

What's Inside

UST Library kicks off LISM 2023 with a reading flash mob	2
JHS Library celebrates LISM and National Book Week 2023	3
De-Stress Zone at the Library!	4
Navigating the gray areas: ethics in research	5
LIS Month 2023: Library Learning Sessions	6
UST JHS English Department holds a contest in the library	7
LIS month and National Book Week celebrations at the UST-SHS Library	8
A Day full of fun and learning!	9
"Unfolding the art of book preservation and paper conservation"	10
Leadership in the library: helping learners and pioneering change in the organization	11
Fr. Sigaya presents paper on digitization of archival materials	12
UST librarians present papers at the 9th Rizal Library international conference	13
PLAI Centennial National Congress	14
Artificial intelligence in academic libraries...	15
UST library outreach at Sitio San Martin	16
Visit to San Martin de Porres Library, Bamban, Tarlac	17
Librarians' new uniform	17
The Prefect's Cup 2023	18
Fr. Angel's 75th Birthday	19
Jenalyn achieves success in LET	19
Golden-Agers attend Twilight PEP Program 2023	20

PROF. CANDIDA AGCAOILI: An Outstanding Thomasian Alumna at the 8th DTAA

Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS



Fr. Aparicio presents a replica of the historical Arch of the Centuries to Prof. Agcaoili as a token.

We congratulate Prof. Candida Cabatu Agcaoili, a distinguished alumna, for her outstanding achievement. Prof. Agcaoili has devoted her life to the field of library science education, and her contributions have been acknowledged with numerous prestigious awards. Most recently, she was recognized during the 8th Distinguished Thomasian Alumni Awards (DTAA) ceremony held last November 18, 2023, at the Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom, Blessed Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. (BGPOP) Building, which was organized by the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI) and the Office of Alumni Relations.

Ma'am Agcaoili served as the Chief Librarian of the UST Library from 1950-1966. Her journey at UST began with completing a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education, majoring in Library Science, Class 1950. As a revered professor at the UST College of Education and UST Graduate School for over six decades, she has made significant

cont'd on page 4

UST Library Kicks Off LISM 2023 with a Reading Flash Mob

Sr. Lib. Raquel B. Lontoc, RL, MLIS

Excitement filled the Miguel de Benavides Library at 10 a.m. on November 7, as Library users gathered for the first-ever reading flash mob. This unique event kicked off the annual celebration of the 33rd Library and Information Services Month and the 89th National Book Week, which run from November 24-30.

Participants had the opportunity to engage by reading their favorite books for ten minutes during the flash mob. The day's festivities included a brief program that introduced the month-long activities, culminating in a surprise raffle.

Celebration Highlights:

1. Game On! Board Game Activities at the Learning Commons

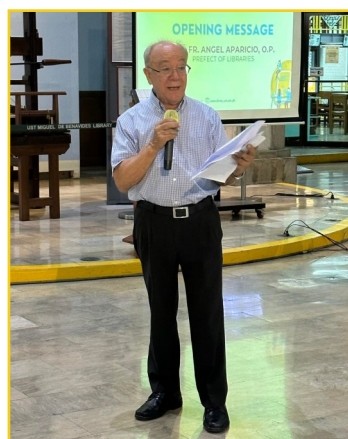
This initiative aimed to foster social interaction among Thomasians by offering a variety of board games. Playing board games can enhance critical thinking, improve long-term memory, develop problem-solving abilities, and reduce stress, ultimately leading to greater happiness and social connection. Additionally, they boost communication skills, enhance math abilities, support literacy development, and hone hand-eye coordination.

2. Online Quizzes (ScienceDirect, Sage Journal, Wiley Online Library, Cambridge Core)

Engaging quizzes utilizing game-based learning strategies challenged academic staff and students while familiarizing them with various library databases. This tool emphasized the importance of "deep searching," allowing users to go beyond simple Google searches to access valuable, often non freely available, research materials and insights.

3. Database Training (Online)

Conducted via webinar, this training featured resource speakers specializing in diverse fields. The goal was to equip Library users with the skills to effectively navigate and utilize various databases, enhancing their academic performance.



Some photos taken during the flash mob activity.



4. Libra-Riddle/Library Features

To promote the Library's unique resources and services, facts and riddles were shared three times a week on the Library's social media pages. This initiative aimed to highlight lesser-known attributes of the Library, encouraging users to fully leverage its offerings.

Overall, the launch of the 33rd Library and Information Services Month showcased the Library's dynamic role in the academic community and engaged students in creative and collaborative ways.

JHS Library celebrates LISM and National Book Week 2023

Sr. Lib. Marilou G. Palermo, RL, MLIS

The whole month of November was the celebration of the 33rd Library and Information Month and the 89th National Book Week.

Last November 7, 2023, at 10 AM, a flash mob happened as a kick-off of the Miguel de Benavides Library that served as an opening for the month-long celebration. The event encouraged the attendees to read their favorite books for ten minutes. It was participated by the UST librarians, BLIS students, and library administrators. It was followed by a short program, including the presentation of activities and a surprise raffle.

The UST Junior High School (JHS) Library celebrated this occasion with the following activities:

1. **Lucky JHS Patron of the Day.** This activity was open to the JHS community, both students and teachers. The Library prepared trivia questions related to books, authors, reading, and the library. The questions were posted through the Google Form link on November 14-30, 2023. The Library Coordinators forwarded the questions to the Head Teachers daily. The winner received an email to claim the prize.
2. **Top Borrower.** Individual category (faculty member and student). The one with the highest number of books borrowed from September to the second week of November 2023.
3. **Top Class Book Borrower.** The class with the most borrowed books from the Library (covered from September to the second week of November 2023).
4. **How Many Books are on the Shelf?** The challenge was to guess how many books were on the shelf. Students counted in just one quick minute. The one who guessed the correct number of books was declared the winner and was notified through email.
5. **Book Buffet.** The books were scattered on the table according to subjects for the students to choose from, which ones entice them to browse/read. A form was given to them to indicate the book's title, author, and call number. They would rate the book/s from 1-10. A small token was given to the participants.
6. **Kathang Duyaw 2023 Forum.** This was a joint activity of the UST Education High School (EHS), Junior High



Some photos during the JHS LISM activities.

