



News In-Print

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
Miguel de Benavides Library

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Attendance to the “Conservata et perfecta aliis tradere: libraries in dialogue”



Library administrators from various academic institutions, including Rev. Fr. Aparicio and Chief Librarian Lobo, pose for a photo in front of the Sistine Chapel

The Miguel de Benavides Library of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila received an invitation from the Vatican Apostolic Library to participate in the elaboration of a paper entitled “**Conservata et perfecta aliis tradere: libraries in dialogue.**” This took place in Rome from November 14-16, 2024. Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., and Chief Librarian Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS, represented the University on this momentous occasion.

After a series of online exchanges, the activities commenced on November 14, 2024, at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Casina Pio IV, Vatican City, with an inaugural Plenary Session by H.E. Msgr. Angelo Vincenzo Zani, Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church. He welcomed participants from 23 most important and prestigious libraries – Harvard University, Stanford Libraries from the USA, Libraries of the Pontifical Javeriana University in Bogota Colombia, Leiden University Libraries and National Library of

France from Europe; National Institute of Japanese Literature, Tokyo and the University of Santo Tomas from Asia. His address discussed the history of the Vatican Library, which spans several centuries, and highlighted its key developments. The Institution was established by Pope Nicholas V in 1451.

Following the address, the three working teams were assigned topics from the *Instrumentum Laboris*. The UST Library participated in Group 3 - Subcommittee on Cultural Policies and Study Orientation, headed by Mr. Delio Proverbio, Curator of Oriental Manuscripts, Vatican Apostolic Library. The discussion focused on opportunities within the field of librarianship, including technological advances, processes, policies, and the future of the library profession. The first day concluded with a “Concert for Peace” by Omar Harfouk Orchestra at the Vatican Library Sistine Hall and a ‘Vatican Manuscripts Exhibition’ at the Vestibule.

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Kenneth & Mock donation

Sr. Lib. Rosemary B. Balbin, RL, MLIS

Kenneth & Mock representatives Ms. Stephanie Delos Santos, K&M EVP, and Ms. Carol Lee, K&M Marketing Manager, made a significant donation to the UST community on October 8, 2024. The turnover was held at the UST College of Architecture Office and was graced by the esteemed presence of Ar. Rodolfo P. Ventura, MSArch, and Asst. Prof. Marlon M. Cariño, MBA, JD, Dean and Assistant Dean, respectively, of the UST College of Architecture, along with UST Miguel de Benavides Library Chief Librarian Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS, and Gifts and Exchange Librarian, Sr. Lib. Rosemary Balbin, RL, MLIS.



L-R: Asst. Dean Cariño, Dean Ar. Ventura, Sr. Lib. Balbin, Chief Librarian Lobo, Ms. Delos Santos, and Ms. Lee.

The K&M's coffee table book is a celebration of the two-and-a-half decades of Kenneth & Mock in the Philippines. It highlights the 120 Filipino architecture firms, 62 of which are led by UST alumni. More than just a book, this is Kenneth & Mock's first-ever coffee table book. It symbolizes the enduring partnerships with architects and designers who have been with them over the years, witnessing their growth and recognizing their significant contributions. It is a special memento, a commemoration of the company's success, and a tribute to its partners, who have been instrumental in K&M's journey that led to this prestigious milestone.

Ms. Delos Santos shared the inspiration behind the coffee table book and highlighted the pivotal role of architecture and interior design schools. These institutions, including the University of Santo Tomas, are the training grounds for the brilliant and skilled professionals they have become today. UST, in particular, is renowned for its role in shaping the Thomasian architects and interior designers who have made a significant impact in their respective company.

These alumni have flourished in impressive partnerships that have braced up with them through challenges and innovations over the past twenty-five years.

This book, a valuable addition to the UST Library - Architecture Commons, will serve as a rich resource for the Thomasian community, providing insights into architectural design's evolution and highlighting our alumni's contributions. More importantly, it will serve as a beacon of inspiration, empowering our students, academic and support staff, and alumni with a deeper understanding of their field. It is a testament to the enduring legacy of UST in the architectural world, and it is our hope that it will inspire future architects and designers to dream big and succeed.

Attendance to the “Conservata... from Page 1

On the second day, discussions of the working teams continued in two sessions, culminating with a final plenary session in Barberini Hall, where the three group leaders presented the summary of the discussions. The recommendations included the development of a publication of the proceedings containing policies and procedures to be shared with participants and libraries worldwide. This publication, which will be a valuable resource for the global library community, will outline the key insights and recommendations from the conference. After the session, we were invited to a concert “*Concerto Della Capella Musicale Pontificia ‘Sistina’ - Mostra Di Libri Manoscritti E Tipografici Di Giovanni Pierluigi Da Palestrina Conservati Presso La Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana*” by the Sistine Chapel Choir at the Sistine Chapel. This once-in-a-lifetime experience left everyone in awe.

