

UST Library launches its Thomasian community e-resources pantry

Diana V. Padilla



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Community Pantries are flourishing these days to provide mutual aid and help each other out at this time of global health crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from sharing food to those in need, this outreach has evolved to different kinds. Many are also giving out face masks, face shields, toys, pet supplies, etc. Many are encouraged to give more donations from people in all walks of life, which is an admirable example of responding to Covid-19, a **Bayanihan** way in times of crisis.

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library launched its **online version** of community sharing last May 3, 2021, entitled **THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY E-RESOURCES PANTRY: Click what you need, suggest titles for others to pick**. It is intended for 'leisure reading' for the Thomasian community. Its main objective is to help the users unwind, reduce stress, and cope with the current health crisis. In addition, this activity aims to stimulate interest in reading and at the same time develop

Lib Talks



Orientation for PALS initiated by the Senior High School Library

Symon Lagao



SHS Librarians and SHS PALS pose for a virtual group photo.

The UST Senior High School (SHS) Library held its first virtual orientation for SHS Promoters of Activities and Library Services (PALS) on March 6, 2021 from 10:00am to 11:00am. A total of 122 class-elected public relations officers attended the orientation. The online session was graced by Asst. Prof. Jazamie V. Ong, Assistant Principal for Student Formation, and Mr. Aldrine V. Guevarra, PhD., library coordinator.

The orientation aimed to inform the SHS PALS of their duties and responsibilities as library representatives and re-orient them on the services offered by the Library.

Ms. Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos, head librarian of the SHS Library, introduced the library administrators and SHS library staff. Mr. Symon Lagao and Ms. Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio, assistant head librarians, discussed the nature and responsibilities of SHS PALS and library services, respectively.

The purpose of orientation is to increase student library engagement and help cultivate a positive learning experience with the SHS Library. Through PALS, officers are also given the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and foster a blissful and rewarding experience through volunteerism.

Looking forward to a meaningful collaborative endeavor SHS PALS!

The 5th SHS week celebration

Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio

The University of Santo Tomas Senior High School (UST-SHS) had its 5th SHS Week last March 17-20, 2021 with the theme “SHS HIGH FIVE: Strength in Adversities.” The UST SHS’s teen reading club, Alinaga, joined the celebration and organized a series of online activities, including a reading comprehension webinar entitled “Aklahatan: Isang Pagpupulong Para Sa Literatura ng Pilipinas.” The said webinar took place last March 19, 2021 and was attended by the SHS Librarians.

Ms. Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos, head librarian of SHS Library, delivered the opening remarks. She mentioned that the UST Miguel de Benavides Library holds various collections and library spaces focusing on Filipino authors and local literary works. Besides the rich Filipiniana collection, the Library also houses a vast array of creative writing, literature, and other related resources both in print and electronic formats. Aside from the collection, Ms. Ramos also imparted the ongoing services that the Library provides such as virtual office and borrowing of materials.

It was immediately followed by the first speaker, Ms. Ruth Clare G. Torres, academic staff from the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters. Ms. Torres discussed thoroughly the history of the Philippine literature - from its influences during the Spanish and American occupations including social consciousness and personal experiences and emotions.



Poster of Aklahatan Isang Pagpupulong Para Sa Literatura ng Pilipinas.

The other speakers were: Ms. Dawn Marie Nicole L. Marfil and Ms. Zendy Victoria Sue G. Valencia, both teachers from the Senior High School, who discussed how and why they write. Both speakers shared numerous experiences on how and why they are into writing. Ms. Marfil, a young adult writer, mentioned that one should sharpen one’s memory to be able to describe each detail clearly, always pays attention to grammar and vocabulary concerns, and how to overcome writer’s block. Being an only child, there is nothing for her to do but to read and eventually write to pass the time. For Ms. Valencia, a creative non-fiction writer, she writes because writing can give identity and it can also serve as an advocacy.

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Elsevier APAC eBook webinar

Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio

Elsevier, a publishing company specializing in science, health, and technology-related contents, organized an Asia Pacific (APAC) e-book webinar related to digital information and future libraries. The webinar was entitled "Everyone a Pioneer – Libraries, Publishing and Remote Science" which was held on March 25, 2021.

The first part of the session were discussions by Prof. David Baker, an emeritus professor of Strategic Information Management in Plymouth Marjon University in the UK, and Dr. Lucy Ellis, an honorary research fellow in Exeter University. They talked about their upcoming book entitled "Libraries, Digital Information, and COVID: Practical Applications and Approaches to Challenge and Change." They shared the present situation for libraries during the pandemic, which is devastating. However, it also paves the way for innovation and the development of new services. They commended libraries and their personnel who responded efficiently and effectively during the digital transformation - from being physically present to being virtually available. They concluded the first session by pointing out that everyone is a pioneer since everyone is new in this full transition.

