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# FACES OF DEDICATION:

Celebrating the Honor, Excellence, and Service of UPD Library Staff and Units



The first quarter of the year has been a season of distinction for the UP Diliman (UPD) University Library (UL). Staff members and library units received a series of notable awards and recognitions, both individually and collectively, for their outstanding service and contributions to the university and the wider public. Conferred not just by the University Library, nor by UP Diliman, but also by national and international organizations, these awards reflect the depth and lasting impact of their work on the academic community and the public they serve.

## TALAS, TALINO, AT TAGUMPAY

On the level of the UL, overseen by the Library Awards and Recognition Committee (LARC), weeks of evaluating nominations and surveying exemplary staff concluded with the fourth ULirang Kawani Awards and Recognition Program (ULKARP). The program, titled *Talas, Talino, at Tagumpay*, was held on the afternoon of 11 March 2025 at the Ignacio B. Gimenez-KAL (IBG-KAL) Theater. Among the attendees were UP Diliman Chancellor Edgardo Carlo L. Vistan II, University Librarian Elvira B. Lapuz, Deputy University Librarian Eimee Rhea C. Lagrama, UP School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) Dean Rhea Rowena U. Apolinario, and the awardees from the University Library and the various unit libraries around the campus, as well as their family and friends.

Recipients of various awards and recognitions were honored during the program, including the esteemed ULirang Kawani ng Aklatan ng Unibersidad awardees. This recognition is given to library personnel who have made significant contributions toward fulfilling the mandate of the University Library and advancing both its academic and operational excellence.

This year saw four such awardees for different categories, namely Jessie Rose M. Bagunu for Professional Staff Level II, Michelle Ann G. Manalo-Eclar for Professional Staff Level I, Noel N. Ballarta for Administrative Staff Level III, and Ramil P. De Leon for Administrative Staff Level I. Each awardee was celebrated through a special feature video inspired by Vogue's 73 Questions, offering a vibrant and personal glimpse into their personalities and roles. They were then formally presented with a plaque of appreciation in recognition of their exemplary service.



Other awards presented during the program included the *Parangal sa Katapatan* (Loyalty Award), given to staff who have served tirelessly in the University Library for at least a decade, and the *Gawad Serbisyo* (Service Award), given to staff who have consistently shown exceptional service through the years. In addition, retirees were each honored with dedicated videos featuring messages from former supervisors and colleagues. Staff who have been recognized by award-giving bodies beyond UPD for their significant contributions to librarianship were given recognition. Finally, staff who have presented or published their research in the past year were also shown appreciation.

The ULKARP is part of the LARC's mandate of promoting a culture of recognition and appreciation among the library personnel. To encourage steadfast and diligent service, the LARC ensures that proper and formal recognition is given to staff deemed deserving. All of which is directed by the ULKARP guidelines, which, after endorsement by the UPD Program on Recognition of Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Committee, was approved by the Chancellor last March.

Beyond the efforts of the University Library to recognize its exemplary staff members, library personnel have carved a name for themselves in varying areas across UPD.

## 2025 GAWAD YAMANG ISIP

The UPD UL received the Intellectual Property Citation Award from the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP) in recognition of its outstanding contributions to strengthening and advancing intellectual property protection in the country. The award was presented in the 2025

Gawad Yamang Isip (GYI) Awards Night with the theme, "*IP and Philippine Music: Bringing the Pinoy beat to the World*" last 25 April 2025 at the Sampaguita Ballroom, Seda Manila Bay, Paranaque City. UP President Angelo Jimenez and UPD Main Library head librarians Dr. Grace Casaña and Katherine Nazareth accepted the award on behalf of the UL.

The GYI is IPOP's annual recognition program that appreciates Filipino individuals and institutions promoting innovation, creativity, and IP development in the country.

The collaborative project between the University Library and the Intellectual Property Office, through the Bureau of Copyright and Other Related Rights (BCRR), headed by Fernan Dizon and Emerson Cuyo, led to the creation of an Online Philippine Public Domain Registry. This database lists literary and artistic works of Filipino authors that are now in the public domain, making the collections accessible for scholarly research, cultural preservation, and further innovation.

This recognition affirms the UL's commitment to the development of the culture of innovation, creativity, and intellectual property awareness. Through meaningful collaborations and initiatives, the library continues to promote knowledge accessibility and cultural preservation.



## KAHUSAYAN: SEREMONYA NG PAGKILALA NG KAGALINGAN SA QA 2025

On 23 May 2025, the UP Diliman Quality Assurance Office (QAO) honored the University Library with a Certificate of Appreciation to recognize its unwavering commitment to upholding excellence in support services and contributing meaningfully to the University's quality assurance efforts.

The awarding program, themed *Pagpapatuloy*, celebrated units that have maintained compliance with QA requirements, especially in preparation for the upcoming External Quality Assurance (EQA) review.

University Librarian Elvira B. Lapuz received the award on behalf of the UL and was invited to deliver a short testimonial during the program. In her remarks, Lapuz reflected on the UL's QA journey, emphasizing the collective efforts of the Library, the challenges they faced during the pandemic and how they overcame them, and their continued resolve to uphold excellence in support services. Her heartfelt message, in turn, underscored the Library's imperative role in advancing the University's quality assurance goals.

Also recognized during the ceremony was the College of Engineering Libraries, which likewise received a Certificate of Appreciation. The award was received by Sharon Maria S. Esposito-Betan, who was accompanied by Lapuz on stage.

### **GALING UPD AWARDS 2025**

The GALING UPD Awards recognize outstanding teams from any unit, section, or division at UP Diliman who have implemented impactful programs or projects that significantly improve service delivery and contribute to institutional goals. The awarding ceremony was held on 08 May 2025 at the GT-Toyota Asian Center Auditorium.

Among this year's GALING UPD Awardees are the following library teams and units across the campus:

#### **The Great InfoHunt (TGI) Corps – Information Services and Instruction Section, Main Library**

The group was recognized for pioneering the gamification program in the library, which has made library instruction more engaging and interactive through student-centered activities.

#### **College of Home Economics (CHE) Library**

Commended for initiatives that enhanced user engagement and contributed to the academic and outreach efforts of the college.

#### **School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) Library**

Recognized for consistently delivering user-centered library services and enriching academic support for SLIS students and faculty.



### **GAWAD TSANSELOR 2025**

On 09 May 2025, the Gawad Tsanselor 2025 was held at the Institute of Biology Auditorium. The Gawad Tsanselor is UPD's highest institutional award for students, faculty, REPS (Research, Extension, and Professional Staff), and administrative personnel who have made exceptional contributions to the university and the broader community.

#### **Gawad Tsanselor para sa Natatanging REPS**

Chito N. Angeles, Head of the Information Technology Division of the UL, was honored with the *Gawad Tsanselor para sa Natatanging REPS*. He was recognized for his leadership in developing and implementing innovative IT applications and databases that have greatly improved library services within and beyond the university.

Among his notable projects are Tuklas, the resource discovery tool of the UP Library, and Buklod, the library services platform. These systems have transformed research and information access at the university while also generating cost-saving benefits. Under his stewardship, the UL has emerged as a leader in digital transformation in the field of library and information science.

#### **Gawad Tsanselor para sa Natatanging Kawani**

Rowell B. Alveniz of the College of Education Library was also awarded, receiving the *Gawad Tsanselor para sa Natatanging Kawani* for his dedicated service and initiative as an Administrative Aide III.

Over his seven years of service, Alveniz went above and beyond his duties. In 2023, he led the automation of the library's Readers Admitted Statistics System, transitioning from a manual system to a computerized process using barcodes. This generated valuable data on user demographics, peak usage hours, and library facility preferences. In 2024, he expanded the system to include dedicated databases for these and children's books.

#### **Gawad Tsanselor Hall of Fame**

Sharon Maria S. Esposito-Betan, Head Librarian of the UPD College of Engineering Libraries, was inducted into the *Gawad Tsanselor Hall of Fame* for receiving the *Gawad Tsanselor para sa Natatanging REPS* in 2009, 2015, and 2021.

#### **Philippine Federation of Professional Associations (PFPA) Excellence and Distinction Awards**

Earlier this year, Esposito-Betan was also recognized at the 12th Philippine Federation of Professional Associations (PFPA) Excellence and Distinction Awards, held on 22 February 2025 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni. She was awarded as a PFPA Finalist for the Excellence Award and a Distinction Awardee for the Applied Research and Development Category.



The PFPA Excellence Award, established in 2005, honors professionals who exhibit exemplary service in their fields and contribute to national development. The theme, "*PFPA@47 – Professional Excellence and Performance for Bagong Pilipinas*," underscores the significance of her achievement.

#### **CONSAL Outstanding Librarians Award**

Elvira B. Lapuz, the University Librarian of the UPD UL, was honored with the CONSAL XIX 2025 Outstanding Librarian Award—Bronze in recognition of her exceptional service and contributions to librarianship in Southeast Asia.

Awarded during the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) XIX Congress and General Meeting, held from 16-19 June 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the award celebrates Lapuz's leadership and her commitment to advancing inclusive knowledge and collaboration across the region. A member of the Asia-Oceania IFLA Regional Division Committee, Lapuz continues to play a significant role in promoting access to information and fostering strong professional ties among CONSAL member countries.

These awards serve as a testament that library work is a collective effort: from administrative staff to librarians and heads of units, each role contributes to the daily function and long-term vision of the library. At UP Diliman, this shared dedication goes beyond book circulation and database maintenance; it includes building inclusive spaces, developing user-centered programs, conducting research that informs practice, and responding to the evolving needs of the academic community. Whether through public-facing roles or quiet tasks behind the scenes, library staff carry out their responsibilities with dedication, skill, and purpose.

*by the Library Awards and Recognition Committee and Katherine Nazareth*



## UPD REPS HONORED AT PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION

For the first time, UP President Angelo A. Jimenez hosted a reception dinner for the Research, Extension, and Professional Staff (REPS) on the evening of 26 February 2025 at the Executive House in UP Diliman.

The momentous occasion brought together REPS from various UP Diliman offices to celebrate their invaluable contributions to research, extension, and public service. Esteemed UP officials, including President Angelo A. Jimenez, Vice President for Academic Affairs Leo DP Cubillan, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs (Research) Percival F. Almoro, UP Diliman Chancellor Edgardo Carlo L. Vistan II, and Vice Chancellor for Research and Development Carl Michael F. Odulio, were present. They shared inspirational messages and insightful remarks, aiming to further empower the REPS community.

