would always cherish.

Yet, I considered all these as a beautiful struggle. I always had in mind that being a San Lorenzo scholar is a great privilege. As a matter of fact, it was more of an accolade, because I often get complimented and it changed me a lot as a person. It developed my personality, leveled up my self-confidence, and gained the respect of students. I met different kinds of people from all walks of life, a set of new friends and professionals who made a big difference in my life. They are the best, referring to Mrs. Chona M. Facundo and Mrs. Tess F. Estoya of the Music and Internet Section of the UST Library, who taught me the importance of professionalism and the value of 'commitment'. I enjoyed and cherished every moment that I walked with them in my journey. All the sacrifices I made turned out to be a wonderful blessing!

More than ever, I am a proud Thomasian! UST has been very good to me. I will forever be grateful to the University that made my study possible, most especially to the Dominican Fathers, for they have the heart and empathy to help financially-challenged students like me. To the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) and the Miguel de Benavides Library, that taught me how to serve the University well, I owe them so much. Of course, my entire loving family who has toiled day and night, and labored hard to support me. More than anything, the 'cherry' on top of it all, our Almighty God, my guiding light. "Gratias ago tibi, Domine! 'Soli Deo Gloria'!



## MEMOIRS

The graduating San Lorenzo Ruiz scholars of the Library batch 2020

### MA. MONIKA JOY S. RAMOS

*BPE major in Sports and Wellness Management \* Institute of Physical Education and Athletics \* Social Sciences Section*



"Being a working scholar and at the same time a full time student in the Miguel de Benavides Library was not easy. As a San Lorenzo Ruiz scholar, I learned many things such as: time management, determination and hard work. Being able to manage my time in my duty hours helped me to value and balance my time properly, and be able to prioritize the things that needed to be done. I was always determined to finish the work assigned to me and was very much willing to attend to my duty every day. And lastly, it was a hard work and fun experience because working for four (4) years in the Library was not really that hard because I enjoyed every single moment I worked. Yes, I admit that I struggled at times but most of the time, I was happy and relieved because I was given the chance to help and serve the Thomasian community.

Ma'am Leony M. Manuel, Ma'am Arlene P. Matias, Sir Maynard M. Vitug, Sir Lejempf V. Flores and Ma'am Elma L. Nagorite were the people who helped and guided me during my stay in the UST Library. They were the ones who shaped me through my journey as a scholar. "Thank you po sa lahat Ma'am and Sir. Hindi ko po kakalimutan ang mga payo ninyo sa akin. I will always be thankful and proud that you were my mentors."

My last few months in the Library didn't go well because of the pandemic but I am still filled with gratitude knowing that I graduated as a San Lorenzo working scholar. To my beloved Miguel de Benavides Library, "thank you!" "It was an honor and a privilege to have served you for four years."

### IANA JANE J. TAÑADA

*Bachelor of Music major in Voice \* Conservatory of Music \* Social Sciences Section*



Becoming a San Lorenzo Ruiz scholar, for me, are two things: The Almighty God's blessing and a gift. It is a blessing that I am forever thankful and a gift to cherish for a lifetime.

Studying and working at the same time may have been physically tiresome but it surely had never been troublesome as I've met the kindest and warmest people along the way, most especially in the UST Miguel de Benavides Library. Even when things get rough due to loads of academic and non-academic pressures, my Library family was there to give me that ray of sunshine whenever I was in my place of work. Laughter, sharing of wholesome experiences and even food trips were some of the most memorable moments I got the chance to do with them – simple things that greatly helped me keep my sanity in my three long years as a working scholar.

What I learned most about being a student assistant is that one should always be grateful for the things that one has in life instead of counting things one does not get to possess. I believe that having a deep sense of gratitude, no matter what you do and go through, fills out the void in your life.

Having been blessed with this opportunity led me to become a better person towards my family, friends, and the community. I hope and pray that our future scholars would also be blessed with the same strength, perseverance, and a sense of gratitude that will guide them along the way.

I am one proud Thomasian Working Scholar! Soli Deo Gloria!



**SARAH LYN O. RECTO***Bachelor of Science in Accountancy \* AMV- College of Accountancy (Cum Laude) \* Religion Section*

Faith. Hope. Love.