School (JHS), and Senior High (SHS) Libraries. The forum, "Cultivating Reading Habits beyond the Classroom," was held last November 29, 2023, 9:00–10:30 AM on the 7th floor of the UST SHS Library, Consultation Rooms 1 and 2. The resource speaker was Asst. Prof. Jaezamie V. Ong, LPT, MA, assistant principal for Student Formation of the UST SHS Department. The topic was fascinating, and it ignited my love for reading. It was attended by teachers, high school students from the three departments, and librarians. The students actively participated during the question and answer portion. They learned so much

cont'd on page 7

De-Stress Zone at the Library!

Jr. Lib. Chiara Maye N. Santiago, RL, MLIS

Last November 7-24, 2023, the Social Sciences section of the Central Library prepared various activities for the students and other Library users to relax and enjoy their free time while staying inside the Library. These activities were Origami, DIY Bookmarks, and Pop Bubbles.

For the **origami** activity, the section staff prepared books about origami-making from which students can choose designs. Another de-stress zone activity is **DIY Bookmarks**. This Section organized bookmarks with free stickers wherein students can put some stickers on their bookmarks and add some drawings to them, too. The DIY bookmarks encourage the students to be creative and enthusiastic in this fun activity.

Moreover, the students can take home these bookmarks as souvenirs from the de-stress zone Library activity. The last activity was the **Pop Bubbles**. The Social Sciences section working scholars prepared bubble wraps. The students are free to get one bubble wrap during their Library visit. Other school libraries inspired this activity, which they also practiced during their examination week. The Library staff initiated pop bubbles activity because, according to research, bubble wraps can release muscle tension. This activity can distract you from your worries as you pop the bubbles. The activities prepared by the Social Sciences Section have already been seen in different schools and universities, even in other countries.



Students unwind in the De-Stress Zone in the middle of exam season, with different activities.

These are fun and exciting ways to relieve stress during exam season. These simple activities can give students peace of mind, relaxation, and a stress-free stay at the Library.

Prof. Candida Agcaoili... from page 1

contributions to the field of librarianship and has inspired generations of librarians with her knowledge, passion, and commitment.

Ma'am Agcaoili was nominated and selected by the College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc. (CEAFI) as the DTAA recipient in the Library and Information Science field, a testament to her profound influence and enduring legacy. Additionally, her pioneering efforts as the 'Founding President' of the Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science (PATLS) in 1964 and her role as the 'First President' of the Integrated Philippines Library Association (now the Philippine Librarians Association) further underscore her impact on the profession. Her accolades extend beyond UST, as evidenced by her receiving the "Outstanding Professional Librarian of the Year" award from the Professional Regulation Commission in 2009.

At 95, Prof. Agcaoili continues to inspire us all with her remarkable achievements. Her passion is truly commendable, and her contributions will always be valuable to the UST community and those outside the University.

Navigating the Gray Areas: Ethics in Research

Sr. Lib. Edward H. Puzon, RL, LPT, MALIS

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library (UST MdbL) organized several events as part of the 33rd Library and Information Services Month celebration. Through its Linkages and Research Committee, the UST Library conducted a hybrid seminar on November 10, 2023, *“Navigating the Gray Areas: Ethics in Research,”* featuring Assoc. Prof. Emmanuel D. Batoon, PhD., chair of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Research Ethics Committee.

The UST Library Conference Hall functioned as the venue for the onsite audience, and, at the same time, the seminar was live-streamed on the Library’s Facebook Page via FB Live for online participants. Mr. John Gabriel A. Agunod, support staff at the Civil Law Section, served as the emcee, while Sr. Lib. Edward H. Puzon, RL, LPT, MALIS, head librarian of the Graduate School Section and chair of the Linkages and Research Committee, delivered the welcome remarks, followed by his introduction of the guest speaker.

Objectives of the session were as follows:

- (1) to discuss the ethical implications of conflicts of interests, qualifications, and responsibilities of authorship in academic publications;
- (2) to explore the ethical principles in deploying instruments (adapted, adopted, and researcher-made) and data-gathering procedures involving human subjects; and
- (3) to examine ethical considerations involving research assistants.

Assoc. Prof. Batoon passionately discussed in detail several aspects of research – from its definition, types, parts of a research study, and methods to ethical considerations giving a complete discourse on the otherwise extensive topic. This was followed by an open forum where the resource person masterfully answered several questions, confirming the audience’s engagement with the subject matter.



Assoc. Prof. Batoon as receives his Certificate of Appreciation from Chief Librarian Maria Cecilia Lobo from the Library Administrators with Sr. Lib. Puzon at the side.



Assoc. Prof. Batoon takes a photo with Library admins, Librarians and staff and the forum participants from the Library Administrators with Sr. Lib. Puzon at the side.

To formally conclude the seminar, Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS, UST Chief Librarian, gave her closing remarks and thanked everyone involved, from the organizers to the participants.

LIS Month 2023: Library Learning Sessions

Jr. Lib. Chiara Maye N. Santiago, RL, MLIS



Library Announcement for Ms. Facundo's talk.

