

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES NEWSLETTER



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8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS LIBRARIANSHIP ADVANCES YOUTH SERVICES



The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) and the Provincial Government of Pangasinan, through the Pangasinan Provincial Library, in collaboration with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and supported by related library organizations, major publishing houses, and other agencies, successfully hosted the 8th International Conference on Children and Young Adults Librarianship (ICCYAL) from October 1-4, 2024. Held at the iconic Sison Auditorium, the conference brought together more than 200 librarians from across the nation and abroad under the theme "ICYMI: Libraries and Communities as Partners in Advancing Exemplary Children and Young Adults Library Services." ICCYAL aims to provide a platform for gaining knowledge, skills, and insights on developing children's and young adults' libraries through shared experiences of adaptations, trends, best practices, and efforts to establish a sustainable future for these libraries locally and globally.

Opening Day: Showcasing Creativity and Partnerships

The conference opened on October 1 with the ceremonial ribbon-cutting of the exhibit, led by Dr. Blesila P. Velasco, Chief of the NLP Public Libraries Division and Overall Chairperson of the 8th ICCYAL, and Ms. Constanca Josue, Representative of IBBY Philippines. They were joined by representatives from MegaTEXTS Phil., Lampara Books, Vibal Group, OMF Literature, Phoenix Educational Systems, Felta Multi-Media, Rex Book Store, and Traceon UnoTech.





This exhibit highlighted innovative library programs and resources designed to inspire creativity, learning, and engagement among young readers.

The registration also officially kicked off, welcoming passionate librarians from around the Philippines. It marked the beginning of an inspiring journey focused on learning, sharing, and shaping the future of young readers. Together, we are making a difference!

Day 2: Inspiring Leadership and Excellence

The formal opening ceremony on October 2 included an address by NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, a message from Ma. Cynthia Encarnita F. Vila, Provincial Librarian of Pangasinan, and cultural performances by the Provincial Chorale and Capitol Dancers.

Keynote speaker Wan Mazli Bin Wan Razali, Deputy CEO of the Sarawak State Library in Malaysia, set the tone for an exciting day of learning. Plenary sessions followed, featuring renowned speakers:

- Chaerul Umam, Ph.D., Vice President of ASEAN Public Libraries Information Network (APLiN), on the learning sessions of APLiN
- Johayli B. Milare, President of Association of Pangasinan Public Librarians, Inc. (APPLI), discussing APPLI initiatives
- Reneir Lois B. Enriquez, Library Staff at Pangasinan Provincial Library, sharing local best practices
- Maria Victoria E. Dela Cruz, Teacher-Librarian at Ateneo de Manila Grade School, on reimagining school librarians' roles in the digital age
- Irhamni Ali, Ph.D., Library Data Scientist at the Library and Reading Habit Center, National Library of Indonesia, on AI implementation in youth libraries



Day 3: Technology Meets Librarianship

On October 3, the focus shifted to technology's role in enhancing library services. Highlights included:

- Melanie A. Ramirez, Librarian IV, NLP, on standards for children's and young adults' sections in public libraries
- Nurul Husna Ghali, Librarian (Children & Teens), Punggol Regional Library, National Library Board - Singapore, on AI applications for youth library services

- Custer C. Santos, City Librarian, Santa Rosa City Library, on best practices for children and young adults (CYA) library sections
- Ma. Catherine T. Donato, Collection Development Librarian, Miriam College Grade School, on leveraging AI in school libraries

The conference also recognized outstanding contributions to children's librarianship. Kathlyn G. Tangcay of the Philippine Science High School (Zamboanga) was named Children's Librarian of the Year, while Nerissa T. Cabuay of San Carlos City Library was celebrated for her exemplary children's programs.

The event closed with remarks from Ma. Cynthia Encarnita F. Vila, Provincial Government Assistant Department Head (Provincial Librarian), Pangasinan Provincial Library, and a closing message from Edgardo B. Quiros, Assistant Director of the National Library of the Philippines.

Final Day: A Cultural Celebration

The conference concluded on October 4 with a cultural tour of Pangasinan's landmarks, including the Banaan Museum and the Hundred Islands National Park in Alaminos City. This immersive experience capped off the event, fostering camaraderie and appreciation for the province's heritage.

As the event closed, Cebu City was announced as the host for the 9th ICCYAL in 2026. The 8th ICCYAL underscored the collective efforts of librarians and institutions in shaping inclusive, tech-savvy, and community-driven library services for children and young adults.



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NLP CELEBRATES ELDERLY FILIPINO WEEK 2024



The National Library of the Philippines (NLP), through its Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Committee, joined the nationwide observance of Elderly Filipino Week from October 1 to 7, 2024, in alignment with Proclamation No. 470. This annual event underscores the importance of promoting the well-being and dignity of senior citizens while celebrating their significant contributions to the nation's development. In addition, a flu vaccination program was also organized, reflecting the library's broader commitment to supporting employees' health and well-being.

Elderly Filipino Week serves as a vital reminder of the respect and gratitude owed to the older generation, recognizing their pivotal role in shaping the cultural and social fabric of the Philippines. It is also an opportunity to foster an inclusive society that values and supports citizens of all ages.

Activities at NLP

On October 7, 2024, the NLP hosted a series of activities at the NLP Function Room, gathering elder employees and patrons from various senior citizen organizations. A representative from the National Commission on Senior Citizens participated in the event, reflecting its importance at the national level.

The day began with a morning lecture for elder employees, focusing on the "End User Finance Scheme" presented by Mr. Henry R. Bernardo, Acting Division Chief III of the Project Prospecting and Development Division at



Pag-IBIG Fund. This insightful session offered practical financial guidance tailored for senior citizens.