The library delegation, led by University Librarian Elvira B. Lapuz included the 2024 UPD REPS and Chair Awardees, Sharon Maria S. Esposito-Betan, Rizalyn V. Janio, Jessie Rose M. Bagunu, Michelle Ann G. Manalo-Eclar, Therghie Ablin-Constantino, Eunice Ann Yutuc Chua, along with some head and college librarians. They joyfully conversed with colleagues from different units and engaged with the officials. The dinner provided everyone with a unique opportunity to interact and socialize in a relaxed setting, fostering camaraderie and allowing them to truly enjoy the gathering, which aimed to celebrate the contributions and achievements of the individuals who embody the university's commitment to honor, excellence, and service.

by M.G. Manalo-Eclar

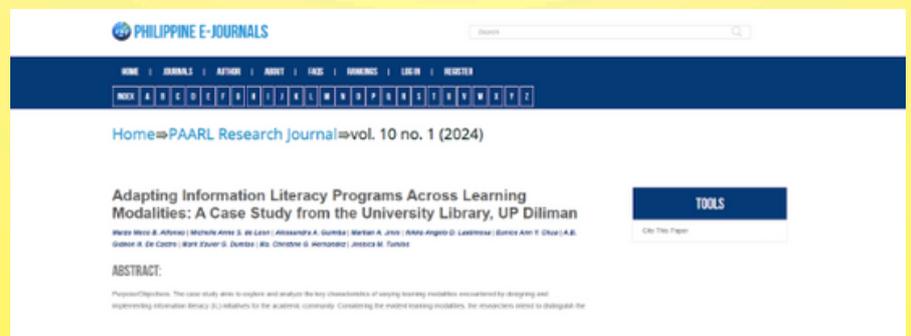


On 31 January 2025 during Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL)'s 52nd General Assembly and Awarding Ceremony held at the National Teachers College, UP Diliman librarians received the 2nd Best Research Award for their paper entitled Adapting Information Literacy Programs Across Learning Modalities: A Case Study from the University Library, UP Diliman.

The case study provides valuable insights for librarians, educators and their stakeholders as this study highlights the importance of resilience and professional development. Various challenges abound on identifying key competencies and solutions, but with the events unfolding, the value of the information literacy program and the changing roles of librarians emerged. In the end, it revealed best practices and experiences in four different learning modalities.

Marzo Meco Alfonso and his co-authors knew from the onset that sheer determination is necessary to overcome the challenges in the writing process. As the designated presenter, he not only contributed to writing the article, but also prepared for the colloquium and addressed the experts' comments and suggestions. Also, he realized that working with a team promotes creativity and aids in the writing process. During the colloquium, delivering a presentation even via Zoom proved to be challenging, especially in front of the panel, but opportunity proved to be invaluable as he was able to articulate the essential ideas on behalf of the team. Lastly, he understood how articles are published while closely paying attention to every detail for successful outcomes.

Writing a scholarly article and getting it published is challenging. One colleague described it as daunting. However, another colleague believes that teamwork, patience, and persistence in writing and publishing helps. These qualities promote visibility, build authority, and lead to personal growth. Embracing these challenges offers rewards that far outweigh the initial difficulties.



The article stands as a testament to the University Library Research Committee's efforts to foster, strengthen, and sustain a culture of research among library staff. It also demonstrates UP Diliman's commitment to academic freedom and advancement of scholarly inquiry.

The research is available online in Philippine e-Journals, Volume 10, No. 1 (2024): <https://ejournals.ph/article.php?id=25418>

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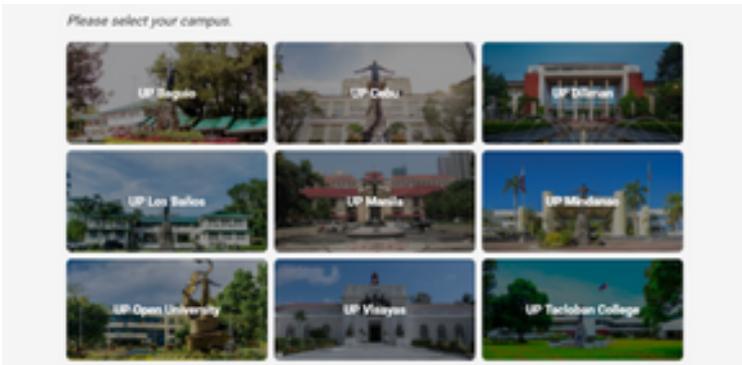


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## SEARCH, STUDY, SALIKTRONIKO: A New Gateway to UP Libraries' Digital Resources

The University of the Philippines Diliman University Library is excited to introduce Saliktroniko, the newly launched discovery platform that offers seamless access to UP's vast collection of scholarly electronic resources. Officially launched on 23 June 2025, Saliktroniko may now be accessed through saliktroniko.up.edu.ph. This platform will serve as a centralized tool that allows students, faculty, and researchers across all UP constituent universities to search, explore, and access e-resources more efficiently than ever before.



But what exactly is Saliktroniko, and why did the University Library adopt this new platform? Saliktroniko is a brand we used for the Primo VE discovery platform, a modern and widely used discovery layer designed for academic institutions. It serves as a unified index that connects the UP community to a curated pool of scholarly e-resources, including journal articles, e-books, reports, and other academic publications.

Through Saliktroniko, anyone, even people who are not members of the UP community, can conduct a single search that pulls results from all across UP's subscribed databases. But access to the materials is still limited to the UP community. This integration simplifies the research process by removing the need to search databases individually, saving users valuable time while improving the breadth of results.

The name Saliktroniko itself is a portmanteau of "saliksik" (research) and "elektroniko" (electronic), coined as a way to embody the platform's goal of making electronic research tools accessible, intuitive, and central to the academic life of the university.

The term Saliktroniko isn't entirely new. It was first introduced by the Strategic Communication, Research and Marketing Section of the University Library, UP Diliman during the implementation of EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS), UP's previous discovery platform. Back then, Saliktroniko served as the brand name for the one-stop search function of EDS, Tuklas (the online public access catalog for physical holdings), and the library website.

However, while EDS initially provided centralized search functionality, it was not without limitations. Over time, the service became increasingly unreliable with multiple downtimes. These persistent issues prompted library administrators to reevaluate the service and explore other alternatives. The decision to migrate from EDS to Primo VE was ultimately driven by the need to deliver a more stable, user-friendly, and customizable experience for the entire UP System.

Saliktroniko brings a range of features designed to enhance the research experience of users, whether they are undergraduate students starting their first papers or senior faculty members conducting their dissertation.

Saliktroniko includes a built-in AI tool called Research Assistant that offers quick and intelligent responses to user queries. Drawing from a broad range of sources, not just within the UP system, but across the entire Primo global index, the Research Assistant can generate concise answers to research questions, accompanied by up to five cited sources. These sources can then be explored by users for further reading, enabling quick access to scholarly materials without having to sift through numerous results manually. If the initial sources provided aren't sufficient or specific enough, users can simply click "View more results from your library search," which redirects them to Saliktroniko's full search interface. There, the system automatically applies the appropriate search terms and Boolean operators used in the query to help users locate more targeted and relevant materials.

Users can also sign in to Saliktroniko using their UP Mail, enabling personalized services such as saving searches, pinning favorite items, and access to the aforementioned Research Assistant. Saliktroniko includes built-in tools for exporting citations to common formats (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.). The platform also offers the ability to check which resources cited the one you are interested in, and what sources the one you are interested in are citing.

What are the benefits of tools like PRIMO VE when students are looking for materials across the subscribed databases of their university?

### Sources

- 1 ARTICLE**  
Paths of Discovery: Comparing the Search Effectiveness of EBSCO Discovery...  
Asher, Andrew D. et al. 2013
- 2 ARTICLE**  
"Discovering" what's changed: a revisit of the OPACs of 260 academic libraries  
Hofmann, Melissa A. et al. 2012
- 3 ARTICLE**  
Database Discovery: From a Migration Project to a Content Strategy  
Wong, Sandra 2020
- 4 BOOK**  
Planning and Implementing Resource Discovery Tools in Academic Libraries  
Mary Pagliero et al. 2012
- 5 ARTICLE**  
Discovery Layer in Library Retrieval: VuFind as an Open Source Service for Academic Librari...  
Roy, Bijan Kumar et al. 2022



### Overview of sources

Tools like PRIMO VE offer several benefits for students seeking materials across their university's subscribed databases. One significant advantage is the ability to search multiple resources simultaneously, which enhances the efficiency of the research process. This functionality allows students to generate usable search results from a variety of web-based resources, streamlining their access to information.

The launch of Saliktroniko shows the continued commitment of all the University Libraries of UP in making library services more helpful and user-friendly. While our previous discovery tool served us for many years, Saliktroniko gives us more flexibility, better features, and a chance to bring new life to the name we first introduced years ago. With this new platform, the University Library hopes to better support the learning, teaching, and research needs of the entire UP community.

Whether you're a student preparing for a class report, a graduate student deep into thesis work, or a faculty member conducting long-term research, Saliktroniko is built to be your digital gateway to knowledge.

A better way to study, a smarter way to search, welcome to Saliktroniko.

by M.G. Dumlaog

## Librarians of the University Library Present Papers at International Conferences

Several librarians from The University Library showcased their research at various international conferences this year.

Corazon M. Gamboa, DPA, Head Librarian of the UP Cesar E.A. Virata School of Business Library, and Mr. Jonathan Medina, College Librarian at the UP School of Economics Library co-authored the study: *"Machine Learning Analysis of Algorithmic Influence on Economic and Social Dynamics in the Elderly Population of the Philippines: A Pilot Study"*, which was among the papers featured at the 24th International Conference on Electronics, Information, and Communication (ICEIC 2025) held in Osaka Japan from 19-22 January 2025. The oral presentation of the paper was delivered by Asst. Prof. Maria Maura Tinao of the UP School Library and Information Studies along with Asst. Prof. Rod Lawrence Tajon of the UP Open University.

In Berlin, Germany, Dr. Gamboa also delivered a poster presentation of her study titled *"Ethical Dimensions of AI in Education: A Machine Learning Analysis of Perspectives from Librarians and Information Specialists, Faculty, and Students at the Cesar Virata School of Business, College of Home Economics, and School of Economics, University of the Philippines Diliman"*. She co-authored the paper with Mr. Medina, Asst. Prof. Tinao, and Ms. Grace Garcia, Head Librarian of the College of Home Economics Library, and presented it during the first day of the International Conference on Economics and Business Information (INCONECSS 2025), held on 15-16 May 2025.