On November 15 and 16, 2023, the Professional Development and Training Committee organized two library learning sessions to celebrate Library and Information Services Month. The first session was about facilitating resource discovery and research using metadata. The speaker was Jr. Lib. Chona M. Facundo, RL, head librarian of the Music Section. Since she could not make it physically, the session was conducted through a Hyflex discussion. Jr. Lib. Facundo delivered her presentation online and was also available for the online participants on the Library's Facebook page. A few students from the Library and Information Science program and librarians attended the Library's conference hall to attend the onsite session. Jr. Lib. Facundo discussed the usefulness of metadata. She also talked about resource discovery, which locates and retrieves existing resources based on particular attributes across multiple administrative domains.

Day 2 was time for Sr. Lib. Lejemp V. Flores, RL, MLIS, one of the UST Library's cataloguers, to discuss the topic: *"Guidelines for securing documents."* Mr. Flores explained the importance of safeguarding one's essential files. The contents given were relevant, like putting ownership marks on your documents, password protection, preventing unwanted access, having backup copies, digitizing your documents, and changing the status of your file. He conducted a hands-on activity so the librarians would effectively and efficiently learn how to secure a document.



Mr. Flores as he delivers his talk: "Guidelines for Securing Documents."

He also demonstrated using Google Drive and Adobe Acrobat to secure documents. The librarians and support staff asked Sr. Lib. Flores had some applicable questions, which he answered precisely. He also gave them important tips so they could apply them to their daily work. Sr. Lib. Jonas T. Sahagun, RL, MLIS, Head of the Professional Development and Training Committee, concluded the program. Participants in both sessions had a meaningful learning experience.



Mr. Flores as he receives his certificate of appreciation handed by Ms. Olamit and Mr. Futralan.

UST JHS English department holds a contest in the library

Sr. Lib. Marilou G. Palermo, RL, MLIS

The UST Junior High School (JHS), spearheaded by the English Department, celebrated English Month and National Reading Month 2023. This year's theme was "*EUNOIA: Celebrating Diversity and Breaking Barriers through English*." They wanted to encourage their students to showcase their talents and creativity, such as Versify, Personify, Reminisce, Vocalize, and Photocall. Each activity's goal and objectives would enable the students to join and express their capabilities and unique talents.

Ms. Pauline Marie V. Gervacio, English Learning Area coordinator, was assisted by Ms. Ma. Luisa T. Reyes. The poetry and essay writing contest was held at the UST JHS Library and religiously assisted by the library staff. The two-day activity was held on November 16–17, 2023, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. It was attended by high school students from different grade levels who showed creativity in composing and expressing their feelings and emotions through writing. Other activities conducted in the Library were the Versify and Reminisce categories:

Versify means unveiling one's inner voice through poetry. The aim was to ignite students' interest in improving social awareness to become functioning members ready to take on the challenges of various societal issues. Moreover, this contest envisioned students unafraid of artistically displaying their knowledge and critical perspectives. It was held on November 16, 2023, at the JHS Library.

Reminisce aimed to enhance and showcase the knowledge and skills of the UST JHS students through essay writing. This served as a platform for students to share their post-



JHS students showcase their talents and skills as they participate in the contest.

pandemic experiences and stories. Furthermore, to raise awareness about the community's current issues due to the after-effects of COVID-19.

This activity was held on November 17, 2023, at the UST-JHS Library. The winner of the said contest was announced during the awarding ceremony held last November 30, 2023, at the JHS auditorium; likewise, the JHS Library Top Borrower (in the individual faculty member and student categories), Top Class Borrower, and Lucky JHS Patron of the Day contests were also given awards.

The JHS Library appreciated these collaborations and valuable activities, which were indeed very helpful to the Junior High School community.

JHS Library celebrates... from page 3

from the guest speaker and revealed the titles of the books they treasured most, likewise sharing their specific time or schedule when they felt like reading their favorite books.

The participants wholeheartedly joined in all the activities. It indeed encouraged enthusiasm and promoted a love for reading. The National Book Week celebration theme was "*Read, Reread, and Relive*."

The main objectives were:

- To encourage students to spend their time reading books.
- To explore more by continuously reading more and more books.
- To adapt reading into students' lives to make it a worthwhile habit.

Gladly, all these objectives were met during these worthwhile activities prepared by the Library.

LIS month and National Book Week celebrations at the UST-SHS library

Sr. Lib Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio, RL, MLIS

November is the month that libraries and librarians most eagerly await, as this is when they celebrate "Library and Information Science Month" (LIS) and "National Book Week" (NBW).

To celebrate the 33rd LIS Month and 89th NBW, the UST Senior High School (SHS) Library arranged various exciting activities last November 24-29, 2023, to cater to young adult learners' different interests. These activities aimed to engage the SHS community in reading and appreciate the library not only as a place to learn but also as a place for leisure.

The UST SHS Library showcased its book collection anchored on the NBW theme "*Read, Reread, Relive.*" They displayed book assortments with the following themes:

- 1.) Coming-of-age (top picks for Read)
- 2.) Classics (choices for Reread)
- 3.) Titles that have movie adaptations (selections for Relive)

Students were encouraged to browse and/or borrow books to make reading an inherent interest and to boost one's imagination and creativity.

One of the staple yet still in-demand interactive games, the Library's WOW (Will of the Wheel), fondly called "Library Spin the Wheel," has been becoming more challenging. For this year's vault, the librarians prepared trivia questions from the following Library collections: Star Wars, Marvel Comics and DC Comics. These graphic, action-packed collections were also made available at the Reference counter for reference use.

Whoever gets two (2) consecutive correct answers will have a chance to spin the wheel. A simple prize to be received depends on luck in spinning the wheel.



