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UST Library opens Biblio.Tech.AI CICS Library

Sr. Lib. Kristi Ma.Fevie V. Macasaet, RL, MLIS

On August 9, 2023, the **Biblio.Tech.AI College of Information and Computing Sciences (CICS) Satellite Library**, a collaborative initiative between the College and the Miguel de Benavides Library, reached another milestone in making resources readily available to its users. Situated on the 19th floor of the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Building, this innovative Library was inaugurated and blessed to continuously serve as a beacon of support for students' academic endeavors while providing a space for leisure and recreation.

Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., the College's regent and assistant to the Prefect of Libraries, revealed that the idea for the Biblio.Tech.AI CICS Library arose from the students' desire to have a dedicated library closer to their academic domain. With the CICS's relocation to the Frassati Building, the opportunity to establish this became feasible, meeting the longstanding requests of the students.

The name "Biblio.Tech.AI" coined by Assoc. Prof. Perla P. Cosme is a fusion of *biblio* (Library in Spanish), *tech* (technology), and *artificial intelligence* (AI). It symbolizes the integration of traditional library resources with modern technological innovations. The library offers access to many resources, including books, e-books, and essential academic materials. Additionally, board games and sixteen (16) computer sets have created opportunities for students to engage in socialization and collaborative learning experiences.

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Asst. Prof. Jerralyn T. Padua, MSCS, the dean, expressed her enthusiasm for the continued success of Biblio.Tech.AI, highlighting its pivotal role in enhancing the academic journey of CICS students. **"The Biblio.Tech.AI Satellite Library embodies our commitment to providing a dynamic learning environment that nurtures intellectual growth and fosters student collaboration,"** stated Dean Padua.

The Miguel de Benavides Library partnership and CICS demonstrates its commitment to being a fundamental pillar of academic excellence within the Thomasian community, equipping students with the necessary tools and resources to excel in their academic and professional endeavors. The support of the Science and Technology Section staff and Library Administrator has been instrumental in establishing the Library, making it more effective for clients.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that the Biblio.Tech.AI operates from Monday to Saturday, 8:00-12:00 and 1:00- 5:00, ensuring accessibility to students throughout the week.



L-R: Rev. fr. Gaspar Sigaya, O.P., Chief Librarian Maria Cecilia Lobo, Rev. Fr. Louie Coronel, Dr. Peralta, and Dean Padua as they lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the inauguration of Biblio.Tech.AI.

Welcome Message from the CICS Regent Rev. Fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P.

Rev. fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P. our Secretary-General, Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, our Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Dean Jerralyn T. Padua, MSCS, esteemed Administrators, our dear Dominican Fathers, distinguished professors, librarians, support staff, students, friends... *Buongiorno!*

According to the Librarianship Studies & Information Technology website. April 8, 2023, *"A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material and may be a physical building or room, a virtual space, or both. Sidney Sheldon perfectly describes: "Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life."*

The libraries of the world are under threat. Jon Bing makes a point: *"To ask why we need libraries at all when there is so much information available elsewhere, is about as sensible as asking if roadmaps are necessary now that there are so very many roads."*

Libraries are essential in the process of giving students access to knowledge. However, libraries are the places where you can expect smart and clear answers to even the most difficult questions. According to Neil Gaiman ***"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one."*** Librarians are teachers, problem solvers, innovators, collaborators, leaders, and learners.

The College of Information and Computing Sciences Satellite Library is the answer to the question that was raised during the CICS Student Organizations Meeting last June 9, 2023, *"Saan po ba ang CICS Library?"* Immediately, Dean Jerra and I addressed the concern of the students, looked for possible space, sought the approval of Rev. fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., the Prefect of Libraries, coordinated with the FMO & SHS Office, created a working group composed of CICS people, Librarians, architect, and support staff... the problem is *"Wala pala kaming budget."*

Bawal ang realignment pa naman! Kaya na challenge ang creative minds and resourcefulness ni Sir Aris Garcia, Doc Imelda Escandor at Doc Maria Christina Aragon, kasama ang mga technical staff at janitors... in 30 days we have BIBLIO TECH AI (Books.

Technology. Artificial Intelligence.) The credit goes to Prof. Perla Cosme who coined the word BIBLIO TECH AI. Recently, I was interviewed by the Varsitarian, and one of the questions raised was, "What's unique with BIBLIO TECH AI? Did you know that BIBLIO TECH AI has the most number of board games aside from printed and eBooks among all the libraries on campus? Thanks to our chief Librarian Ma'am Cecille Lobo, Ma'am Raquel Lontoc, and Ma'am Rita Alomo for providing us with the latest board games.



Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P. delivers his opening remarks in the inauguration of the Biblio.Tech.AI.

Why board games in the library? One reason is to balance the Digital Intelligence (DQ) of the students. Board games promote collaboration, inquiry, and critical thinking. By using games that support the curriculum, educators can give students to experience play, social interaction & address mental health issues. BTW, just a friendly reminder that we have an exciting event planned for this afternoon at 1:00 pm! The Gaming Library Company will be demonstrating a variety of board games for us to enjoy. We hope to see you here again at 1:00 p.m.!

WELCOME. Good day.

REV. FR. GASPAR R. SIGAYA, O.P.

CICS Regent, Assistant to the Prefect of Libraries, University Archivist

University of Santo Tomas

9 August 2023

Welcome Message from the Secretary General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P.

Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH., Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs; Asst. Prof. Jerralyn T. Padua, MSCS, Dean of the UST College of Information and Computing Sciences; Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., Regent; Asst. Prof. Khrisnamonte M. Balmeo, MMed, College Secretary; Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, Chief Librarian; Dominican Fathers, librarians, academic staff, support staff, students, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Good Morning.

With the donation of books from the private collections of our founder, Bp. Miguel de Benavides and other benefactors such as Fr. Diego Soria and Hernando de los Rios Coronel, the first seeds of the present Miguel de Benavides Library were sown. Yes, the library antedated the establishment of the Colegio, which will later become Universidad de Santo Tomas. Before the University was founded, the library as its powerhouse was organized.

In our generation, I have witnessed the birth of the CICS from the then IICS when the proposal was presented, discussed and approved by the major governing bodies of the University. It was indeed a happy moment filled with tears of gratitude.

Today, we gather to celebrate another birth: the formal inauguration of the CICS Satellite Library. As we stand on the threshold of this new chapter, we are reminded of the immense power that libraries hold in shaping minds, fostering creativity, and propelling progress. The CICS Satellite Library, aptly called Biblio.Tech.AI, is a brilliant play of words from the Spanish *Biblioteca* (which means library) that seamlessly weaves together various elements of tradition and innovation. Allow me to break down the layers of its meaning and significance:

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Biblio: The use of "*Biblio*" draws from the Greek word "*biblion*," which translates to "book." This connects the library to its fundamental purpose – to house and provide access to a vast array of knowledge in the form of books, whether physical or electronic and other resources. It pays homage to the time-tested tradition of libraries as repositories of intellectual exploration.

Tech: The term "tech" is a succinct representation of technology and the digital age we live in. It embodies the innovative and dynamic nature of the College, indicating its dedication to technological advancements. It reflects the library's role not only as a keeper of printed knowledge but also as a hub for digital resources, electronic databases, and cutting-edge applications.

AI: The abbreviation "AI" stands for "artificial intelligence," a field that has revolutionized the way we approach information, problem-solving, and decision-making. By incorporating "AI" into the name, the library asserts its commitment to embracing new horizons in knowledge representation, search, and interaction. It signifies the library's adaptation to emerging technologies and its desire to harness AI to enhance user experiences and knowledge discovery.

In Biblio.Tech.AI, the fusion of these elements creates a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation, analog and digital, wisdom and technology. It encapsulates the journey from classical libraries to modern, interactive information hubs.

Therefore, our library is not just about providing access



Rev. fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL delivers his message during the Biblio.Tech.AI inauguration.

to books; it's about leveraging technology, including AI, to create an immersive and transformative learning experience.

Biblio.Tech.AI encapsulates the vision of CICS, poised to lead in the digital age, while remaining firmly rooted in the timeless values of learning and intellectual growth.

As we stand at the crossroads of tradition and innovation, may this library be a testament to the power of synergy—a place where the Thomasians can gather to exchange ideas, engage in discourse, and broaden their horizons. May this be a sanctuary for the curious, a refuge for the seekers, and a launching pad for the visionaries.

As we embark on this new journey together, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to nurturing the flames of knowledge, embracing the diversity of perspectives, and fostering an environment of open dialogue. May we cherish the opportunities that this library will provide to expand our minds, challenge our assumptions, and ultimately, contribute to spreading of the light (*lumina pandit*) to the Church, the society, and the global community.