Meanwhile, in the same month, Rizalyn Janio, DPA, Head Librarian of the Information Services and Instruction Section of the University Library, presented two research papers via Zoom at the 17th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference (QQLM 2025) from 27-30 May 2025, with the theme: *"Transformation and Innovation in Archives and Libraries in the Digital Age: Management, Preservation, Sustainability, and Technological Impact."* Together with her co-authors, she delivered online presentations of the following papers:

- *Informed Choices, Embracing Open Access Publishing: A Systematic Literature Review on Transformative Agreements and Publishing Models in the Philippine Context* (Grace Garcia, Rizalyn Janio, Gladys Florendo, and Elvira Lapuz)
- *Shaping Data-Ready Librarians: Assessing Data Literacy Competencies in Selected Academic Institutions in the Philippines* (Grace Garcia, Rizalyn Janio, and Gladys Florendo)

At the same conference, librarians of the University Library also showcased their following research papers:

- *From Scrolls to Scrolling: Understanding Online Engagement through Historical Archives in College Library in a Leading Philippine University* (Grace Garcia, Jet Tawaken, Guevarra, S., and Ferrer, B.)
- *OAR Revolution: Philippine Academic Libraries at the Forefront of Information Literacy* (Miriam Charmgrace Salcedo)

The face-to-face component of the 17th QQLM 2025 was held in Lisbon, Portugal.

Eunice Ann Yutuc Chua, College Librarian at the University Library, and her co-authors: Sharon Esposito-Betan, Head Librarian of the College of Engineering Libraries, and Martian Jinio, College Librarian at the University Library, also presented their paper titled: *"Advancing towards Sustainable Philippine Libraries: An Exploratory Study on SDG Initiatives and Librarians' Perceptions"* at the 19th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL), which was held at the World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur from 16-19 June 2025. On the other side of the globe, Jessie Bagunu, Head Librarian of the School of Library and Information Studies Library, also attended this year's American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference & Exhibition, scheduled last 26-30 June 2025, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, where she presented her research paper: *"Displaced and Distant: Maintaining and Innovating User Engagement Initiatives Despite Infrastructure Challenges."*

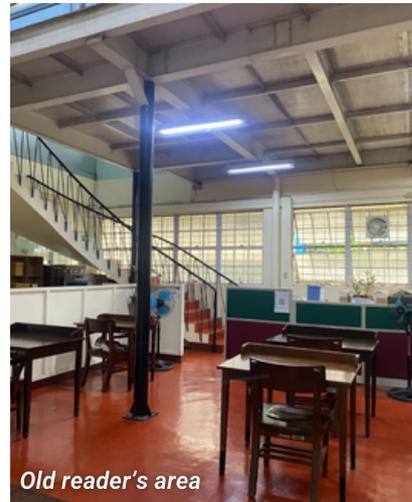
by M.C. Estepa

## A COZIER CORNER:

### Relocating the University Archives' Reading Area for Comfort and Convenience

Goodbye to the reading area that felt like a sauna every summer and a mosquito sanctuary year-round! These were the sentiments shared not only by the users but also by the staff.

The old reader's area was an open space located in the lobby of the Old Chemical Engineering Laboratory Building. It had a defunct indoor drainage system running along the first floor which contributed to a persistent mosquito infestation. The space also served as a main passageway for staff heading to the offices on the second floor, often causing distractions to the users.



Old reader's area

Next to the building is the College of Engineering's Cristy Hernandez Activity Center. Every semestral break, Engineering students hold sports tournaments, and the court is also used for training sessions by elementary and high school students—resulting in excessive noise that disrupts readers. Additionally, the area suffered from inadequate lighting and poor ventilation.

In response to these recurring complaints from both staff and users, we decided to relocate the reader's area to a former storage space for National Artist papers within the same building. In February 2025, the new reader's area was officially opened, now equipped with air conditioning, ample space, and improved lighting to provide a more comfortable and conducive reading environment.



New reader's area

The relocation of the reader's area marks a significant improvement in the quality of service we provide. By addressing long-standing issues such as poor ventilation, noise disturbances, and mosquito infestation, we have created a space more suited for focused study and research. This transformation not only enhances user comfort but also reflects our ongoing commitment to improving library services. We look forward to continuing to provide a better reading experience for all.

Happy to serve! 😊

by S.T. Gerodias

# UP DILIMAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY HOLDS GENDER SENSITIVITY TRAINING TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE WORKSPACES

by M.Q. Salcedo

In an effort to foster a safer, more inclusive, and gender-responsive workplace environment, the University Library organized a Gender Sensitivity Training and Anti-Sexual Harassment Orientation in two sessions held on April 30 and 7 May 2025, at Alcantara Hall, Student Union Building. The event was a collaborative effort between the University Library's Gender and Development (GAD) Committee, the UP Diliman Gender Office, and the Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment (OASH).

The initiative aimed to equip University Library's REPS and administrative staff, with a foundational understanding of gender-related concepts, relevant legal frameworks, and practical approaches to preventing and addressing sexual harassment in the workplace.

Deputy University Librarian Eimee Rhea C. Lagrama delivered the opening remarks during the first session, while UL-GAD Committee Head Yedda Marynel Arce welcomed participants at the second. Both emphasized the importance of fostering respectful, inclusive, and gender-sensitive library spaces that reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.



Each session began with an overview of the training objectives: to deepen awareness of gender-related laws and policies, promote the use of gender-fair language, recognize and prevent gender-based violence and harassment, and advocate for inclusive library services. To break the ice, a fun guessing game energized the participants on the first day; the second day featured an impromptu Zumba session.

Cid Ryan Manalo of the UP Diliman Gender Office led the morning lecture-discussion on "Basic Concepts on Sex, Gender, and SOGIE." He clarified distinctions among sex, gender, and sexual orientation, and introduced SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics). Manalo emphasized the real-world impact of biases and misconceptions, especially in service environments like libraries.



Atty. Lisa Marie J. Clemente then provided a legal orientation, highlighting key national laws such as the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710), Anti-Sexual Harassment Act (RA 7877), and the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313), alongside university codes. Her talk stressed the importance of legal literacy in empowering staff to take action against discrimination and harassment.

In the afternoon sessions, Janet De Leon (Day 1) and Prescilla D. Tulipat (Day 2) from the Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment (OASH) discussed the university's protocols for handling sexual harassment cases. They highlighted the reporting procedures, institutional responsibilities, and the university's commitment to supporting and protecting victims.



The final talk, "Emerging Gender Issues in Libraries," was delivered by former UL-GAD Focal Person Aiza May V. Palaya. Drawing from real-life experiences in the library setting, she presented common scenarios involving gender-based challenges and proposed responsive strategies.

Participants then engaged in a group activity, identifying gender-based issues and presented action plans on manila paper. The sessions concluded with a group photo, symbolizing the University Library's stance on creating safe, respectful, and inclusive academic workspaces.





## FOSTERING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

A Recap of Recent Initiatives of Team ISAIS

by J.A. Domingo

The Information Services and Instruction Section (ISAIS) of the University Library, headed by Rizalyn V. Janio, DPA, spearheads many of the University Library's learning and research support initiatives. Through its thoughtfully planned programs and workshops, ISAIS serves not only fellow librarians but also faculty, staff, researchers, and students across the UP community. More than meeting information needs, the section plays a vital role in promoting academic growth and creating valuable opportunities for continuous learning, collaboration, and scholarly development.



### Research Capacity Building and Optimize Research Impact with Data Driven Insights (03-04 March 2025)

This capacity-building workshop, organized by ISAIS, in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Clarivate, was designed to engage university leaders—particularly those involved in research planning and strategy development. The initiative served as a follow-through to the UP-SUC Summit announced on 14 September 2023, further supporting the University's commitment to strengthening its research environment.

The workshop featured the following topics: Capacity-building with informed data and robust framework (Lee Inn Beng); Developing a comprehensive view of a research organization (CHNG Dju-Lyn); and Data-driven analytics from InCites for strategic partnership in research (Dilli Babu Palani). Participants gained practical insights on using InCites to set research performance indicators, find potential collaborators, and map research partnerships to enhance global visibility. They also learned how to use saved reports in InCites to track research impact, monitor publication trends, and identify funding opportunities—useful for benchmarking and strategic planning. The workshop also emphasized the importance of research data management

(RDM) and introduced Pivot-RP as a tool to support funding searches, publication planning, and research evaluation. It also introduced participants to AI-driven research analytics, demonstrating how Clarivate tools can support smarter, data-informed research decisions.

The event effectively enhanced research capacity and offered valuable data-driven insights to support the improvement of research impact. Participants developed practical skills in assessing research performance through the use of Clarivate tools. Lively discussions also took place around strategies for advancing research and fostering collaborative opportunities.

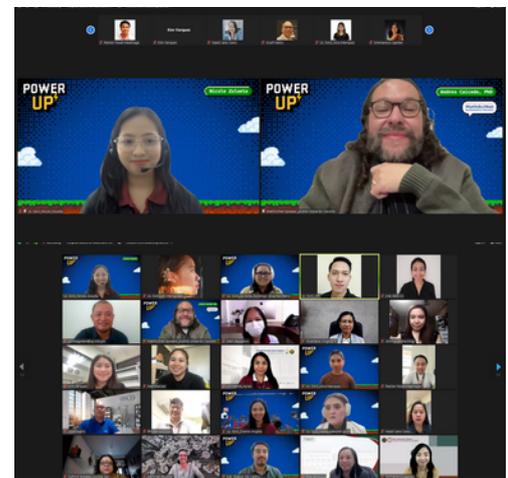
### Turnitin - Instructors' Workflow Training (12 March 2025)

Turnitin is a text-matching tool that compares submitted work against a large database of academic sources, including books, journals, websites, and student papers. It generates a similarity index and an originality report showing matched content and source links. While often used to prevent plagiarism, Turnitin does not detect plagiarism—it simply highlights text similarities to help assess originality.

As part of the University Library's commitment to making the most of the tools available, it is essential that they fully maximize their Turnitin subscription. To support this, ISAIS organized targeted workflow training sessions specifically for faculty members, ensuring that the platform is effectively integrated into teaching and assessment practices.

The training session focused on the following objectives:

- Fully utilize Turnitin's key features, including the Similarity Report, AI detection, and Integrity Flags, to help identify authentic student work.
- Understand what constitutes expected similarity matches and the common factors that contribute to these results.
- Learn how to respond appropriately to potential cases of academic misconduct.
- Use Turnitin as a formative tool to enhance student writing and promote academic integrity.
- Create and manage Turnitin assignments through Moodle LTI integration.



### PowerUP: Boosting Research Impact with Newly Subscribed E- Resources (28 March & 04 April 2025)

ISAIS regularly holds annual orientation sessions to introduce the University's newly subscribed e-resources. These sessions, facilitated by product specialists, provide practical, real-time demonstrations and interactive discussions aimed at guiding students, faculty, and staff in making the most of these digital tools. Just as vital is the feedback gathered from participants, which helps the University Library and its partner publishers improve the inclusivity, relevance, and functionality of the resources offered.

This year's session featured MathSciNet, Oxford Scholarship Online, PressReader, BBC Monitoring: Summary of World Broadcasts, SportDiscus, and Scopus AI. Each resource was presented in detail, with speakers showcasing its key features through live demonstrations. To reinforce understanding, a short quiz was held at the end of the program, with prizes given to encourage active engagement and participation.