Following the lecture, participants enjoyed a hands-on session on "Basic Cooking" led by Ms. Gilda Orque-Garcia, Kagawad of the Committee on Livelihood, Barangay Balong Bato, San Juan City. The session provided useful tips on preparing simple and nutritious meals, emphasizing skills that promote self-sufficiency and enjoyment.

In the afternoon, the NLP organized an educational tour for first-time elder visitors, featuring the NLP Permanent Gallery. The tour showcased the rich history and cultural heritage preserved within the library, providing an engaging experience for participants.

The activities provided a platform for learning, camaraderie, and appreciation, ensuring that all participants left with meaningful experiences. Through these efforts, the NLP reaffirmed its commitment to the well-being of senior citizens, aligning with the broader goals of Elderly Filipino Week.



Flu Vaccination for NLP Elders and Employees

The NLP Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Committee organized a flu vaccination program facilitated by the Department of Health. This initiative took place on December 18, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the 4th floor lobby of the NLP building, with nurses and vaccinators from the Manila City Health Office administering the vaccines to NLP employees.

This initiative highlighted the significance of safeguarding not only the elderly but also the entire workforce from the seasonal influenza virus. It forms part of our broader commitment to preventive healthcare and nurturing a healthy workplace. Additionally, this program supports employee health and wellness while raising awareness about the protection of vulnerable groups, such as the elderly.

The NLP's participation in Elderly Filipino Week exemplifies its dedication to fostering inclusivity for all generations and demonstrates its commitment to the health of its employees. As the library continues to champion programs that benefit the elderly, it inspires a society that values and uplifts its senior citizens, honoring their contributions while promoting their welfare.

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ISSN DIRECTORS MEETING: A GLOBAL NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

by Jennifer B. Dimasaca



The significance of international cooperation and communication has never been more clear as the world grows more interconnected. Attending the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) Directors Meeting offers professionals working in the library and information science, scientific and technical fields a special chance to network with colleagues, exchange ideas, and influence the direction of serial publications. The ISSN Directors Meeting takes place in Tunisia, a fascinating country in North Africa renowned for its vibrant culture, rich history, and stunning scenery.

The 49th ISSN Directors Meeting, hosted by the National Library of Tunisia (Bibliothèque Nationale de Tunisie) on October 21-24, 2024, was attended by the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) through Ms. Jennifer B. Dimasaca, Chief of the Bibliographic Services Division (BSD). In the Philippines, the BSD is the division responsible for managing the International Standard Music Number (ISMN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), and International Standard Book Number (ISBN).

The ISSN Directors Meeting serves as a platform for ISSN National Centers and other stakeholders to come together, discuss vital issues affecting serial publications, and strategize about how to adapt to the rapidly evolving information landscape. Participants have the opportunity to:



- **Network with Global Leaders:** Meet directors and representatives from ISSN centers around the world, fostering connections that can lead to future collaborations and innovative projects.
- **Participate in Knowledge Sharing:** Engage in discussions around best practices, challenges, and advancements in the field of serial publications, which can help drive improvements in information dissemination.
- **Influence Policy:** Contribute to the development of policies and guidelines that govern the registration and management of serial publications, ensuring that the ISSN system remains relevant and effective.

The meeting was formally started with opening remarks from Mr. Khaled Kchir, General Director; Ms. Hajer Sehli, Deputy Director; and Ms. Gaëlle Bequet, Director of the ISSN International Center (ISSN IC).

Reports on the activities of ISSN IC, Tunisia, Benin, Burkina Faso, India, and Hungary were presented. Additionally, the Ministry of Information in Oman was introduced as a new ISSN Network member.

The key points in the ISSN IC Activity Report for year 2023 and 2024 as presented by Director Bequet are as follows:

1. **2023 Key Activities on Data Production:** Expansion of the ISSN Network in 2023-2024.
2. **Sales, Marketing and Communication:** Sales of Services, ISSN Credits, API Subscriptions, and Member State Contributions.
3. **Information Systems:** Finalizing ISSN+, maintaining IT infrastructure, initiating the new portal, and improving the efficiency with IT tools. This includes a breakdown of website and ISSN portal visits by country and continent.
4. **Assessment of the 2024 Strategy:** Progress on key performance indicators (KPI) related to ISNI, new ISSN national centers, data encoding schemes, continuing resources

definition, URL resolver and Keepers Registry.

5. **2024 Priorities:** Improving on data quality, advancing the new portal and developing sales. The KPIs cover various aspects of the ISSN network's operation, including data quality, international collaboration and technological improvements. The KPIs to be used to assess the ISSN network's 2024 strategy are:

- a. **ISNI Identification:** 5% of all ISSN portal organizations and publishers are identified by ISNIs by 2024.
- b. **New ISSN national centers:** Opening five new ISSN national centers by 2024, which is 100% complete as of the reporting.
- c. **Data encoding schemes:** 80% progress in creating specific fields for grouping ISSNs in data encoding schemes.
- d. **Continuing Resources Definitions:** 80% progress in publishing updated definitions of continuing resources and new data encoding values.
- e. **URL resolver:** 50% progress in the ISSN International Centre managing an operational resolver handling various URLs in 2024.
- f. **Keepers Registry participation:** Reaching 20 archive agencies participating in Keepers Registry by 2024, which is 100% complete.