As we are about to cut the ribbon and open the doors of this library, we also open the doors to a future where innovation knows no bounds and discovery knows no limits. Let us be inspired by the legacy of those who have come before us and be motivated by the potential that lies ahead.

Let us step forward into this new era with gratitude for the past, excitement for the present, and unwavering hope for the future.

Thank you, and God bless.

REV. FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, O.P.

Secretary-General

University of Santo Tomas

9 August 2023



COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT - A.Y. 2022-2023

Sr. Lib. Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos, RL, MLIS

The **Collection Development Committee** is responsible for planning and building a valuable and balanced collection of library materials, considering the community's information needs and interests. This includes a diverse and relevant collection of books, journals, multimedia, and other resources. Members of the Thomasian community, including the Administrators, academic staff, librarians, and students, collaborate to build a collection that would support and enhance the curriculum and instructional programs that the University offers.

Added to the collection of the Library in the Academic Year 2022-2023 are the following:

Printed Books – The library has managed to acquire a total of 6,015 book titles through a combination of purchases and generous donations. This effort ensures that the Library's physical collection remains diverse and up-to-date, meeting the needs and interests of its users.

Electronic Books – The library has responded to the increasing demand for e-books by significantly expanding its digital book collection. With the purchase of 1,323 new e-book titles, patrons now have a more comprehensive selection of materials. This initiative aims to provide convenient access to digital books, meeting the needs and preferences of library users.

Electronic Journals – aside from subscriptions to printed journals, the Library also subscribes to electronic copies of journals. By incorporating 32 new e-journal titles into its collection, the Library ensures its patrons timely access to the latest research and information. This step allows library users to stay updated with their current field trends and advancements.

Non-Print Materials – materials available in the Library cater to various learning styles, ensuring that visual and auditory learners are accommodated with alternative methods of absorbing information beyond traditional text-based resources. In addition to books, the Library also collects CDs, DVDs, posters, maps, models, and other audiovisual materials. Updating the

collection regularly with new additions will provide students and researchers with comprehensive resources. Fifty-nine (59) new titles have been added this academic year to enrich the collection further.

Library coordinators from each college/faculty/institute are needed to acquire the materials mentioned above. Two library coordinator meetings were held on October 25, 2022, and January 18, 2023, to facilitate this process and keep everyone informed. These meetings served as a platform to discuss the achievements and plans of the Library.

The Committee's responsibility is to consistently ensure that the Library obtains a diverse collection that meets its patrons' learning, teaching, and research requirements. This effort aligns with the University's mission, vision, and the Library's objectives.



Library Coordinators Meeting (October 25, 2022)



Library Coordinators Meeting (January 18, 2023)



EXTENSION SERVICES COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT - A.Y. 2022-2023

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

The primary responsibility of the **Committee on Extension Services** is to spearhead viable and efficient community development and outreach programs for the partner communities, focusing on providing financial or in-kind donations and conducting literacy and library-associated projects. It is anchored in the advocacy of compassion and tasked to ensure that the implemented programs will deliver long-term benefits to the people in the communities.

As the UST *Simbahayan* Community Development Office recommended and approved by the UST Library Administrators, the seven Library committees will have one outreach activity per term. The activities aligned with the Program Areas for Development (4 KPIs) are as follows: Health and Wellness Development, Equitable and Inclusive Education, Culture, Heritage, Sports and Development, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

Below are the Committee's accomplished activities for A.Y. 2022-2023:

1. Voluntary cash donation for the children of Cottolengo Filipino, Inc. - Was able to collect P17,500.00 last Dec. 9-16, 2022.

2. Visit to Sitio San Martin, Tarlac held last March 22, 2023

There was a presentation of the story about Joey and the *Gulay* Gang and an interactive video that discusses wellness and health; basic hygiene kits were distributed to 50 Elementary Aeta students. This activity aims to inspire the kids to live healthier lifestyles by getting them more active and eating better food. Participants were the four Committees: Collection Development, headed by Fatima Ramos; Linkages and Research, headed by Raquel Lontoc; Professional Development, headed by Jonas Sahagun; and Physical Facilities, with Juanita Subaldo as head.



3. Visited Sitio San Martin and Sitio Burog, Bamban, Tarlac last Nov. 11, 2022

There was an interactive storytelling video entitled Santa Helper. The group also distributed basic school supplies kits to 50 Elementary Aeta students to help them accomplish their subject module requirements. This activity aimed to inspire the kids to love reading stories that give hope and joy. Participants were the three Committees: Extension Services, headed by Michelle San Gabriel; Human Values, with Arlene Matias as the Committee head; and Information Technology, headed by Lejemp Flores.



4. Number of Culture, Heritage, and Sports and Development Projects

Cataloging of books at the Seminary/Priory of Our Lady of Rosary, Manaoag, was held on October 16, 2022. The activity assisted the Priory in organizing its library.



5. No. of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Project

Projects related to this KPI are commonly under the *Tulong Tomasino* Project of UST, which usually involves monetary and in-kind donations to help needy families, especially Thomasians.

6. Voluntary Cash Donation for the Victims of Typhoon Paeng

The event held last November 9-16, 2022, raised a total of P14,650.00 and deposited to the UST *Tulong Tomasino* Savings Bank account.



HUMAN VALUES COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT - A.Y. 2022-2023

Sr. Lib. Leonila M. Manuel, RL

The **Committee on Human Values** aimed at nurturing the spiritual and moral well-being of the library staff. The Committee is headed by Sr. Lib. Leonila M. Manuel, RL, together with her dedicated members: Sr. Lib. Arlene P. Matias, RL, MLIS, Jr. Lib. Marjorie Irish A. Suarez, RL, Ms. Agnes L. Estudillo, Mr. Manuel Angelo R. Guinto, Ms. Jenalyn D. Aninao, Mr. Ian Gilbert M. Magpantay, and Mr. Nemesio D. Magtaan, orchestrated a series of activities that are fundamental to the Institution's ethos that centered the core values of Competence, Compassion, and Commitment.

The AY 2022-2023 commenced with the university's solemn hybrid '*Misa de Apertura*,' including the '*Discurso de Apertura*.' It was held on August 4, 2022, which set the tone for a year of spiritual growth and engagement. An early highlight was the "*Forum on UST Patron Saints*" held on September 21, 2022, which focused on the teachings of St. Matthew - the event featuring Bro. Jerone R. Geronimo, O.P., deputized solemnly professed brother, Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, fostered deep reflection on service and spiritual commitment.

The **Block Rosary devotion**, coordinated with the Campus Ministry, symbolized collective prayer for healing and peace. The virtual sessions, led by esteemed prayer leaders, exemplified unity and solidarity among the Library staff. It was held online last October 7, 2022. Prayer was recited through the public announcement system every morning, and it was a prayer before work. Then, the Rosary was recited every 12:45 noon at the second-floor lobby.

Regular community Masses provided moments of solace and celebration, including a special Mass for the departed loved ones. These monthly gatherings underscored the importance of spiritual communion within the Library community.

Integral to the Committee's mission was **promoting spiritual formation and environmental stewardship**. Forums like the discussion on *Laudato Si* led by Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, MCD, director of the UST *Simbahayan*, encouraged dialogue on caring for our mother Earth. The **Green Festival** initiative highlighted the Institution's commitment to environmental sustainability, promoting best practices and energy conservation among the staff.

On February 18, 2023, the Committee organized its first hybrid activity, the forum on Thomasian patrons and patroness with the featured figure "**Beato Angelico: a preacher in paint**" with Rev. fr. Edgardo D. Alaurin, O.P., SThD, regent, UST College of Fine Arts and Design, as speaker.

For active community engagement in the faith ecosystem, we had the **Librarian's Recollection** held last March 10, 2023, at the Conference Hall with Rev. fr. Julius G. Jacobres, rector, St. Vincent Ferrer Seminary, Minor Seminary of the Archdiocese of Jaro, as the retreat master.

The enthronement of the Holy Mother served as a solemn ritual to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, setting the spiritual tone for the upcoming festivities, which began on May 2, 2023. Each library staff member had a prayer partner for the daily prayers, and flowers were offered to the Blessed Virgin Mary during the *Flores de Mayo* celebration. This shows the staff's beautiful sense of community and devotion as they came together in prayer and reverence for their faith.

May 31, 2023, was a day filled with culminating activities to conclude the month-long devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. First was the **Living Rosary**, where participants formed a human rosary. It was then followed by the **Santacruz** (Spanish *santa cruz*, "holy cross"), wherein the procession of some library staff represented the different biblical characters and was accompanied by the image of the Holy Cross, which added to the day's festive atmosphere. It provided a sense of closure to the *Flores de Mayo* festivities and offered opportunities for communal prayer, reflection, and celebration of faith within the community.