Library's WOW (Will of the Wheel) a staple, in-demand interactive game of the LIS month.



"Kathang Duyaw" series held for the second time in celebration of the National LIS Month and "National Book Week."

Also happening this year was the second installment of the *Kathang Duyaw* series wherein Asst. Prof. Jaezamie V. Ong, LPT, MA, UST SHS assistant principal for Student Formation, gave a lecture on "*Cultivating Reading Habits Beyond Classroom.*" The book clubs from UST JHS and Education High School (EHS) attended the session.

The activities were successful as the SHS students returned for more engaging recreation, a quick pause from an overwhelming week due to the upcoming significant examinations, and endless academic tasks.

A Day Full of Fun and Learning!

Jr. Lib. Elein G. Caguite, RL, MLIS

On November 29, 2023, at the University of Santo Tomas Senior High School (UST-SHS) Library Consultation Rooms, the three UST High School libraries, namely, Senior High School (SHS), Junior High School (JHS), and the Education High School (EHS), conducted a forum titled "*Cultivating Reading Habits Beyond the Classroom*" in lieu of the 89th National Book Week and the 33rd Library and Information Services Month. This is the second year the Miguel de Benavides Library's three high school libraries collaborated.

The forum started at 9:00 am with the opening remarks by the Head Librarian of the SHS Library, Sr. Lib. Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos, RL, MLIS, followed by the speaker's introduction by Sr. Lib. Rose Ann Camille C. Dionisio-Galang, RL, MLIS.

Guest speaker Asst. Prof. Jaezamie V. Ong, LPT, MA, assistant principal for Student Formation at the UST Senior High School Department, started the activity by asking the attendees if they liked reading, stressing the importance of reading. She also addressed the value of reading not only in school but also in everyday life.

Prof. Ong highlighted some beneficial reading habits, such as:

- 1.) set realistic goals
- 2.) create your reading nook
- 3.) choose a variety of books
- 4.) join the book club
- 5.) use available technology
- 6.) balance fiction and non-fiction

It was a pleasant and interesting discussion in which all UST high school students participated. Before the forum came to a close, Asst. Prof. Ong provided the participants a reading template to write their journey while reading their favorite books.



Dr. Asst. Prof. Ong as she receives the Certificate of Appreciation together with the three High School head librarians: (L-R) Mr. Maynard Vitug, Ms. Ramos, and Ms. Caguite.



Students from Education High School as they actively participates during the discussion of Ms. Ong.



Student participants from the three UST High Schools.

“Unfolding the art of book preservation and paper conservation”

Sr. Lib. Ginalyn M. Santiago, RL, MLIS

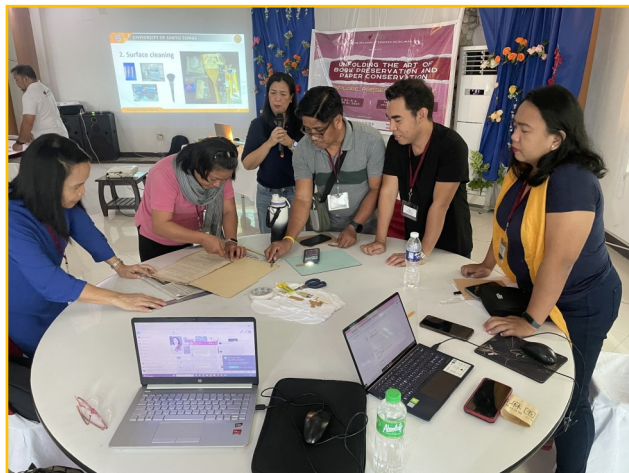
The *Asosasyon ng Aklatan at Sinupan ng Diliman, Inc.* (AASDI) is an organization of professional librarians, archivists, administrative personnel, and workers in libraries and archives in U.P. Diliman. They organized a seminar-workshop with the theme “*Unfolding the art of Book Preservation and Paper Conservation: Explore. Preserve. Protect*” from August 30 to September 1, 2023. This was held at the Treasures of Bolinao Beach Resort and Hotel, Brgy. Patar, Bolinao, Pangasinan.

The seminar-workshop objectives were as follows:

- know the theories and concepts of paper preservation through bookbinding;
- familiarize yourself with bookbinding methods and techniques, including tools and non-damaging supplies;
- learn the step-by-step techniques and skills in hand bookbinding;
- perform bookbinding activities such as stitching, paper clamping/clipping, page tip-ins, and gluing sheets of paper;
- understand the importance of the discipline of conservation of books and archival collection;
- understand the causes and mechanisms of deterioration, as well as the requirements necessary to preserve and conserve;
- share knowledge on the best practices in paper conservation; and
- introduce the process of paper restoration.

The resource speakers were Ms. Emma Muñoz-Rey, retired executive director of the Congressional Library Bureau, House of Representatives, who displayed her expertise on book preservation (bookbinding). Sr. Lib. Ginalyn Santiago, RL, MLIS, asst. head librarian for the preservation of the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, who tackled the conservation of archival materials, was the resource speaker for the second session.

The seminar-workshop helped the participants to learn more techniques on proper bookbinding and conservation treatments for books and paper



Ms. Santiago as she explains the proper way of cleaning documents.



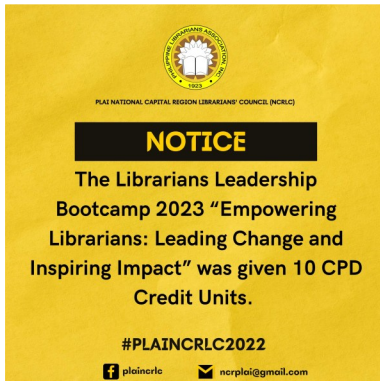
The photo shows Ms. Muñoz-Rey as she demonstrates the proper way of book-binding.

documents. The speakers were able to share their knowledge and expertise in different aspects of preserving printed materials, especially in the hands-on workshop.