On day 3, we were gathered at the Vatican Palace for an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis. The Pope remarked that the meeting signified the Vatican Library's openness to

the world. Based on his mandate to Msgr. Zani “**Go, open it up,**” his discourse offered the four principles for further discussion:

1. Time is greater than space
2. Unity prevails over conflict
3. Realities are more important than ideas
4. The whole is greater than the part

This gathering, a testament to the power of global collaboration, brought together representatives from 23 prestigious libraries around the globe. Our participation in this professional endeavor promises to enhance our knowledge, significantly benefit our Library, and foster a spirit of unity and shared learning. It provided a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, share work experiences, and learn from best practices with participants from different countries, strengthening our ties with the global library community.

We express our sincere gratitude to the University of Santo Tomas for allowing us to represent the Institution at this event, highlighting our commitment to excellence.

Library receives Project Epanaw books

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

On September 17, 2024, the Miguel de Benavides Library received additional copies of the three-volume project **Epanaw Coffee Table** books during a handover ceremony held at the Central Office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). These books were generously provided by UST alumna Engr. Mary Grace P. Buasen, Director of the Office on Education, Culture, and Health (OECH). Chief Librarian Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS, Gifts and Exchange Librarian Sr. Lib. Rosemary B. Balbin, RL, MLIS, and Heritage Librarian Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS, accepted the copies. The books will be added to the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library collection.

Project Epanaw documented the rich ethnography of the Philippines and the culture, customs, traditions, of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs). The project served as a platform for ICCs/IPs to narrate their stories from their perspectives, honor and preserve their identities and rituals, and highlight the protection of their ancestral domains.

The first volume, titled "**Pagkilala**" (Recognize) presents the profiles of each ICC/IP and provides information about their history, location, and an overview of their social and daily lives. The second volume, "**Paggalang**" (Respect) features festivals and rituals practiced by the ICCs/IPs for important events. Lastly, the third volume, "**Pagtaguyod**" (Promote) showcases travel destinations in ancestral domains for eco-tourism.



Engr. Buasen and staff with Chief Librarian Lobo, Sr. Lib. Balbin, and Jr. Lib. Lagao.

The meeting also discussed a possible partnership between NCIP and the UST Library to promote research related to ICCs/IPs among the Thomasian community.

The University has been using the previous copies of these books at the Filipiniana Section, and these new copies will enhance access to these resources and further contribute to the preservation of Philippine cultural heritage.

This is indeed a remarkable year, reflecting the commitment of the entire library team and serves as a solid basis for future collaborations and research initiatives. Their combined efforts have greatly enhanced the Library's mission and impact.

Lib Talks



Strengthening support for business education

Sr. Lib. Arlene P. Matias, RL, MLIS

The Miguel de Benavides Library, a cornerstone of academic resources, features an impressive collection in its Social Sciences Section. With a total of 69,595 volumes, the Library continues to serve as an invaluable asset for students and faculty alike. Among the most notable offerings are extensive materials dedicated to the College of Commerce, underscoring the Library's commitment to supporting business education.

Within the Social Sciences Section, the subclass HB stands out with 119 newly acquired volumes focused on critical topics such as Business Economics, Entrepreneurship, Capital, and the Business Cycle. These resources are essential for students aiming to deepen their understanding of economic principles and business strategies.

Additionally, the subclass HD significantly enhances the Library's offerings with 486 current volumes that address Management, Risk Industry, and Human Resources, ensuring that current and aspiring

professionals have access to up-to-date knowledge in these vital areas.

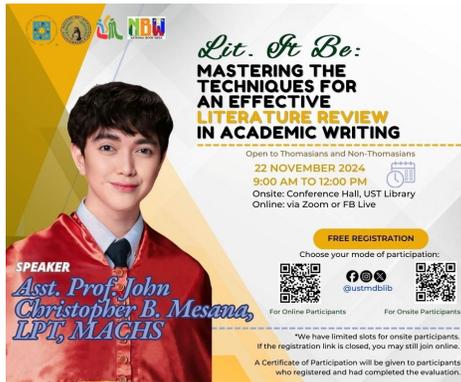
While the subclass HF further enriches the collection with 626 newly acquired volumes covering Board Trade, Commercial Geography, Commodities, Marketing and more, making it a comprehensive resource for various business disciplines.

The subclass HG, which focuses on Finance and Financial Management, adds 196 current volumes, providing students with essential insights into financial practices and principles.

All these resources are newly acquired with copyright from 2019 to present. Together, these resources position the Miguel de Benavides Library as a leading destination for social sciences research and education, empowering students to thrive in their academic and professional endeavors.

“Lit. it be”

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



The UST Miguel de Benavides Library (UST MdBL) held several events to celebrate the 34th Library and Information Services Month.

As part of these celebrations, the Library's Linkages and Research Committee

organized a hybrid seminar on November 22, 2024, titled “Lit. It Be: Mastering the Techniques for an Effective Literature Review in Academic Writing.” The seminar featured Asst. Prof. John Christopher B. Mesana, LPT, MACHS, a research faculty member at the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management at National University Philippines and the former Director of the Research and Publication Department at Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Manila.

