



# News In-Print

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
Miguel de Benavides Library

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## UST Library activities in General Santos City

*Jr. Lib. Kaori B. Fuchigami, RL*



Spreading roots for a greener future.

The Miguel de Benavides Library has taken a significant initiative by convening its annual planning and team-building event at the latest UST campus in Mindanao, specifically at UST General Santos (GenSan). This strategic decision reflects the Library's strong commitment to growth and development, emphasizing the library staff's integral role in this process.

From June 13-14, 2024, the gathering brought together 50 librarians and support staff alongside three Library administrators: Prefect of Libraries, Rev. fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., Asst. to the Prefect of Libraries, Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., and Chief Librarian Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, RL, MLIS. The Library at GenSan is located on the ground floor of the campus building.

The first day featured insightful committee reports presented by the following Chairs:

- Collection Development - Sr. Lib. Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos, RL, MLIS
- Community and Extension Services - Sr. Lib. Michelle M. San Gabriel, RL, MLIS
- Human Values - Sr. Lib. Leonila M. Manuel, RL
- Information and Communications Technology - Sr. Lib. Lejemp V. Flores, RL, MLIS
- Linkages and Research - Sr. Lib. Edward H. Puzon, RL, LPT, MALIS
- Physical Facilities - Sr. Lib. Juanita D. Subaldo, RL, MLIS
- Professional Training and Development - Sr. Lib. Jonas T. Sahagun, RL, MLIS
- Student Welfare and Services - Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine R. de Leon, RL, MLIS
- San Lorenzo Ruiz Working Scholars updates - Sr. Lib. Marivic G. Usita, RL, MLIS
- Antonio Vivencio del Rosario (AVdR) UST Heritage Library - Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, RL, LPT, MALIS

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Collection Development Committee

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

The **Collection Development Committee** plays a crucial role in planning and curating a diverse and balanced collection of library materials tailored to the information needs of our library clientele. This collaborative effort involves members of the Thomasian community which includes Administrators, academic staff, librarians, and students, all working together to build a collection that supports and enhances the curriculum and instructional programs offered by the University.

To achieve its objectives, the Committee engages in various activities like acquiring library materials such as printed books, journals, non-print materials, and electronic resources, organizing book fairs, consulting publishers' catalogs, and evaluating accreditation results. This helps identify the strengths and weaknesses of different programs and disciplines concerning library collections.

For the Academic Year 2023-2024, the UST Library has successfully acquired:

- 7,320 titles of printed books
- 2,785 titles of e-books
- 161 titles of non-print materials
- 22 e-journals
- One additional database

Furthermore, the Library received 340 titles of theses and 44 titles of dissertations from the UST Graduate School and UST Ecclesiastical Faculties.

This Committee remains committed to ensuring that all acquisitions are aligned with the mission and vision of both the University and the Library. By doing so, we strive to provide the best possible resources for the Thomasian community.

## Community and Extension Services Committee

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

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

For the Academic Year 2023-2024, the Committee has collaborated closely with Asst. Prof. Froilan Alipao, MCD director of the UST *Simbahayan* Community Development Office. Asst. Prof. Alipao has always been consulted regarding the nature of Library activities that can be conducted, with the approval of the Library Administrators.

The Committee conducted the following activities:

### **Book discussion program**

The first community outreach program in Sitio San Martin,

Bamban, Tarlac, was held last November 17, 2023. The event aimed to promote reading and environmental awareness among Aeta students in Grades 4-5. Activities such as a book discussion called "Tree for All" (*Puno Para sa Lahat*) and an interactive educational game named "Earth Day Game" were organized for this purpose. The program was a joint effort between the Linkages and Research Committee and the Professional Development Committee.

### **Drop Everything and Read Program**

The 'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) Program, held at San Martin de Porres Library on April 19, 2024, was a resounding success. The event successfully encouraged literacy and library use among the children, with twenty-one students participating and enjoying books of their choice. The program's success was a testament to the collaborative efforts of various Library committees, which significantly increased the students' interest in reading and their Library engagement.

### **Cash donation drive for the children of Cottolengo Filipino, Inc.**

A cash donation drive in support of the children of Cottolengo Filipino, Inc. was conducted from March 18 to 23, 2024. The

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initiative raised a total of P11,220.00, which was used to assist the organization in its care for the children.

#### **Tulong Tomasino cash donation drive**

This cash donation drive, which aimed to support families affected by typhoons Egay and Falcon, made a significant impact. From September 17 to November 17, 2023, the initiative raised P10,820.00, providing the much-needed care and solidarity for those in need, especially Thomasians. The funds raised were used to provide essential supplies and support to the affected families, demonstrating the Committee's unwavering commitment to community support.

#### **UST Paskuhan community gift-giving project**

A voluntary cash donation was made to support this activity, also known as Project Ningning 2023. The Project raised a total amount of P10,500.00, which was used to provide twenty *noche buena* packs.

#### **Cataloging project - Seminary/Priory of Our Lady of Rosary, Manaoag**

This initiative aimed to improve the organization and accessibility of the seminary's Library resources.

#### **UST Simbahayan community development projects**

Eleven (11) librarians and ten (10) regular staff attended several webinars organized by the UST *Simbahayan* Community Development Office.

The committee has carefully selected activities aligned with established KPIs to achieve target goals and maximize outreach impact. The committee is proud of its significant and inspiring accomplishments for the 2023-2024 academic year, and we look forward to our continued service to the community, and to enrich the experiences of UST Library staff through meaningful outreach programs.

## **Human Values Committee**

*Sr. Lib. Leonila M. Manuel, RL*

The **Human Values Committee** is an avenue to form, transform, and sustain library staff to become competent, compassionate, and committed Catholics in the Thomasian community. It also aims to empower the staff to work harmoniously and productively as one Thomasian family.