Participating in this kind of activity, especially in the field of conservation, is very important for the staff who take care of the library's precious collection. It helps execute proper treatment of the collection to extend its usefulness.

Leadership in the library: helping learners and pioneering change in the organization

Jr. Lib. Marissa A. Chua, RL, MLIS



On September 28 to 29, 2023, the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) organized a Librarians Leadership Bootcamp entitled "Empowering Librarians: Leading Change, Inspiring Impact." This was held at the National Library of the Philippines. Through

the two-day event, the participants from around the country were given a chance to immerse themselves into becoming leaders who can initiate and redefine clientele experience.

First and foremost, to become an effective leader, one must set a vision – this will serve as a roadmap, enabling people within and outside the organization to understand where the library is headed and what it envisions for itself in the long term to achieve success and common goals. Further, skills and knowledge are necessary to lead with a clear and robust vision from thinking about the intangibles, offering alternatives, making people aware of the vision, and letting them know their role in this shared objective. This also gives them the chance to contribute to a bigger purpose and allows them to partake in the betterment of the bigger group.

Nonetheless, it is without a doubt, a leader with a vision will experience challenges or roadblocks along the way in different forms. This may include establishing a culture where all people will appreciate and be invested in the vision set, determining the right staff needed to achieve one's vision, unanticipated changes, which may require one to shift their vision, preparing a strategic plan, and knowledge of librarians in terms of trends in the library that will give them a sense of what they want their future library to achieve or look like. On this, librarians are called to understand the top trends in libraries. This is to increase their awareness of the updates in their environment, align, and upskill to meet the demands of the library patrons.

Secondly, librarians must observe effective leadership practices, guiding librarians on how to lead and empower the team through innovation, creativity, imagination,

vision, and commitment. As leaders, librarians should be able to pinpoint the strengths of their members – what they are good at and the skills they inherently possess. However, it is equally important to know their weaknesses as leaders can strategically empower and position their members. In addition, feedback is also a must when it comes to becoming a leader. By providing scheduled, instant, or by-demand feedback, one can promote transparency and openness in the library by letting people become aware of their wins worth celebrating, areas for improvement, and ways to perform better.



Hon. Lourdes T. David during one of the sessions of the bootcamp.

The talk also tackled change management, which the Harvard Business Review defined as the process of guiding organizational change to fruition whereby librarians, as leaders, can assist the whole organization through a smooth transition process.

Moreover, it enables team members to make ample preparations in case there are any potential impacts to the organization arising from the changes, which fosters alignment and provides a safe environment where every member is engaged towards achieving a common goal amidst a change.

Through these concepts and practices learned during the leadership boot camp, librarians are fueled to bring out their talents of leading with courage and confidence to become the reason for positive change within their respective libraries, institutions, communities, and countries. Indeed, according to John C. Maxwell, "a leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."

Fr. Sigaya presents paper on digitization of archival materials

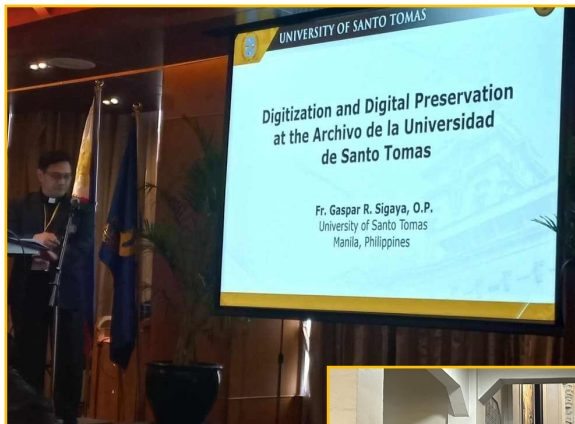
Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS

UST Archivist and Assistant to the Prefect of Libraries Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P, presented a paper at the 7th National Archives Congress held at Diamond Hotel Manila, from October 19-21, 2023, with the theme “*Toward a Sustainable Development of Archives and Records Management in the Philippines.*”

The University of the Philippines Library Science Alumni Association organized the Congress with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts through its National Committee on Archives, the University of the Philippines School of Library and Information Studies, and the Society of Filipino Archivists.

Fr. Sigaya presented the paper Digitization and Digital Preservation of Archival Materials at the *Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas*, which highlighted the role of digitization in preserving the rich collection of the UST Archives and the importance of providing access through digital libraries. The UST Miguel de Benavides Library and the UST Archives started digitizing archival materials in 2011 as part of a sustainable partnership with the UnionBank of the Philippines. Since then, thousands of documents and images, such as papal bulls, royal decrees, historical treatises, periodicals, and academic records, have been scanned and uploaded to the UST Digital Library.

Likewise, this year’s Congress included an institutional visit to UST held last October 21, 2023. Filipino archivists, records management personnel, and documentary heritage practitioners engaged in a guided tour and visit to the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, UST Archives, and the UST Museum.



Fr. Sigaya's presentation on digitization of archival materials.



NAC delegates visit the UST Heritage Library.



In the photo are Fr. Sigaya and the NAC delegates at the Main Building grand staircase .

UST librarians present papers at the 9th Rizal Library international conference

Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS

UST Miguel de Benavides Library librarians presented their research papers at the 9th Rizal Library International Conference with the theme, **“MindSHIFT: Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LAMs) in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous (VUCA) World.”** It was held at the Ateneo de Manila University last October 11-13, 2023. The three-day conference brought in local and international speakers who engaged in insightful discussions. It was attended by librarians, information professionals, and students from various universities and institutions in the Philippines.