The event took place at the UST Library Conference Hall, accommodating an onsite audience while also being live-streamed on the Library’s Facebook Page and Zoom for online viewers.

Mr. John A. Agunod, a Library staff member from the Civil Law Section, hosted the event. Sr. Lib. Edward H. Puzon, Head Librarian of the Graduate School Section and Chair of the Linkages and Research Committee, opened the seminar with welcome remarks, followed by the introduction of the guest speaker.

The seminar aimed to achieve two main objectives: (1) to provide participants with essential skills for conducting literature reviews, including how to find relevant sources, synthesize information, and critically assess existing research to identify gaps and guide future studies; and (2) to enhance participants’ understanding of literature reviews’ significance in the research process, allowing them to situate their own research within the broader academic discussion and support their research goals based on existing literature.

Asst. Prof. Mesana enthusiastically shared practical strategies that enabled participants to locate, analyze, and synthesize relevant research materials necessary for writing literature reviews, thereby preparing them for their research projects. Following his presentation, an open forum allowed attendees to ask questions, demonstrating their engagement with the topic.

The seminar concluded with Sr. Lib. Puzon expressing his gratitude, thanking everyone involved from the organizers to the participants.

Commitment to knowledge: growth of resources under education

The Miguel de Benavides Library has showcased its commitment to academic excellence through a steady increase in its education-related holdings under the Social Sciences section. Recent data from the conspectus reveals notable trends and shifts in available academic resources, emphasizing both growth and gaps across classifications.

From 2019 to 2024, the Library's holdings for subclass LB (Theory and Practice of Education) expanded significantly, reaching 408 titles and 420 volumes, compared to just 104 titles and 106 volumes in 2019.



A Commitment to knowledge: growth of resources under education at Miguel de Benavides Library

This remarkable growth reflects the library’s focus on providing up-to-date resources for modern teaching practices and methodologies. Subclass LA (History of Education) also experienced a modest increase, growing from 3 titles and volumes in 2019 to 9 in 2024, demonstrating a consistent interest in historical perspectives on education.

However, Class L (General Education) remains stagnant, with no recorded additions over the past five years, signaling a critical gap in resources that could address evolving educational theories and practices. Similarly, specific niches, such as institution-specific materials and textbooks, have no recorded holdings, highlighting potential areas for development to cater to diverse academic needs.

Subclass LC (Special Aspects of Education) showcases steady growth over the years. In 2024, the collection holds 3 titles and volumes, with a peak of 32 titles and 33 volumes recorded in 2020. The total holdings under this classification now stand at 92 titles and 95 volumes, reflecting the Library's efforts to support specialized educational topics, such as policy, institutions, and special education.

Despite the gaps, the Library's efforts to support educators, researchers, and students remain evident. It continues to enhance its collection, addressing the growing demand for robust academic materials. With its expanding collection, the Miguel de Benavides Library solidifies its role as a cornerstone of academic support, ensuring that it keeps pace with the shifting demands of educational research and pedagogy.

Enhancing the academic journey

Sr. Lib. Arlene P. Matias, RL, MLIS

The Miguel de Benavides Library has recently strengthened its collection in the field of Tourism and Hospitality Management, highlighting its unwavering dedication to academic excellence and support for its stakeholders. The growth of this collection has been made possible with the assistance of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, particularly through its library coordinator, Assoc. Prof. Ryan T. Liba, PhD. The Social Sciences Section has experienced significant expansion, particularly across several key subclasses; these subclasses derived from the Library of Congress Classification System, which is used to classify the library's resources.

The Tourism subclass (G) now has 125 titles and 145 volumes, providing a diverse range of resources on travel, tourism trends, and destination management. Additionally, the subclass (GT) with subjects on Customs Relative to Transportation and Travel offers 21 titles and 21 volumes, focusing on the intricacies of travel customs and delivering valuable insights into the regulatory landscape that shapes travel experiences. These resources are essential for students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management with a major in Travel Operation and Service Management.

The Recreation & Leisure subclass (GV) has also expanded, now comprising 147 titles and 151 volumes that address various aspects of hospitality management, including leisure activities, event planning, and enhancing the overall guest experience. This is particularly beneficial for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management majoring in Recreation and Leisure Management. Furthermore, the Hospitality Industry subclass (TX) presents a wealth of resources categorized into specific areas such as hotels, clubs, restaurants, food service, taverns, barrooms, and building operations, which are crucial for students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management with a focus on Hospitality Leadership.

Moreover, the Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management majoring in Culinary Entrepreneurship is also supported under subclass (TX), with references that intersect with business studies, particularly in entrepreneurship (HB). This program aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore their potential as future hospitality entrepreneurs, enabling them to run and manage personal or family businesses through innovative culinary concepts, products, and services. All these new acquisitions are current, with copyrights ranging from 2019 to 2024, ensuring that users have access to the latest research and trends in these fields.