The Committee actively encouraged staff participation in religious observances and cultural festivities throughout the academic year. Memos from the Secretary-General served as reminders of the significant events, fostering a sense of collective reverence. From the **Triduum Prayers and Masses** for the solemnity of St. Dominic de Guzman on August 5, 2022, to the **Triduum in honor of Saint Thomas Aquinas** and the launching of the Triennium of Saint Thomas Aquinas 2023-2025 on January 13, 2023, staff members were invited to participate in various religious and cultural celebrations, enriching their spiritual journey.

The Human Values Report for A.Y. 2022-2023 reflected a year of spiritual growth, community engagement, and environmental consciousness within the Library staff. The Committee reinforced the Institution's commitment to fostering holistic well-being and ethical leadership among its members through diverse activities and initiatives. As the academic year concluded, the legacy of spiritual enrichment and communal solidarity continues to resonate, guiding the Library community toward a future rooted in Compassion, Competence, and Commitment.



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT - A.Y. 2022-2023

Sr. Lib. Lejempf V. Flores, RL, MLIS

LITE Project

The LITE project, designed to enhance the Library's technological infrastructure, has successfully achieved all its predetermined targets. This meticulous attention to detail and concerted efforts have effectively renewed software licenses, upgraded hardware components, and secured maintenance agreements, ensuring the seamless functioning of essential library operations. Importantly, all eight targeted libraries have been equipped with enhanced IT equipment and services, surpassing the target. This achievement directly translates into improved access to digital resources, enhanced virtual communication capabilities, and streamlined administrative processes for our staff and patrons, highlighting the project's commitment to excellence and its capacity to deliver tangible results.

In addition to meeting software and hardware upgrade objectives, the LITE project has also addressed the procurement of vital IT paraphernalia necessary for day-to-day operations. The project has bolstered the Library's data management, communication, and connectivity capabilities by acquiring essential equipment such as RDX data tape drives, webcams, and USB cable extenders. Each piece of equipment enhances operational efficiency and facilitates seamless service delivery. The attainment of these supplementary objectives further solidifies the project's success and underscores its comprehensive approach to strengthening the Library IT infrastructure.

Furthermore, the successful completion of the LITE project made a significant milestone in the ongoing evolution of the library system. By surpassing all targets and achieving robust IT equipment and services enhancement, the project has positioned the Library better to serve its community in an increasingly digital world. The successful outcome of the LITE project stands as a testament to effective project management, collaborative teamwork, and a steadfast dedication to advancing library technology for the benefit of all stakeholders.

B-LIS Project

An initiative aimed at bolstering the efficiency of equipment delivery and resolving ICT-related issues within the library system has yielded significant success in its implementation. By focusing on two core activities - delivery of requested equipment and provision of technical support - the project has successfully addressed vital challenges encountered by library users and staff. Notably, the project exceeded expectations in terms of equipment delivery, achieving a remarkable 100% fulfillment rate against a target of 80%. This

accomplishment underscores the project's commitment to promptly meeting the equipment needs of patrons and enhancing overall service quality.

In addition to surpassing targets for equipment delivery, the B-LIS project also excelled in providing timely technical support to address ICT-related problems. With a target set at 80%, the project accomplished an impressive 98.75% fulfillment rate for technical support requests. This achievement reflects the project's effectiveness in resolving ICT challenges promptly, thereby minimizing disruptions to library services and ensuring seamless access to resources for patrons. Through proactive intervention and responsive assistance, the project has contributed to the smooth functioning of library operations and enhanced the user experience.

Overall, the success of the B-LIS project underscores the importance of proactive measures in optimizing information service delivery within the library system. By exceeding targets for equipment delivery and technical support, the project has demonstrated its efficacy in enhancing service quality and meeting the evolving needs of library users. Moving forward, the B-LIS project is a testament to the benefits of streamlined processes and effective resource allocation in enhancing library services. Its achievements highlight the potential for further improvements in information service delivery, ensuring libraries remain vibrant hubs of knowledge and learning for all patrons.

InTAK Project

Aptly named to signify its focus on Information Technology Awareness and Knowledgeability, it has emerged as a pivotal initiative in enhancing the technological proficiency of library staff members. Through a strategic blend of external and internal training activities, the project has been instrumental in equipping personnel with the necessary skills and competencies to navigate the evolving landscape of Information Technology. By sending ICT personnel to external events and organizing internal training programs, InTAK has fostered a culture of continuous learning and innovation within the library system.

One of the key achievements of the InTAK project lies in its commitment to ensuring that ICT personnel receive training tailored to their specific roles and responsibilities. With a target set at 100%, the project successfully attained this goal, ensuring that all ICT personnel underwent technical courses relevant to their jobs. This accomplishment validates the project's dedication to staff development. It underscores its

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LINKAGES AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT - A.Y. 2022-2023

Sr. Lib. Raquel B. Lontoc RL, MLIS

The Library's **Linkages and Research Committee** assists in establishing, managing, and strengthening the library's linkages and partnership with other research libraries and institutions by using the principle of reciprocity or beneficial sharing of resources.

For the AY 2022-2023, the library has an existing partnership with the following libraries and institutions:

1. Ambassador Manuel T. Yan Peace Resource Center (AMTYPRC)
2. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
3. AIM World Bank DRC
4. Ateneo de Manila University Rizal Library
5. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) - Knowledge Resource Center
6. Catholic Education Association of the Philippines – NCR (CEAP-NCR Library Committee)
7. Consortium of Engineering Libraries of the Philippines (CELPh)
8. Consortium of Libraries for Ecclesiastical Studies
9. De La Salle University Library
10. Dominican Network (DOMNET) Youth Group
11. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
12. Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP)
13. National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)
14. Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians (PAARL) NET
15. UP Diliman – College of Science Library
16. UP Diliman – College of Engineering
17. UP Los Baños Library
18. UP Manila Library

By engaging in mutually beneficial activities like partnerships and consortiums, the library shares information and resources with its participating members. This also aids the library in overcoming the huge cost of purchase of resources, bibliography handling, and storage of materials.

While the library shares a formal Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding with some of our partner institutions, the library also has informal cooperation with the other libraries enjoying the following benefits:

- Access to library resources/collection, services, and facilities
- Assistance to network members with their research and reference inquiries
- Document Delivery Service
- Interlibrary Loan
- Library Fee exemption and or discount
- Referral Service

To support the research needs of the Thomasian community, the Committee organized two online webinars as follows: *"Avoiding Predatory Journals for your Publication"* which was held on November 11, 2022, conducted by Mr. Johan Jang, customer consultant of Elsevier for Southeast Asia; and *"How to Avoid Paper Rejection"* held on November 23, 2022, conducted by Dr. Balamuralithara Balakrishnan, Assoc. Prof., Faculty of Art, Computing And Creative Industry, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Malaysia.

It aimed to protect researchers and authors from falling victim to predatory practices while promoting integrity, quality, and credibility in scholarly publishing, as well as equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the publication process successfully and enhance their scholarly impact.

Moreover, the LRC Post (The Linkages and Research Committee Post) is an ongoing initiative that continues to share pertinent library and research-related resources with the library staff via email. The Committee also actively promotes free research webinars hosted by our partner providers and institutions, further supporting our library staff and users' research needs.

Lastly, the Committee has been dedicated to creating and sharing a series of publications on citation and plagiarism, underscoring the importance of intellectual honesty and proper attribution of sources.

As we look ahead to the next academic year, the Committee is committed to providing more meaningful and practical activities.



PHYSICAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT - A.Y. 2022-2023

Sr. Lib. Juanita D. Subaldo, RL, MLIS

The COVID-19 pandemic certainly changed the role of the library and the way libraries do business. Library services and management have been affected and transformed, and there is a clear trend in library facilities today. More libraries recognize the value of collaboration, discussion, and social reflection areas/rooms. But how can the library provide these spaces for different working styles besides those traditional quiet zones? How can the library attract or accommodate more patrons and users, particularly those who do their studies in more social settings and remote work, if there's no allotted budget for facilities or there is a rule on priority-based budgeting?

Library physical environment comprises location, building, layout, furniture, equipment, etc., significantly improving the quality of services provided. The physical environment not only plays an essential role in promoting the services of libraries but also affects users. Priority-based budgeting keeps the Physical Facilities-TQM Crisis Committee from fulfilling the different projects and activities.

The following were the improvements/upgrading of the Committee for A.Y. 2022-2023 that have been accomplished:

A. Improvement of the current Library structure.

Some areas have been repaired and repainted, like the 2nd floor comfort room, the Health Sciences Library roof & ceiling, and the wall at the Conference Hall.

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

- Acquired and purchased different furniture, equipment, fixtures, etc., for section and branch libraries like UVC lights, air purifiers, computer chairs, smart televisions, stand fans, and book ends;

- Replacement and improvement of several items, like fluorescent lights to LED, doors, power outlets, and;
- Installation of additional LAN and WIFI activation.