Through these recent initiatives, ISAIS has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting academic excellence and research development across the UP community. By offering focused, data-driven training and promoting effective use of research tools, the section continues to empower stakeholders and strengthen the University Library's role as a center for learning, innovation, and scholarly growth.

## PLANTS, PAVINGS, PATHWAYS:

### The Main Library Plaza Renovation Continues

by B.R.M.C.

The Main Library Plaza renovation is now in its final stretch. After months of steady work and coordination between the Main Library, the Office of the Campus Architect (OCA), and MDEC (the contractor), the Main Library Plaza is nearly complete. As of 27 July 2025, the project stands at 93.47% actual completion, just slightly ahead the planned 92.48%, with only a +0.99% slippage.

While the plaza was initially expected to be completed in July, the end-of-contract date has been extended to around August 2025. This extension is due to two main factors: variation orders, which are additional improvements requested by the library beyond the original scope, and weather-related delays brought about by recent storms and persistent rains in July. Despite these challenges, the vision of a renewed, functional, and greener plaza remains well within reach.

Over the past few months, major developments have taken place across the Main Library Plaza. Most of the tiling work is now complete with light grey and grey tiles are fully installed, planters' bench tiles are finished, and pebble washout areas are also done. The stair tiling has also reached full completion, giving the entire plaza a cohesive and refreshed look that balances durability with aesthetics.



Another milestone is the completion of all planting works. The much-anticipated Bani trees, along with frog grass, San Francisco plants, picarra, yellow iris, lady palms, and other ornamentals, are now in place. With the garden soil already spread, these additions have transformed what was once mostly concrete main library plaza into a greener and more inviting space.

Electrical work is also nearly finished. Wiring installations have been completed across the plaza, stairs, and parking areas, and most lighting fixtures such as lamp posts, uplights, inground lights, and bollard lights are already installed. These improvements will make the space safer and more usable even in the evenings or during cloudy weather. While there are still a few pending works, the project remains on track and is now in its final stretch. The team continues to coordinate closely to wrap up all remaining items.

As the Main Library Plaza nears completion, excitement continues to build. Though the road has been long, each step brings us closer to a space that will serve as both a functional public area and a peaceful green corner for students, staff, and visitors. The university library community sincerely thanks everyone for their patience and support throughout the renovation period.

## Discover your library through TALASIK: The New Library Orientation and Instruction Program

With each new semester comes new learning, and another chance to discover your library.

Since 2010, the University Library, through the Information Services and Instruction Section (ISAIS), has been facilitating the library orientation program called "Research Made Easy (RME) @ Your Library." This initiative aimed to introduce library resources and services to students and faculty and promote their effective use throughout their research journey. Although the program has successfully introduced users to the library, a continual challenge remains in addressing the evolving information needs of both students and faculty. Recognizing the need to continuously enhance library services, the section evaluated and redesigned its program to develop a new initiative better tailored to the needs of its users.

In September 2024, carrying forward the same mission, ISAIS introduced a revamped version named Talasik – the new library orientation and instruction program. It is designed to provide valuable information and targeted instruction on specific library resources based on the faculty member's assessment of their students' research needs.

Talasik is derived from the words "talas" (keenness) and "saliksik" (research/exploration), symbolizing the goal of "sharpened research." This reflects the program's goal: to enhance the ability of library users to critically and effectively navigate and evaluate information and to maximize the use of the library's services and resources in their academic and research endeavors. But what makes it different from RME? Talasik departs from the previous library orientation by dividing the program into two digestible and manageable stand-alone sessions: TALAS (Orientation) and SALIKSIK (Instruction). The faculty member has the flexibility to

choose either one of the two sessions or both, depending on what best meets the needs of their class.

Talas is a thirty-minute orientation designed to introduce library users to the services, spaces and resources of the Main Library and its unit libraries. This primarily seeks to inform users about the various offerings available to them for their academic and research needs. Because of the program's straightforward and concise nature, the orientation is well suited to be conducted via Zoom teleconference.

On the other hand, Saliksik is a one-hour-long customizable instruction session designed to provide in-depth knowledge on specific library resources which includes local databases, online subscriptions, microfilm, and digital research tools for reference management and plagiarism detection. The key difference between Talas and Saliksik is that the latter offers a live demonstration on how to navigate and utilize library resources, databases, and online subscriptions.

This initiative doesn't stop here. The team is continually developing the program by adding more modules that address emerging research trends, such as Media and Information Literacy (MIL), Data Privacy and Research Ethics, Research as Inquiry, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). These new modules will be introduced gradually, starting with the Academic Year 2025-2026.

As the saying goes, "First impressions last." A strong start in equipping the community with knowledge of available library resources will empower them to navigate the library with confidence and help them thrive in their studies.

by E.M. Cruz



## OLD NEWS, NEW VIEW

The Enduring Charm of Microfilm *by M.C. Estepa*

**Is it #ThrowbackThursday already?** More UP Students have been taking glimpses of the past—especially with the new microfilm reader donated by Philippine Air Force Col. Arman Mampusti to the University Library in April 2025. This latest addition enables more library users to view the University's extensive collection of microfilms, which contain a wide range of materials, including Filipiniana rare books, theses and dissertations, newspapers, periodicals, and vernacular publications. Despite being one of the oldest collections, the microfilm collection of the University Library remains one of the most requested resources for access.

Just recently, during the second semester of Academic Year 2024–2025, the University Library also noted a sudden influx of requests from students completing a requirement for Kas 1: Kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, a general education subject required to be taken by UP Diliman students. Prof. Ian Christopher B. Alfonso, an assistant professor at the Department of History, UP Diliman, revealed in an online post that he tasked his students in Kas 1 to retrieve newspapers published on their birthdates. He posted a submission from one of his students, who went above and beyond the assignment and edited multiple photos of sectioned parts of a newspaper microfilm—as projected by the library's microfilm reader—to form a single image featuring the headline about the inauguration of Pope Benedict XVI in April 2005. He also explained that the intention of the activity was to help students realize that even on the day they were born, history was already unfolding.

The post quickly gained traction, and the engagements showed that the activity became an interesting way to spark an interest in history and in the use of microfilms among the new generation. Many people recalled doing a similar activity for a different requirement or subject. Some were surprised to learn that news events from the 2000s are now considered old and archival. Others shared that they had tried the activity as well, though not through microfilm but via the internet. In response, the professor explained that using microfilm was intended to add a sense of thrill to the experience. This activity underscores the importance of keeping up with technology to ensure the preservation and continued access to materials from the past. This is especially evident in how Col. Mampusti's recent donation played a role in facilitating student requests for their Kas 1 assignment and continues to support the growing demand for microfilm viewing.

For those interested, the University Library's microfilms can be accessed and viewed upon sending a valid request including the title of a specific material.

## USAPANG SINUPAN

A Forum on Archival Functions, Activities,  
and Issues in UP Diliman and Manila

The UP Diliman University Library, in partnership with the UP Film Institute (UPFI) Film Archives and Library with support from the Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts (OICA), launched Usapang Sinupan: A Forum on Archival Functions, Activities, and Issues in UP Diliman and Manila. The forum brought together staff from different UP offices to talk about their archival work, share challenges, and discuss future plans.

The event aimed to explore opportunities for collaboration and resource-sharing that would help enhance archival processes, develop shared guidelines, and strengthen the archival mission. Through these efforts, the forum aimed to promote greater awareness of the value of archival work within and beyond the University, while also laying the groundwork for a network of archival workers across UP campuses.



Representatives from various UP Diliman and Manila units shared how they manage archives, address problems, and raise awareness of their collections. Usapang Sinupan was organized by Eimee Rhea C. Lagrama, Deputy University Librarian and Head of the University Archives Division, with Carina C. Samaniego, Head of UPFI Film Archives and Library. Discussions were facilitated and moderated by Asst. Prof. Benedict S. Olgado, PhD of the UP School of Library and Information Studies.

In support of the initiative, observers from various UP units closely connected to cultural and archival work also joined the forum. These included the UPD Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts (OICA), the UP SLIS Public, Archives, and Data (PANDA) Lab, the Bulwagan ng Dangal University Heritage Museum, and the UP Department of Linguistics.

All participants acknowledged a confidentiality agreement upon registration, creating a safe and respectful space for open discussion. This allowed sensitive information about archival functions and internal workflows to be shared responsibly.

Usapang Sinupan marks a significant milestone toward strengthening support for archives in UP. It recognized the important work of archivists and encouraged collaboration for preserving the University's history and legacy.

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?: 2025 UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES

Another year has passed, and the University Library proudly celebrated its 103rd anniversary and launched the 2025 University Library Anniversary Lecture Series, themed “What Would You Do?.” The three-part hybrid series, held on Fridays in March, was organized by the Staff and Training Development Committee (STDC) under the University Library Human Resource Committee (UL-HRC). Open to the public, the series awarded 6 CPD points to librarians who completed all three sessions. The series aims to empower library professionals with essential communication tools and strategies to excel in their roles.

Effective communication is vital in these interactions. Whether it's welcoming a first-time visitor or resolving a challenging situation, how staff communicate directly impacts how the library is perceived. Strengthening these skills is essential not only for enhancing user satisfaction but also for upholding the professionalism and service excellence that define the University Library.



The lecture series featured three focused sessions, each tackling specific aspects of improving communication skills:

- What Would You Do? Upgrading Front Desk Etiquette
- What Would You Do? Maintaining Professionalism in Difficult Situations
- What Would You Do? Personalizing Customer Service



### Session 1: What Would You Do? Upgrading Front Desk Etiquette

The first session emphasized the essential personal and professional etiquette that front desk librarians and staff must embody to consistently deliver exceptional library services. Aiza May Palaya, College Librarian II from the College of Media and Communication, shared her insights on the significance of front desk etiquette, highlighting the importance of customer service skills, effective communication techniques, maintaining a professional demeanor, and placing cultural understanding at the heart of interactions. The session concluded with an engaging group activity, where participants were divided into teams, each assigned a real-library scenario to role-play and propose solutions, fostering practical problem-solving and collaboration.

### Session 2: What Would You Do? Maintaining Professionalism in Difficult Situations

Difficult situations challenge librarians to uphold professionalism and ethical standards under pressure. In the second installment of the UL anniversary lecture series, Donna Lyn Labangon-Gonzaga, Learning and Research Coordinator of the De La Salle University Libraries, presented practical skills for managing challenging situations with professionalism, focusing on conflict management,

self-care, and accountability. The session covered key techniques for managing difficult individuals, addressing customer complaints, resolving conflicts, and fostering effective communication. The lecture drew over 500 Zoom participants and 45 onsite attendees, all of whom engaged actively throughout the discussion. At the end of the session, participants engaged in role-playing activities to navigate challenging scenarios commonly encountered in libraries.