Co-authored by Sr. Lib. Anna Rita L. Alomo, RL, MALIS, Acquisitions librarian and Quality Management Representative, and Sr. Lib. Lejempf V. Flores, RL, MLIS, Cataloger and E-Learning Specialist, Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine R. de Leon, RL, MLIS, head librarian of the *Filipiniana* Section, presented their paper on *Artificial Intelligence and Filipino Academic Librarians: Perceptions, Challenges, and Opportunities*. Recognizing the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in today's educational landscape, the paper gathered insights from Filipino academic librarians to determine their views on the significance and threats of AI integration in academic librarianship.



Ateneo Rizal Library Director Dr. Vernon R. Totanes (utmost left), with RLIC speakers, as they pose for a group photo.

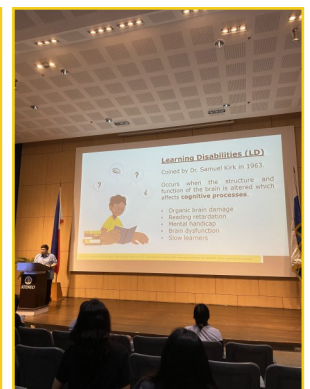
Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, MALIS, asst. head librarian for digitization of the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, presented his research paper entitled *Factors Associated with the Library Help-Seeking Intention of UST Undergraduate Students with Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*. The study identified the influence of the constructs characterized in the “Theory of Planned Behavior,” i.e., attitude, subjective norm, perceived behavioral control, and avoidance on the library help-seeking intention of students challenged by learning disabilities and ADHD. Jr. Lib. Lagao underscored the importance of ensuring awareness of and sensitivity to each library user's specific needs to help them unveil their full academic potential.

UST-MALIS alumna Ms. Louise T. Espinosa presented her research paper titled *“Who is That I See? Phenomenologizing Self-Image of School Librarian Club Moderators,”* co-authored by Sr. Lib. Edward H. Puzon, RL, LPT, MALIS, Graduate School head librarian, and thesis adviser. The paper provided a deeper understanding of the experiences of school librarian club moderators in the conduct of club and extra-curricular library-related activities. The multi-dimensional self-image of School Librarian Club moderators emerged from this study with two themes: altruistic self-image and professional self-image.

This year's Conference centered on the need for LAMs to thrive and adapt in a VUCA environment by advancing capabilities, creating transformations, and exploring new possibilities.



(L) Ms. De Leon, as she tackles artificial intelligence in the eyes of Filipino academic librarians.
(R) Mr. Lagao, delivers his paper about Undergraduate Students with Learning Disabilities.



PLAI Centennial National Congress

Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS

UST Miguel de Benavides Library Chief Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, Library Council Member Sr. Lib. Raquel B. Lontoc, RL, MLIS, Filipiniana Librarian Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine R. de Leon, RL, MLIS, and Heritage Librarian Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS, attended the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) Centennial National Congress held at the SMX Convention Center Clark, Mabalacat, Pampanga from November 21-24, 2023.

This year's theme was *"Paghanduraw kag Padayon: Heritage. Horizon. Harmony."* The theme, according to PLAI Conference Chair Mr. Roilingel P. Calilung, "urges librarians to contemplate and reflect on the rich heritage, acknowledge the forerunners and pillars of the profession, and encourage persistence in shaping the future." Likewise, it represents the contribution of PLAI to the rich history of the profession and its commitment to working harmoniously with stakeholders in envisioning a well-rounded future of Philippine Librarianship.

PLAI President Mr. Rene B. Manlangit, emphasized the momentous centennial celebration of PLAI from its foundation in 1923, led by Philippine Library and Museum Director Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera. For many years, PLAI has served as the umbrella organization for all library associations and has accomplished initiatives for the proliferation of the library profession in the Philippines.

The four-day nationwide congress discussed plenary papers, parallel sessions, and poster presentations on various topics. It was attended by more than 900 librarians for knowledge exchange and linkages. Keynote speakers were Hon. Yolanda C. Granda, chairperson of the Professional Regulatory Board (PRC) for Librarians, Hon. Victorino M. Manalo, chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and director of the National Archives of the Philippines, and Prof. Ambeth R. Ocampo, public historian and professor at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Sr. Lib. De Leon presented a paper on the perceptions, challenges, and opportunities of artificial intelligence among Filipino academic librarians. Sr. Lib. Anna Rita L. Alomo, RL, MALS, and Sr. Lib. Lejempf V. Flores, RL, MLIS, co-authored the paper. Also, as Treasurer of the PLAI-National Capital Region Librarians Council, Sr. Lib. Lobo represented the Board during the opening ceremony and procession of each region, together



UST Library delegates in attendance of the PLAI Centennial Congress.



Ms. De Leon as she presents her paper on artificial intelligence.

with Mr. Kevin Conrad T. Tansiongco, RL, and Ms. Venus B. Oruga, RL MLIS. Other highlights included scholarly presentations from different library groups, fellowship night, book tech fair, and the opening celebration of the 89th National Book Week.

Artificial intelligence in academic libraries: Filipino perspectives explored

Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine R. de Leon, RL, MLIS

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in academic libraries has sparked significant interest and contemplation among Filipino academic librarians. A recent study by yours truly as the principal author, with co-authors, Anna Rita A. Alomo, RL, MALIS, and Lejempf V. Flores, RL, MLIS, sheds light on how Filipino Librarians perceive, confront challenges, and explore opportunities related to AI adoption.