C. Regular maintenance and monitoring of the following:

Cleaning of air conditioning units, building structure inspection, pest control monitoring, building fumigation, water tank cleaning, drinking fountain filter replacement, elevator maintenance, power supplies inspection, busted lights replacements, restroom maintenance, and waterproofing maintenance.

D. Maintenance and installation of safety devices and other safety measures.

- Annual maintenance of fire extinguishers, emergency & exit lights, fire alarm system, fire suppression, and CCTV; Checked and replaced batteries of panic device with alarm;
- Joined the nationwide earthquake drill (DUCK, COVER, & HOLD) and;
- Prepared the energy management plan procedure and practiced it within the library.

E. Identify and continuously acquire different protective supplies and equipment needed in the current pandemic situation, like face masks, face shields, alcohol/sanitizer, hand gloves, hand wash soap, alcohol dispensers, and UVC lights/work.

The Committee considers the needs of library users, ensuring that the building structure and the library facilities (furniture, lighting, ventilation, etc.) are well-maintained and suitable for library patrons.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT - A.Y. 2022-2023

Sr. Lib. Jonas T. Sahagun, RL, MLIS

The **Professional Training and Development Committee** aims to develop the skills of the library staff, their competencies, and professional qualities to enhance their work performance and increase job satisfaction. The Committee organizes training, team building, and other developmental activities.

Training and Learning Sessions

The Committee conducted UST Library Learning Sessions which was held on November 16 and 29, 2022, for the Library & Information Services Month celebration. These were participated in by students, faculty members, and library staff. A three-day UST Library In-house Training was also organized last July 25-27, 2023, in cooperation with the ICT Committee, Human Values Committee, and the USTLA Board. It was participated in by the library administrators and library staff. All 31 librarians and 30 support staff have attended at least two training and developmental activities organized in-house or by other departments/institutions.

Planning and Team Building

Mid-year planning and Year-end planning activities were held last January 25 and June 15-16, 2023, respectively.

These were participated in by library administrators, committee heads, and section/branch heads.

The Committee also organized a team-building activity last June 23, 2023, held at the UST P. Noval Covered Court. Library administrators and support staff all joined in this activity.

Other Activities

The Committee facilitated the collection of annual dues for the 2023 renewal of membership of all 31 librarians in the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) and in the Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL). Monitoring the status of librarians' graduate studies, librarians elected or appointed to positions in professional or academic organizations, and the competence or performance evaluation rating was also done.

These activities helped develop the professional growth of the UST Library staff. The Committee aspires to provide more significant undertakings to achieve its goals.



Planning



Learning Session



Team Building



Photo collage of some of the Committee activities for the academic year 2022-2023.



STUDENT AND WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT - A.Y. 2022-2023

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

Student Welfare and Services monitors and ensures that the Thomasian students enjoy and maximize the library services and facilities. It works collaboratively with the General Reference & Information Section, Circulation Section, and the Collection Development Committee. It provides Thomasian students with different services and facilities to support their academic endeavors.

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

- Number of utilized library resources/materials:
 - Number of Books Borrowed: 26,394
 - Number of Document Delivery Services (in volume) provided: 463 vols.
 - Digital Library Usage: 958,656 digital collection usage
- There is a total of 18,747,640 e-resources log-ins.
- 98% of freshmen sections attended the library orientation. Also, a total of 86 sessions were conducted, including electronic resources tutorials.
- Four newly created Online Content for students
- For the online inquiries, a total of 4,135 were

received; all were addressed satisfactorily. The data came from queries through library email, social media accounts, and websites.

- Mean Ratings for Library Performance Survey:

Library User Education Feedback Rating:

97% Very Satisfied and Satisfied; Mean: 3.46

Library User Feedback (General Services) Rating:

98% Happy and Satisfied; Mean: 1.98

To conclude, the Student Welfare and Services Committee plays a pivotal role in optimizing library services and resources for the benefit of the Thomasian students. Fostering collaboration across sections and committees fosters a supportive environment conducive to academic success. This year's key performance indicator showcases significant engagement with library resources, successful orientation programs, creation of new online content, efficient handling of inquiries, and high satisfaction ratings from users, reflecting the library's commitment to student welfare and academic excellence.

Information and Communications... from page 8

effectiveness in aligning training initiatives with organizational needs, ultimately enhancing ICT operations' overall efficiency and effectiveness within the library.

Moreover, the InTAK project's success extends beyond ICT personnel to encompass librarians and support staff. By exceeding the target for training programs covering ICT and related topics, with an achievement percentage of 166.67%, the project has demonstrated its commitment to providing comprehensive learning opportunities to all staff members. This inclusive approach to training reflects the project's broader vision of fostering a digitally literate workforce capable of leveraging technology to deliver superior library services and meet the diverse needs of patrons in today's digital age.

LibPub Project

A strategic initiative aimed at bolstering the visibility of Library resources and services through online platforms has achieved notable success in enhancing the library's public presence.

Through a series of targeted activities, including promoting the Library website during orientation sessions and integrating it into the University Learning Management System (LMS), the project has effectively positioned the Library as a central hub of information and learning within the University community. Furthermore, the commitment to regularly updating website content ensures users

can access the latest information and resources, contributing to a seamless and enriched user experience.

One of the key indicators of success for the LibPub project lies in the growth of the Library's social media presence across various platforms. While the project encountered challenges in meeting the target for Facebook followers, exceeding targets for Twitter and Instagram followers demonstrates the effectiveness of engagement efforts. The surpassing of targets on these platforms underscores the project's ability to connect with users and generate interest in library resources and services through dynamic and interactive content, thus expanding the Library's reach and impact within the University community.

The LibPub project will continue refining digital outreach strategies and leveraging online platforms to promote library resources effectively. By capitalizing on the successes achieved thus far and addressing areas for improvement, the project aims to strengthen further the Library's public presence and engagement with users. Through ongoing efforts to enhance visibility and accessibility, the Library will remain at the forefront of information dissemination and learning facilitation, serving as a vital resource for students, faculty, and researchers within the University community.

Report of the Library User Feedback A.Y. 2022-2023

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

The importance of gathering feedback for library user services lies in its ability to improve the overall quality and effectiveness of the services provided. Feedback from library users helps to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas of improvement, allowing the Miguel de Benavides Library to tailor their educational programs and resources to better meet the needs of the library patrons.

LIBRARY USER SERVICES FEEDBACK

I. Respondents

RESPONDENTS	NUMBER	%
Academic Official/Administrator	3	0.20%
Academic Staff	71	4.53%
Support Staff	4	0.27%
Students	1,486	94.40%
Alumni	3	0.20%
Visiting Researcher	6	0.40%
Total	1,573	100%

II. Platforms Used

PLATFORM USED	NUMBER	%
E-mail	874	55.56 %
Library Social Media	63	4.01%
Library Virtual Office	341	21.68%
Personal (face to face)	56	3.56%
Cloud Campus	239	15.19%
Total	1,573	100%

Interpretation of Data

The provided data illustrates the diverse range of platforms that respondents employed for communication and engagement. The following breakdown offers a deeper understanding of the figures:

Among the 1,573 total respondents, a significant portion of 874 individuals (55.56%) favored email as their primary means of communication. Email is a widely embraced communication tool, enabling efficient and formal exchanges. A smaller subset of 63 respondents (4.01%) opted for social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

Regarding virtual office platforms, 341 respondents (21.68%)

engaged with this mode of communication. The virtual office, a Reference Service, offers real-time librarian assistance through Google Meet, accessible Monday to Saturday, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

For 56 respondents (3.56%), personal or face-to-face interactions remained their preferred mode of communication. This highlights that certain individuals lean towards conventional in-person methods for specific activities.

Cloud campus emerged as the choice for 239 respondents (15.19%). Notably, the Library's dedicated Organizational Site within the UST Cloud Campus serves as a hub for services, announcements, and resources.

By refining the language and structure, the interpretation becomes clearer and more engaging, effectively conveying the significance of each platform.

III. Services Availed

SERVICES	NUMBER	%
Acquisitions	44	2.8%
Circulation (Library Account/ Borrowing/Returning)	1113	70.7%
Document Delivery	15	1%
Grammarly	8	0.5%
Library Resources Access (print and electronic)	371	23.6%
Turn it In	22	1.4%
Total	1,573	100%

Interpretation of Data

The data outlines the various services utilized by the respondents. Here's a refined interpretation of the numbers:

Of the 1,573 respondents:

One thousand one hundred thirteen (1,113) individuals (70.7%) accessed the Circulation Service. This service primarily encompasses borrowing and returning library materials, including books and other resources. It also covers Library Account creation, updates, renewals, and corrections to patron information.