The Committee spearheaded the following activities:

- Participation in the University *Misa de Apertura* held last August 4, 2023. Some librarians and support staff attended onsite, while others thru online;
- Participation in the University *Paskuhan* Mass last December 13, 2023;
- Attendance at Holy Mass for the birthday celebrators held on September 25, October 27, and December 20, 2023 at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library, and on June 14, 2024 at the UST Gensan during the Team Building activity of the library staff;
- Attended the liturgical celebrations and religious events to support and collaborate with the UST Santisimo Rosario Parish and the Office of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs;
- Forum on the Bible held on January 29, 2024 in order "to enhance and deepen knowledge of the Bible;
- Recitation of the "Prayer Before Work" and "Angelus" through the Public Announcement (PA) system;
- Prayer using social media posted monthly through the FB group of the UST library staff;
- For spiritual recharging, strengthening personal relationships with God, and attaining spiritual growth, the UST Library staff attended the three-day 'Institutional Retreat' on March 5-7, 2024;

- Organized the Living Rosary on May 31, 2024 - a human rosary event to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a poignant prayer event symbolizing reverence and devotion to the Blessed Mother. This activity develops camaraderie among library staff, by bringing together participants in a spirit of unity and reverence, to deepen their connection to the values embodied by the Blessed Virgin Mary and at the same time, foster a sense of community among attendees;
- Getting to know the Thomasian/Dominican Figures and to enhance devotion and deeper knowledge about the patron saints of the University, the Committee organized a forum on St. Joseph of Calazanz on May 14, 2024;
- Forum on '*Laudato Si'* in Action: Branches of Hope. Assoc. Prof. Ma. Sanita Quilatan, PhD, was the guest speaker;
- For Ecological Conservation Day, the Committee organized a joint project of "Tree Planting" by the UST Miguel de Benavides Library staff and UST Alumni SOCCSKSARGEN held in UST General Santos last June 13, 2024;
- Promoting energy conservation among library staff; and
- "Block Rosary" devotion on June 19, 2024 was organized by the Office of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs in order to enrich the spiritual formation of the library staff.

Through these activities, we strive to strengthen the spiritual formation of our library staff.

# Information and Communications Technology Committee

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

## **Library strengthens the IT services with major upgrades under LITE Project**

As part of the ongoing Library Information Technology Enhancement (LITE) project, the Library has made significant strides in enhancing its IT infrastructure to better serve the academic community. The project, which focuses on upgrading IT equipment and services, has successfully met all of its key targets for Academic Year 2023-2024, ensuring efficient and reliable access to essential digital tools and resources.

### **Software maintenance**

This year, the Library accomplished its goal of renewing eight critical software maintenance agreements. These renewals ensure the continued availability of important resources, including:

- Adobe Creative Suite for creative work such as design and multimedia editing
- ContentDM for managing and sharing the library's digital collections
- EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS), providing a unified search platform for academic resources
- RedHat Library System Server and Sierra Integrated Library System, supporting Library operations like cataloging and circulation
- SSL Certificates for secure digital services access
- Zoom Video Conferencing Host Accounts for virtual meetings and events
- Cataloging and Metadata subscription for keeping bibliographic data current and easily searchable.
- These software systems play a vital role in ensuring that students, faculty, and staff can seamlessly access and utilize the library's digital services.
- Hardware upgrades and maintenance
- In addition to software, the library successfully renewed 12 hardware maintenance agreements for essential equipment, including:
  - Storage Application Manager server with tape drive
  - HP servers supporting various functions like Sierra Database, web services, and storage backup
  - APC In-row cooling system
  - 3M Service Maintenance Agreement covering detection gates and a self-check machine.

These renewals ensure that the Library's infrastructure remains operational and up to date, supporting critical services and safeguarding data integrity.

### **New acquisitions: 18 IT paraphernalia**

In line with the LITE project's goals, the Library acquired 18 new IT paraphernalia to further boost its technological capabilities. These include:

- Cino F680 Barcode Scanner and HID OmniKey 5422 Smart Card Reader for efficient resource circulation

- Cisco 16-port Switch to enhance network connectivity
- Projectors and a scanner to support multimedia and archival tasks
- UPS units and SSD hard drives to ensure data safety and system reliability
- Laptops, CPUs, mice, mouse pads, and USB drives for general use and staff operations
- HP RDX 4TB Cartridges for high-capacity storage needs
- Printer and UPS batteries to round out the acquisitions

These new IT tools reflect the Library's commitment to keeping pace with modern technological demands and ensuring that the Library continues to offer high-quality, efficient, and accessible services to all.

The Library's accomplishments under the LITE project demonstrate its dedication to leveraging technology to enhance user experiences and streamline library operations. With a strong IT foundation in place, the Library remains well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of the academic community, ensuring a seamless blend of physical and digital services.

### **Library enhances IT services with success in B-LIS project**

The Library is excited to share the impressive results of the Boost Library Information Service (B-LIS) project, which has made significant strides in improving the delivery of IT equipment and technical support services. This project is part of the University's broader commitment to providing efficient and effective IT services, and it has achieved outstanding results for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

### **Exceeding equipment request targets**

Under the B-LIS project, the Library sets a goal to fulfill at least 80% of ICT equipment requests within three (3) days. We are proud to announce that this target has not only met but even exceeded, with a remarkable 100% of equipment requests being fulfilled within the specified timeframe. This achievement highlights the Library's dedication to ensuring that all IT equipment needs are addressed promptly, thereby supporting uninterrupted library operations and enhancing the user experience.

### **Outstanding performance in technical support**

In addition to managing equipment requests, the Library also focused on delivering top-notch technical support. The target for this aspect of the B-LIS project was to fulfill 80% of technical support requests within three days. Once again, the Library surpassed expectations by successfully addressing 100% of technical support requests within the designated timeframe.

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### **Impact and future goals**

The success of the B-LIS project demonstrates the Library's commitment to responsiveness and operational excellence. By consistently meeting and exceeding targets for both equipment and technical support requests, the Library has minimized delays and improved overall service efficiency. These achievements are crucial in maintaining high standards of service to support the academic community effectively.

The B-LIS project continues to be a cornerstone of our efforts to enhance IT services, ensuring that the Library remains well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of its users and maintain a high level of operational performance.

### **Library enhances IT skills with successful InTAK project**

The success of the InTAK (Information Technology Awareness and Knowledgeability) project, made significant strides in developing the IT skills of the staff. This initiative is a key component of our commitment to providing efficient and effective IT services and ensuring that our team remains adept in the rapidly evolving technological landscape.

### **Outstanding achievements in IT training**

The InTAK project focuses on two main goals, both of which have been achieved with a target of 100%:

- **Training for ICT Personnel:** Ensuring that ICT personnel are well-trained in technical courses relevant to their roles is a top priority. For the Academic Year 2023-2024, eight (8) members of the ICT committee participated in specialized training programs directly related to their job functions. This accomplishment reflects our dedication to equipping our team with the latest skills and knowledge needed to support library operations effectively.
- **Training Programs for Librarians and Support Staff:** The project also emphasizes providing comprehensive training programs on ICT and related topics to librarians and support staff. This year, the Library successfully conducted four (4) ICT training sessions, covering a broad range of relevant subjects. These sessions ensured that all library staff are up-to-date with the latest technological tools and practices, enhancing their overall proficiency and effectiveness.