Updated ISSN Manual on the xwiki was presented for comments and suggestions of the ISSN National Centers. Ms. Dimasaca presented "An Analysis of the Effectiveness of INS-POAS (International Numbering System - Philippine Online Application Systems)," a study on whether and how technology adoption affects organizational efficiency and effectiveness would not be complete in this digital age without mentioning the power of technology adoption that is widely espoused by Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). At the heart of the TAM are two important constructs – Perceived Usefulness (PU) and Perceived Ease-of-Use (PEU) – the very manifest that point to the likelihood a given technology will be adopted by the users.

This paper explores the effectiveness of the INS-POAS based on the TAM framework in understanding its perceived usefulness and ease of use for stakeholders.



Subsequently, Ms. Nathalie Cornic, Head of the ISSN Network's Metadata and Technical Coordination, and Mr. Juan Ignacio, Specialist in Automated Metadata Processing, led parallel workshops on ISSN+ record correction and the new features of ISSN+.

The ISSN Directors Meeting in Tunisia is an opportunity that offers a remarkable opportunity for colleagues from ISSN Network Member Countries to exchange information on the activities, foster cooperation and participate in workshops.

The 50th ISSN Directors Meeting will be held in Paris, France in 2025.

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ASEAN-ROK CHILDREN'S READING CULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (AKRCC) CONVENED IN SOUTH KOREA FOR THE GENERAL MEETING

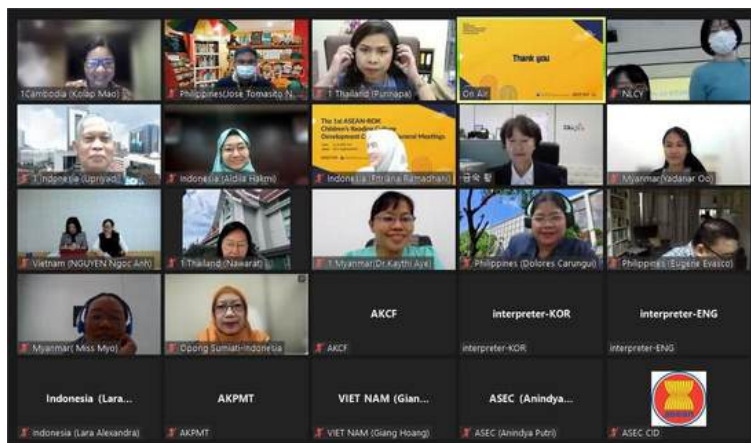
by Dolores D. Carungui



The Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea (ASEAN-ROK) Children's Reading Culture Development Committee (AKRCC) was established in 2022 through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among ASEAN Member States (AMS), which include Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and South Korea.

AKRCC is led by the National Library of Children and Young Adults (NLCY) of the National Library of Korea. It aims to improve the children's reading culture environment and enhance literacy levels across ASEAN. The objectives are as follows:

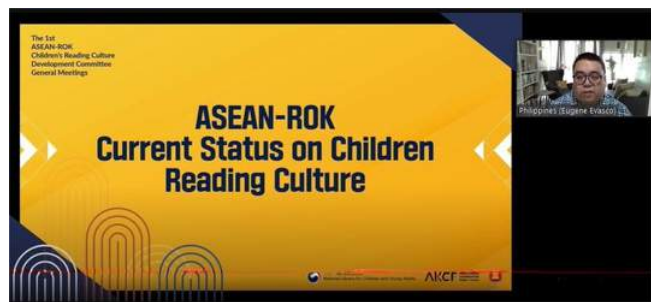
1. To establish a foundation for cooperation and create exchange opportunities among national libraries to promote children's reading culture at a national level within ASEAN.



2. To achieve mutual development by setting common goals and implementing plans to advance children’s reading culture in ASEAN.

3. To raise awareness among ASEAN communities about the importance of children’s reading culture through collaborative public relations strategies.

4. To conduct a study on the current status of children’s reading culture within ASEAN.



Facilitated by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts-International Affairs Office (NCCA-IAO) and the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), storybook writer Eugene Y. Evasco, NLP Reference Division Chief Dolores D. Carungui, and NLP Children’s Section Head Jose Tomasito N. Fernando were identified and nominated as the required three members of the Committee per AMS. They serve as the children’s book expert member, leadership committee member, and technical working group member, respectively. The first meeting was held online on December 15, 2022, during which each AMS presented the current status of children’s reading culture.



In its second year, NLCY invited three children’s librarians, including the technical working group committee member, to attend the second meeting and training in Seoul, South Korea. NLP recommended Mr. Jose Tomasito N. Fernando, Ms. Jeeffa U.

Acmat (Librarian I of NLP Children’s Section), and Ms. Rochelle S. Silverio (Head of Valenzuela City Library). They participated in two weeks of face-to-face activities held from October 15-31, 2023.

This year, AKRCC convened for the third time at NLCY on October 26-31, 2024. The meeting was attended by Ms. Dolores D. Carungui and Mr. Jose Tomasito N. Fernando. In this meeting, AMS reported on the AKRCC implementation achievements of the communal goals and discussed the next steps wherein the formed collaboration among AMS that may lead for the continual improvement of programs and services for children and young adults in the ASEAN shall be sustained with the commitment of each AMS. Key recommendations included:

- Establishing ASEAN Children’s Book Corners in libraries across AMS
- Initiating programs involving multiple AMS
- Sharing best practices among member states
- Formulating a regional policy with clearly defined responsibilities.



The general meeting concluded with high hopes from all participating AMS that this endeavor will lead to strengthened collaboration and sustained programs with measurable indicators for children and young adults in the ASEAN-ROK.

