INFORMATION AND LIBRARY POLICIES IN THE PHILIPPINES: LESSONS LEARNED AND MOVING FORWARD

Presented by Dolores D. Carungui

Chief Librarian, Reference Division

National Library of the Philippines

Outline

I. Brief Geographical Information on the Philippines and Statistics of its Libraries

II. Policies

- Successes
- Failures
- Challenges

III. Developments/Future Plans

PHILIPPINES

Archipelago of 7, 641 islands

Main islands: Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao

81 provinces
145 cities
1, 489 municipalities
42, 029 barangays*

*smallest LGU

Capital City: Manila

BATANES
Luzon Strait
South China Sea
BABUYAN
Vigan
Baguio
LUZON
Manila
POTILLO
Philippine Sea
CATANDUANES
MARIN-DUQUE
MINDORO
ROMBLON
MASBATE
SAMAR
Visayan Sea
VISAYAS
PANAY
Iloilo City
Bacolod
LEYTE
Cebu City
CEBU
NEGROS
BOHOL
Puerto Princesa
PALAWAN
Sulu Sea
Bohol Sea
Cagayan de Oro
MINDANAO
Davao City
Zamboanga City
BASILAN
SULU
Celebes Sea
MALAYSIA
TAWA TAWA
400 Km
400 Miles

Statistics of Libraries in the Philippines

Type of Library	Total No. (as of 2014)
Academic Libraries (Tertiary Level)	726
School Libraries (Elementary & Secondary)	10,279
Public Libraries	1,399
Special Libraries	562
TOTAL :	**12,966**

Source: Peralejo, Elizabeth R. (2014). ASEAN Integration Cross Mobility of Librarians.

Statistics of Public Libraries (as of January 2018)

Type	Statistics	Out of (Source: PSA as of March 2018)
Provincial	56	81
Congressional	2	(234 legislative districts)
Locally Funded Projects	4	-
Regional	1	17
City	112	145
Municipal	592	1,489
Barangay Reading Centers (BRCs)	652	42,029
Total number of PLs	1,419	

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Policies

Policies	Implementers	Successes	Failures	Challenges	Development Plans
RA 7743 (June 17, 1994) *Establishment of Congressional City and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers (BRCs)*	•*National Library of the Philippines* •*Local Government Units (LGUs)* •*Philippine Information Agency*	*NLP as lead implementer had established good relationship with selected LGUs for the sustainability of public library operations* *Selected libraries have established programs responsive to the information needs of the community*	• *Not all LGUs have established their public library* • *Lack of promotion/awareness on the existence of the law*	*Change of LCEs every 3 years* *No enough librarians*	*Modernization Act for NLP and its affiliated public libraries*

Role of Implementers

National Library of the Philippines

- Assist LGUs for the implementation of the policy and affiliates public libraries

- Provides initial allocation of library collections

- Provides technical supervision and capacity building program for public library personnel

- Conducts monitoring

Local Government Units (LGUs)

- Administer the operation of public libraries

Philippine Information Agency (PIA) (http://pia.gov.ph/)

- Government agency mandated to disseminate information about government programs, projects, and services to the Filipino public.

Successes

- Digital Literacy (*http://dict.gov.ph/*)
- Access to e-government services through libraries *(http://www.eifl.net/eifl-in-action/economic-wellbeing-innovation-award-4)*
- Tech4Ed program of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) *(https://www.opengovasia.com/articles/7310-enhancing-digital-inclusion-in-philippines-through-tech4ed-centers-in-public-libraries-and-internet-cafes)*

Tech4Ed

- Tech4ED stands for Technology for **E**ducation, to gain **E**mployment, train **E**ntrepreneurs towards **E**conomic Development.

- It is a project of the DOST-ICT Office that aims to harness ICT to enable, empower and transform society creating an inclusive, integrated and equitable countryside, through providing opportunities for employment and empowering entrepreneurs.

- Public libraries are recipients of this ICT program and was proven to be effective in providing access to digital opportunities.

Development Plans

National ICT Ecosystem Framework (NICTEF) 2022

- Through the signed MOU between the Department of Information and Communications Technology and Internet Society on July 9, 2018 for Strong Internet Foundation, the Philippines will develop a roadmap for the management, and development of national Information and Communication Technology (ICT) data in the country's plans, programmes, and projects. This initiative underscores the DICT's commitment to helping the nation access information and communication technologies to promote innovation and development of the ICT sector.

  https://www.internetsociety.org/news/press-releases/2018/internet-society-signs-mou-with-dict-for-strong-internet-foundation-in-philippines/)

Policies

Policies	Implementers	Successes	Failures	Challenges	Development Plans
RA 9246 (February 19, 2004) An Act Modernizing the Practice of Librarianship in the Philippines	•All Libraries •PRC-BFL •PLAI	Librarian positions were standardized	Small number of graduates passed licensure exams	Scarcity of librarians due to small number of passers	Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) ASEAN Integration

Policies

Policies	Implementers	Successes	Failures	Challenges	Development Plans
RA 10912 (July 21, 2016) An Act Mandating and Strengthening the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program for all Regulated Professions	•All Libraries •PRC-BFL •PLAI	Librarians become more active in attending capacity building programs	CPD units become the major concern in attending seminars and the like, and not, the relevance of the seminars to the present work	Not all employers of librarians are supportive of their professional development, thus, to some, getting CPD becomes a burden (in terms of financial)	NLP will provide free trainings (upon availability of funds)

Policies

Policies	Implementers	Successes	Failures	Challenges	Developments/ Future Plans
RA 10912 Continuing Professional Development	• All Libraries • PRC-BFL • PLAI	NLP as lead implementer had established good relationship with the LGU for the sustainability of the public library operations	Not all LGUs have established their own public library	Change of LCEs every 3 years No enough librarians	Dialogues with LCEs Modernization Act for NLP

Full implementation of the law will be in 2019, wherein a total of 45 CPD units will be required for every librarian who will renew his/her license.

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) through its Board for Librarians (BFL) serves as lead implementer of this law.

There is a registration for every organization/association to become CPD provider, and that every program shall be registered.

Policies

Policies	Implementers	Successes	Failures	Challenges	Development Plans
Accreditation for Academic Libraries	•Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA) Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines, Inc. (AACCUP), Inc Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools Colleges and Universities (PAASCU)	Most of academic libraries are compliant	Some academic libraries fail to comply with requirements	Not all type of libraries have accreditors, only academic	Establish accreditors for special, school and public libaries

Conclusion

- The government, private sector and even NGOs support to Philippine libraries are evident with the policies that were established and now being implemented in the Philippines. These policies laid the basis in developing programs and to continuosly innovate services for libraries to be responsive to the needs of its community. This is essential in realizing the role of libraries in transforming the society for the attainment of sustainable development goals. It is still a long way to go for Philippine libraries, but, hope is still there will all the continuous efforts of librarians and other relevant stakeholders.

Thank you!

ddcarungui@nlp.gov.ph