The success of the InTAK project underscores the Library's commitment to professional development and continuous improvement. The exceeded targets for IT training, not only strengthens internal capabilities but also enhances the quality of service provided to users.

As we move forward, the InTAK project will continue to play a vital role in maintaining a knowledgeable and skilled library staff, ready to meet the demands of the ever-evolving IT environment. Our team is always hopeful for the continued growth and development which is crucial for maintaining high standards of service and support.

### **Library's publicity efforts: a year in review**

As part of our commitment to 'Effective University Publicity,' the Library has focused on enhancing its digital presence and reaching a wider audience. This year's efforts were measured through two key performance indicators (KPIs), reflecting our progress in social media engagement and website traffic.

### **Social media engagement**

Our goal for the year was to boost the library's following across several social media platforms:

- **Facebook:** We aimed for an additional 5,000 followers. While we have not met this target, we continue to engage with our community and are working on new strategies to grow our presence on this platform.
- **X (formerly Twitter):** The target was to increase followers by 100. This goal was also not fully achieved; but we remain dedicated to expanding our reach and interaction on Twitter.
- **Instagram:** We set a goal of adding 400 followers. Unfortunately, this target was not met, yet we are actively seeking ways to enhance our Instagram engagement.

Despite these challenges, our commitment to improve social media engagement remains steadfast as we explore new approaches to connect with our audience.

### **Website traffic**

On a positive note, our performance in increasing unique visitors to our websites exceeded expectations:

- **Library Website:** Our target was to attract an additional 10,000 unique visitors. We are happy to report that we even surpassed the target, indicating strong interest in our library's online resources.
- **Digital Library Website:** We aimed for 5,000 additional unique visitors. This goal also exceeded our target goal, showcasing the growing value of our digital library services.

While our social media goals presented challenges, the success in increasing website traffic highlights the effectiveness of our efforts to promote the Library's digital resources. We will continue to refine our strategies to boost social media engagement and further enhance online visibility.

Our ongoing focus is to provide valuable resources and maintain a dynamic online presence, ensuring that the Library continues to be an integral part of the University's success experience.

## Linkages and Research Committee

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

The UST Library **Linkages and Research Committee** assists in developing, overseeing, and strengthening the library's partnerships and collaborations with other research libraries and institutions by adhering to the principle of reciprocity, which focuses on the sharing of resources for mutual benefit. Additionally, the Committee fosters and facilitates research initiatives among the library staff and patrons, assisting them in meeting their research needs and objectives.

Academic Year 2023-2024 proved to be a defining year for the Committee as targets were not only met but actually exceeded. Thanks, in no small measure to the efforts of the Library administration, librarians, and library Staff.

Aside from maintaining partnerships with 18 institutions and releasing the December 2022 and March 2023 issues of the library newsletter (News In-Print), the Committee spearheaded a webinar, "Navigating the Gray Areas: Ethics in Research" on November 10, 2023 held at the Library

Conference Hall and live via the UST Miguel de Benavides Facebook Page. Assoc. Prof. Emmanuel D. Batoon, PhD, chair of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Research Ethics Committee, was the resource speaker. The session aimed to discuss ethical issues related to conflicts of interest, authorship responsibilities, and the use of instruments involving human subjects, as well as considerations for research assistants. Dr. Batoon offered a concise overview of research, including its definition, types, methods, and ethics, delivering a thorough understanding of the topic.

Notably, two Library Administrators and six librarians were able to publish four articles in three reputable journals during this period. The details are seen below:

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.

Publication Details	Article Title	Author/s from the UST Library
PAARL Research Journal, vol. 8, no. 1 (2022)	How Turnitin Is Turning Out: The User Experience of Graduate Students of the University of Santo Tomas, Philippines	*Sr. Lib. Edward H. Puzon
PAARL Research Journal, vol. 9 (2023)	Usability Assessment of the UST Miguel de Benavides Digital Library	*Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P. *Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo *Sr. Lib. Ginalyn M. Santiago *Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine R. De Leon *Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao
Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association, vol. 73, no. 1 (2024)	Artificial Intelligence and Filipino Librarians: Perceptions, Challenges, and Opportunities	*Sr. Lib. Lejempf V. Flores *Sr. Lib. Anna Rita L. Alomo-Murillo *Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine R. De Leon
Journal of Nursing Scholarship, vol 56, no. 4 (2024)	Adherence to PRISMA 2020 reporting guidelines and scope of systematic reviews published in nursing: A cross-sectional analysis	*Sr. Lib. Anna Rita L. Alomo-Murillo  <i>Collaborators (not from the UST Library):</i> *Gian Carlo S. Torres *Leila Ledbetter *Sarah Cantrell *Thomas J. Blodgett *Maria Victoria V. Bongar *Sandy Hatoum *Steph Hendren *Ritzmond F. Loa *Sherihan O. Montaña *Earl Francis R. Sumile

## Physical Facilities Committee

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

The work of the **Physical Facilities Committee** involves many aspects: security, information technology requirements and capacity, energy management, space utilization, pest management, and even cleanliness.

The Library's physical facilities play an important role in marketing the quality of services provided by the Library. In order to accomplish our projects, the Committee works closely with the Library administrators, librarians, office clerks, Facilities Management Office (FMO), Purchasing Office, suppliers, and contractors for the fulfillment of every project.

The accomplishments of the Committee for the Academic Year 2023-2024 included the following:

### A. Improvements of the current Library structure

- Repaired, replaced, and repainted the rusted grills, metal doors, and ramp handrail on the ground floor
- Repainted the concrete flooring at the *Filipiniana* section
- Roof waterproofing and installation of additional downspout
- Floor improvements at the Administration Office, *Filipiniana* (ramp included), and Religion sections

### B. Acquisitions and improvements of furniture, fixtures, equipment, etc.

- Acquired and purchased wall and digital clocks, portable water dispensers, dining chairs, push/trolley track, ceiling and desk fans, AC units, cushions, roller blinds, computer chair, and; book scanner
- Installed stair lights at the Health Sciences library spiral stairs.
- Replaced the lighting fixtures from fluorescent to LED at the Administration Office & Technical section

- Repaired the rubber stair stopper at the Conference Hall, and repainted shelves and metal locker at the Ecclesiastical Library and Architecture Commons

### C. Maintain and install safety devices and other safety measures

- Annual maintenance of fire extinguishers, emergency and exit lights, fire alarm system, fire suppression, earthquake device, CCTV, and PA
- Conducted and joined the evacuation drills, daily radio netting, and fire safety inspection
- Submitted an "Energy Management Plan" and attended the annual meeting of the "Energy Management Conservation System"

### D. Regular maintenance and monitoring of the following:

- Cleaning of air conditioning units, building fumigation (3x), pest control monitoring (monthly), water tank cleaning (2x), drinking fountain filter replacement (quarterly), elevator maintenance, power supplies inspection, busted light replacements, and restroom maintenance.