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SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL 2024: A COLLABORATIVE CELEBRATION OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION



The Goethe-Institut Philippinen, in collaboration with the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), launched the Science Film Festival (SFF) 2024 on October 18, 2024. Held at the NLP's Epifanio delos Santos Auditorium, this six-week festival highlights the theme "Net Zero and the Circular Economy," emphasizing the importance of sustainability and environmental action. Running until December 1, 2024, the festival is a global initiative designed to inspire science literacy and ecological responsibility.

Science Meets Sustainability

The festival features 35 curated films, engaging audiences of all ages. These films explore critical topics such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adopting circular economy principles, and addressing the global climate crisis. By blending scientific content with accessible storytelling, the SFF encourages viewers to



embrace sustainable practices like recycling, reusing, and repairing.

The Goethe-Institut, the main organizer of this initiative, worked closely with the Department of Education’s Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL)-German and partnered with public libraries across the Philippines. These partnerships ensure the festival’s reach extends to diverse communities nationwide, fostering education and environmental awareness.



Highlights of the Launch

During the opening ceremony, NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano lauded the enduring 15-year partnership with the Goethe-Institut in delivering science-based educational resources to public libraries and students. Mr. Jens Roesler, Deputy Director of the Goethe-Institut Philippinen, emphasized the importance of learning from the festival’s films to inspire actionable steps for a healthier planet.

A storytelling session by the NLP Kuwentistas added an engaging touch to the event, delighting young attendees. The ceremony’s highlight was the participation of 50 Grade 6 students from Graciano Lopez Jaena Elementary School, led by their principal, Ms. Jinabelle V. Prieto, and supported by their parents. Coordinated by the Manila City Library, the students exemplified the festival’s mission to inspire future environmental advocates.

Expanding Reach Across the Nation

As the festival progresses, public libraries across the Philippines play a pivotal role in hosting screenings and facilitating educational discussions. These activities demonstrate how science and sustainability are interconnected, making the festival a critical tool in encouraging community-wide participation in environmental action.

The Science Film Festival 2024 encourages audiences to reflect on the importance of transitioning to a Net Zero and Circular Economy model. Through the power of film, the Goethe-Institut and its partners, including the NLP, aim to cultivate a culture of environmental consciousness and scientific inquiry. This collaboration reaffirms the commitment of both institutions to empowering individuals with knowledge and inspiring action towards a sustainable future for generations to come.



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HISTORIC MURILLO VELARDE MAP INSPIRES CULTURAL AND NATIONAL PRIDE



On October 29, 2024, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) hosted a landmark event that seamlessly blended history with contemporary pop culture. The ceremonial turnover of official replicas of the 1734 Murillo Velarde Map to SB19, the internationally renowned P-Pop group and National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Youth and Sentro Rizal Ambassadors, marked a significant moment in the celebration of Filipino heritage.

This event was part of broader efforts to promote cultural awareness and heritage preservation, following the donation of the original map to the Republic of the Philippines by Mel Velarde, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and the NOW Corporation.

The Legacy of the Murillo Velarde Map

Dubbed the "Mother of All Philippine Maps," the Murillo Velarde 1734 Map was created by Filipino cartographer Francisco Suarez and engraved by Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay, under the guidance of Spanish Jesuit Father Pedro Murillo Velarde. Beyond its cartographic value, the map played a critical role in the 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruling in The Hague, which affirmed the Philippines' sovereignty over disputed areas in the West Philippine Sea.



Acquired in 2014 by Mr. Mel Velarde at a London auction, the map was formally donated to the Philippine government in December 6, 2024. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. received the original artifact in a ceremony at Malacañan Palace, marking its return as a testament to Filipino history and identity.

SB19: Champions of Heritage and Youth Empowerment

SB19, comprising Pablo, Josh, Stell, Ken, and Justin, received replicas of the map in recognition of their contributions to promoting Filipino culture and heritage. During the turnover ceremony at the NLP, Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros welcomed the group, alongside NCCA Deputy Executive Director Bernan Joseph R. Corpuz, who represented NCCA Chairperson Victorino Mapa Manalo.



In his speech, Mr. Mel Velarde highlighted SB19's pivotal role in inspiring the youth, stating: "SB19, you are more than just artists; you are modern-day navigators, charting a path for the future of P-Pop. This commemorative map symbolizes the courage to embark on new journeys—where Filipino pride, resilience, and ingenuity shine brightly for the world to see."

SB19 leader Pablo echoed this sentiment, expressing gratitude for the honor and their resolve to be cultural ambassadors. "This honor, this reminder, and this responsibility are not just for us. It is for every Filipino, whether here in the Philippines or around the world. We promise to serve as a bridge between our rich history and the modern Filipino spirit."

#MapaNatinKwentoNatin Campaign: Bridging Past and Present

The ceremonial turnover also marked the launch of the #MapaNatinKwentoNatin (Our Map, Our Story) campaign, which aims to educate the public about the significance of the Murillo Velarde Map. This campaign seeks to inspire Filipinos to embrace their cultural heritage and assert their sovereignty through historical understanding.



SB19's connection to the map began in 2021, when it featured prominently in the music video for their hit song "What." By receiving the replicas, SB19 continues to raise awareness about the map's importance among their fanbase, the A'TIN, and global audiences.

Exploring History at NLP's Permanent Gallery

Following the ceremony, SB19 and the Velarde family visited the NLP Permanent Gallery, where the original Murillo Velarde Map is displayed. Guided by Dr. Michael Charleston "Xiao" Chua, the gallery curator, the group explored the historical artifact's intricate details and its impact on the Philippines' territorial claims and cultural identity.