Aside from the printed resources, students can also make use of ebooks from the Gale Virtual Reference Library, significantly enhancing their research capabilities. This ebook database provides access to a vast collection of scholarly ebooks and reference materials that cover a wide array of topics relevant to Tourism and Hospitality Management. By utilizing the Gale Virtual Reference Library, students can conveniently access research findings from anywhere, at any time, which is particularly beneficial for those balancing academic responsibilities with internships.

The Miguel de Benavides Library remains committed to fostering the academic and professional growth of its stakeholders. With these recent enhancements, the library is well-equipped to serve as a leading resource for students and professionals alike, empowering them to excel in their chosen fields. By continually updating and expanding its collection, the library reinforces its role as an invaluable asset in social sciences research and education, enriching the educational experience and supporting the development of future leaders in tourism and hospitality management.

JHS teachers attend 2024 book fair

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

For 2024, the Manila International Book Fair was held at the SMX Convention Center, MOA, Pasay City from September 11 to 15, drawing an impressive lineup of exhibitors and book enthusiasts. The event provided an exceptional opportunity for librarians and educators to explore and select valuable resources like books and other library materials.



Sr. Lib. Palermo together with the UST JHS teachers during the book fair.

Representing the Junior High School (JHS), seven dedicated teachers enthusiastically participated, handpicking books tailored to their respective learning areas. Together with Marilou Palermo, JHS librarian, the teachers immersed themselves into the vibrant and dynamic atmosphere of the Book Fair. Ms. Katherine T. Rodriguez, the JHS Library Coordinator, expressed her heartfelt gratitude for their active involvement.

The experience proved rewarding and enriching, with the team bringing back a treasure trove of knowledge and inspiration for their students.

Discover the “De-Stress” corner at the Social Sciences Section

Jr. Lib. Jonn Robin A. Gonzales, RL, MLIS

From my experience, being a Thomasian is not easy - endless deadlines, exams, projects, and the relentless España traffic. What if I tell you there's a place within the University of Santo Tomas (UST) where you could relax, read, and recharge, a dedicated space where you can "pause" and relieve academic stress?

This November, as part of the Library and Information Services Month (LISM) theme LibVOCACY: Unity towards Inclusive and Empowered Libraries, the UST Library Social Sciences Section introduces the “De-Stress Corner.”

The objective is simple: to create a welcoming and stress-free haven while encouraging students to view the library in a new and refreshing light. Comfort and empowerment meet to provide students with a caring and supportive environment. Reading is not just for assignments – it is also rest. In this area, you'll find a selection of books that are soothing and enjoyable, including a collection of calming books, self-help guides that definitely inspire and uplift one's spirit, travel books to spark wanderlust, cookbooks to fuel creativity, and many more.

But it is not just about reading! The Corner also features sensory activities that encourage relaxation and mindfulness. Whether it's popping bubbles, customizing your own bookmarks, or finding peace through coloring books and origami creation. These activities are perfect for slowing down and living in the present. Furthermore, we offer word search and Sudoku games for puzzle enthusiasts to challenge one's mind and help ease stress.

And for those who need a creative outlet, we have added a “Freedom Wall.” Express yourself freely by writing your thoughts, feelings, or inspirations on sticky notes. Share your worries, dreams, or simply a positive message. These stress-relief tools will help you unwind, restore your mental clarity, and remind you to take a break from the challenges of academic life.

The “De-Stress Corner” embodies the spirit of “LibVOCACY: Unity towards Inclusive and Empowered Libraries,” providing a place for students to relax and care for themselves. This initiative not only strengthens the Library's role as an academic resource but also as a space where students can mentally and emotionally thrive.

Offering a supportive hub, this Corner underscores the Library's commitment to students' academic success and overall well-being.

Amidst the chaos of exams and deadlines, it is easy to forget the importance of self-care. We invite you to take a step back, breathe, and explore a world of books and activities designed to bring peace and joy into your life. So, the next time you visit this Section, stop by the ‘De-Stress Corner’ to relax, chill out, and discover the many ways the Library can support your academic journey and your mental well-being.

See you soonest!



Library users in the Social Sciences Section present their origami creations.

Ecclesiastical Faculties library adventure!

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

The UST Miguel de Benavides Ecclesiastical Faculties Library hosted an exciting and inclusive event titled "Ecclesiastical Faculties Library Adventure: Earn Stickers and Win Prizes!" It was held from November 18 to 22, 2024. This initiative was part of the celebration of Library and Information Services (LIS) Month, themed "LibVOCACY: Unity Towards Inclusive and Empowered Libraries." The event aimed to foster inclusivity while promoting library engagement and the joy of learning.

The objectives of this adventure were: to encourage and maximize the use of library resources, enhance awareness of available library services, nurture a culture of reading and lifelong learning, and boost book borrowing during the celebration.

Participants engaged in a series of fun and interactive tasks to earn stickers, including:

- borrowing a book of their choice from the library;
- taking a selfie at the Nebrija Exhibit;
- sharing the latest Library announcement on Facebook as a public post;
- submitting a screenshot of a downloaded e-book or article;
- snapping a selfie with Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P. or Rev. Fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., using the phrase "Eyy ka muna Eyy"
- having the highest number of books borrowed during the event.