Physical facilities have some adverse effects on library utilization. It was, therefore, believed that for the library services to be effective, adequate and quality physical facilities must be provided. More priority should be given to allocating funds to physical facilities to make the library a better place for learning and research thereby improving the learning environment and library services.

## Professional Training and Development Committee

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

The Committee aims to develop the library staff's skills, competencies, and professional qualities to enhance their work performance and increase job satisfaction. It organizes training, team building, and other developmental activities.

The Committee organized the following activities:

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Title	Date	Participants
UST Library In-house Training, Team Building, and Appreciation and Awards	29-31 July 2024	Library Administrators, Librarians, and Support Staff
End of Year Planning, Review and Evaluation, and Team Building	13-14 June 2024	Library Administrators, Librarians, and Support Staff
Mid-year Planning	31 January 2024	Library Administrators and Committee Heads
LIS Month Learning Session – Facilitating Resource Discovery and Research Using Metadata	15 November 2023	Library Administrators, Library staff, Academic Staff, and Students

# Student Welfare and Services Committee

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

## Student Welfare and Services Committee: Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Review

As part of our commitment to providing exceptional library services, the Library continually monitors and evaluates key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess service quality, usage, and the effectiveness of the Library resources. Here is an overview of the Committee's performance in various areas during the past term:

### KPI 1: Utilization of library resources

**Number of books borrowed:** The target for books borrowed was set at 50,000, but only 22,776 was achieved. While this result shows that the target was not met, the Committee continues to explore ways to increase students' engagement with the Library's physical collections, including targeted promotions and further enhancements in resource accessibility.

#### Document delivery services:

- Books (Requests)
- Journals (Articles)
- UST Publications

For **document delivery services**, the target was 400 requests/articles, however, only 373 has been provided. Although the target was not met, the number of requests still demonstrates a strong demand for library materials.

**Digital Library usage:** This area exceeded expectations. With a target of 500,000 digital collection usages, a remarkable 795,571 has been recorded. This demonstrates the growing reliance of the UST academic community on digital resources and underlines the increasing importance of the Library's online offerings.

**In-house use statistics:** The goal for in-house use was 10,000 usage, but the actual figure soared to 43,340. This significant increase highlights the continued importance of the physical library as a hub for academic activity and study, providing students and faculty with the resources and environment they need to thrive.

**Internet computer usage:** Target was set at 2,000 internet computer usage sessions; amazingly, the actual usage was 9,779. The demand for internet access and computing resources continues to grow, showing that libraries remain an essential technology access point for students.

### KPI 2: Number of E-resources log-ins

The target for 15 million log-ins to library e-resources was far surpassed, with a total of 16,782,604 log-ins. This outstanding achievement highlights the high level of engagement with the Library online platforms, further emphasizing the shift toward digital resource usage among UST academic communities.

### KPI 3: Freshmen online library orientations

Our target was to ensure that 100% of freshmen sections attended online library orientations. Although we reached 87% (298 out of 342 sections), the result shows a strong level of engagement, with many freshmen students taking full advantage of the library's online resources from the outset of their academic journey.

### KPI 4: E-resources tutorial sessions

The goal was to conduct at least 120 tutorial sessions on e-resources. We held 83 sessions, falling short of the target but still managed to deliver a considerable amount of training. Plans are in place to increase the number of sessions and broaden the reach of these tutorials in the coming term.

### KPI 5: Online Inquiry response time

In terms of customer service, we set a target to answer 100% of online inquiries within the target turnaround time of 3 working days. We are proud to report that we met this target.

### KPI 6: Creation of online content

We set a target to create at least 3 new pieces of online content for students, and we successfully met this goal, producing exactly 3 resources. These online materials continue to serve as valuable tools for enhancing student learning and engagement with library services.

### KPI 7: Library performance survey ratings

Feedback from our users continues to be overwhelmingly positive:

**Library user education services:** 99% of respondents rated this service as "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied," surpassing the target of 95%.

**Library services in general:** 95% of users expressed satisfaction with our overall Library services, meeting the target for this metric.

In conclusion, while there are areas where we fall slightly short of our targets, we are proud of the overall positive trends and the consistent growth in library usage. As always, the Library remains committed to improving its services and ensuring that both the physical and digital resources meet the needs of the academic community.

### Enhancing library services and education:

Addressing Needs and Strengthening Support. Libraries remain the heart of academic institutions, serving as vital hubs for research, learning, and intellectual engagement. As part of its commitment to providing excellent services, the Library conducted a comprehensive user feedback survey

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from August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024. The results offer valuable insights into user experiences, highlighting both strengths and areas that require improvement.

The survey gathered responses from 409 individuals, representing a diverse set of users. Undergraduate students made up the majority (54.4%), followed by graduate students (23.53%), high school students (7.84%), and visiting researchers (8.86%). Academic staff, administrative staff, alumni, and other personnel had smaller representations, yet their feedback remains integral in shaping future improvements.

**Library usage and user experience.** With the shift towards digital access, the library website plays a crucial role in facilitating academic research and information retrieval. An overwhelming 90.5% of respondents confirmed that they had accessed the library website. However, usage frequency varied significantly – while 28.6% of users visited the site weekly, a notable 31.4% accessed it infrequently. This highlights an opportunity to encourage more engagement through improved digital offerings and enhanced accessibility of online resources.

Despite the rise of digital access, the physical library remains a central space for academic activities. A substantial 34% of respondents visited the Library weekly, with 15.4% making daily visits. However, 22.7% visited less frequently, suggesting that while many rely on the library regularly, others only visit when necessary. The primary reasons for using the library included conducting research (35.44%), utilizing library facilities (19.97%), borrowing books (17.80%), and engaging in leisure activities (17.47%).

**Evaluating library services and facilities.** The survey results paint a largely positive picture of library services, with circulation services (borrowing and returning books) receiving the highest satisfaction rating at 57.5%. Reference services, which assist patrons with research inquiries and guidance, were also well-received, with a satisfaction rate of 50.9%. Users further expressed appreciation for access to both print and electronic resources, which garnered a 58.2% satisfaction score.