This collaboration between SB19, the NLP, the NCCA, and AIJC is a call for all Filipinos to reconnect with their past, celebrate their cultural treasures, and safeguard their heritage for future generations.

As SB19 continues to inspire pride in Filipino identity through their art, the Murillo Velarde Map serves as a powerful symbol of resilience, creativity, and national unity—reminding us all that our map is our story.

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NLP CELEBRATES HISTORIC ADDITIONS TO ITS COLLECTION: PHILIPPINE MAP AND RECOVERED PIR



The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) marked a significant milestone in preserving the nation's history with two momentous events held on October 25 and November 25, 2024. These events celebrated the donation of an original print of the 1898 Treaty of Paris Map of the Philippines and the unveiling of the recovered Philippine Insurgent Records (PIR), both of which offer critical insights into the country's historical and territorial evolution. The events also highlight the continued efforts to safeguard the nation's cultural heritage for future generations.

Historic Donation of the 1898 Treaty of Paris Map

On October 25, 2024, the NLP hosted a ceremonial signing of the Deed of Donation for the original print of the Map of the Philippines, attached to the 1898 Treaty of Paris. The donation was made possible through the generosity of former Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Hon. Antonio T. Carpio and his wife, Hon. Ruth N. Carpio. This map is a pivotal addition to the NLP's already impressive collection of historical documents, which includes the 1734 Murillo Velarde Map, also on display at the library's Permanent Gallery.

The event was attended by key figures in the legal, historical, and maritime fields, such as former Ombudsman Hon. Conchita Carpio-Morales, Atty. Elma





Christine R. Leogardo, and Philippine Coast Guard Commodore Jay Tarriela. NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros, several Division Chiefs, and other staff members were also present to witness this historic occasion.

Justice Carpio's donation underscores the importance of preserving historical artifacts that illuminate the nation's sovereignty and territorial rights. The Map of the Philippines, originally part of the 1898 Treaty of Paris, is now a permanent exhibit at the NLP, where it will serve as an educational tool for visitors and researchers alike.



Recovered Philippine Insurgent Records: A Glimpse into Revolutionary History

On November 25, 2024, the NLP hosted a program unveiling two significant treasures: the recovered Philippine Insurgent Records (PIR) and the Map of the Philippines attached to the 1898 Treaty of Paris. PIR include important documents seized by the United States during the Philippine-American War and later returned to the country in 1957. Unfortunately, some of these documents were lost in the 1980s and 1990s, only to be recently rediscovered.



Among the recovered manuscripts were critical letters from Filipino revolutionaries, including a letter from Ladislao Diwa, co-founder of the Katipunan, a letter from Eugenio Daza, a hero of the Balangiga encounter, and a letter from Teodoro Sandico, a member of President Emilio Aguinaldo's Cabinet. These documents had been discovered for sale online, and with the timely intervention of Hon. Lisa Guerrero Nakpil of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the records were successfully retrieved.

The program was enriched by a presentation from NLP Historian Dr. Michael Charleston "Xiao" B. Chua, who explained the historical context and significance of these documents. The unveiling of the map donated by the Carpios was another highlight, with Justice Carpio delivering an insightful speech on its relevance in reinforcing the country's territorial claims and sovereignty.

A National Commitment to Heritage Preservation

The unveiling of these historical treasures marks a major achievement for the NLP, reinforcing its mission to safeguard the nation's cultural and historical heritage. The Map of the

Philippines and the recovered PIR join the ranks of invaluable documents housed within the library's Permanent Gallery. These items not only offer a window into the past but also underscore the importance of preserving the history that shapes the nation's present and future.

In attendance were distinguished historians, archivists, and guests, including NHCP Chair Regalado Trota Jose Jr., former NHCP Chair Dr. Rene Escalante, and Dr. Zeus Salazar, who have all played a key role in preserving the nation's history. The NLP remains dedicated to continuing its efforts to educate the public about the rich cultural heritage of the Philippines.



The donation of the 1898 Treaty of Paris Map and the unveiling of the recovered PIR reaffirm the NLP's critical role in preserving and promoting the nation's historical and cultural treasures. With these additions, the NLP continues to enrich its collection, ensuring that future generations will have access to invaluable resources that tell the story of the Philippines' fight for sovereignty, identity, and independence.

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CELEBRATING THE 34TH LISM: A MONTH-LONG TRIBUTE TO ADVOCACY, INCLUSIVITY, AND EMPOWERED LIBRARIES



November 2024 marked the 34th annual celebration of Library and Information Services Month (LISM), a nationwide event aimed at raising awareness about the essential role of libraries in fostering literacy, education, and community development. Held under the theme "LibVOCACY: Unity towards Inclusive and Empowered Libraries," the month-long celebration underscored the critical importance of libraries in promoting inclusive access to information, supporting community empowerment, and advancing equitable services for all. This year's LISM focused on the growing need for libraries to adapt and innovate in a rapidly changing world, highlighting the role of technology, inclusivity, and the unity of communities in achieving these goals.

Initiated by Proclamation No. 837 in 1991, LISM has grown into a significant event, supported by various government agencies, institutions, and advocacy groups. The National



Library of the Philippines (NLP), in collaboration with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts - National Committee on Libraries and Information Services (NCCA-NCLIS), spearheaded a series of dynamic events, contests, and seminars designed to engage the public and inspire greater appreciation for the vital role of libraries.

A Month of Meaningful Events and Activities

The 34th LISM began with an exciting and engaging Opening Ceremony on November 4, 2024, held at the NLP Epifanio de los Santos Auditorium. The ceremony was broadcasted live, reaching audiences nationwide through the NLP's official Facebook page.