Five years ago, I was just a girl waiting for a scholarship interview to be able to study in a university. But after years of learning and growth, I am now a woman who is far more ready to take the next step as I go forward with my career and start off fresh with a job interview. And finally, the day will come that I will be able to support my family.

It wasn't easy being a working scholar for five straight years while pursuing a degree. But yes, it was not impossible! Whenever it seemed unbearable to push through, I just kept on telling myself na "kailangan kong magtapos as a scholar at ga-graduate akong scholar, ga-graduate akong scholar!" And with these words, I stared at the main building's façade where the TRIA HAEC is located symbolizing "faith, hope and love" – the three things that last forever, and then I would pray. And it worked! Because now, I can proudly shout and say "finally, nagtapos din ako at OPO NAGTAPOS AKONG SCHOLAR through God's grace and through perseverance!

At first it was hard to juggle between academic requirements and my duty since I was still adjusting to my new journey as freshman and then I needed to run to the library every after class to have my lunch and not to be late for my duty. I had to maintain balance in my life by making sure I was doing well in my academics as a student as well as in the performance of my duty as a student assistant. But along

the way, I got used to it to the point when I miss being in the Library that even though I do not have any duty or I do not have research work, I still stayed in the library and helped whenever I could. The moment I stopped considering my duty hours as an obligation and started recognizing it as an opportunity for my personal growth and a way to give back to the University, I enjoyed every moment of it.

I loved working and learning with amazing people around me, my co-scholars and supervisors who taught me the importance of time management, teamwork, interdependence, responsibility, perseverance and taking pride in my contributions. I also find a sense of fulfillment whenever I finish my duty knowing that I did good for the people that I am working with and for the department. I always kept in mind that the library staff are not just my co-workers, but they are my second family who are always there for me whenever I need them. Honestly, I won't get where I am now without the help of the people that I will forever be grateful to especially to my family, friends, to the Library especially to my EHS, Religion, and Graduate School family, "thank you for making my duties fulfilling no matter how demanding they might have been." To all the head librarians that I had the privilege to work with, especially to Ma'am Frances Gel C. Ciar, Ma'am Leonila M. Manuel and Ma'am Jenneth G. Capule, who were more like a mother to me rather than my supervisor, I learned a lot from them which I will always cherish.

To my friends, for being there for me no matter how busy and crazy I can get trying to balance academics, duty and social life, for being my 'go to' person whenever there's too much going on and needed someone to talk to, for pushing me to do better, believing that I can do it, for not getting tired of reminding me that I should deal with it one step at a time, for putting up with me lalo na sa schedule ko – I would not have made it without them! To all my professors and teachers, "thank you for always entertaining our questions even when it is not school hours and for going out of their way to make sure that we learn not only in our academics but more importantly, on the different life lessons as well."

To my loving family, for always taking care of me and guiding me so that I won't get lost in the way, for the support, trust and for believing in me. My greatest appreciation for their unending love and understanding. This is all for them and I hope I made them all proud of what I have accomplished so far.

And to the Best Man up there, "thank you God for all Your support and guidance in every step of the way, for making all these possible, thank You for shedding Your light which served as my guiding torch, thank you for making me a better and stronger person. I will forever give thanks to You Lord for Your endless blessings!"

Congratulations to all the graduating scholars! We survived and we finished strong. We're now one step closer to our dreams. Here's to new beginnings!

Once again, "thank you UST!"

"All praise and glory to you, LORD!"



## Macasaet attends iAGDON class of 2020

Rosemary B. Balbin



The Library celebrates with Kristi Ma. Fevie V. Macasaet, assistant head librarian of the Science and Technology Section, as she propelled to greater heights and crossed yet another milestone. She proudly tossed her cap and obtained her Master of Library and Information Science degree from UP School of Library and Information Studies last May 30, 2019. Her paper was entitled: **The Project on the History and Development of Batangas Provincial Library** under the supervision of Prof. Kathleen Lourdes B. Obille. She attended the iAGDON Class of 2020 virtual recognition rites which was broadcasted live on YouTube and Facebook last August 29, 2020.

Congratulations on your graduation! Your Library family is proud of your achievement. It is time to reap the rewards of your dedication and hard work! Caps off to you, Fevie!

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Published quarterly by UST Miguel de Benavides Library, UST, Manila.

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