Despite these positive ratings, some areas need attention. Reprographic services, including photocopying and printing, had lower satisfaction levels, with only 35.7% of respondents expressing high satisfaction. Similarly, while the Turnitin assistance service was rated favorably by those who used it, 42.8% of respondents indicated they had never availed of this service, pointing to a need for better awareness and promotion. The assessment of Library facilities reflected similar trends. The reading area, an essential space for students, received the highest satisfaction rating (56.5%), followed by internet stations (51.6%) and the Library website (60.9%). However, challenges were noted, particularly in areas such as ventilation, outdated computers, and the need for more electrical outlets. Some users reported slow internet, malfunctioning keyboards, and inconsistencies in library operating hours, especially on Saturdays. Complaints about excessive heat and poor

ventilation in study spaces also surfaced, with suggestions for air conditioning improvements.

Despite these concerns, 95.8% of respondents expressed overall satisfaction with the Library. Many commended the staff for their professionalism, efficiency, and helpfulness. Others appreciated the availability of leisure activities, such as board games, which added a refreshing aspect to their library experience.

**Enhancing library education and learning support.** Beyond providing resources and services, the Library actively supports learning through orientations, tutorials, and specialized educational sessions. These programs aim to equip users with essential research skills and knowledge of library resources. Over the past year, a total of 5,516 participants engaged in these sessions, with 96.32% being students. Faculty members and administrators also participated, though in smaller numbers.

The effectiveness of these educational programs received high ratings from respondents. The clarity of purpose and relevance of topics scored a mean rating of 3.77 and 3.81, respectively, indicating strong approval. Additionally, 79.96% of participants found the sessions useful for their academic work, and 73.07% expressed confidence in applying their newly acquired knowledge.

Confidence in navigating library resources also improved, with 71.10% of respondents feeling more capable after attending training sessions. The overall satisfaction rate was particularly high – 75.72% of participants were very satisfied, while only a marginal 0.18% expressed dissatisfaction.

**Moving forward: Addressing challenges and strengthening library services.** While the Library continues to be a well-utilized and appreciated academic resource, the survey findings indicate several areas for enhancement. To address user concerns, the following recommendations have been proposed:

- Expand digital engagement – increasing awareness and accessibility of online resources can encourage more frequent use of the Library's digital platforms.
- Improve infrastructure and equipment – upgrading computers, adding more power outlets, and enhancing internet speed will create a more conducive study environment.
- Ensure consistent operating hours – addressing discrepancies in advertised and actual opening times, particularly on weekends, will help avoid inconvenience.
- Enhance technical support for digital services – providing clearer guidance for accessing electronic databases and Turnitin can improve user experience.
- Optimize library comfort and environment – improving ventilation and addressing temperature concerns will make study areas more comfortable and appealing.

*cont'd on page 11*

## UST MdB Library in-house training 2024

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

Last July 29-31, 2024, the UST Library Professional Development and Training Committee organized a 3-day In-house training for all the UST Library staff. This gathering is held once a year where other activities such as team building and appreciation and awards are also included.

Two groups participated in a hands-on training session on the first day, which covered Google Workspace Basics, led by Sr. Lib. Kristi Ma. Fevie Macasaet-Recinto, Jr. Lib. Symon Lagao, and Jr. Lib. Nate Futralan. Sr. Lib. Lejempf Flores facilitated the use of Google Workspace in creation of a website utilizing Google sites. The facilitators discussed this item as a collection of cloud-based productivity and collaboration tools developed by Google. It has a number of apps that let people create, share, and work together in real time. The major elements of Google Workspace consist of: Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Forms, and Google Calendar. This hands-on training enhanced the technical skills and increased the knowledge of the library staff on Google Workspace.

On the second day, Sr. Lib. Ginalyn Santiago discussed the basic concepts of how to properly care for library books. She expounded on the importance of book repair and the tools to be used. She also gave some techniques and tips on how to repair a damaged book. This discussion was followed by hands-on training facilitated by Mr. Nemesio Magtaan. Mr. Magtaan's team prepared materials for a thorough book repair training.

On the last day, the Library staff had an echo seminar with a total of 8 speakers. The topics covered were:

- **AI and Filipino Academic Librarians: Perceptions, Challenges, and Outcomes**, by Sr. Lib. Flores;
- **Factors Associated with the Library Help-Seeking Intention of UST Undergraduate Students with Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder**, by Jr. Lib. Lagao;
- **Equitable Access and Information Literacy: Bridging Gaps in Academic Libraries**, by Sr. Lib. Lady Catherine De Leon;



Library staff engage in a hands-on activity to learn to care for books, facilitated by Mr. Noli Magtaan.

- **School Libraries 5.0: the New Face of School Libraries Today**, by Sr. Lib. Lourdes Fatima Ramos;
- **Toxic Librarianship and Leadership? Strategies and Methods in Addressing Difficult Workplace Environment**, by Sr. Lib. Anna Rita Alomo-Murillo;
- **Data Management in Libraries: Its Importance and Tools**, by Sr. Lib. Raquel Lontoc;
- **Project Management Foundations: Getting to Know Project Management with an Overview of Agile Project Management**, by Jr. Lib. Marjorie Irish Suarez; and
- **Empowering Librarians: Change Management**, by Jr. Lib. Marissa Chua.

The echo seminar ended with an open forum followed by the appreciation and awards for the Library staff. To end the program, the Prefect of Libraries, Rev. fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., delivered his closing remarks. It was indeed a meaningful and memorable training for the entire UST Library staff.

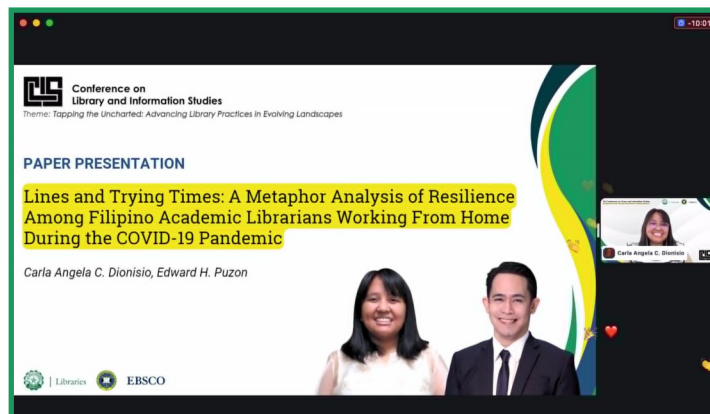
## Conference on Library and Information Studies 2024

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

With the aim of gathering local and international communities of library and information professionals, practitioners, LIS educators, and students to venture, share, and unpack the less discussed topics in library and information science field that could lead to participants having more confidence as they navigate these landscapes, the De La Salle University Libraries, in conjunction with the Philippine Normal University Library and Information Science Alumni Association (PNULISSA Inc.) held the 5th Conference on Library and Information Studies (CLIS) 2024 on August 1-2, 2024 via Zoom.