### Session 3: What Would You Do? Personalizing Customer Service

The final session was led by Fidel Ian Flojo, a former Assistant Manager at Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and current COO of The Amazing You, Inc., who focused on equipping librarians with the tools to deliver customer service with purpose and empathy.

Flojo's approach was holistic and interactive. At one point, he invited attendees to write down their emotional baggage on a piece of paper and dispose of it in a trash bin placed in front, symbolizing the importance of releasing negativity to foster a more compassionate and effective work environment.



Overall, through the “What Would You Do? Series,” The University Library affirmed its commitment to staff development and user-centered service. By providing practical strategies to handle complex interactions with empathy, poise, and professionalism, the series supports a library environment that is inclusive, responsive, and welcoming for all.

by E.R. Fernando & J.M. Tumlos



## IN MEMORIAM: ESTEBAN JOHN ABALOS, 1972-2025

Esteban John Abalos, an Administrative Assistant IV assigned at the Bindery Section of the University Archives Division since 2023 peacefully passed away on 18 April 2025. Fondly known as Kuya John, he dedicated nearly 16 years of service to the University. Before his stint at the University Library, he also served at the Vargas Museum and the College of Education Library.

He was more than just a committed worker, Kuya John was a reliable colleague who constantly reminded his peers of the value of punctuality and the importance of delivering quality work. He was someone who made time for others, always ready to listen, offering his understanding and warmth, whether the stories were personal or work-related. In times of stress, his signature smile and well-timed jokes lightened the mood and uplifted those around him. His contributions to the library and the University community are invaluable, and the positive spirit he brought to the workplace will be remembered and cherished.

Kuya John, a devoted family man, a valued colleague, and a true friend. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: WHAT IT TAKES TO JOIN

by A.A. Guimba

Rizalyn V. Janio, head of the ISALS and currently serving as Auditor of the Philippine Association of Academic / Research Librarians (PAARL), Inc. has what it takes to be the member-officer of the organization. Her knowledge and skills equipped her to contribute significantly to the library community, with the conversation offering snippets of her competencies.

**AAG:** Can you tell about the time you were called to initiate a project?

**RVJ:** The best that I could think of for now is The Great Info Hunt or the TGI.

**AAG:** What steps did you take to make sure the project was completed?

**RVJ:** Planning. The foremost element in initiating a project is setting the direction of the project. As the receiving end of the direction from the next level of authority, I make sure that the goals of the project are aligned with the organization I work with. I look into the mission and vision of the institution before delegating the details of the project to a team. Goal setting is crucial as it provides the direction of not just a project but for every move we make.

**AAG:** Are you someone who maintains a strict schedule or are you someone who is liberal in following schedules?

**RVJ:** I'd like to think of myself as strict with schedules but there are just instances where I have no control; so, I do give elbow room for tasks that need additional time. I bring this to life by forming task forces or utilizing dyads depending on the scope and complexity of the tasks. This way, the loads of work become lighter for the team and at the same time ensure that completion of the task is on schedule.

**AAG:** Please tell me how you believe others who worked with you would describe you while completing a project.

**RVJ:** I am getting the impression that my style of handling tasks is detail-driven. While this is seen as a drawback to motivating colleagues, it works best when tailored to an individual's competencies. Whenever I observe that colleagues are able to work with less supervision, I step aside and let others take the lead. As to the impression of excessive focus on small details, this works best on situations that call for quality control and compliance.

Also, I value collaborating with colleagues. As you see, taking on a project is a balance of coordinating multiple moving parts. While human nature makes it already challenging to push forward tasks leading to the ultimate goal, there is the next layer of authority that adds another level of complexity. I view these dynamics as an opportunity to lead, refine approaches along the way, and further push forward as the project progresses.

**AAG:** Please describe the best part in completing a project.

**RVJ:** I think when efforts are successful, appreciated, and recognized.

**AAG:** Please describe the most remarkable challenge you have faced in completing a project.

**RVJ:** I get frustrated when the number of participants falls short of our expectations. With the efforts being poured into the projects, the turnout is still low. However, the underlying causes are being looked into. Targeted initiatives are taken to improve engagement and achieve growth in numbers. The TGI project is one narrative proving the effectiveness of prioritizing awareness and communication.

**AAG:** Are you satisfied with how you carried out the project? If not, what are your plans to improve the way you are completing the project?

**RVJ:** Tracing the evolution of the project, I am pleased with its progress and looking forward to its future. Moving forward, the TGI is more to the project than what is immediately apparent.

Rizalyn Janio is entrusted with roles and responsibilities from 31 January 2025 until 31 December 2026. She commits to achieving the objectives and milestones, demonstrating leadership, collaboration, and open-minded approach to strengthen PAARL's contribution to the academic and research community.

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARY RMC SUPPORTS OUR IN ADVANCING RECORDS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Demonstrating its proactive commitment to promoting best practices in records management, the University Library Records Management Committee (RMC) of the University of the Philippines Diliman facilitated a three-part seminar series organized by the Office of the University Registrar (OUR). This initiative is part of OUR's broader objective to develop its own Records Retention and Disposition Schedule, in compliance with the National Archives of the Philippines' directive General Circular No. 5, dated 10 October 2023.

On 7 March 2025, RMC Chair Eimee Rhea Lagrama and Vice Chair Sheryl Gerodias led the first session—a seminar-workshop on records inventory for OUR staff. The session underscored the strategic importance of effective records management and introduced tools and techniques for inventory tracking. It also guided participants through the process of conducting a records survey. RMC Members Noel Ballarta and Ericka Fernando presented the customized OUR inventory form, which was used during the hands-on portion of the session. Approximately 50 staff members attended the morning and afternoon sessions.



The second session, held on 14 March 2025, was tailored for the OUR managerial committee. It focused on the legal, regulatory, and organizational frameworks underpinning records management and clarified the responsibilities of upper management in ensuring policy compliance and implementation. Participants also explored the skills needed to support best practices in records retention, storage, and disposal. The discussion highlighted the role of leadership in effective records management in enhancing organizational transparency, mitigating risk, and improving institutional performance.



On 05 May 2025, Lagrama and Gerodias presented the results of the records inventory to OUR Heads. The session evaluated staff performance in managing records and offered guidance on the next steps for institutionalizing a sustainable records management program. Lagrama recommended the creation of a Records Management Committee within OUR to lead the development of retention and disposition policies and oversee related initiatives.

With the completion of the inventory phase, OUR has successfully laid the groundwork for its records management program. The collected data will serve as the foundation for the creation of key instruments such as the Records Schedule and File Plan, marking a significant step forward in strengthening administrative efficiency and compliance.

by E.R. Fernando



Ms. Janio with the PAARL Executive Board taking oath on 31 January 2025 in National Teachers College



## LIBRADIO BREAKS YEARS-LONG HIATUS

by A.V. Palaya

After a three-year hiatus, Libradio is gradually gaining momentum as it prepares to bring the UP Community the latest updates from the library front. The reconstituted committee has been working diligently for more than a year in anticipation of its relaunch. Meetings kicked off in early April 2024, during which the team reconnected with DZUP to express their enthusiasm for returning to the airwaves. A number of virtual meetings via Zoom were held by the committee to prepare a lineup of fresh episodes and become familiar with the new format of DZUP's programming. During one of the meetings, the new Libradio jingle composed by one of its original members, Elmer Tolentino, was heard for the first time. Its upbeat and cheerful melody is something everyone can look forward to with Libradio's return. Furthermore, both the longstanding and newly appointed members of the committee participated in the KBP accreditation examination to confirm their eligibility for broadcasting.

As part of its return, the committee organized a logo-making competition aimed at revamping the program's branding. The logo competition announced in the first week of February garnered a total of 38 entries. The winning logo was created by Mavecil Christine Cruz, a student from the College of Social Sciences at UP Baguio. Cruz describes the logo as a clever design that merges a book, which stands for knowledge and learning, with a radio antenna placed in its pages, symbolizing broadcasting and communication. The use of deep, dark red and maroon colors not only enhances the design but also connects strongly to the identity of UP, creating a feeling of pride and tradition.

As LibRadio eagerly anticipates its return on air, it is equally important to understand where it all began. In March, the committee posted video interviews through its Facebook page with insights from previous hosts of the program, Eimee Rhea C. Lagrama, Deputy University Librarian, Elvira B. Lapuz, University Librarian, and Assistant. Prof. Elijah John F. Dar Juan of the UP School of Library and Information Studies. The current Chair of LibRadio and the Head Librarian of the Strategic Communication, Research, and Marketing Section, Michelle Ann Manalo-Eclar, also shared what listeners should expect from the program moving forward.



The new design offers a fresh look while still retaining the original, recognizable elements.

The committee's decision to return to broadcasting after the pandemic is one of many changes aimed at expanding the University Library's reach, not only to the UP community but also to the broader librarian community across the country. By reintroducing broadcasting, the library seeks to share its wealth of resources, programs, and knowledge to create a more inclusive environment that benefits both local and national audiences within the library profession.

LIBRADIO will return to the airwaves twice a month, starting in August. For its first episode, it will feature Dalub-Aklat: The 2025 Librarians' Conference, a gathering of librarians from the UP System where participants are encouraged to engage in redefining the role of libraries as smart and dynamic learning environments.

## MAIN LIBRARY PARTICIPATES IN THE SECOND QUARTER NATIONWIDE SIMULTANEOUS EARTHQUAKE DRILL

by M.B. Tutor

On 19 June 2025, the Main Library participated in the Second Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED). The drill, facilitated by the Emergency Management Committee (EMC), was designed to test and strengthen our earthquake preparedness, ensuring the safety of library staff and clients during a natural disaster. During the exercise, Main Library staff from the Environmental and Energy Engineering (EnviEng'g) Building demonstrated an impressive response time of just 8 minutes, evacuating swiftly to their designated area in the library parking lot.

### What Happened During the Drill?

Library staff followed the standard earthquake safety procedures: Drop, Cover, and Hold On, before moving on to evacuation protocols. The Main Library staff from the EnviEng'g and Computer Science Buildings seamlessly evacuated to their designated areas in the library's parking lot. Meanwhile, the University Archives & IT Division staff at the Old Chemical Engineering Laboratory followed their respective evacuation procedures.



#### Headcount Snapshot:

- Environmental and Energy Engineering Building: 71 staff members
- Computer Science Building: 4 staff members
- University Archives & IT Division: 16 staff members

The drill also focused on testing evacuation routes to ensure they were clear and accessible, allowing everyone to move to safety in an organized manner.

### Challenges & Improvements

While the drill ran smoothly, staff at the EnviEng'g Building reported difficulty hearing the alarm bell, which was intermittent and unclear. This caused some initial

confusion, but did not hinder the overall process. EMC plans to address this issue by ensuring louder and more consistent audio signals in future drills. For accurate and efficient headcount, staff at the EnviEng'g Building lined up according to the floor they were stationed on during the evacuation.