Students who completed the required number of stickers were rewarded with a ₱250 gift certificate from the Library.

Out of the enthusiastic participants, six outstanding students stood out as winners:

- Br. Kenny G. Guevarra (Theology)
- Br. Hyae Sung Keun (Philosophy)
- Sr. Leysis Aracelly Navarro (Theology)
- Br. Harrison John Andong
- Br. Kittibood Mekvichilsaeng
- Br. Martin Ansano

These students not only received their well-earned prizes but also shared their excitement about the event, inspiring others to join future activities.



The Ecclesiastical Faculties Library Adventure was more than just a competition; it was a celebration of community, learning, and the boundless opportunities offered by the library. Mark your calendar for next year's adventure!

UST Library hosts e-Resources Roadshow

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

The UST Library recently wrapped up its highly anticipated **Library e-Resources Roadshow**, an event that successfully showcased a variety of electronic resources to the Thomasian community. As part of the Library and Information Services Month (LISM) celebration, it was held at the Central Library Viewing Area from November 13-15. The roadshow offered a vibrant, informal atmosphere for students, academic staff, and staff to explore valuable online resources for their academic needs.

The event was organized with the goal of familiarizing the UST community with the extensive range of databases and e-resources subscribed to by the UST Library. This initiative provided participants the unique opportunity to interact directly with partner providers through booths and engaging promotional materials. The fair was open to all Thomasians, emphasizing the importance of e-resources in academic growth and research.



Snapshots from an engaging day of discovery as Thomasians explored academic databases, interacted with partner providers, and joined fun activities at the UST Library e-Resources Roadshow.

staff alike, and helped to reinforce the importance of these valuable tools for research and academic development.

In line with its commitment to inclusivity, the Library made sure that the content of the event was accessible to all Thomasians, including students and staff with diverse needs. The self-paced quizzes allowed participants to take their time, ensuring a stress-free learning experience. Additionally, the Library highlighted the importance of open-access electronic resources, which help broaden the scope of information accessible to the UST community.

As the event concluded, the UST Library team received positive feedback from attendees, who appreciated the opportunity to connect with partners, learn new research techniques, and take part in fun, interactive activities. The roadshow have undoubtedly sparked lasting interest in digital research resources, paving the way for more informed, efficient, and effective academic work across the university.

THE ULTIMATE REFERENCE
Online Database Training Series

November 21, 2024 (Thursday)
2:00 PM - 2:45 PM
Taylor and Francis
2:45 PM - 3:15 PM
World Scientific Publishing Corp.
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM
De Gruyter

Scan to join
Join through:
<https://bit.ly/UST-LISM-DatabaseTraining>

Mr. Peregrin Carlos
Online Resources Sales Executive, Philippines (Taylor and Francis)

Mr. Christopher Trevor
Account Manager (Sales) for South East Asia (World Scientific Publishing Corp.)

Mr. Peng Guo
Senior Sales Manager, Asia Pacific (De Gruyter)

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One of the highlights of the event was the **Ultimate Reference: Online Database Training Series**. The training, which took place at the Library Conference Hall and online from November 20-21, focused on teaching

effective strategies for navigating and utilizing various academic databases, such as EBSCO, IEEE, JoVE, Emerald, and Web of Science. The series was tailored to target selected librarians and students from relevant colleges, but was also open to any Thomasian community member interested in enhancing their database skills.

The training aimed to empower users with advanced search techniques, helping them conduct more effective and refined research. Participants learned how to maximize the potential of each database, ensuring they could access the most relevant academic resources for their coursework and research projects.

The fair also featured fun and engaging **"Quiz Is It"** online quizzes in collaboration with major publishers like ScienceDirect, Taylor and Francis, Wiley Online Library, and CAS SciFinder. The quizzes employed game-based learning strategies to test the knowledge of participants while enhancing their understanding of the available electronic resources. These interactive quizzes created a dynamic, enjoyable learning experience for students and academic

PAARL 2024 National Summer Conference

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

The **2024 Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians (PAARL) National Summer Conference** was held from April 23-26, 2024, at the Mallberry Suites Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City. Themed "**Shh...ift Happens: Academic Library Leadership – Challenges and Opportunities**," this event drew approximately 300 participants in collaboration with the University Library of Xavier University-Cagayan de Oro. The Conference aimed to explore the evolving roles of academic and research librarians in leadership, change management, and the impact of emerging technologies on the library and information science profession over the next decades.

Distinguished leaders such as Emily Drabinski, President of the American Library Association, Shameem Nilofar Maiden from Singapore Management University, Dr. Yanti Idaya Aspura Mohd Khalid, University Malaya, Malaysia, Elvira Lapuz, University of the Philippines Diliman, and Marian R. Eclevia of De La Salle University Manila, led the discussions that enriched the understanding of these critical themes. Dr. Marianita Dablio, recognized as the 2021 PRC Outstanding Professional of the Year for Librarianship and a mentor to many librarians in Mindanao, delivered an inspiring keynote address.