The second part focused on the best practices of various libraries and information services. The first panelist was Ms. Caroline Williams, a university librarian from the University of Queensland, Australia. She mentioned that since it is their first time to encounter a pandemic, her team should be both bold and courageous in coming up with new strategies. They should be aligned to the patrons' needs but still mindful of her team's workload.

This was followed by Dr. Juan D. Machin-Mastromatteo, a professor at the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua, Mexico, who shared the importance of managing a repository. The records manager should consider the guiding principles such

as resource access, sharing, interaction, and the principle of Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse of digital assets (FAIR).

Ms. Melissa Fulkerson, senior director of the Product Management of Elsevier, tackled digital materials' resource credibility and acquisition investment. She assured that before the resources get to be published, rigorous reviews have been done. In terms of product acquisitions, data gathering of courses being offered is being made in order to have the collection aligned to the curriculum.

The last part of the session was the question-and-answer dialogue. The audience and panelists had sufficient time to clarify and discuss further topics in their respective fields. Some of the relevant questions during the open forum were: (a) how to manage repository data if the institution is composed of several units distributed in different places, and (b) if there is an expiration to the publisher's rights to distribute the digital version of the book. As per Dr. Machin-Mastromatteo, the staff should first distinguish the format and number of the collection, its classification scheme, and the management organization. However, it all boils down to the written policy. It will be a centralized policy or an in-house rule depending on the material's format and collection. For the second question, the clarification was - there is no expiration to the publisher's rights but access to the materials is on a subscription basis.

Indeed, digital transformation can be a mechanism for more efficiency but still needs planning and written policy to have smooth and organized implementation. Old practices, contents, and behavior modifications every now and then is expected since everyone is a pioneer in every situation.

Projects in the libraries - ideas, innovations, initiatives

Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio

The IFLA Division IV-Support of the Profession, organized a webinar on May 26, 2021 with the title "Projects in the Libraries - Ideas, Innovations, Initiatives," which focuses on the project initiatives in Norway, the Philippines, and the United States.

Mr. Erik Boekesteijn, the event's moderator, is a senior adviser in the National Library of The Netherlands. He shared his experiences as the main man in setting up new library attractions and programs. He mentioned that he travels a lot in order to visit libraries around the globe, gives talks, and has written a book about librarianship as a profession. He also mentioned several initiatives such as the Storyhouse, an integrated theater, library, and cinema, a plaza-inspired library, and a symposia series that tackles (1) equity, diversity, and inclusion; (2) post-neutrality librarianship; (3) international influences; and (4) a "new normal" agenda in a COVID-affected world.

The first speaker, Mr. Randolph Mariano, is a librarian from the University of Tromsø - The

Arctic University of Norway. He addressed global librarianship and how museums, libraries, and cultural centers have been associated with and have become instruments for cultural diplomacy. It aims to highlight the roles of some foreign cultural centers in the library diplomacy



The poster for the IFLA Division IV Webinar Series is set against a red background. At the top left is the IFLA logo, a grid of white squares with the letters 'IFLA' in red. To the right of the logo, the text 'IFLA DIVISION IV' is in white, followed by 'Support of the Profession' in a larger white font. Below this, 'A Webinar Series' is in a smaller white font, and 'for LIS students: Projects in the Libraries – Ideas, Innovations, Initiatives' is in a white font. In the center is a grid of six small video frames showing participants. Below the frames, the date and time 'May 26, 2021, 13:00-14:30 CEST' are listed. At the bottom, four sessions are listed in white text: Session 1 – "The Library Diplomacy Initiative: the role of foreign cultural centers in bridging culture and innovation" by Randolph Mariano; Session 2 – "DLSZ Minecraft Virtual Library" by Gerald C. Diño and Jay Michael O. Diola; Session 3 – "Progress in a Pinch: Implementing Digital Course Reserves When the Time's Not Right" by Sagan Wallace; and Session 4 – "PORCH STORIES: A place-based storytime partnership with Ithaca's African American community" by Anthony Martinez.

IFLA

IFLA DIVISION IV
Support of the Profession

A Webinar Series
for LIS students: Projects in the Libraries –
Ideas, Innovations, Initiatives

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scene like the 'American Spaces and Korean Cultural Center'.