The theme for this year's edition, "Tapping the Uncharted: Advancing Library Practices in Evolving Landscapes," paved the way for the exploration of various topics relative to the so-called 'Unbounded' knowledge, 'Unconventional' library services, 'Uncharted' user groups, and 'Uncontested' landscapes.

Sr. Lib. Edward Puzon, head librarian of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Graduate School Section, participated in this online event through a paper that was presented by his co-author, Ms. Carla Angela Dionisio, project officer at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Their paper, "Lines and Trying Times: A Metaphor Analysis of Resilience among Filipino Academic Librarians Working from Home During the COVID-19 Pandemic," through a metaphorical lens, sought to understand how a select group of Filipino academic librarians view resilience during the pandemic as they continue to render service through the work-from-home set-up. This afforded the emergence of the 'Iceberg Model' of librarians' resilience while working from home during the pandemic, which includes two



*Ms. Dionisio and Sr. Lib. Puzon featured on the pubmat of the Conference on Library and Information studies*

distinct themes, Explicit Manifestations and Subtle Expressions, eidetically describing what a resilient librarian is.

Ultimately, the event served as an engaging platform for knowledge exchange among speakers and participants, encouraging insightful conversations and discussions on what lies ahead for the field of Filipino librarianship. Innovative practices and evolving roles of libraries and librarians within the society were shared and presented in the hope of inspiring attendees to apply new learnings and strategies in their respective workplaces. Moving forward, the collective experiences shared during the conference could contribute to the continued advancement in the library field.

### Professional Training and Development Committee... from page 7

All 33 librarians and 30 support staff have attended at least two training and developmental activities organized in-house or by other departments/institutions.

Other activities included monitoring librarians' graduate studies, monitoring librarians' election/appointment to positions in professional/academic organizations, and the competence/performance evaluation rating results monitoring.

The Committee also facilitated the collection of annual dues for the 2024 renewal of membership of all 33 librarians for the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) and the Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL).

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

### Student Welfare and Services Committee... from page 9

#### Conclusion

The survey results affirm the library's vital role in fostering academic success. With high overall satisfaction rates and strong positive feedback, the library remains an indispensable resource for students, researchers, and faculty. However, continuous improvement is essential to maintain excellence. By addressing the concerns raised, strengthening digital engagement, and enhancing facilities, the library can further

solidify its reputation as a modern, student-centered academic hub.

Through ongoing innovations and responsiveness to user needs, the library will continue to evolve, ensuring that it remains a dynamic space for research, learning, and intellectual exploration.



## Ramos attends the 42nd PASLI National Conference

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

Sr. Lib. Lourdes Fatima Ramos, head of the UST Senior High School Library, participated in the 42nd National Conference of the Philippine Association of School Librarians, Inc. (PASLI). The three-day conference was hosted in partnership with Saint Louis University (SLU) Baguio at Fr. Francis Gevers Hall, Saint Louis University Baguio City, from June 26 to 28, 2024. The Conference's theme was "IntenZfied School Libraries: Fostering Diversity and Inclusivity." It aimed to enhance the role of school libraries in promoting diversity and inclusivity, understanding trends in children's literature, and fostering collaborations among school stakeholders.

### **The first day began with a library tour and benchmarking of the SLU Library and Archives.**

Participants also had the opportunity to select books and other resources from various dealers for their collection. In the afternoon, the Hon. Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong of Baguio City warmly welcomed the participants, followed by the opening remarks of Ms. Maria Victoria E. Dela Cruz, RL, MLIS, PASLI president. The keynote address was given by SLU Vice President for Academic Affairs, Felina P. Espique, PhD, on behalf of SLU's president, Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales CICM. The first learning session was presented by Mr. Alejandro P. Pablico, BED principal of SLU, with his topic "School Principals Leading Change: Creating School Libraries as Centers of Learning," emphasizing the collaborative efforts among librarians, schools, and the community as well as the pivotal role of school principals in transforming libraries. Ms. Zarah C. Gagatiga, RL, PASLI PRO and librarian of The Beacon Academy, concluded the session with her topic, "*Kapihan at Kamustahan: Aklatan ko'y Kanlungan*" campaign and a tandem read-aloud with one of the participants.

**Day two presented learning sessions three to six.** Learning session 3, in which Ms. Rovina Nina Bermudez, RL, LPT, MLIS from the Ateneo Grade School Katigbak Educational Media Center, presented her topic, Leveling up Students' Experience in the Library: an Action Research on Genrefication. In this paper, she and her co-author envisioned organizing their fiction collection according to the genre, which will help students find books independently, explore genres they are genuinely interested in, and promote a user-centric approach when organizing a library collection. In Session 4, "The Use of ICT in School Libraries" was discussed by Prof. Marilou L. Pasion, RL, where she emphasized the importance of digital literacy and collaboration with teachers for integrating technology into student learning. Various digital platforms for library services were also showcased. Learning session 5, "The School Libraries 5.0," was presented by Mr. Charliemagne Padernal, RL, MLIS. He explained the evolution of libraries from 1.0 to 5.0, giving importance to transforming school libraries into learning and innovation centers that support creativity, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning. He also highlighted the role of school



Sr. Lib. Ramos (left) and Ms. Dela Cruz pose for a souvenir photo.

libraries in literacy and their importance in the information age. In Session 6, Ms. Honey de Peralta, founder of the *Filipino Reader Con* and sales manager at Penguin Random House, talked about the current trends in the children's book industry. She emphasized the growing demand for books that feature diversity and representation, including translations from Filipino, Southeast Asian, Japanese, and Korean literature, as well as themes related to disabilities and LGBTQIA+ topics. Ms. De Peralta also highlighted the popularity of graphic books, media tie-ins, favorite book brands, leveled reader books, and the concept of FRIES in books, which stands for Fun, Relatability, Immersion, Exploration, and Sharing. After all the learning sessions, a fellowship night concluded the day's activities.