The Opening Ceremony featured keynote addresses from esteemed individuals in the library and information services field. NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano emphasized that LibVOCACY represents libraries' mission to provide quality, equitable services for all. Emily Drabinski, the immediate past President of the American Library Association, delivered an inspiring message on the universal commitment to inclusivity, advocacy, and empowerment that unites libraries around the world. Drabinski stressed that libraries play a critical role in providing equitable access to information and resources.



LISM Exhibit: A Celebration of Knowledge

The NLP also showcased a special exhibit from November 4-29, 2024, in celebration of LISM. Located at the NLP's Ground Floor Lobby and Permanent Gallery, the exhibit highlighted a diverse collection of Filipino children's books, comics, and other materials. Visitors were treated to an enriching experience that blended education, culture, and fun, while also celebrating the literary and creative contributions of Filipino authors and illustrators. The exhibit served as a reminder of the importance of reading and storytelling in shaping the future of children and communities. Notably, the display of LISM posters from previous years gave a visual timeline of how the LISM celebration have evolved, reflecting the growth and transformation of library services in the country.

Seminars: Empowering Libraries and Advocating for Inclusivity

The NLP, in partnership with the Freedom of Information Program Management Office (FOI-PMO) under the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), organized a workshop titled "LibVOCACY in Practice: Empowering Libraries through Institutional Initiatives and FOI." Held on November 6, 2024, this interactive seminar introduced public librarians to the Electronic FOI (e-FOI) Program, allowing them to practice submitting information requests and promoting government transparency through libraries. It also featured presentations from various organizations, including the National Book Development Board (NBDB), the Department of



Science and Technology (DOST), and several non-government organizations (NGOs), emphasizing the power of collaboration between libraries and government agencies. The workshop was a resounding success, providing librarians with practical tools they could take back to their communities to help foster government accountability and promote public knowledge.



On November 19, the NLP, in collaboration with the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII), the Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP), and The Asia Foundation (TAF), conducted another seminar titled "LibVOCACY in Focus: Empowering Safe Library Environments through Advocacy, AI, and Collaboration." Esteemed speakers from various fields, including library science, data science, and technology, shared their expertise on how libraries can evolve into safer, more inclusive spaces for everyone. The discussions around AI integration in libraries provided invaluable insights into how technology can play a pivotal role in improving user experiences, from improving catalog systems to offering new forms of interactive learning.

These seminars, along with others held throughout the month, provided librarians, library professionals, students, and community members with valuable knowledge and tools to help them advocate for better library services, promote equity, and harness the potential of new technologies to transform library services.

Contests: Engaging the Community and Fostering Creativity

One of the most exciting aspects of the LISM 2024 celebration was the wide array of contests that encouraged creative expression, engagement, and fun among participants of all ages. These contests were designed not only to engage the public but also to showcase the diverse talents and skills of Filipinos while fostering the spirit of library advocacy.

The "Graphic Whiz" digital poster-making contest invited young artists to create visually striking designs that represented the values of unity, inclusivity, and empowerment. The winning poster, "To Infinity and Beyond," became the official face of LISM 2024, embodying the spirit of advocacy and progress. The contest was particularly significant in highlighting the role of young people in the future of libraries and community engagement.

The "LISM Beats: Tunes for LibVOCACY" jingle-making contest captured the power of music in conveying the message of library advocacy. Participants were challenged to compose catchy and inspiring jingles that would amplify the core values of LISM and library services. The winning jingle became a viral anthem played throughout the celebration, spreading the message of advocacy far and wide.

In addition to these artistic contests, the "Liber-Henyo: Librarian Showdown" brought together pairs of students and librarians to compete in an exciting word-guessing game, testing their



knowledge of library-related terms and fostering camaraderie among participants. The "Young Tale-Tellers" competition, which invited children aged 5-12 to submit storytelling videos, gave young people an opportunity to showcase their creativity and communication skills while promoting the love of reading. It was heartwarming to see the younger generation fully embrace storytelling as a tool for learning and communication.



Another exciting competition was the "Search 'n' Snap: The Library Hunt," which invited NLP onsite patrons to find and bring specific library materials in response to weekly clues. The first five participants to successfully complete the challenge each week won exclusive LISM 34th merchandise, further engaging the community in the celebration of libraries.



Outreach Program: Bringing Literacy to Local Communities

One of the most heartwarming activities during the LISM celebration was the outreach program conducted in collaboration with Project PEARLS and The Asia Foundation. On November 22, 2024, the NLP hosted an interactive literacy event in Barangay Batia, Bocaue, Bulacan. This community-based initiative aimed to raise awareness about early literacy, promote a love of reading, and provide children with access to valuable resources. The event featured storytelling sessions, puppet shows, and other interactive experiences that encouraged young readers to explore the world of books and learning. This outreach program exemplified the core values of LibVOCACY by engaging local communities and fostering partnerships between libraries, nonprofits, and government agencies to enhance public access to education and information.

A Grand Closing: Celebrating Library Champions

The 34th Library and Information Services Month culminated with the Joint LISM-National Book Week Awarding and Closing Ceremonies, held on November 29, 2024. The event celebrated the winners of various LISM contests. The ceremony included an inspiring message from Mr. Hernando "Mang Nanie" Guanlao, the founder of the Reading Club 2000, who shared his work in creating a community-centered reading space that is open 24/7 to all who love to read.