The second session was the De La Salle Santiago Zobel (DLSZ) Minecraft Virtual Library by Mr. Gerald Diño and Mr. Jay Michael Diola, DLSZ librarians in Muntinlupa. The library gamification serves as a way to increase student engagement during the pandemic. Mr. Diola took note that the library should be visually appealing; library users should experience the actual feeling every time they visit. It is exciting and encouraging to visit a game-based virtual library that most students are familiar with and have fun playing with.

Another speaker, Mr. Anthony Martinez, a University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign student, talked about "Porch Stories: a place-based story time partnership with Ithaca's African American community." It is a project proposal in collaboration with Tompkins County Public Library, a local public library in Ithaca, New York, and Southside Community Center, a preeminent NGO empowering African American citizens of greater Ithaca. Since the Library location is far from the target community, this

project is called "Porch Stories." Story time will transpire in the porches instead of in the Library. It is also an opportunity for the library to invest long term in the significance of Black folks reading Black books to Black children in Black spaces.

The last speaker, Ms. Sagan Wallace, Library Experience and Access Department Evening supervisor in Oregon State University. She introduced their "E-Reserves Project" and the basics of "Controlled Digital Learning (CDL)." The "E-Reserves" project is an initiative to digitize course reserves and have them circulated in a specific manner to protect the copyright of each material. These digitized books are stored behind the counter. They also apply "Digital Rights Management" (DRM) to ensure patrons cannot copy or distribute the material.

Questions were asked after every talk. The Organizer also used the opportunity to promote the upcoming webinar sessions of IFLA.

UST Library... from Front Page

concern for others' information needs; promote the library's e-resources and increase its usage; and enhance the library collections by requesting for titles to be acquired.



This activity was proposed by Ms. Diana V. Padilla, the assistant chief librarian. It was supported by the Library Administrators Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., Prefect of Libraries, Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, chief librarian, the UST librarians, and support staff. Each librarian was given a topic in which he/she had to select at least 20 titles of electronic materials about it. The topics are Arts, Sports, Health and Wellness, Self-help and Family, Crafts and Hobbies, Travels, Spiritual Life, and Literary. The accumulated titles were gradually posted by topics on the Library website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts every Monday and Thursday.

As for the mechanics, only UST academic and administrative officials, faculty members, support staff, and enrolled students were allowed to access the E-resources pantry using their GSuite email and active library accounts. The titles were retrievable via Google Drive wherein users had to select their preferred title from the list provided. Some e-books were downloadable while others were loanable for five days; articles were downloadable too, while videos were for live streaming only via its designated platform. Also, users were encouraged to suggest title/s for others to read/watch/listen to by accomplishing the form "Suggested Titles." The availability of the title/s submitted was/were checked to share with the community. If unavailable, titles were assessed for approval and for possible purchase.

A day after the launching of this online activity, a daily newspaper, the Manila Bulletin, noticed and published it on their website.

The Thomasian E-Resources Community Pantry ran until the end of June 2021.

This worthwhile online learning endeavor would not have been possible without the commitment and cooperation of the entire Miguel de Benavides Library family and its users, who patronized it and promoted the activity.

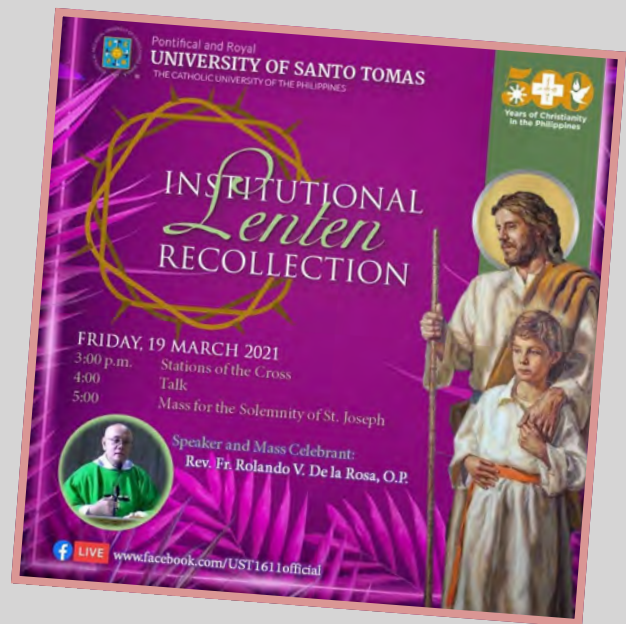
UST institutional Lenten Recollection 2021

Marjorie Irish A. Suarez

The University of Santo Tomas annual institutional Lenten Recollection was held last March 16, 2021 via Facebook livestream organized by the Office of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs (OVRRA), and The Center for Campus Ministry (CCM). The Mass celebrant was the former Rector Magnificus of the University, Rev. Fr. Rolando V. Dela Rosa, OP., who is currently a professor at the Faculty of Sacred Theology.