### Inclusive Safety Measures

One of the primary objectives of the drill was to ensure that individuals with mobility challenges are properly supported and assisted during evacuations. In this scenario, Wally C. Bondoc, who was in a wheelchair to represent someone injured, was assisted by Carlito E. Lachica. This exercise aimed to better understand the challenges these individuals might face and ensure their needs are met during an emergency.



### Looking Ahead

The EMC is committed to continuous improvement in our preparedness efforts. Future drills will focus on refining evacuation procedures, enhancing communication, and ensuring that all safety equipment is up to standard.

### A Special Thanks to Our Participants!

A huge thank you to all the library staff members for your proactive participation and cooperation. Your involvement makes these drills more effective and helps ensure a safer and more resilient community.

### Stay Engaged!

We encourage everyone to stay actively engaged with safety protocols. The EMC will keep you updated on future drills and preparedness activities. For the latest updates and information, be sure to follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UniversityLibraryEMC>.

## STILL TURNING PAGES, STILL TURNING HEADS: SURP LIBRARY CELEBRATES 58 YEARS OF LEGACY AND INNOVATION

For 58 years, the UP School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) Library has been more than just a repository of books; it has been a second home for students, a trusted resource for researchers, and a bridge between knowledge. On 24 February 2025, the library celebrated not just another year, but the people, stories, and achievements that have shaped its legacy.

The highlight of the anniversary was the unveiling of the SURP Library Collaborative Space, an inviting area designed for group discussions, brainstorming, and interactive learning. But more than a new facility, this space represents the library's commitment to supporting students beyond just providing books. It's a place where ideas can take shape, collaboration thrives, and learning extends beyond the pages.

Another significant milestone was the launch of the Theses and Dissertations Catalog, a meticulously curated digital archive showcasing decades of SURP's intellectual legacy. This living chronicle doesn't just preserve academic work, it bridges generations of thinkers, allowing today's students to stand on the shoulders of giants.

The celebration wasn't limited to academics. The library also held a Donation Drive, inviting students, faculty, and guests to donate school supplies, toys, and learning materials for children in need. This effort reminded everyone that education is also about helping others and making a difference.

Who said libraries can't be fun? The Library Trivia Hunt turned history into a high-energy game, as participants raced to answer questions about the library's history and services. Laughter and friendly competition filled the room, making learning fun and interactive. A special video presentation took everyone on a trip through time, showing how the library has grown from its simple beginnings into a key place for urban planning studies. With stories from past and present librarians, the video proved that the library is more than just a building, it's a living part of SURP's history.

Adding a deeply personal touch, the Freedom Wall invited students, faculty, and visitors to leave messages of gratitude, memories, and well wishes. Some wrote about how the library became their safe space during intense exam periods, often called "hell weeks," while others expressed appreciation for the librarians who made it feel like home. At its core, the 58th anniversary of the SURP Library was more than just a milestone, it was a celebration of the people who have walked its halls, the knowledge that has been shared, and the future that lies ahead.

by SURP Library Team

## EMPOWERING LEARNING AND COMMUNITY:

### How UP SURP Library Champions the SDGs

#### A Library for All

On September 12, 2023, the library reopened its doors to all researchers in its new location and newly designed spaces. This move marks a significant step toward making spaces more inclusive, accessible, and aligned with the global call for sustainable development. Through its programs, services, and physical design, the library seamlessly integrates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), helping to "color the map" with the hues of these global commitments.



#### Fostering Quality Education (SDG 4)

Aside from providing a conducive environment, the library welcomes visitors for Library Benchmarking and Library Tours. The outstanding ratings under the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) standards and their valuable contribution to SURP's recognition as a Philippine Quality Award (PQA) awardee reflect that the SURP Library is truly aligned with SDG 4: Quality Education. This alignment supports lifelong learning, equips library users for success, and fosters an environment that promotes academic excellence.



#### Equality and Inclusivity at Its Best (SDG 5 & 10)

True to the spirit of SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, the UP SURP Library is committed to creating an inclusive, comfortable, and accessible environment for everyone. The Gender and Development (GAD) Corner and Priority Seats, respectively, ensure that no one feels excluded, where everyone, regardless of their gender, physical limitations, or life circumstances, can participate in learning, collaboration, and growth.

#### Promoting Well-being (SDG 3)

In alignment with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, the library established the Health and Wellness Room, a dedicated space for D.E.A.R. Time (Drop Everything and Relax), an original program that allows each staff member to have one hour every week to use for light stretching, Zumba, meditation, or simply unwinding. This initiative provides a much-needed escape and supports both physical and mental well-being.

Another created space is the Coffee Corner, a cozy area offering free coffee to all. It's a place where ideas are exchanged, collaborations are sparked, and friendships are formed. The library ensures that even amid intense academic or professional work, there is always time for meaningful connection and community building.

#### Encouraging Teamwork and Innovation (SDG 17)

The library's most dynamic space, the Collaborative Space, officially opened on 24 February 2025. Aligned with SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, this space encourages collaboration and the exchange of ideas. From informal discussion rooms to formal meeting spaces, this area is equipped with whiteboards, projectors, and plenty of seating to support group work.

The UP School of Urban and Regional Planning Library isn't just a place to study - it's a community resource that embodies the principles of sustainable development. Each space is carefully designed to meet the diverse needs of individuals while contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. From accessible study areas to collaborative workspaces, gender-focused resources, and wellness rooms, the library offers something for everyone. It's a living example of how libraries can be powerful drivers of positive change, supporting education, equity, innovation, and well-being for all.

by SURP Library Team



## Healthy Minds, Healthy Spaces:

Highlights from the UL Health & Wellness Committee

With the reconstitution of the University Library (UL) Health and Wellness Committee for 2025, a new team has been formed to spearhead initiatives promoting the holistic well-being of library personnel. As such, the committee is currently chaired by Jo-Anne A. Domingo with Sheryl T. Gerodias serving as Vice Chair. They are joined by Rochelle Maica R. Cabrera, Juan Gabriel A. De Leon, Nica Neri C. Marquez, Maria Criselda D. Pabalan, Frederick G. Velasco, Aries T. Ventura, and Romena S. Vicente as vital members of the committee.

### Strategic Planning Session

In January 2025, the committee held a Strategic Planning session at the Meeting Room of the UP Main Library, Environmental and Energy Engineering Building. During this session, the committee developed a series of programs and activities aimed at promoting the mental, emotional, physical, and economic well-being of library staff.

### National Cancer Awareness Month

In recognition of National Cancer Awareness Month, last February 4, library staff were encouraged to wear lavender—a color symbolizing awareness and support for all types of cancer. This gesture aimed to honor cancer survivors, support those currently battling the disease, and remember those who have passed. As part of the initiative, the committee set up a "Freedom Wall" at the lobby of the Environmental and Energy Engineering Building. This interactive space invited staff, visitors and library patrons to write messages of hope, encouragement, and solidarity. The activity received enthusiastic participation, fostering a sense of compassion and community among colleagues.



### Wear Your Relationship Status

On Valentine's Day, a lighthearted and engaging activity took place: staff wore color-coded attire or accessories representing their current relationship status. The colors and corresponding meanings were the following:

- Blue** Single
- Red/Pink** In a relationship
- White** Free for all
- Gray** In a situationship
- Green** Friendzoned
- Yellow** Complicated
- Black** Bitter

This fun initiative brought laughter and conversation into the workplace, allowing staff to connect with one another on a more personal level. While playful in nature, the activity fostered openness, camaraderie, and empathy among colleagues. And to add to the fun, sweet treats were given to those who obliged and participated in this activity.



### Managing Stress and Promoting Wellness in Everyday Life

This seminar last 20 March 2025 aimed to address the ongoing challenges of workplace stress and promote strategies for maintaining mental health and overall well-being. Rolando C. Delos Reyes, Guidance Services Specialist II and Data Privacy Focal Person, serving at the UP Diliman Office of Counseling and Guidance, shared valuable insights on the physical, emotional, and psychological effects of stress, as well as practical techniques to manage and reduce it.

Participants learned effective methods for relieving stress, which were particularly helpful for those feeling overwhelmed by daily responsibilities. The seminar also encouraged open dialogue, allowing attendees to share personal reflections and experiences through discussions facilitated by the speaker. This created a supportive and understanding environment that reinforced the importance of collective wellness in the workplace.

### Quill and Chill : A Paper Quilling Workshop

During the "Quill and Chill" session held last 15 May 2025, the speaker, Carina C. Samaniego, Head Librarian of the UP Film Institute Archives and Library, introduced participants to the art of paper quilling, a craft that involves rolling, shaping, and gluing strips of paper to create intricate decorative designs. She began by sharing her personal journey—how she discovered paper quilling as a relaxing hobby and how it gradually became a source of joy and even income. Over time, friends and acquaintances began to request customized pieces from her, such as souvenirs and giveaways for special occasions.

To inspire the participants, the speaker showcased some of her finished works, ranging from delicate floral patterns to personalized name designs. These samples highlighted the creative potential of the art form and set the tone for an engaging and hands-on activity. Participants eagerly took on the challenge, embracing the opportunity to explore their artistic and creative sides. As they carefully rolled and shaped the colorful paper strips, they discovered that paper quilling is not only an art, but also a test of patience and focus.

Each participant was tasked with a specific project: to design the first letter of their name using quilled shapes as a guide. With a variety of forms—such as coils, teardrops, and scrolls—they were able to bring their initials to life with unique personal flair. The final outputs reflected both individuality and teamwork. Despite many of them being first-time quillers, the participants managed to create beautiful and intricate designs, proving that creativity can flourish when given the space and tools to grow. The activity not only served as a relaxing break but also as a celebration of self-expression and shared accomplishment.

The initiatives of the University Library Health and Wellness Committee at the first half of the year highlight a strong commitment to promoting staff well-being through engaging, inclusive, and meaningful activities. From awareness campaigns to creative and stress-relief sessions, the programs fostered connection, self-expression, and a supportive workplace culture.

by R.S. Vicente

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HOLDS IN-HOUSE TRAINING ON BASIC FIRST AID



On 19 March 2025, the Emergency Management Committee (EMC) of the University Library successfully conducted an in-house training on Basic First Aid, facilitated by Francis Celeste. The session focused on life-saving techniques such as wound care, CPR, and responding to common medical emergencies in the workplace.