**On the last day, during Learning Session 7, Ms. Jennifer E. Caballero, Division librarian II of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Gapan, delivered an in-depth presentation on the "Role of School Librarians in the Matatag Curriculum."** The session provided valuable insights into the crucial role that school librarians play in implementing the curriculum. The final segment of the Learning session involved the presentation of proposals aimed at updating the current school library standards. Mr. Padernal facilitated this significant task.

To conclude the program on a high note, the Vice President of the Philippine Association of School Librarians, Ms. Salvacion C. Dimzon, RL, LPT, MLIS, DEM, delivered the closing remarks, ensuring that the session concluded with valuable and insightful takeaways for all participants.

## Nebrija en Filipinas exhibit

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



The Miguel de Benavides Library opened the second leg of the “*Nebrija en Filipinas. La Importancia de ser Gramático*” exhibit following its initial run at Instituto Cervantes in Intramuros. The exhibit, which will be on display from August 22 to November 22, 2024, was inaugurated with a ceremony attended by prominent figures in the academe, as well as national and international agencies and institutions.

The inauguration was graced by the presence of Sr. D. Pedro Llinás Almadana, *chargé d'affaires* and deputy head of Mission of the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines; Sr. D. Javier Galván Guijo, director of *Instituto Cervantes de Manila*; Hon. Arthur P. Casanova, PhD, commissioner of the *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino*; Minister Leandro Waisman, *chargé d'affaires* of the Argentine Embassy, along with UST administrators led by Rev. fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., secretary-general.

Ms. Jenalyn Aninao led the invocation followed by the UST Prefect of Libraries Rev. fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., giving the welcome remarks. Assoc. Prof. Marlon James Sales, a faculty member of the Department of European Languages of the University of the Philippines, Diliman gave an overview of the exhibit. The message of gratitude was delivered by Sr. Lib. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, UST chief librarian. Asst. Prof. Anna Maria Gloria S. Ward acted as the master of ceremonies. During the intermission, a string quartet from the Conservatory of Music performed for the guests.

Organized in partnership with *Instituto Cervantes de Manila*, the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines, the Antonio de Nebrija Foundation (Madrid), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and the National Library of Spain, this exhibit was a tribute to Elio Antonio de Nebrija, a prominent Spanish grammarian, poet, and scholar, in commemoration of his quinqucentennial death anniversary. The exhibition highlighted Nebrija's profound impact on language and linguistics, particularly his influence on developing grammars and dictionaries of Philippine vernacular languages before similar works were published in Europe.

The exhibition was an adaptation of the original exhibit NEBRIJA (c. 1444-1522). *El orgullo de ser gramático* (*Grammaticus nomen est professionis*), curated by Teresa



Ribbon cutting signaling the opening of the exhibit.

From (L) to (R): Sr. Lib. Lobo, Fr. Coronel, O.P., Sr. Waisman, Sr. Galván Guijo, Sr. Llinás Almadana, Fr. Aparicio, O.P.

Jiménez Calvente in 2022. It also included additional panels highlighting Nebrija's influence on the Philippines contributed by Prof. Sales.

### **A rich showcase of history and culture**

The exhibit featured immersive panels that narrate Nebrija's life and legacy, along with displays of his works housed at the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, including *Hymnorum Recognitio* (1541), *Ælii Antonii Nebrissensis de Institutione Grammaticæ: Libri Quinque* (1816), and the two-volume *Grammatici, et Regii Chronographi Dictionarium Redivivum* (1754). Visitors also witnessed the cultural significance of Nebrija's works, especially in the context of early Philippine grammars and dictionaries such as *Arte de la Lengua Bisaya de la Provincia de Leyte* (1663), *Arte de la Lengua Tagala y Manual Tagalog* (1796), *Vocabulario de la Lengua Tagala* (1832), *Arte de la Lengua Zebuana* (1836), among others.

Additionally, the Library's “*Talasalitaan*” featured selected words from its heritage collections in various Philippine languages on its Facebook page to celebrate the diversity and richness of these languages while encouraging researchers to dig into the grammar and dictionaries on the shelves of the Heritage Library.

### **A learning session on missionary linguistics in the Philippines**

As part of the exhibit, the Heritage Library hosted a learning session entitled “Exploring Nebrija's Influence on Missionary Linguistics in the Philippines,” which delved into the significant contributions of the Dominican Order to missionary linguistics in the Philippines, emphasizing the enduring influence of Antonio de Nebrija, Blancas de San José, and many other missionaries during the Spanish colonial period. The session was attended by administrators, teachers, librarians, support staff, and students.

cont'd on next page



## Nebrija en Filipinas exhibit... from previous page

Assoc. Prof. Jorge Mojarro, PhD, academic staff from the Department of Literature of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and of the UST Graduate School, and Assoc. Prof. Sales, served as speakers, while Prof. Rosalyn G. Mirasol, PhD, academic staff from the Department of English of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, and Sr. Carlos Valmaseda Blanco, chief librarian of Instituto Cervantes de Manila, were the reactors.

The insightful presentations of the resource persons emphasized the importance of scholarship in preserving and appreciating the rich linguistic heritage of the country.

### ***A continued celebration of cultural ties***

Through the exhibit, the Miguel de Benavides Library and Instituto Cervantes, together with their partners, not only celebrated the remarkable achievements of Antonio de Nebrija and the missionaries but also strengthened the cultural ties between the Philippines and Spain, showing how the past continues to enrich the present.

On behalf of the Miguel de Benavides Library, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the people and institutions who contributed to the success of the exhibit, the speakers and reactors, the guests, UST librarians and staff, and all who engaged with the activities on *Nebrija en Filipinas*.



Various photos during the opening of the exhibit.

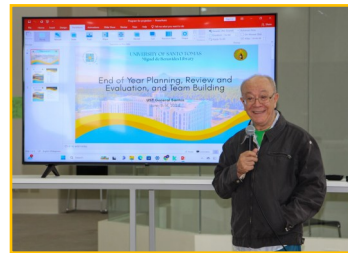
## UST Library activities... from Page 1

The collaborative tree-planting initiative, spear-headed by the Human Values and Community and Extension Services Committees in partnership with the UST Alumni SOCCSKSARGEN, significantly contributed to the greening of the campus.

This endeavor involved the planting of 60 Norfolk Island pine tree seedlings at Site A, adjacent to the Po Integrated Innovative Research Laboratory (PIIRL), as well as 10 Narra tree seedlings at Site B, located at the rear area of the campus. This activity effectively promoted a heightened sense of environmental responsibility among the participants.

The second day commenced with a concelebrated Mass at the Chapel led by Fr. Aparicio, O.P. and Fr. Sigaya, O.P. This was attended by the UST Library staff from Manila and UST GenSan personnel. After the Mass, an engaging team-building activity was conducted to foster stronger relationships and encourage increased collaboration among the library staff.