The Thomasian community was invited to attend this activity from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

- 3:00 pm - Praying of the Stations of the Cross
- 4:00 pm - Talk
- 5:00 pm - Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph



The Recollection allowed the Thomasian community to have a personal encounter with the Lord through listening to His word, reflection, meditation, and prayer especially in this time of crisis. Moreover, with the help of the Human Values Committee, the Miguel de Benavides Library staff were given various activities such as the daily playing of Morning Prayers at 8:00 am and the praying of the Holy Rosary through a public address system (PA system) for spiritual encounter.

UST institutional Easter Recollection 2021

Marjorie Irish A. Suarez

The University of Santo Tomas' annual Institutional Easter Recollection was held last April 23, 2021, Friday via Facebook live stream. It was organized by the Office of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs (OVRRA), the Center for Campus Ministry (CCM), and the Graduate School of Law. The Recollection was entitled "Bearers of Eastern Hope" led by The Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples and former Archbishop of Manila, His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, D.D. After which, it was followed by a Eucharistic celebration officiated by the UST Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs, Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P.



Cardinal Tagle started with a reflection on the Lenten message of Pope Francis regarding the three theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love. This connects to the theme of the Easter Recollection, "Centered of Hope." We believe that Hope is God's gift; it is a grace. "Hindi po tayo ang gumagawa ng pag-asa; ang pag-asa ay regalo ng Diyos; tayo ay taga-tanggap; tayo ay taga-hingi ng biyaya ng pag-asa," Cardinal Tagle said. His Eminence emphasized the true value of Hope from God as a gift to mankind. It was also mentioned that

Hope is looking forward to a brighter future which manifests the trust given to our Creator that He is in charge of our situation.



This Recollection allowed the Thomasian community to have a realization that their personal struggles are part of the process of surrendering everything to the Almighty God. All were invited to attend the online Institutional Easter Recollection from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

“Hiyas sa Gitna ng Pandemya”

Fides C. Arrogancia

Yearly, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) honors the members of the support staff who have shown exemplary service and dedication through the **Hiyas ng UST Awards**. Customarily, it is a joyful celebration where the support staff gathers as one big family and the administrators of the University personally congratulate and give the awards to every recipient. This set-up, however, cannot be done anymore due to the pandemic.

However, the UST Human Resource Department (HRD) continued this tradition by creatively posting a video presentation on their Facebook page last May 13, 2021, entitled “Hiyas sa Gitna ng Pandemya.” This featured the awardees of the 13th and 14th ‘Hiyas ng UST’ Awards.

In her message, UST HRD Director, Asst. Prof. Jacqueline O. Lopez-Kaw, DCL, mentioned that “the pandemic will not hinder the University for giving due recognition and honor to all the support staff who have given the best of their selfless years of service to the University.”

Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD, UST Vice-Rector, declared his heartfelt appreciation to all the support staff saying: “our support staff are like precious gems whose brilliance continues to shine through their efficiency, creativity, commitment, and loyalty.”



Below are the Library support staff awardees:

Punctuality Award 2020

- Daisy Mae T. Abolucion
- Christian P. Barlan
- Annabelle G. Lauro
- Nemesio D. Magtaan
- Jasmin J. Mangona
- Michelle P. Paciencia
- Evangeline D. Panizal
- Rafael A. Travilla

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St. Joseph the Worker Award 2020

- Rafael A. Travilla

Service Award 2020

- 35 years of service – Ma. Serena A. Alejo
- 35 years of service – Demetria L. Estudillo
- 35 years of service – Jasmin J. Mangona

Service Award 2021

- 10 years of service – Manuel Angelo R. Guinto II
- 35 years of service – Dolores E. Morante
- 45 years of service – Evangeline D. Panizal

In his closing message, Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., PhD, rector of the University, commended the work done by the support staff during this health crisis. He said, “The pandemic did not in any way, deter our support staff to be industrious, creative, conscientious, and efficient.

This only shows the support staff’s love and care for the University. The operations in every office continue because of your selfless dedication.”



The Library is truly blessed to have gems like them who are glistening with efficiency and loyalty. We are most certain that they will continue to spread their light and never lose their luster for the years to come. Congratulations and we are indeed grateful to have you!

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