Forty-four (44) respondents (2.8%) opted for the Acquisitions Service, which deals with adding new materials to the library

cont'd on next page

collection. This includes updates on library material requests and promoting newly acquired resources.

Three hundred seventy-one (371) respondents (23.6%) used the Library Resources Access Service, granting them entry to an array of library assets like databases, e-journals, e-books, and more, whether digital or physical.

Twenty-two (22) respondents (1.4%) took advantage of the Turnitin Service, a popular tool for detecting plagiarism. Designed to assist students and researchers in ensuring the originality of their work, it is available to academic staff and Graduate School students. Computers equipped with Turnitin can be found in the Graduate School Section.

Fifteen (15) individuals (1%) tapped into the Document Delivery Service. This service facilitates access to articles or book chapters not held by the library, procuring them from alternative credible sources. It also offers scanning of specific pages from the library's print collection upon request.

Eight (8) respondents (0.5%) utilized the Grammarly Service. Grammarly is a digital tool designed to enhance writing by spotting and recommending corrections for various writing errors, from grammar to punctuation. The Library provides select patrons - administrative officials, academic staff, undergraduate thesis-writing students, and Graduate School students - with limited free Grammarly accounts.

IV. Overall Satisfaction

OVERALL SATISFACTION	NUMBER	%
Happy and Satisfied	1,544	98%
Sad and Needs Improvement	29	2%
Total	1,573	100%

Interpretation of Data

Out of a total of 1573 respondents, 1544 indicated that they were happy and satisfied, while 29 expressed that they were sad and felt that improvements were needed.

This data suggests that approximately 98% (1544 out of 1573) of respondents perceive the service or experience being evaluated positively. They reported feeling content and satisfied with the library services, indicating they meet their expectations and needs.

However, it is essential to acknowledge the 29 respondents (approximately 2%) who expressed dissatisfaction or need improvement. Their feedback indicates areas where the Library can enhance its services to meet their expectations better and address any concerns or issues encountered.

Lib Talks

UST Librarians Attend Training on Canvas—UST's new LMS

Jr. Lib. Jonathan P. Futralan, RL

Librarians from the UST Miguel de Benavides Library attended a one-day session on the familiarization and hands-on training for Canvas, a learning management system owned by the educational technology firm **Instructure**. Said workshop was held on July 19, 2023, at the EdTech Center, Blessed Giorgio Frassati O.P. Building.

In context, the University announced in May 2023 its shift to Canvas as the new online learning platform for collaboration improvements, implementation of academic and technological advancements, and increased grading efficiency.

UST Librarians are likewise given Canvas accounts and access to provide announcements, disseminate information and library instructions, and collaborate with and among students, administrators, academic staff, and fellow librarians.

The training session, which lasted for four hours included basics on the system navigation, integration of video conferencing tools, Zoom and Panopto, and the creation of modules and announcements. Librarians' learnings were reflected through gamification using the "Kahoot" platform to end the session. Sr. Lib. Lejemp V. Flores, Asst. head librarian of the Social Sciences section, and the head of the Library-ICT Committee, and Instructor Ms. Ma. Carol Mae. G. Protacio from the College of Rehabilitation Sciences, facilitated the event.



UST librarians as they attend the Canvas training workshop with Chief Librarian Ms. Maria Cecilia Lobo, and facilitators Sr. Lib. Flores and Inst. Protacio.

UST Library In-house Training 2023

Jr. Lib. Kaori B. Fuchigami, RL

With the ever-changing nature of our work, library staff needs innovative training opportunities to stay current and meet the needs of library patrons. On July 25-27, 2023, the UST Library provided the staff with in-house training organized by the Committee on Professional Training and Development.

On **Day One**, Sr. Lib. Lejempf Flores, RL, MLIS, Edward Puzon, RL, LPT, MALIS, and Jr. Lib. Roseanne Camille Dionisio, RL, MLIS, members of the Library Committee on Information and Communications Technology, led the training on Adobe Creative Cloud and Acrobat Pro, Canva Pro Video, and Gamifying information literacy focus on the staff's learning skills which aim to extend existing skills and at the same time, develop new skills.

Day Two, library staff from the Heritage Library, Sr. Lib. Ginalyn Santiago, RL, MLIS and Mr. Nemesio Magtaan, provided a hands-on workshop covering basic skills for keeping a circulating book collection in good repair.

Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine de Leon, RL, MLIS, participant in the Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL) National Summer Conference 2023 with the theme, *"Building the Future: Key Strategies and Opportunities for Libraries in the Post-Pandemic Era,"* imparted new and developing services, resources, collaboration, and connections which involve examining how academic librarians might aid their institutions in the transition from a physical to a hybrid approach in terms of library management. By focusing on the actual delivery of training sessions to the group, the librarian-trainers were able to present their ideas and deliver while taking into account the learning styles of the staff. This led Jr. Lib. Elein Caguite, RL, MALIS, and Mr. John Grabiell Agunod to facilitate a learning activity addressing *Laudato Si'*.

On **Day Three**, Dr. Louie B. Dasas, assistant dean of the College of Education, emphasized the importance of workplace communication, which is one of the signs of a high-performance culture in a work environment.

The study entitled *"Usability Assessment of the UST Miguel de Benavides Digital Library,"* presented by Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., assistant to the Prefect of Libraries, aimed to determine the satisfaction level of UST stakeholders toward the digital library and assess the usability of the UST Digital Library. Findings revealed a significant need to improve and enhance the UST Digital Library's capability to download contents, navigation and search functions, the accuracy of resources, organization, and security of uploaded materials, and capacity to cater to diverse library users.

Concluding the in-house training was the delivery of the Library updates in preparation for the academic year 2023-2024, prepared by Sr. Lib. Raquel Lontoc, RL, MLIS.

UST Library Team Building

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

As part of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library program to strengthen bonds between the UST Library team, encourage communication and teamwork, and improve morale and engagement among its staff, a team-building activity was held on June 23, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the UST P. Noval Court. The Library team was led by the assistant to the Prefect of libraries, Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., and the Chief Librarian, Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS. All library staff attended the activity. The team-building activity was divided into two parts. The first part was facilitated by Ms. Rachel D. Mercines, LPT, MPES, while Asst. Prof. Al Denn John Lozada, MPES, assisted in the second part. They are academic staff from the UST Institute of Physical Education and Athletics (IPEA).

The first part of the activity, which Ms. Rachel led, warmed up the library staff by having them dance to some famous songs before the team-building activities started. The Library staff was thrilled about this Zumba session. Ms. Rachel put all her effort into making this exercise enjoyable and memorable. The second part of the activity was split into four games. There were four teams: yellow, blue, red, and white. The first game was *"chant game with paper airplanes."* The teams made catchy chants, and the team that flew the paper airplane the farthest won. The second game was *"pass the message."* The third game was like *rock, paper, scissors, but with a twist*. Instead of rock, paper, and scissors, the library staff used "Samson, Delilah, Tiger." The last game was Marshmallow Tower. Sir Al Denn gave each team a marshmallow, thread, tape, and uncooked spaghetti noodles. The team with the highest marshmallow tower won the game.

Every member of the Library staff was capable from start to finish. Each team had strengths and shortcomings but could work together and communicate clearly to accomplish their objective. The team-building activities conveyed various lessons on cooperation, communication, problem-solving, and decision-making. As a result, we are now more united than ever.



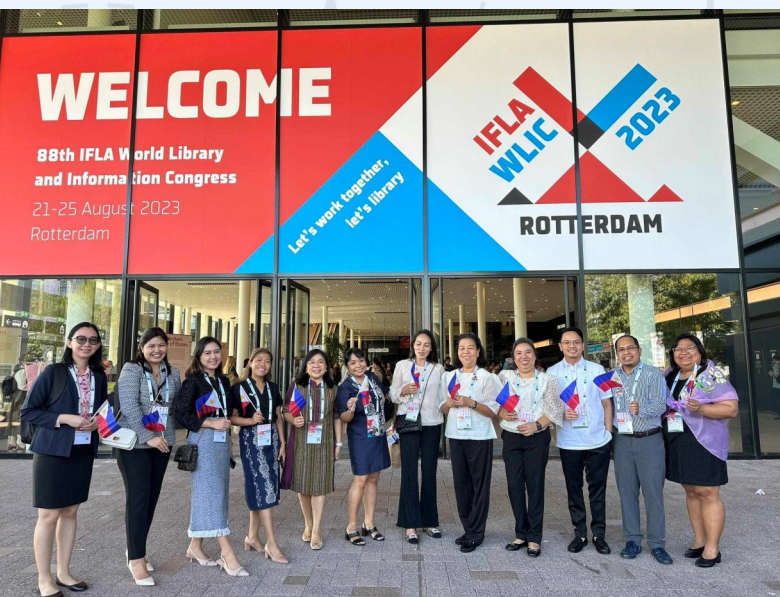
Librarians and support staff pose for a photo after a series of team-building exercises.