We express our deep gratitude to the UST General Santos administrators and personnel for their exceptional assistance in coordinating this meaningful two-day event. Our sincere appreciation goes to Assistant to the Rector for UST General Santos Academician Professor Emeritus Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., Sr. Lib. Charlita T. Pangan, RL, MALS, Library support staff Ms. Karen Joy A. Cabaluna, and to others for their invaluable contributions.



Some photos during the Library planning and team-building.



## General Reference & Information Section adopts new name

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

Effective August 2024, the start of the new Academic Year 2024-2025, the proposal to rename the General Reference & Information Section to Reference & Information Services (RIS) has been implemented. This change reflects the evolving role of libraries, which now go beyond traditional information retrieval to provide a wide variety of services that cater to diverse user needs.

The current name, "General Reference and Information Section," does not fully capture the extensive range of services offered by this section. Over the years, libraries have transformed from simple information repositories into active service centers. Today, the role of the modern librarian includes not only providing reference materials but also supporting digital literacy, conducting research, offering personalized user assistance, and facilitating various educational and informational programs.

Renaming the section to Reference and Information Services (RIS) more accurately reflects the dynamic and comprehensive nature of the services provided. The term "Services" conveys a broader range of activities, making it clear that the section extends beyond traditional reference work to include a variety of services designed to meet the needs of diverse user groups. This name change also aligns with international standards, such as those outlined by the International

Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), which states that libraries now offer a wide range of services beyond traditional reference tasks.

By adopting this new name, library users will have a clearer understanding of what the section offers, enhancing their overall experience and engagement.

### ***Renaming the Library Discussion Rooms to Multifunctional Rooms***

In addition, the Library administration has approved the renaming of its Library Discussion Rooms to Multifunctional Rooms. This change reflects the evolving purpose of these spaces, which are no longer limited to discussions alone. They are now utilized for a variety of activities, including meetings, study sessions, and collaborative projects, all in accordance with the Library's policies.

The term "Multifunctional Rooms" more accurately represents the variety of uses these spaces accommodate, aligning with the library's broader vision of being a flexible and adaptive community hub. This rebranding emphasizes the library's commitment to providing versatile spaces that foster collaboration, creativity, and engagement among users, making it a venue for dynamic and diverse activities rather than just a place for formal discussions.

## UST Misa y Discurso de Apertura 2024

*Jr. Lib. Chona M. Facundo, RL*

The University of Santo Tomas marked the beginning of the Academic Year 2024-2025 in UST Manila and General Santos on August 02, 2024. Attendees at this event were the University administrators, academic staff, students, and support staff.

The activity at the Santisimo Rosario Parish started with the *Misa de Apertura* or the Mass of the Holy Spirit, followed by the *Discurso de Apertura* (Inaugural Lecture). The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Alaminos Bishop Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., O.P. Simultaneous was the Mass held at the UST Mindanao campus officiated by Rev. fr. Roberto L. Luanzon, O.P., UST Manila's vice-rector for Finance and UST General Santos officer-in-charge for the Office of the Associate Vice-Rector for Finance. The homily of Bishop Sipalay focused on the value of service inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The Discurso de Apertura entitled "Imbued with Unending Grace: A History and Legacy of the University of Santo Tomas"



was delivered by Prof. Melanie D. Turingan, PhD, dean of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters. Looking into the past, Prof. Turingan discussed UST's rich history, reflecting on its four centuries of educational leadership and rich legacy.

A new history of the University is the expansion in General Santos. With this, the Thomasian community will continue its journey, imbibing UST's 3 core values: Competence, Commitment, and Compassion.



### Strengthening ties through “*Kamanlalakbay*”

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

The UST *Simbahayan* Community Development Office successfully wrapped up its 21st edition of the *Kamanlalakbay* Annual Leaders' Formation and *Samahang Kamanlalakbay* General Assembly on July 5, 2024. The event which took place at the UST Central Seminary gymnasium had for its theme, "Continuing Our Journey as a Community with Embodied Faith, Hope, and Love."

This year's *Kamanlalakbay* was a vibrant gathering that brought together UST's partner communities and community development coordinators from various colleges, faculties, and offices. It was a powerful reaffirmation of University's unwavering commitment to societal transformation and community development. The event provided a robust platform for sharing experiences, addressing challenges, and contributing to enhancing ongoing projects and advocacy efforts. Participants also received updates on the latest community development policies and potential initiatives, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration.

For two days, the Assembly offered enriching activities to encourage interaction and foster participants' collaboration. It started with an engaging icebreaker activity, setting a positive tone for the proceeding sessions. Highlights included a Holy Mass led by Rev. fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., vice-rector for Religious Affairs, and a thought-provoking talk by Rev. fr. Erik Adviso on "Continuing Our Journey as a Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving Community." Discussions were enriched by contributions from the UST College of Rehabilitation Sciences, the UST Department of Sociology, the UST Sociological Society (USTSS), and representatives from San Juan, Laur, the UST Institute of Physical Education and Athletics, the UST Central Student Council and Sitio Malasa, who shared insights into their outreach efforts. Significant parts were the planning sessions, which focused on strategizing the implementation of programs, projects, and activities for the upcoming academic year. These discussions were instrumental in the formation of the Community Participation Matrix, as well as in the travel monitoring and analysis, and in planning documents. Moreover, the "Pamamalengke" marketing and consultation segment for programs/projects/activities for the next Academic Year prompted productive exchanges among community development coordinators, NSTP facilitators, and partner community and institution representatives. This aims to consolidate future plans and address projected needs and projects while staying true to UST's commitment to social transformation and related services.

A fellowship night was one of the Assembly's memorable moments, offering participants a chance to bond over songs and dances, fostering a spirit of camaraderie.

As a participant and head of the Library's Community and Extension Services Committee, I can attest to the profound impact of the Assembly. It was an invaluable platform for gaining insights into the broad spectrum of outreach programs across different colleges and connecting with partner community representatives. The experience has deepened my understanding and fueled a renewed commitment to fortify UST's Community and Development Program. This renewed commitment is rooted in the enduring dedication to Christian values of service and altruism, which inspire and motivate me to contribute more to our partner communities.

This Assembly is a compelling testament to the Institution's steadfast commitment to community development. It was a powerful platform that promoted unity and provided a living example of the values of faith, hope, and love as pillars for a brighter future. It left us all inspired and hopeful for the transformative impact we can create together.

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