Initially presented at the 9th Rizal Library International Conference from October 11-13, 2023, themed “*Mindshift: LAMS in the VUCA World;*” and subsequently at the 2023 PLAI National Congress in Clark, Pampanga last November 21-24, 2023, the research has garnered attention for its insights into AI’s impact on the future of library services in the Philippines.

Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association Artificial Intelligence and Filipino Academic Librarians: Perceptions, Challenges and Opportunities



Published in the esteemed Quartile 2 journal, The Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association, Volume 73, 2024 - Issue 1, the study employed a quantitative approach through an online questionnaire distributed among 178 academic librarians from various universities in the National Capital Region. This survey aimed to assess librarians’ understanding of AI, their expectations, concerns, and readiness to integrate AI into their professional practices.

The findings unveil a nuanced perspective among Filipino academic librarians. Despite recognizing AI’s transformative potential, most librarians perceive it not as a threat but as an opportunity to augment their professional capabilities. They expressed strong interest in training and workshops tailored to incorporating AI into their daily operations, demonstrating proactive readiness to adapt to technological advancements.

“We observed that Filipino librarians are well-informed about AI applications and are eager to harness its benefits,” as remarked by the authors. “Their enthusiasm for training underscores a readiness to embrace AI, positioning themselves as pioneers in re-shaping library services in the digital era.”

However, the study also identifies challenges impeding widespread AI adoption in academic libraries, such as limited resources and institutional support. Addressing these hurdles presents opportunities to develop targeted strategies and interventions that support librarians in navigating the evolving landscape of library services.

This research makes a significant contribution to the AI literature in libraries, particularly within the Filipino context. By identifying gaps and opportunities, its aim is to empower librarians with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively harness AI’s potential.

The study’s implications extend beyond academia, offering practical insights for policymakers, educators, and library professionals alike. As libraries evolve into vibrant hubs of knowledge and innovation, embracing and understanding AI emerges as a pivotal step toward future-proofing library services.

For those interested in exploring the study’s methodology, comprehensive findings, and recommendations, the full article is accessible online via Taylor and Francis’ Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24750158.2024.2305993>

About the Authors:

Lady Catherine R. de Leon, RL, MLIS, Anna Rita A. Alomo, RL, MALIS, and Lejempf V. Flores, RL, MLIS, are esteemed researchers and academic librarians working in the University of Santo Tomas. Their collective expertise and commitment to advancing library science have significantly contributed to understanding the intersection of AI and library services.

Sr. Lib. Michelle M. San Gabriel, RL, MLIS

Following the engaging book discussion, the group seamlessly transitioned to an educational game titled "Earth Day Game," directly connected to the theme of environmental care introduced in the storytelling. Facilitated by the Committee members, the game captivated the children's attention, encouraging them to participate while actively reinforcing the valuable lessons from the book.



Some photos during the outreach activity.

To further sweeten the experience, snacks were distributed to the 50 elementary Aeta students present, adding a touch of warmth and generosity to the day's activities. The simple act of sharing snacks created a sense of community and camaraderie among the children.

As the day unfolded, the group extended their visit to the Sitio San Martin de Porres Library, which recently received a book donation from the UST Library. This gesture aimed to foster a love for reading and provide valuable resources to the local community, emphasizing the UST Library's commitment to promoting education and literacy.

This event left an indelible mark in the hearts and minds of the students at Sitio San Martin. A thoughtful blend of storytelling, interactive games, and generous gestures created a memorable experience among the children, fostering a sense of community, environmental awareness, and a love for learning.

Visit to San Martin de Porres Library, Bamban, Tarlac

Sr. Lib. Michelle M. San Gabriel, RL, MLIS

Last September 17, 2023, Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P. Asst. to the Prefect of Libraries, and Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS, Chief Librarian, together with Sr. Lib. Michelle M. San Gabriel, RL, MLIS, chair of the Extension Services, visited the San Martin de Porres Library in Bamban, Tarlac.

The purpose of the visit was to inspect the library to determine what needs to be done (repair including repainting of the walls, repair of broken windows and roof leaks, replacing the library signage, and installing a wood fence for security purposes). In addition, assessment of the existing collections, thus the need to weed out outdated or worn out books to leave shelf space for new collections, and to make browsing of collections easier. This is expected to inspire the children to use the library for reading and research.

It was Fr. Sigaya's first visit and first time to see the Aeta children in the said community. He had a happy *kumustahan* with the community leaders and caretakers of the library. While distributing simple snacks, we felt the excitement and joy on the children's faces as they lined up to get their share.

Indeed, it was a short but sweet visit to this community. We continue to pray and hope that the UST Miguel de Benavides Library will continue to spread the light of giving joy and hope through the different literacy programs being conducted by the Library staff.



Library Administrators Fr. Sigaya and Chief Librarian Lobo, with Extension Services Chair Sr. Lib. San Gabriel visit the San Martin de Porres Library.

Librarians' New Uniform

Sr. Lib. Marilou G. Palermo, RL, MLIS



Wearing the proper uniform in the workplace symbolizes professionalism and helps identify to which institution or department the staff belongs. It is also considered a practical way of saving money to buy everyday clothes.

This A.Y. 2023-2024, after more than two years of pandemic, the librarians of the UST Library can now wear their office uniform. It was officially implemented on October 1, 2023.

The female librarians wear a combination of short-sleeve gray with black lining in the neckline and in the two front pockets, and black trousers or skirts. They may add a fashionable scarf or necklace as an accent. The male librarians bought a ready-made uniform from the mall. They have two (2) sets of polo shirts with embroidery, one dark gray and one light gray polo, and black pants. A black blazer embroidered with the UST official logo on the left chest has been made part of the set.