The 34th LISM brought together individuals, organizations, and communities in a unified effort to celebrate the power of libraries in shaping a more inclusive, empowered, and informed society. Through a combination of seminars, contests, outreach programs, and exhibit, LISM 2024 not only raised public awareness about the importance of libraries but also inspired collective action to ensure that libraries remain vital hubs for education, culture, and community engagement. As the month-long celebration concluded, the spirit of LibVOCACY continued to resonate, driving forward the mission to create accessible, innovative, and safe library environments where everyone, regardless of background or identity, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

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NLP STRENGTHENS PUBLIC SERVICES THROUGH TRAINING AND ADVOCACY INITIATIVES



The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) recently conducted a series of impactful programs aimed at enhancing public library services, equipping stakeholders with essential knowledge, and advocating for social awareness. These activities, held in the fourth quarter of 2024, reflect NLP's commitment to fostering informed and empowered communities across the Philippines.

Empowering Newly Affiliated Public Libraries

From November 20-22, 2024, NLP welcomed 66 participants, including librarians, library staff, and officers-in-charge from 42 newly affiliated public libraries, for a three-day orientation program titled "Orientation and Initial Library Allocation of NLP's Newly Affiliated Public Libraries." The event aimed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to manage their libraries effectively and deliver quality services to their communities.

On the first day, the focus was on providing an overview of the NLP's mandate and services. Ms. Rhodora E. Valdez introduced NLP's programs, and Ms. Vida Dorea P. Mendoza outlined the benefits of affiliation. Mr. Michael James R. Reyno emphasized the responsibilities of affiliated libraries, while Mr. Bryan Christian J. Raceles shared tips on establishing effective partnerships.





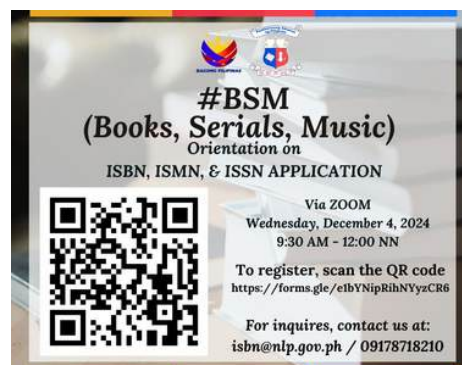
The second day concentrated on the practical aspects of managing library resources. Ms. Lonlia Garcia discussed the documentation and processing of library resources, while Ms. Ira Albalos focused on the organization of these resources. Participants engaged in hands-on activities that allowed them to practice managing and organizing their library assets for efficient community access, educational services and community engagement.

The final day of the training addressed library administration and innovative approaches to serving communities. Mr. Michael James R. Reyno provided guidance on drafting effective rules and regulations, while Ms. Xenia B. Romero introduced online resources and digital services for libraries. Mr. Jose Tomasito N. Fernando shared best practices for engaging children and young adults in library programs.

Through these sessions, NLP not only provided vital knowledge on resource management and library operations but also fostered a network of libraries committed to enhancing educational services and community engagement.

Enhancing Bibliographic Knowledge

On December 4, 2024, the Bibliographic Services Division hosted a webinar titled "#BSM Orientation: ISBN, ISMN, & ISSN Application" via Zoom. The session provided guidance for publishers, authors, and creative professionals, helping them navigate the application processes for ISBN, ISMN, and ISSN. Participants gained valuable insights into streamlining their publication workflows, ensuring compliance with bibliographic standards.



This initiative highlights NLP's role in supporting the publishing industry and fostering intellectual growth by facilitating efficient publication processes.

Advocating for a Safe Workplace



As part of the annual 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW), NLP organized a seminar titled "Discussion on RA 9262 in the Context of the Workplace" on December 5, 2024. The seminar featured Ms. Michelle A. Flor, head of NLP's Human Resource Management Office, who shared insights on addressing gender-based violence in workplace settings.

The seminar included interactive case analysis activities, enabling employees to apply their learnings to practical scenarios. This initiative reinforces NLP's dedication to fostering a safe and inclusive work environment while contributing to the broader campaign to end violence against women.

Through these programs, NLP continues to affirm its role as a vital national government agency. By empowering librarians, enhancing bibliographic services, and advocating for social justice, NLP remains steadfast in its mission to build a more informed, inclusive, and empowered nation.

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NLP SHOWCASES FILIPINO LITERATURE AT TAIWAN READING FESTIVAL 2024



The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) proudly participated in the Taiwan Reading Festival 2024, held on December 7-8, 2024, at the iconic Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei City. Organized by the National Central Library of Taiwan, the festival promotes the integration of reading with daily life, fosters a sustainable reading culture, and connects readers through innovative and engaging experiences.

Promoting Filipino Culture and Heritage

NLP's booth, aptly named "Stop, Look, and Read," provided festival attendees a glimpse into the rich literary heritage of the Philippines. The booth featured Rizaliana collections, including facsimile copies of *Noli Me Tangere*, *El Filibusterismo*, and the beloved Filipino folktale *The Monkey and the Turtle*. These works captivated both local and international visitors, sparking curiosity and appreciation for Filipino literature.

In addition to these iconic literary pieces, NLP showcased its innovative services, such as virtual library tours and children's activities. These offerings were particularly well-





received by families attending the festival, creating meaningful connections and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Strengthening International Ties

The Taiwan Reading Festival serves as a platform for libraries worldwide to exchange ideas, collaborate, and celebrate the transformative power of reading. NLP's participation highlighted the importance of cultural diplomacy and the shared mission of promoting literacy and education globally.

The NLP's involvement in this esteemed event underscores its commitment to bringing Filipino culture to the global stage. By engaging with an international audience, the NLP continues to inspire new generations to explore the timeless value of reading and cultural heritage.