The Conference concluded with a tour of Xavier University Libraries, providing participants with practical insights and networking opportunities in academic library leadership and innovation.

Reflecting broader trends, the event highlighted the evolving landscape of Philippine academic libraries, which have increasingly embraced technology and adapted their services to meet changing community needs. Despite challenges and uncertainties, libraries have persevered, guided by their core mission of fostering learning, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting community connections. This steadfast dedication has enabled libraries to transcend traditional roles and become catalysts for positive societal change, addressing issues ranging from disaster response to political upheaval.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges, prompting libraries to innovate rapidly. Social distancing measures accelerated the adoption of online services, underscoring the library's adaptability and resilience. Despite these advancements, significant work remains to embed these digital initiatives firmly within library operations.

Across international contexts, libraries continue to redefine their roles beyond quiet study spaces, now serving as hubs for technological access, educational programs, and resources essential for personal and professional development. For instance, libraries in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, have pioneered digital literacy workshops tailored for senior citizens, empowering older adults with essential digital skills and fostering an inclusive learning environment. Similarly, initiatives in research support, data management, and copyright consultations demonstrate libraries' commitment to advancing knowledge dissemination and accessibility.

Moreover, libraries are increasingly transforming their physical spaces into collaborative hubs that facilitate information exchange and community engagement. These initiatives reflect a broader shift towards user-centric services and innovation-driven programs, bolstering community resilience and relevance in the digital age.

During sessions led by experts like Ms. Eclevia, participants explored crucial topics such as information literacy and the integration of technology into library services. Discussions emphasized the importance of understanding patrons' evolving information needs and tailoring services accordingly, ensuring that libraries remain effective in an era dominated by rapid technological advancement.

Ms. Maiden's insights on managing change underscored the unpredictability inherent in transformative processes. Successful adaptation requires not only strategic planning but also a willingness to iterate and learn from setbacks. Embracing a culture of resilience and celebrating incremental achievements are essential strategies for libraries navigating complex challenges and driving sustainable change.

After the Conference, participants returned to their respective roles equipped with renewed insights and a deeper appreciation for the dynamic nature of library leadership.

The resilience demonstrated by libraries during times of crisis serves as a testament to their enduring value within communities. Moving forward, cultivating leadership skills and embracing innovation will be pivotal in ensuring libraries continue to evolve and thrive as vital pillars of knowledge, connectivity, and community enrichment.

A transformative faculty training at UST

Jr. Lib. Jonathan P. Futralan, RL

The Office of the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, in collaboration with the Center for Innovative Teaching and Educational Delivery (CITED) and the Office of the Information and Communication Technology - EdTech Center spearheaded a training program titled "Navigating Artificial Intelligence in Redesigning Thomasian Education." The primary goal of this program was to expand the administrators' and academic staff's knowledge of artificial intelligence (AI), cultivate a positive attitude, and experience hands-on use of AI tools to improve students' learning experience and enhance the quality of the University's academic programs.

The program was structured into three days, with the first two sessions conducted in plenary via Zoom. The third day, originally planned for in-person attendance, was rescheduled to February 6, 2024, for librarians. This format allowed focused departmental participation and a tailored learning experience.

The hybrid seminar: a transformative learning experience

The seminar was designed to comprehensively understand AI's cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. It aimed to equip participants with practical skills in navigating and utilizing AI tools for instructional redesign, fostering a culture of adaptability and continuous learning among Thomasian educators.

The rationale for this training was rooted in the swift evolution of AI's impact on education.

As the University navigates this transformative era, it is essential to recalibrate its instructional approaches and actively engage with AI while upholding the Thomasian principles and values.

Building upon earlier training programs, this term's faculty capability-building program aimed to deepen understanding of AI's opportunities and challenges for teaching and learning. It emphasized the importance of ethics and values in rehumanizing education and ensuring that the benefit of the human person remains at the center of technological advancements.



Librarians pose for a photo op after the faculty training.

The role of the librarians and the UST Library in navigating AI

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library was vital in this transformative journey. As part of the third day's onsite training, librarians were introduced to the usefulness of AI tools such as Magic School, Semantic Scholar, and Grammarly Go. These tools were highlighted for their relevance in enhancing librarians' work, such as assessing students' learning through tutorials and library instructions and simplifying tasks.

Jr. Lib. Marissa A. Chua, RL, MLIS, Serials Section Librarian, shared her amazement at the YouTube Examination Maker feature of the Magic School AI tool. This feature enables educators to assess students' learning by extracting information from video tutorials uploaded on YouTube and converting them into questions, providing valuable assessments of student comprehension and engagement.

The librarians' parallel training was held on February 16 at the Blessed Gorgio Frassati Building. It was facilitated by Sr. Lib. Lejempf V. Flores, RL, MLIS, Cataloger and E-Learning Specialist at the Miguel de Benavides Library.

Looking ahead: a commitment to continuous learning

As the University navigates the transformative landscape of AI, the community's commitment to safety, ethics, and due diligence must remain unwavering. It is a must to continue cultivating a mindset of adaptability and continuous learning, harnessing the advantages of AI while safeguarding the integrity of the learning environment.