“Let’s Work Together, Let’s Library” the 88th IFLA WLIC

Sr. Lib. Anna Rita L. Alomo, RL, MALIS

Evident goals remain true whenever we attend a conference: learning new concepts, meeting people, and gaining experience with new things. Everyone attending a conference will come to generate their perspectives and goals because everyone has different career phases. Attending conferences has many benefits, and I encourage everyone to attend whenever possible, no matter what stage of the “librarian life phase” they may find themselves in.

The 2023 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) main theme was “**Let’s work together, Let’s Library.**” It was held at the Rotterdam Ahoy Convention Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from August 21-25, 2023, and over 3,000 participants from 150 countries attended. It was all about how libraries can contribute to an inclusive society where everyone can participate. Significant topics included personal development, the motivation to read, language and digital skills development, free cultural access, digital knowledge, and innovation.



Philippine delegates to the IFLA congress, including Sr. Lib. Alomo and Chief Librarian Lobo.

It was God’s grace that after the pandemic, this was the most favorable time to join this prestigious assembly of librarians worldwide to acquire the latest, paramount, and most modern practice that was being attained after a sudden stop or delay taken about by the pandemic. Indeed, I am grateful to attend this esteemed library event for the first time and simultaneously be one of the volunteers during the Congress. However, I made it a point to take full advantage of attending as many sessions as possible, particularly those related to library operations,

collection development, marketing and promotions, and state-of-the-art library technologies. It was also the best opportunity to widen my networks with other librarians who will be valuable to the library in embracing new technologies, collections, and other services.

It was a mixed emotion, an overwhelming gathering with high energy, and the ground shook as the IFLA WLIC 2023 opening ceremony happened. It was hosted by the very lively Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Jermaine Berkhout. He pointed out that the library is one of the few worldwide establishments that still serve truth and honesty without judgment, without filters, without concessions, truly uniting cultures through literature and information. The participants were entertained by two moving performances by Rotterdam’s own Conny Janssen Danst group. There were also inspiring messages delivered by the remarkable keynote speakers such as Rotterdam’s Vice Mayor Alderman Said Kasmi, IFLA President Barbara Lison, Secretary of State Gunay Uslu, Minister of Education, Culture and Science Robbert Dijkgraaf, the Dutch National Committee Chair Theo Kamperman, IFLA Secretary General Sharon Memis, and her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands.

Over 65 commercial and non-commercial organizations showcased their products and services in the Exhibition & Event Hall Convention Centre. Latest library products and services were displayed, including book sanitizers and cleaning machines, restoration supplies, digital scanners, electronic resources, publishers, and library system providers.

IFLA WLIC participants were also invited and gathered in the Rotterdam Central Station on August 21, 2023, at 6:00 in the evening, with a children’s book in their native language. This year’s performance/flash mob celebrates the importance of reading to children. Everyone read their respective book or ebook aloud while walking inside the station for 5 minutes. The atmosphere of the station that evening was a total blast, with different storytellers in various languages. Photos and videos were taken too by the passers-by. After that, people left the station and resumed their normal activities. It was fun and a remarkable experience. This activity was taken on the idea by the Dutch New Library Professionals group and inspired by the many world-famous Dutch children’s book writers, such as Annie M.G. Schmidt or Annet Schaap.

In addition to the plenary and open sessions, they treated the delegates to a cultural night. Undeniably, this was the most surprising cultural night that I have ever attended in my life. They held it in the least place you can imagine, and yes, it was at the Diergaarde Blijddorp, a zoo located in the northwestern part of Rotterdam. We were amazed and dazzled to be

surrounded by different fascinating animals. We saw the beautiful butterfly paradise of Amazonica, visited the renewed Great Barrier Reef with a fully covered Oceanium, surrounded with sharks, fishes, and turtles, attractions to glimpse Asia, and met some elephants and rhinos in the tropical green of the (mostly covered) Taman Indah, and saw the giraffes of African Savanna were just some of the superb things that we have experienced. According to the organizers, Rotterdam Zoo supports several conservation projects in the wild. Blijdorp actively participates in many breeding programs for endangered species and is known as one of the top ten zoos in the international field. Upon arrival, we received a voucher with a specific value, which we used to pay at the food and beverage stations spread throughout the Zoo. The voucher was also valid in the souvenir shop at the main entrance. For entertainment, a DJ performer and a silent disco played for everyone to enjoy. It was fun to capture the momentous party, enjoying and listening to the music through headphones. The availability of photo booths were noticeable, too.

Aside from the sessions, delegates were allowed to choose the libraries they wanted to visit. We chose The Erasmus University Library, Rotterdam, an academic library serving the teaching staff and students of Erasmus University as one of the most beautiful libraries in Rotterdam, with a unique heritage collection, current fiction collection, and many titles in history, art, philosophy, and many other subjects. They specialize in the humanities and pay special attention to literature and the city of Rotterdam. They can find the libraries of Drs. P and Elie van Rijckevorsel and many old and rare modern editions in their heritage section. Also, they provided the participants with an e-conference kit and needed to download the WLIC 2023 mobile application on smartphones for easy access to the conference, which lasted three months after the Congress.

The conference has opened new opportunities for collaboration, introducing me to international libraries and offering invaluable networking and information-sharing opportunities. The knowledge gained in the IFLA WLIC experience will be genuinely helpful in my present job. Indeed, it was one of the best journeys of my working life - to meet

professionals worldwide, share ideas, make connections, and, most importantly, contribute to the shared enterprise of international librarianship. Aside from the Congress, I was blessed to visit other European countries. I explored some of their cultural places, such as churches and museums. It broadened my knowledge of their different traditions through their architecture, arts, cuisines, history, and the nature that surrounds them. To name a few, I visited the Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona, Spain. It was surreal, and I am incredibly grateful to have stepped inside and had a glimpse of its architectural beauty and holiness, as well as a quick visit to the National Library of Spain (*Biblioteca Nacional de España*, [BNE]) in Madrid, which is Spain's highest library Institution. BNE is responsible for receiving Legal Deposit and identifying, describing, preserving, disseminating, and promoting research on its collections, which include not only printed materials but also incunabula, manuscripts, musical scores, graphic and audiovisual material, etc., and recently, electronic documents and the Spanish web archive. Indeed, I only dreamed of visiting those remarkable places, and now I can say I made it come true.

Thank you to the generous support of the University of Santo Tomas academic officials, Rev. fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., Prefect of Libraries, Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P. assistant to the Prefect of Libraries, Rev. fr. Maximo P. Gatela, O.P., PhL., director for the Office for Grants, Endowments, and Partnerships in Higher Education, and to Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, chief librarian, who made my attendance to this Congress possible. I will never forget this remarkable opportunity. I look forward to enjoying many more conferences where I can continue to grow and develop as a professional and get the chance to meet librarians across the globe!

"Never become so much of an expert that you stop gaining expertise. View life as a continuous learning experience." – Denis Waitley.

Some souvenir photos during the conference.



UST Law Librarian Attends PGLL Forum

Sr. Lib. Jonas T. Sahagun, RL, MLIS

UST Law Library Head Librarian, Sr. Lib. Jonas Sahagun, RL, MLIS was invited to attend a free Philippine Group of Law Librarians (PGLL) hybrid forum with the theme *Pioneering Greatness in Law Librarianship* in celebration of PGLL's 43rd anniversary. It was held on August 24, 2023 (1:00-4:30pm) at the REAP Center, Quezon City, and online via Zoom.

National University of Singapore, C J Koh Law Library Senior Librarian Ms. Chai Yee Xin, discussed the topic of Evolution, Challenges, and Innovations in Law Librarianship. Specifically, Ms. Chai mentioned challenges on:

1. **Spaces** - the limited physical space, balancing study spaces and the collection, and how we can adapt our spaces for our users' needs;
2. **Collection** - maintaining distinct features of the legal collection but also focus on multidisciplinary collaborations and how we can preserve digital information given the fragility of digital information;
3. **Professional** - the availability of a small talent pool, training new librarians to take over, and identifying core competencies, skills, and qualifications of law librarians; and
4. **Legal publishing** - eBook publishing is on the rise but the number of institutional wide access for law eBooks is still low and most publishers for common law titles are all based overseas which leads to delays in receiving titles.

Ms. Chai also mentioned future issues for law librarianship, such

as: digital revolution and the impact of digital resources and access - challenges and benefits of transitioning to digital resources and balancing print with digital resources; and the development of the law librarian - analyzing user behavior and preferences, acquiring technology and digital skills, and advocacy for the profession.