The NLP extends its gratitude to the organizers of the Taiwan Reading Festival and the visitors who supported its booth. As NLP continues to participate in global literary events, it remains dedicated to promoting Filipino literature and fostering a love for reading worldwide.

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NLP SUPPORTS CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AT DFA FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS



The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) proudly participated in the 4th Foreign Policy Address (FPA) hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on December 10, 2024, at the Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini, DFA Headquarters in Pasay City. With the theme "Soft Power for a Planet at Risk: Advancing Philippine Foreign Policy Through Cultural Diplomacy and Climate Action," the event underscored the critical role of cultural and environmental diplomacy in addressing global challenges.

Senator Loren Legarda's Call for Action

Senator Loren B. Legarda, the Guest of Honor and Speaker, delivered a compelling address that highlighted the synergy between cultural preservation and environmental conservation. "...as we preserve our identity, we protect our environment," she emphasized, drawing attention to the potential of cultural diplomacy to inspire global cooperation in the fight against climate change.



The Senator renewed her call for the institutionalization of cultural diplomacy as the fourth pillar of Philippine foreign policy. She elaborated on key initiatives demonstrating the importance of cultural and environmental advocacy, including the successful preservation of

the historical site in Wilhelmsfeld, Germany, where Dr. Jose Rizal resided during his studies in 1886. She also shared ongoing efforts to document and repatriate Rizal-related treasures, such as indigenous artifacts and textiles donated by Rizal to Dr. Adolf Bastian, the first director of the Berlin Ethnological Museum.

Senator Legarda described these endeavors as examples of “soft power that rests in Filipino cultural identity, creative expression, and ecological stewardship,” showcasing how the Philippines can lead global discussions on cultural and environmental sustainability.



NLP's Commitment to Cultural Diplomacy

As a vital institution dedicated to preserving and promoting Filipino heritage, the NLP continues to uphold its commitment to advancing cultural diplomacy and aligning itself with national initiatives for heritage preservation and environmental advocacy. By harnessing the power of cultural influence, institutions like the NLP play a vital role in shaping a sustainable and culturally vibrant future for the Philippines.

Highlights of the Event

The event brought together key government officials, diplomats, and cultural agency leaders, emphasizing the collaborative nature of Philippine foreign policy. Senator Legarda's address was a centerpiece of the gathering, inspiring attendees with her vision for a more culturally and environmentally sustainable Philippines.

The NLP Director, Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, joined esteemed dignitaries in underscoring the importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening international ties and advancing the country's foreign policy agenda.

By participating in the FPA 2024, the NLP reaffirmed its dedication to safeguarding Filipino heritage and promoting environmental advocacy on both national and global stages. The event highlighted the power of collaboration among cultural institutions, government agencies, and international partners in addressing the most pressing challenges of our time.

As the Philippines continues to assert its role in global discussions on cultural diplomacy and climate action, the NLP remains steadfast in its mission to preserve the nation's cultural treasures and promote sustainability for future generations.

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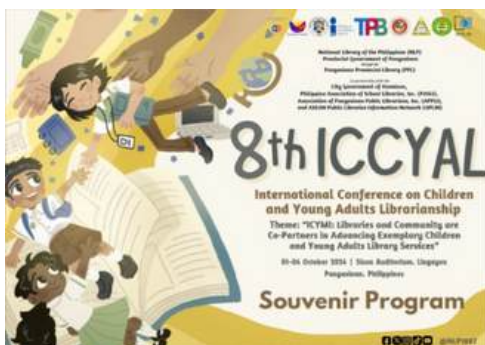
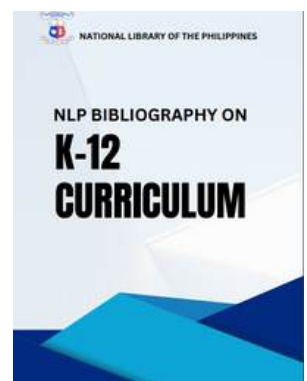
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NLP UNVEILS NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR EDUCATORS AND LIBRARY ENTHUSIASTS

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) has recently released two significant publications aimed at supporting educators, researchers, librarians, and library enthusiasts. These resources underscore NLP's commitment to providing valuable tools for learning and professional growth.

Comprehensive Bibliography on the K-12 Curriculum

The NLP Bibliography on the K-12 Curriculum is now available, offering a curated guide to essential learning resources. This comprehensive compilation features books, serials, theses and dissertations, and e-resources. Designed to serve as a valuable reference for educators, students, and researchers, the bibliography provides reliable Filipiniana materials aligned with the K-12 curriculum. It is available for free download on the NLP website. By promoting organized and accessible educational materials, this resource supports academic excellence and enhances teaching and learning practices.



eSouvenir Program for ICCYAL 2024

In line with its dedication to advancing library services, the NLP has also released the eSouvenir Program for the 2024 International Conference on Children and Young Adults Librarianship (ICCYAL). Held from October 1-4, 2024, at the Sison Auditorium in Lingayen, Pangasinan, the conference revolved around the theme "ICYMI: Libraries and Communities as Partners in Advancing Exemplary Children and Young Adults Library Services."

The eSouvenir Program provides a detailed account of the conference's key discussions, workshops, and presentations. It captures the inspiring adaptations, innovative trends, and best practices shared for children and young adults' libraries. This publication encapsulates the vibrant spirit of collaboration and offers insights into shaping a sustainable future for library services locally and internationally.

The NLP invites everyone to explore these newly released publications. By making these resources accessible to a wider audience, NLP reinforces its mission to inspire learning and advance library services nationwide.