In conclusion, the faculty training program for the Second Term of AY 2023-2024 has equipped faculty members, including the librarians, with the knowledge, attitudes, and practices necessary to navigate the complexities of AI in education. It has empowered us to rethink and redesign instruction, ultimately contributing to the enhanced quality of our academic programs and the holistic development of our students.

Library staff as Thomasian lay liturgical ministers

Sr. Lib. Rosemary B. Balbin, RL, MLIS

The Rite of Commissioning of the 13th Thomasian lay liturgical ministers was particularly memorable as it occurred during the 3-day University-wide retreat at the Quadricentennial Pavilion. The retreat, themed "**St. Thomas Aquinas Double Jubilee Retreat: 'Lord, nothing but You' – Faith, Hope, and Love in the Heart of Saint Thomas,**" added a profound significance to the occasion.

March 5, 2024 marked the first day of the retreat, and the commissioning rites commenced at 3:00 in the afternoon during a concelebrated Eucharistic Mass. The Mass was presided over by His Excellency, Most Reverend Charles John Brown, D.D., Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., UST Rector, along with Rev. Fr. Roberto L. Luanzon, Jr., O.P., Vice-Rector for Finance.

Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs, presented to the Apostolic Nuncio the administrative and academic officials, academic staff, support staff, and the Thomasian volunteers who received the commissioning.

From the Library department, Sis. Jenalyn Aninao was commissioned as lector and commentator, while Sis. Rosemary Balbin, and Bro. Manuel Angelo Guinto II were re-commissioned. Additionally, Bro. Nemesio Magtaan was commissioned as an Extraordinary Minister.

May God bless all lay liturgical ministers, guiding them to continue proclaiming the Word of God, strengthening their faith, and serving with devotion and love.

Embracing shelf harmony: the intersection of nutrition, mindfulness, and spirituality for librarians

Jr. Lib. Kaori B. Fuchigami, RL

On March 12, 2024, a unique hybrid seminar titled "**Shelf Harmony: Blending Nutrition, Mindfulness, and Spirituality for Librarians**" was held in collaboration with the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. – National Capital Region Librarians Council and REGALO Touching Lives. The seminar focused on three vital topics - nutrition, mindfulness, and spirituality which are crucial for the holistic well-being of librarians. The seminar consisted of three sessions, each led by exceptional speakers who shared their unique and invaluable expertise.

Ms. Relly Anne Cardenas-Palpallatoc, a Nutrition-Dietitian II at the Philippine General Hospital, spoke about "Nourishing Knowledge: a Librarian's Path to Balanced Nutrition," emphasizing the importance of balanced nutrition in the life of a librarian. She highlighted the intricate connection between the stomach and the brain, and how proper nutrition can impact cognitive functions, emphasizing the importance of nourishing both body and mind to excel in their profession.

Ms. Carolyn C. Quiba, RGC, Guidance Director of the Lyceum of the Philippines Manila, Guidance and Testing Center, presented her topic, "Mindful Pages: Exploring Mental Well-being in Librarianship." She urged participants to explore mindfulness practice and introduced the emotional freedom technique as a tool for self-care, promoting emotional regulation and stress management. Librarians were encouraged to cultivate a mindful approach to their work, fostering a positive and resilient mindset to navigate the challenges of their profession.

The last speaker, Rev. Callum R. Tabada, Chaplain and Senior Pastor of the National Council of Churches in Ecumenical Ministry – Church of the Risen Lord, delivered a talk titled "Soulful Integration: A Spiritual Tapestry for Librarian's Fulfillment." He emphasized the crucial role of librarians within the community and reminded the audience that libraries and librarians are a ministry. He invited participants to weave a spiritual tapestry into their professional journey, embracing a sense of purpose and a deeper connection to their work.

The hybrid seminar on "Shelf Harmony" offered librarians a practical and comprehensive approach to their well-being, emphasizing the importance of a harmonious blend of nutrition, mindfulness, and spirituality. By nourishing their knowledge, exploring mental well-being, and embracing soulful integration, librarians were empowered to lead more fulfilling professional lives.

Inaugurating the first Mindanao branch (from España to GenSan)

Sr. Lib. Anna Rita L. Alomo-Murillo, RL, MALS

On April 11, 2024, a momentous event unfolded as the University of Santo Tomas General Santos (GenSan) campus was inaugurated. The Bishop of Marbel, His Excellency Most Rev. Cerilo Alan U. Casicas, D.D., led the Eucharistic celebration, marking a significant moment for the academic community. General Santos City Mayor Hon. Lorelie G. Pacquiao, Dominican Province of the Philippines Prior Provincial Rev. Fr. Filemon I. Dela Cruz, Jr., O.P., and UST Rector Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., also delivered messages to commemorate this historic occasion.

UST GenSan will offer initial programs under the Schools of Health Sciences, Business and Accountancy, and Engineering and Information Technology. The first batch of students is set to be welcomed during the academic year 2024 to 2025, signifying the beginning of a new chapter in education in the region.