The Prefect's Cup 2023

Jr. Lib. Chiara Maye N. Santiago, RL, MLIS



The UST guest administrators, UST Library Admin, Librarians and support staff all pose for a souvenir photo after the activity.

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library arranged the 'Prefect's Cup 2023' outside the University on November 29, 2023. The event was held at the Playdium Bowling Center, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. This library activity was headed by Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS, as chair, along with his committee members, Sr. Lib. Jonas T. Sahagun., RL, MLIS, co-chair, and Arch. John Carlo L. Sayco, consultant, Sr. Lib. Anna Rita L. Alomo, RL, MALIS, Jr. Lib. Chiara Maye N. Santiago, RL, MLIS, Ms. Ma. Arleen M. Abad, Mr. Ian Gilbert M. Magpantay, and Ms. Michelle P. Pacencia.

The activity started with the "oath of sportsmanship" delivered by Mr. Benny Dytoc, Center Manager of the Playdium Bowling and Billiards and a Thomasian alumnus. Some important guests also participated in the event, namely, Rev. fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., rector, Rev. fr. Jesus M. Miranda Jr., O.P., prior of the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, Dominican Fathers from the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, and Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, director of the UST Office of Public Affairs.



The guest University administrators with the Fr. Rector (5th from left) as they pose for a remembrance of the tournament.

The 'Prefects' Cup' is an activity that aims to provide wellness opportunities to all library staff and is the culmination of the nationwide celebration of Library and Information Services Month. All library staff were encouraged to participate, which featured a bowling competition in team plays. Prizes were provided to show gratitude for the relentless service of the staff to the library. Aside from the second place, first place, and champion, the committee prepared other awards, such as the 'highest point player' for games 1 and 2, the 'lowest point player' for games 1 and 2, the 'first strike' award, the 'double/turkey strike' award, and the 'punctuality award'. Cash prizes and tokens were given to the winners.

The 'Prefect's Cup 2023' activity was indeed fun and memorable. This activity was such an experience. Certainly, this will not be the first and the last!

Fr. Angel's 75th Birthday

Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS

Last November 29, 2023, the Miguel de Benavides Library came together for a heart-warming celebration to honor the 75th birthday of our beloved Prefect, Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P. While Fr. Aparicio's original birthday falls on September 25, the library staff ensured that his milestone birthday was celebrated with utmost joy and festivity.



The celebration was filled with laughter and joy as the library staff gathered to mark this special occasion. Amidst the camaraderie and warmth, everyone enjoyed delicious treats from Jollibee, adding to the event's lively atmosphere.

As we commemorated Fr. Aparicio's 75th birthday, we also took the opportunity to express our heartfelt well wishes and gratitude for his presence in both our professional and personal lives. His guidance, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to the Library have inspired us all, and we are truly grateful for his leadership and mentorship.

Here's to Fr. Angel Aparicio – *“May your 75th birthday be a testament to your impact on the Miguel de Benavides Library and the countless lives you have touched. Wishing you continued blessings, happiness, and good health in the years ahead. Cheers to many more memorable moments together!”*

Jenalyn achieves success in LET

Sr. Lib. Kristi Ma. Fevie Macasaet-Recinto, RL, MLIS



The UST Miguel de Benavides Library is thrilled to announce the remarkable success of our own, Ms. Jenalyn D. Aninao, LPT, in the recent Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET). Her outstanding accomplishment symbolizes her dedication to personal growth and adds a new chapter to the Library's enduring legacy of fostering education and knowledge.

Jenalyn's journey to becoming a licensed teacher epitomizes resilience, determination, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Having earned her Certificate in Professional Education from the University of Rizal System-Morong campus last December 2021, she embarked on a rigorous preparation path for this examination.

Taking the examination on September 24, 2023, at Ayala Mall Cinema 4, Quezon City, her dedication and expertise shone brightly. Her success was confirmed when the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) released the results of successful passers last December 7, 2023, validating her hard work and commitment to the teaching profession.

The culmination of Jenalyn's journey was celebrated during the oath-taking ceremony held at Quezon Convention Center, Lucena City, Quezon, last January 27, 2024. Surrounded by peers, mentors, and loved ones, Jenalyn took the solemn oath, affirming her dedication to upholding education principles with integrity and passion.

As Jenalyn embarks on this new career chapter as a licensed educator, the UST Library provides unwavering support and encouragement. Together, we celebrate her achievement and reaffirm our commitment to nurturing the next generation of educators and leaders.

Golden-Agers attend Twilight PEP Program 2023

Ms. Lilibeth R. Cardenas



On November 17, 2023, the Human Resource Department spearheaded an onsite seminar entitled Psychological Preparation for Retirement for all the UST support staff aged fifty-five (55) and above.

The speaker was Assoc. Prof. Ryan Francis O. Cayubit, Ph.D. from the UST College of Science, Department of Psychology. This seminar was designed to provide the necessary psychological tools and insights to navigate the transition into retirement, ensuring a smooth and fulfilling experience.

The *raison d'être* for this session was to give the golden agers an in-depth understanding of the varied phases of pre and post-retirement, how to cope with the changes when it comes, and how to manage the lifestyle issues in retirement, and lastly, to be able to identify one's personal life's choices after retiring.

Undoubtedly, retirement is not the end of the journey but the beginning of the many open highways of adventures and opportunities. Let us welcome it with open arms and hope that we will all experience a fantastic retirement.



"There is a whole new kind of life ahead, full of experiences just waiting to happen. Some call it 'retirement.' I call it bliss."

- Betty Sullivan



Golden agers participants as they pose for a souvenir photo with the speaker.

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