PGLL President and *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* Librarian Ms. Jeremy F. Flores, discussed **Shaping the Future of Law Librarianship in the Philippines**. Ms. Flores mentioned the history of PGLL and its role in Philippine Law librarianship. She cited issues and trends on the future of law librarianship in the Philippines, such as:

- applications, tools, and solutions to enhance collection and services;
- evolving roles and functions of law librarians;
- retooling and upskilling of law librarians by collaborating with academic and judicial law librarian associations for training programs and projects; and
- institutionalize or formalize career progression of law librarianship spearheaded by the Professional Regulation Commission Board for Librarians.

The event brought together participants from legal and library fields. It successfully discussed the evolving landscape of law librarianship, the challenges faced in adapting to new developments, and the innovative strategies to enhance legal research and information services.

USTGS Freshmen Tour the UST Library

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

As restrictions eased following the government's announcements regarding the pandemic, institutions have begun to accommodate more in-person activities. On August 19, 2023, through the initiative of the USTGS Administrators and with the assistance of their staff, the UST Graduate School (USTGS) conducted its freshmen orientation onsite at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.

The library tour was included among the activities. The tour was facilitated by five librarians from the UST Library, namely, Marissa Chua, Symon Lagao, Raquel Lontoc, Edward Puzon, and Chiara Maye Santiago, where each took charge of a group of students. The itinerary for each group was carefully planned so as to maximize the visit to all sections of the Library building. Library staff on duty also assisted the groups as they succinctly shared what their sections had to offer.

Aside from the physical stopovers to each section, videos showing the other branches, as well as the projects of the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, were viewed at the Conference Hall. The two-hour tour afforded the 187 attendees a better understanding of what the UST Library could provide in terms of collection and facilities.

The event culminated with an online library orientation via Zoom on August 26, 2023, which hoped to make participants more cognizant of the services and electronic resources available to the Thomasian community.



A group of USTGS freshmen led by Mr. Puzon, head librarian of the Graduate School Section.

Considering 'Copyright': Best Practices for Libraries and Librarians

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

On 11 August 2023, Dr. Fernan R. Dizon from the Copyright Services Division of the Bureau of Copyright and Related Rights of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines shared his knowledge and expertise through a webinar entitled *"Is it Fair? Copyright Best Practices for Academic and Research Librarians."*



Copyright management is not just the responsibility of lawyers. Librarians likewise play an active role in protecting the legal rights of their collection, including literary and artistic pieces and their proper usage, ensuring a balance between acting in the best interest of the holder of the exclusive rights and the users of information, pursuant to Article XIV, Section 13, of the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

As such, as the expression of an idea is under the purview of the Copyright Law, generally, copyright protection commences at the moment the work is created and is effective for as long as the author/creator is living plus 50 years after the author/creator's death unless otherwise falling within the exceptions prescribed under the law, including applied art, photographic works, joint authorship, anonymous or pseudonymous works, and audiovisual works, which have different effectivity periods.

In order to avoid infringement, which refers to utilizing copyrighted works without having obtained the permission of

the owner of the rights and hence considered a violation of the IP Code, it is vital for librarians to observe best practices pertaining to copyright guiding principles to ensure the fair use of the copyrighted materials.

Although public domains and creative commons vary in nature, with the former not within the scope of copyright and the latter being protected by such, librarians, and users of information should be diligent about the restrictions in their respective usage. One way to ensure compliance is to review the terms and conditions stipulated in platforms, such as policies published by Facebook (FB) and other social media platforms. Users of information can likewise take advantage of fair use by making resources available to students in this time of crisis, providing flexibility and expanding the access provided to users. Nonetheless, it is highly advisable to seek the authorization of the copyright owner in case of any doubts or consult with legal counsel in the proper usage of copyrighted works.

On this, there is a provision on general fair use under the IP code, specifically Section 185, stating that: ***"The fair use of a copyrighted work for criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching including a limited number of copies for classroom use, scholarship, research, and similar purposes is not an infringement of copyright."***

Thus, it is important to ascertain different factors, such as the purpose/character of the use, the nature of the work, the amount, and substantiality of the portion to be used, and the effect of the use on the potential market and value of the copyrighted work. Based on the fair use factors, a fair use checklist can be applied to assess the factors affecting the use of copyrighted materials.

Through this, together with the other best practices, library professionals are able to adhere to their professional values while providing the best quality of service and collection to patrons, giving high consideration to the **Copyright Law**.

Searching for Credibility in the Resources of the 21st Century

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

Dr. Jessie S. Barrot, assistant vice president for Research and Development of the National University, Philippines, conducted a seminar entitled “Navigating Open Access and Unmasking Predatory Journals: Promoting Transparency and Quality” last August 23, 2023. The talk aimed to increase awareness of open-access materials and predatory journals and help people make wise decisions regarding material selection.



Nowadays, individuals look for sources of knowledge for various reasons – to learn how things work, to understand an idea or a concept, or to advance their academic and professional careers. In doing so, people tend to find it challenging to sense check whether the facts presented are true, accurate, and complete, given the proliferation of

printed materials and electronic resources. As they are offered different pieces of information, they are often overwhelmed with the available options but with little time, energy, and resources to evaluate whether the information comes from a trustworthy source.

At present, most people rely on open-access journals. They have increasingly gained massive popularity because these are deemed to have numerous benefits. Such journals are characterized as those that are readily available on the internet. No subscriptions are required to gain access to them; hence, they are free of charge and can be utilized by any user for any purpose. In addition, their copyrights are with the author, and the article processing charges usually finance them. The open access movement began in 1991 when Paul Ginsparg founded the arXiv archive, making preprints in physics available until this movement gained momentum and transformed the way people access and use resources. At present, we also have the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), which provides a unique and extensive list of open-access journals around the globe. This shows how open-access documents have grown and evolved since 1991. For instance, in Southeast Asia alone, open access grew significantly over time and is mainly used instead of closed articles. This is no doubt, given that it allows people instant access to scientific literature without spending large sums to pay subscription fees. The trend also promotes quicker development and innovation in the field of research.

Nonetheless, despite the benefits, open access also poses a few risks and threats to the transparency and integrity of resources. This is because the quality of research might be influenced, and article processing charges and funding concerns remain. Further, problems arise regarding recognition from accrediting agencies and the spread of predatory journals.







Given the above, it is of utmost priority for users of open-access resources to easily identify predatory journals and publishers because these tend to show misleading information without compliance with best editorial and publication practices. They violate copyright or scholarly ethics by falsely claiming to be peer-reviewed, among others. As they are deceptive or fraudulent, users have the added layer of responsibility of drilling down on the contents and examining whatever is presented in the journals. By exercising diligence and caution, users can achieve their personal and professional goals and benefit fully from relevant, credible, and valuable information.

Planning ahead: The Key to Minimizing Risks faced by Libraries

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

The Department of Science and Technology—Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) Library Hybrid Seminar Series, in partnership with the Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP), was conducted with the title, "Future-Ready Libraries: Strengthening Risk Management in the Libraries." This was held last June 8, 2023, at the DOST-STII Mini Theater.

The research speaker, Mr. Kevin Conrad T. Tansiongco, head of Product Marketing at Electronic Information Solutions Inc. in Makati City, shared valuable insights on how librarians can contribute on how libraries can pivot quickly when faced with unavoidable events, may it be in the form of natural, security, technological, proximity, human-caused, and enterprise risks.

	RISK CATEGORIES	DEFINITION
	Natural risks	These are caused by weather and climate events that can destroy library structures, furniture, and equipment.
	Security Risks	These include the possible loss of a rare book or any library asset due to theft or probably due to bomb threats or workplace violence.
	Technological Risks	A possible failure in technology that can disrupt regular library operations due to power outages and brownouts, IT failure, data loss, or telecommunication disruptions.
	Proximity risks	These are driven by the risks from neighboring buildings where the library is closely situated.
	Human-caused risks	These come in the form of wars, among others, that can cause significant damage to libraries. It may also be shown through individuals' apathy, carelessness, forgetfulness, and false assumptions.
	Enterprise risks	These are due to factors that come from inside an enterprise, like political risk and hostile legislation, budget cuts, and postponement of projects due to lack of funds.

Regardless of the type, these unanticipated situations can ultimately impact the state of the library, its physical resources, and the integrity of the data/information it houses. To respond to this, it is vital to minimize risks. In risk management, librarians are called to be on the lookout for threats in the surroundings. These risks may also be analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively so that every factor is considered.

In the light of preparing a plan, its effectiveness is partly reliant on the capabilities of the staff delegated with disaster planning and risk management. In curating such, librarians should identify which natural disaster has the greatest likelihood of taking place. From there, they can adequately carry out the plan when these occur. Further, they are urged to formulate a policy centered on the safety and welfare of the people, preservation of collections, continuity of services, and reputation and compliance, reiterated by the Business Continuity Management Policy (2014) of the New South Wales Library Council.