The training empowered EMC members with practical skills essential in handling emergencies both within the library and in everyday life. With their enhanced preparedness, EMC members are now in a stronger position to assist fellow University Library staff during emergencies. Their knowledge extends beyond the workplace and helps build a safer community built on a culture of readiness and care.

by L.L. Eugenio

## A FULL-SPECTRUM SHIFT: MARKING A DECADE OF AASDI THROUGH

# TALIMAHIN

For ten years now, the Asosasyon ng Aklatan at Sinupan ng Diliman, Inc. (AASDI) has been more than just a professional organization – it has been a movement. A movement driven by the dedication of librarians, archivists, and library staff who believe that the work of information professionals is not merely technical but transformative.

And now, in the midst of the ever-changing field of librarianship marked by workplace pressures, traditional to digital shifts, and the unrelenting demand for adaptability, AASDI stands strong – anchored by its mission to nurture minds of professionals. As it marks its 10th year founding anniversary, AASDI is doing what it does best: trajecting beyond boundaries, crossing the customaries, sparking curiosity, and igniting involvement for professional development.

AASDI brings forth "TALIMAHIN: Professional Development and Effective Communication," a lecture series that is as sharp as it is serene. TALIMAHIN is more than just a name. It is an ethos. Derived from the fusion of talim (sharpness of mind and skill) and hinahon (calmness and grace), the lecture series reflects balance between intellectual agility and composed leadership. At a time when professionals across sectors face challenges from burnout to dissonant communication, AASDI takes a holistic approach: development not just for careers, but of characters.

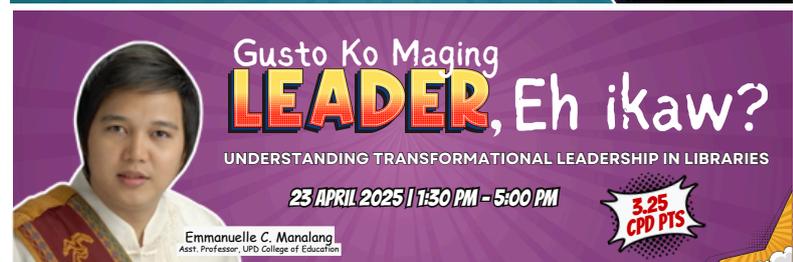
In the past year alone, AASDI has successfully mounted four professional development events, each one building on the last, each one shaped by the support of its committed partners. Among the organizations that have played vital roles in these initiatives are Cambridge University Press, Fastbooks Educational Supply Inc., LibTech Philippines, and Megatexts Philippines, Inc.

With the recognition of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as an accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provider, AASDI has embraced more of its roles with responsibility and creativity, grounded in the needs of its members. This year's lecture series, granted 9.5 CPD points.

The three-part series begins on 08 April 2025, with "Handle with Care: Harnessing Strategies to Address Conflict in the Workplace," led by Rogelio T. Estrada, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer of UPD HRDO. Because navigating through conflicts is no longer optional – it is an essential.



Next, on April 10, the series shifts its focus on "Imagine Mo Bigla kang Sumaccess!: Pursuing Proactive Career Development in Librarianship." Roana Marie Flores-Solemos of DLSU Manila encourages participants to embrace possibility and lean into ambition, and prove that librarianship is not static, but dynamic and full of potential.



Finally, the series closes on April 23 with "Gusto Ko Maging Leader, Eh Ikaw?: Understanding Transformational Leadership in Libraries," facilitated by Asst. Prof. Emmanuelle Manalang from UP Diliman's College of Education. Leadership, after all, is not just about titles but about vision and influence.



Held in a hybrid format at the Environmental and Energy Engineering Building, UP Diliman, and via Zoom, TALIMAHIN remains accessible to the community it serves. It acknowledges the demands of professionals by meeting them where they are, without sacrificing substance.

AASDI remains steady, rooted, and resilient. It continues to prove that in professional growth, what matters is not just learning new skills but deepening self-awareness and cultivating grace under pressure. And as it looks forward to the next decade, AASDI invites everyone, its members, partners, and its peers to walk alongside them. Because building better libraries and archives begins with building better professionals.

And in the AASDI way, that journey is always done with talim and with hinahon.

by N.D. Lastimosa & M.A. Jinio

## KNOWLEDGE AFLOAT AS THE LIBRARY EXTENSION COMMITTEE LEAD THE COASTAL COMMUNITY OF BRGY. PUGAD, HAGONOY, BULACAN TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

by T. Constantino and the LEC

In a purposeful effort to empower communities, the University Library's Extension Committee sailed through the Angat River and along the coast of Manila Bay to conduct the fourth phase of its flagship program, the Librarians Empowerment Action of Diliman (LEAD) on 22 May 2025, in Barangay Pugad, Hagonoy, Bulacan. This year's LEAD Program, entitled "Empowerment of Coastal Community in Brgy. Pugad, Hagonoy, Bulacan Through the University Library Information Literacy Program," was funded by the University of the Philippines Office of Extension Coordination, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Development, with project number 242401-UPD EG.

Brgy. Pugad, a coastal barangay in Bulacan, is home to locals whose daily lives are deeply bound together with the sea. While the community thrives on fishing and small-scale livelihood activities, access to reliable information and educational opportunities remains limited. Recognizing this gap, the LEAD team worked hand-in-hand with local leaders and different local agencies to bring essential knowledge and skills to the residents.

The LEAD Phase IV aspired to empower residents through learning, promote lifelong learning, and encourage sustainable local livelihoods. Participants included the fisherfolks, mothers, and barangay officials who actively joined the one-day learning program. One of the highlights of the program was the session on marketing marine fishery products, which Stephen Arlo C. Lapid, the Office in charge of the Post Harvest and Marketing Section, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Region III, discussed. Lapid discussed the following aspects: Market Trends and Opportunities for Marine Fisheries Products, Value-Adding Strategies for Small-Scale Fisherfolk and Coastal Entrepreneurs, and Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Marketing Approaches. He also emphasized the importance of waste management in a coastal community. Another highlight of the program was the session on Vegetable Gardening for

Food Security and Community Resilience, delivered by Luis D. Bausa of the Bausa Integrated Farm and Training Center; his practical tips on sustainable gardening techniques discovered its importance for daily living and inspired participants to start their backyard gardens.

The program also featured a series of informative and empowering sessions discussed by the members of the committee, including:

- "Kalusugan 101: Primary Health Care and Basic First Aid," by Francis N. Celeste, RN
- "Mahalagang Rekord: Ano, Paano, at Saan?," by Rhoel E. Rondilla, PhD.
- "Gender Sensitivity Training and Awareness on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC)," by Anthony N. Atuel
- "Prepared, Not Scared: A Guide to Disaster Readiness," by Edwin R. Gerodias
- and "If You Like It, Think Twice: The Do's and Don'ts of Social Media," by Eunice Ann Yutuc Chua.

These sessions collectively aimed to promote understanding, resilience, and valuable knowledge that would empower the community of Brgy. Pugad in their everyday lives. Hon. Jaime Gregorio, Barangay Captain, thanked the LEC and hoped that this program would not be the last with their community. Therghie Ablin Constantino, LEC Chair, closed the program, acknowledging everyone who was part of it from the beginning and assuring the Coastal community of Pugad that this is not the LEC's first and last program for them.

The program concluded not only with new knowledge shared but with a restored sense of hope and empowerment among participants. The program's holistic approach strengthens the vital role of libraries and librarians in extension programs and sustainable development. From bookshelves in Diliman to the shores of Bulacan, the LEAD Program continues to demonstrate that knowledge, when disseminated with purpose and empathy, can genuinely change lives.



## INTO THE LEAP: EMPOWERING UP LIBRARIANS WITH AI FUNDAMENTALS

The proliferation of Artificial Intelligence has driven librarians to spearhead AI literacy initiatives. Recognizing this pivotal role, the University Library, UP Diliman Human Resource Committee - Staff Training and Development Committee (HRC-STDC) organized a three-day training workshop titled "AI for Libraries: Empowering UP Librarians with AI Fundamentals" held on 8-10 January 2025 at the Conference Room of the Environmental Engineering Energy Building of UP Diliman. The training workshop was intended to empower librarians with foundational AI knowledge and core skills, fostering their ability to demystify AI. A total of 35 participants from various unit libraries across UP campuses actively engaged in the interactive discussions. The training workshop was accredited with 12 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points.

Assistant Professor Dan Anthony D. Dorado, a faculty member of the UP School of Library and Information Science and former Director of the UP Diliman Learning Center, facilitated the three-day session, which includes five training modules covering topics from theoretical frameworks to practical implications of Artificial Intelligence for libraries.



### Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence

The first module introduced the fundamentals and functionalities of AI. The discussion delved into exploring key AI terminologies, including machine learning, deep learning, explainable AI, and natural language processing. The participants gained a clear understanding of the framework fully through examples of real-world AI applications relevant to their daily work. Asst. Prof. Dorado granted the participants access to DataCamp modules offering a range of courses in data science.

### Practical Application of ChatGPT and Generative AI

The prominent ChatGPT and other leading generative AI platforms were pointed out in the second module. Text summarization, explaining complex concepts, and content generation are among the optimal uses of ChatGPT. The discussion explored the limitations of AI tools, as well as the ethical considerations and legal concerns.

### Understanding Machine Learning (ML) and Large Language Models (LLMs)

The principles and actual applications of ML were emphasized in the third module, particularly its distinction from AI and its operational framework. Through an in-depth discussion, librarians perceived LLMs and their impact on AI advancements. A hands-on experience in using R software, a free open-source programming language for data analysis and statistical computing was conducted, allowing participants to explore ML tools.



### AI Ethics in Libraries

The fourth module demonstrated the ethical principles guiding the use of AI tools. Librarians were acquainted with responsible AI practices to uphold fairness, inclusivity, and transparency. The module also underscored the importance of scrutinizing potential biases and addressing accountability gaps to ensure ethical AI use.

### Teaching AI to Library Users

The fifth module explored the application of generative models, including the ethical concerns and responsible use. It also equipped the librarians with the skills to develop and implement effective AI literacy programs.

The session concluded with a collaborative activity in which the participants crafted an AI literacy program tailored for their libraries. The group presentations demonstrated the participants' learning outcomes from the three-day training.



In summary, the training was a substantial step toward the University Library's goal of digital transformation. Participants praised the workshop for its relevance and usefulness in enhancing their work, particularly in managing references, services, and the user program. By empowering UP librarians with the expertise to integrate AI tools in libraries and imparting in-depth knowledge of AI concepts, the program enhances their ability to effectively deliver AI literacy, supporting the academic community in navigating and thriving in an AI-driven world.

by E.R. Fernando



## DISCUSSING FORMATS AND FRIENDS

*A Lecture on File Format Analysis and Practical Tools*

The University Library is familiar with the concept and practice of digitalization; however, digital preservation remains a more complex and less understood challenge.