The campus is a testament to modernity, boasting state-of-the-art facilities that include classrooms, laboratories, a chapel, a cafeteria, an auditorium, and a library. Drawing inspiration from the iconic Main Building in Manila, the UST General Santos Main Building features a symmetrical design, central cross tower, and entrance canopy, paying homage to the University's rich history.



The UST General Santos branch rises to meet its patrons in General Santos.

Under the leadership of key officials, including academician Professor Emeritus Maribel G. Nonato, PhD, the pioneering Assistant to the Rector for UST General Santos, Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., UST Prefect of Libraries, and Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS, UST Chief Librarian, the UST GenSan Library has been meticulously planned and organized.

The GenSan Library, with an initial collection of 3,000 printed titles as mandated by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), holds a golden collection of valuable library materials for students and faculty. These books have been carefully selected, acquired, and processed in the UST Miguel de Benavides Library in Manila, with the dedicated assistance of librarians and library staff, before being shipped to the GenSan Library.

The inauguration of the UST General Santos campus heralds a new era of learning, innovation, and community development. As the campus opens its doors to eager students and passionate educators, it symbolizes a steadfast commitment to excellence and a resolute dedication to shaping future leaders in the region.

UST Library's success in ISO 9001:2015

Sr. Lib. Anna Rita L. Alomo-Murillo, RL, MALS

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) recently completed its 4th Repeat Audit for ISO 9001:2015, which took place from April 16-18, 2024. This audit assessed how well the University's management system is aligned with ISO 9001:2015 standards and ensured compliance with various programs and service requirements.

On April 16, 2024, the Miguel de Benavides Library underwent the audit process, with Ms. Zipporah Bernardo, auditor from TUV SUD Philippines, leading the examination. Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS, Chief Librarian, and Sr. Lib. Anna Rita Alomo-Murillo, RL, MALIS, Library - Quality Management Representative, diligently addressed and defended the Library's practices to the ISO auditor.

Moreover, the invaluable contributions of the Library Committee Heads were pivotal in the audit's success. Their proactive involvement in updating and overseeing their respective committees ensured seamless coordination and alignment with ISO requirements, paving the way for a successful audit outcome and reaffirming the Library's commitment to excellence in quality management practices.

In summary, the University's recent completion of the 4th Repeat Audit for ISO 9001:2015 is a significant accomplishment in maintaining quality standards. The teamwork and commitment of the Miguel de Benavides Library staff demonstrate a dedication to excellence. Their hard work ensured compliance with ISO requirements and reflected a focus on continuous improvement and quality service delivery to the University community.

Outreach in Bamban, Tarlac

Jr. Lib. Karen Angelica S. Agcaoili, RL, MLIS

The UST Library Extension Services Committee revisited its adopted community in Sitio San Martin de Porres, Bamban, Tarlac, on November 15, 2024 to conduct educational and recreational activities for Aeta children at San Martin de Porres School.

The activity was facilitated by the Extension Services Chair Sr. Lib. Michelle M. San Gabriel, RL, MLIS, along with committee members Ms. Madelyn R. Perez and Mr. John Paul C. Orbista, and with representatives from the other committees: Mr. Ian M. Magpantay from the Human Values, Sr. Lib. Lejempf V. Flores, RL, MLIS, from ICT, and Jr. Lib. Karen Agcaoili, RL, MLIS, from the Professional Development.

Upon arrival, the children were eager to discover what activities awaited them, despite a power outage. The event continued as planned. A total of 60 students from various grade levels participated. The committee divided them into 6 groups, with each facilitator acting as a station manager to guide the children through the walkthrough.

The story "*Ang Bisikleta ni Moman*" was used as the basis for the story walk, which began at the first station. Here, the students answered a questionnaire about the story to assess their reading and listening comprehension. Since the children were grouped across different grade levels, one member of each group served as the "Ate" or "Kuya," naturally demonstrating leadership and management skills.

At the second station, the children engaged in physical exercises, which they found both enjoyable and energizing. The third station tested their knowledge of phrases related to physical activity, mindfulness, and healthy habits. The fourth station involved selecting healthy food illustrations and placing them on an illustrated plate, testing their understanding of proper eating habits. At the



Library Staff pose for a photo in front of San Martin Elementary School.

final station, the children provided feedback on the activity and shared how they felt about it.

At the end of the event, the children were given face and body powder as part of a self-care and cleanliness lesson. The event concluded with food and drinks provided for the children.

Afterward, the committee visited the community leaders and the local library. The community leader expressed the need for development in the library, as well as other essential resources for the community.

This experience brought us joy and fulfillment as we witnessed the smiles from people in the community. The small gestures of kindness such as spending 2-4 hours of our time, made a significant difference to them. It served as a reminder that time is valuable and that how we manage and share our time can have a lasting impact on others.

This activity was made possible through the continuous support of the UST Library administrators, the dedicated members of the Extension Services Committee, and the voluntary participation of librarians and support staff.

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