Essentially, planning is critical. As it is impossible to eliminate risks, librarians are given the chance to mitigate them. No matter how complicated these might be, a good strategy is necessary, which may be an excellent avenue to reinforce controls that can protect and ensure the continuity of libraries as a source of knowledge of institutions that could have been overlooked if risk management is not prioritized.

In a nutshell, the success of the library's ability to survive and thrive even after an unanticipated situation is through the librarians' expertise in making a plan as indeed, according to Benjamin Franklin, "*by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.*"

A Design Thinking Workshop on AI Promulgation

Jr. Lib. Jonathan P. Futralan, RL

The University of Santo Tomas College of Information and Computing Sciences (UST-CICS) at the Blessed Giorgio Frassati Bldg. hosted an engaging and insightful Design Thinking Workshop for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Promulgation in the Philippines. The workshop was facilitated by CirroLytx AI, a leading Big Data management agency in the country.

The Miguel de Benavides Library was represented by Sr. Lib. Lejempf V. Flores, RL, MLIS, assistant head librarian of the Social Sciences section, and the Library's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) committee head, along with Jr. Lib. Jonathan P. Futralan, RL, librarian assigned at the Senior High School, and a member of the Library-ICT Committee. The workshop aimed to explore innovative approaches to leverage AI for positive change at the pedagogical level as well as other academic services in the university.

Empowering Minds through Design Thinking

Design thinking, a human-centered approach to problem-solving, was at the heart of the workshop. Attendees were guided through a series of interactive sessions that encouraged collaboration, empathy, and creativity. Facilitated by the esteemed Mr. Miguel Oscar Castelo from CirroLytx AI, participants were introduced to the potential of AI and how it can revolutionize educational practices.

A Diverse set of participants

The workshop drew an impressive array of participants from different academic units and those with and without a background in computing sciences, demonstrating the widespread interest in harnessing AI's capabilities for educational advancement. A total of 20 faculty members and administrators actively engaged in discussions, brainstorming, and hands-on activities throughout the 3-day event, which commenced on August 1, 2023. The third session, which was supposed to be held on August 3, was postponed to August 12 due to inclement weather.

Hands-on AI Projects

The participants were divided into groups and assigned hands-on sample project proposals to complement the theoretical

learning. These projects encouraged them to apply design thinking principles to address real-world challenges faced in educational institutions in the form of "Avatars" or fictional characters that represent real-life personas in the University.

The enthusiastic response from the attendees reflected the immense interest in AI and its transformative potential. The session ended with a final group activity where participants proposed project proposals in which lean canvases were generated by generative AI tools, which left the participants with constant impressions on maximizing the capability of the platform. Gracing the culminating part was Asst. Prof. Enrico M. Yambao, MSc, from the UST Department of Mathematics and Physics.

Building networks and collaboration

Beyond the workshop sessions, participants had ample opportunities to network and exchange ideas during break time. The connections made during the workshop are expected to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the different academic units.

A step towards AI-Driven future

The Design Thinking Workshop for AI Promulgation in the Philippines marked a significant step towards embracing AI as a transformative force in education. By nurturing a culture of innovation, creativity, and collaboration, the workshop provided a solid foundation for educational institutions to explore further AI's potential.

The CirroLytx, headed by their Founder, CEO, and CTO, Mr. Dominic Vincent "Doc" Ligot, its organizing committee, the CICS, and the Office of the Vice-Rector for Academic Affair (OVRAA), expressed their sincere gratitude to all the attendees, facilitators, and sponsors for making the workshop a resounding success. With an enlightened perspective on AI, the participants are now equipped to champion AI-driven initiatives that will shape the future of education in the Philippines.



Participants of the workshop comprised of the University academic staff and department representatives, including the Library's own representative, Jr. Lib. Jonathan Futralan, RL.

Misa y Discurso de Apertura 2023

Jr. Lib. Marjorie Irish A. Suarez, RL

The University of Santo Tomas' tradition of having an opening mass or the 'Misa de Apertura' before the beginning of the academic year was held last Aug 4, 2023 at the Santísimo Rosario Parish. It was attended by the administrative and selected academic units, support staff, alumni, UST Hospital, and student leaders of the University. The Office of the Secretary-General (OSG) invited the Library to participate in the said event; the following Librarians were selected to join the said mass: Marcelita Lane Olamit, Raquel Lontoc, Nora Matawaran, Juanita Subaldo, Lucila Adriano, Rose Anne Dionisio, and Marissa Chua. The Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated by His Excellency, Most Rev. Cerilo Alan U. Casicas, DD, Bishop of Marbel (South Cotabato), and was concelebrated by the Dominican Fathers and student-priests of the University. The Discurso de Apertura was delivered by Academician Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., assistant to the rector for UST General Santos, and titled C.A.R.E. in the 21st Century Academic Institution. The Mass was also celebrated virtually through live stream via the official University Facebook page. The opening of the academic year was blessed with the grace of God through this Eucharistic celebration and will always be carried out throughout the entire year.



UST Academic Officials with Rev. Cerilo Alan U. Casicas, DD, Bishop of Marbel, Dominican Fathers, and Academician Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., in their academic gowns.

Photo Credit: University of Santo Tomas Official Facebook Page

CEAFI Board of Trustees 2023-2025

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

The College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc. (CEAFI) elected its new Board of Trustees for 2023-2025 during their annual General Assembly. It was held last July 8, 2023 at the UST Albertus Magnus Building. Prior to the election, CEAFI posted a call for nominations through its official social media pages.

This year's election result saw movements in leadership with the following designations:

President: Evangeline E. Timbang

Vice President: Marielyn C. Quintana

Secretary: Ana Marie O. Fernandez

Treasurer: Maria Cecilia D. Lobo

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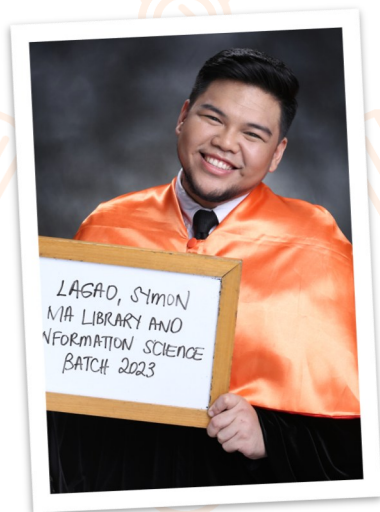
Emma R. Yeung

Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo R. Medina, MACHS, director of the UST Office of Alumni Relations (OAR), and Atty. Dwight M. Ramos, president of the UST Alumni Association, Inc. (USTAAI), led the induction ceremony held last September 18, 2023 at the Blessed Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, O.P. Building. They shall serve the Foundation from 2023 to 2025, arriving a year prior to the

cont'd on next page

'Killing Two Birds with one Stone'

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



Roll of Successful Examinees in the
LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS - SECONDARY
Held on MARCH 19, 2023
Released on MAY 19, 2023

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Seq. No.	Name
25501	LAGANAO, KING CHRISTOPHER RULOMA
25502	LAGANG, JOSHUA LIGAN
25503	LAGANINA, DIANNE CARBON
25504	LAGANINA, MARIEL MALAGAYO
25505	LAGANSON, MC BRYAN BOLLOZOS
25506	LAGANZO, ROMNIA JANORAS
25507	LAGANSON, MERCHIE ROMAN
25508	LAGAO, SYMON

Screenshot from the list of successful examinees in the 2023 Licensure Examination for Teachers - Secondary.

The title aptly described Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS, when he recently passed the 2023 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers held on March 19, 2023, and finished his master's degree on June 17 of the same year.

Jr. Lib. Lagao is currently the assistant head librarian for digitization of the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library. He manages the UST Library and Archives' rare and historical books, periodicals, and documents, as well as the University's current publications for digitalization.

In the light and grace of his recent milestone, your Library family is very proud of your achievement!

CEAFI Board... from p. 23

celebration of the College of Education's centennial anniversary. The ceremony was attended by the newly-elected officers and appointed members of its committees, namely, Apostolate, Fellowship, Membership, Prayer, and Study. Likewise, CEAFI Thomasian icons Ms. Emma R. Yeung, Prof. Clarita D. Carillo, PhD., and Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, PhD. were also recognized for their distinct contributions to the profession, the community, the nation, and the church.



The CEAFI Board 2023-2025 pose for a photo opportunity with the College of Education Regent, Rev. Fr. Maximo P. Gatela, O.P., OAR Director, Asst. Prof. Medina, and USTAAl President, Atty. Ramos.

Guided by competence, commitment, and compassion, the Board continues to strive in establishing meaningful and harmonious connections with the alumni community of the UST College of Education.

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