To address this issue, StratComm and the UP School of Library and Information Studies (UP SLIS) jointly organized a lecture entitled “Formats and Friends: A Guide to Beginning File Format Analysis and Digital Preservation Tools” on April 3 with guest speaker Francesca Mackenzie of the National Archives of the United Kingdom. Mackenzie is a digital archiving professional with a specialization in the PRONOM file format

database and a vocal advocate for digital skill-building among archivists.

In her presentation, Mackenzie introduced the basic principles of digital preservation and explained that digital materials fall into three broad categories: born-digital materials, digitized materials, and digital surrogates – all of which require a different preservation strategy.

Mackenzie then listed a set of free tools to show that effective digital preservation is not contingent on expensive software. Software such as DiAGRAM (Digital Archives Graphical Risk Assessment Model) and CSV Validator serves as digital preservation support tools in the areas of risk modeling and metadata validation. On the other hand, tools such as DROID (Digital Record Object Identification), Siegfried, and FIDO (Format Identification for Digital Objects) are for file format identification, all of which use PRONOM signatures.

Throughout her lecture, Mackenzie reiterated one focal point: “Do what works best for you and your organization.” While advanced technology can be beneficial, Mackenzie shared real-world examples where effective digital preservation strategies were built and achieved using even basic tools like Microsoft Excel.

As a final note, she emphasized that successful digital preservation is not about using the most cutting-edge tools, but about creating adaptable, practical systems tailored to the specific needs of each institution.

*by D.C. Garcia*



The Staff Training and Development Committee (STDC) of the University Library has officially launched the LibTalks Public Forum Series, an initiative that endeavors to foster meaningful discourse, promote civic awareness, and support the professional and personal development of library staff, the broader UP community, and the general public.

Kicking off the series was LibTalks: Libraries as Pillars of Voter Education, a compelling online forum designed to empower individuals and communities with the knowledge necessary to become informed and engaged citizens ahead of the 2025 National Elections. The session, held on 05 May 2025 from 1:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon via Zoom and Facebook Live, was moderated by A.B. Gideon de Castro, a librarian assigned at the Information Services and Instruction Section (ISAIS) and Filipiniana Books Section. The forum emphasized the crucial role of libraries in voter education as a place of trusted sources of accurate, nonpartisan information.

Renowned resource speaker Ranze Aaron Calderon, Executive Director of 2030 Youth Force in the Philippines Inc., delivered a thought-provoking discussion on the multifaceted role libraries play in civic education.

He explored the intersection of voter education, civic literacy, and media literacy, particularly in combating disinformation.

The forum drew a strong turnout, with 781 online participants (750 via Zoom and 31 through Facebook Live) from a diverse range of professions. Feedback from attendees reflected a powerful insight: libraries are more than repositories of books – but a powerful platform for civic empowerment. As trusted, neutral, and non-partisan spaces, libraries can help restore public faith in truth and democratic processes by offering verified, inclusive, and accessible resources for voter education.

Participants recognized librarians as potential civic educators and defenders of democratic values, especially in communities vulnerable to misinformation. Through civic literacy initiatives, libraries can bridge knowledge gaps and foster an informed electorate.

Ultimately, the forum resonated with its audience as both timely and essential, an important call to reimagine libraries as proactive institutions shaping an informed and participatory citizenry ahead of a pivotal national election.

*by E.R. Fernando*



by N.R. Zulueta

## TRAVERSING PHILIPPINE HISTORY: THE GREAT INFOHUNT 2024 UGMA CULMINATION

February marked the culmination of the third iteration of The Great Infohunt (TGI) with the theme UGMA, which means “tomorrow” in Cebuano. TGI is the gamification program of the University Library which aims to promote information literacy to the UP community and to enable them to effectively use the available library resources for their academic needs. The program involves compelling stories that lead participants to seek the correct answer to advance through the game.

TGI 2024: UGMA featured four stories from different eras in Philippine history: Spanish Colonial Period (Pluma), Philippine-American War (Krag), Japanese Occupation (Bayoneta), and Martial Law (Boses). Each story presented the perspective of a historical figure from that era, designed to spark readers’ interest. The personas are Pedro Pelaez (Pluma), Antonio Luna (Krag), Ramon Regalado (Bayoneta) and Archimedes Trajano (Boses). The narratives were written as historical fiction to immerse the participants in the lives of the four people. By traversing through these historical events, participants can gain an understanding of the present and prepare them for the challenge of tomorrow.

Enrolled students from the constituent universities of the UP system were eligible to participate. Each participant earned 1 raffle ticket for every story they complete; thus, a maximum of 4 tickets may be gained. Only 22 participants had the chance to win a prize determined through the raffle draw. Participants are only allowed to win one prize each. Prior to the closing ceremony, the raffle draw was conducted on 6 February 2025 via Zoom.



The closing ceremony was held on 12 February 2025, at the 4F Activity Room, Student Union Building. TGI 2024 was graced by Prof. Ambeth Ocampo with a brief lecture on Philippine history. He shared his experiences in conducting his research and gathering information from libraries.

Prof. Ambeth reminded everyone to be critical of information that they encounter and to “form conclusions based on fact not emotion.” He underscored that researching history can lead to discovery not just of the past but also of the present.



The final part of the closing ceremony was the most awaited raffle draw of prizes for the 22 winners. The various prizes were from the University’s partners: Statista, Taylor and Francis Group, My JOVE Corp., CE Logic Inc., Elsevier Academic Paradigm Inc., Libtech Source Philippines Inc., Wiley, MegaTEXTS Phil., Inc., Springer, Sage, EBSCO, IEEE, ACS and PressReader. Each partner picked a name from the 22 winners and awarded the prize they donated.

Four students won a Thule 20L Backpack: Eugene E. Solla, Joseph F. Zabala, Rowick Wayne J. Bulangis and Natasha Jane V. Rulloda. Moses Christian R. Silverio and Shera Lei A. Fortuna both took home JBL Go Essential while Jim Francis N. Mojica and Jason Matthew M. Dumlao bagged the JBL GO 4. Two winners, namely, Jolly G. Calixtro and Lyon Grey A. Villacarlos, got Apple AirPods Pro. Two tablets were given away to Chris Benedict Solis, who received a Samsung Galaxy Tab A, and John Christopher G. Parungao, who received a Huawei MatePad. Alyssa M. Paga, Nicole Anne L. Dimapilis and Shoji S. Kurata each won a 9th Generation iPad. Restituto Felipe R. Gabuya went home with a L121 EcoTank Printer. Lastly, the following students each won a laptop: Belle Bianca L. Pinca (Acer Aspire Lite Laptop), John Lloyd R. Villadoz (HP Laptop), Dhea Joy C. Cabamongan (HP Laptop), Shannon Jeremy D. Chan (Dell Laptop) and Melbourne T. Samper (Apple MacBook Air M1).

As the chapter of TGI 2024 UGMA closes, we hope that the stories of the four personas resonated with the participants and brought them closer to understanding our history. May this program serve as an inspiration for all participants to traverse their own paths in the face of life’s tribulations. We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who made this event a success.

**We hope everyone looks forward to solving the mysteries of  
The Great InfoHunt this 2025!**

## UPCEd Library Milestones: A Celebration of Identity and Service



### Hearts, Heritage, and Honor

Valentine's Day, celebrated every February 14th, was honored by the UP College of Education Library with great pride. On this significant day, the library unveiled its official logo as a symbol of its identity.

"Brew-tiful Hearts and New Starts" was the theme of the library's Valentine's Day celebration, which filled the air with love and the inviting aroma of freshly-brewed coffee. The busy and serious atmosphere of the library was transformed into a warm, cozy place – perfect for sipping coffee.

The perfect and inviting atmosphere of the library during this momentous event is joyfully shared with students, faculty, and staff. The afternoon session began with a heartfelt message and warm welcome as guests and other participants gathered around the delightful décor.

Among the present were Dr. Joel Javinari and Asst. Prof. Maria Hazelle Preclaro-Ongtengco and both

shared thoughtful messages about the library's evolving role that shaped its identity within the academic community.

Also present during the event were Dr. Alvin Tenorio, Dr. Ana Margarita Salvador, Dr. Grace Reoperez, Dr. Myra Tantengco, Dr. Maria Vanessa Lusung-Oyzon, Dr. Elenita Que, and Dr. Saddam Bazer.

The unveiling of its official logo has not just marked the library's identity to the community but also gives the institution great pride because this very logo exhibits the institution's great accomplishment throughout the years featured in the exhibit entitled "The UPCEd Library: History". The exhibit displays the evolution of the library throughout the years since its inception in 1949 to the present. As S.R. Ranganathan emphasized in the fifth law of library science, that a library is a growing organism, the library has grown and continues to thrive by adapting to the trends and technologies.



This event was not merely a celebration of institutional success, it was a testament to growth, innovation, and sustainability to serve the UPCEd community and the general public.

### Pagbati at padayon: Honoring Rowell B. Alveniz

On the other hand, the month of May has once again proved its commitment to honor, excellence, and service, the three tenets of public service that the UP pledges to the nation. This month, Rowell B. Alveniz was awarded two distinct honors given by the University of the Philippines to its most outstanding personnel in the year 2025. He received the 2025 Dangal ng UPD Award and the Gawad Tsanselor Sa Natatanging Kawani Level 1.



Alveniz was recognized for his invaluable contribution by innovating and streamlining the processes of the workplace. By extending his expertise and knowledge, he was able to computerize administrative processes that proved to be beneficial not just for his organization but also to their clients. He goes beyond his usual mandate as an administrative clerk and has proposed an innovative way to streamline processes.

Alveniz stands as a true public servant—one who not only fulfills his duties but also elevates expectations through innovation and dedication.

This academic year has been a fruitful period for the institution, with UPCEd Library revitalizing its sense of purpose and commitment to public service to serve the people and the nation with its accomplishments and milestones achieved.

by C.P. Garcia-Atuel

Aninaw is a revival of the UP Library Bulletin, which was the official newsletter of the University of the Philippines Library System. It first saw light in 1956 and was published in print until 2002. Publication was in hiatus until it transitioned online to wordpress in 2006, but this time, it was mainly a newsletter of the University Library Diliman (other University Libraries have taken advantage of available social media platforms or have their own publications). The wordpress site was active until 2016. The Main Library currently maintains a blog in its own website where it is updated regularly.

Aninaw is a term in several Filipino languages which denotes an understanding of something; discernment, so to speak. It can also mean transparency or clarity. As a concept for this publication, it aims to present to the public the achievements and significant milestones of the University Library of UP Diliman, to make our presence to the community known, and to increase our engagement with the public by showing a spotlight on our projects, programs, and initiatives.

Moving forward, Aninaw will be the University Library Diliman's semi-annual report to the public, a way of maintaining transparency of our activities and actions, and a venue for understanding between us UPD Librarians and Staff, and the community we serve.

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Committee  
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ng Diliman, Inc.

## ANINAW

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2025

### Sagwanan 2025

24 - 25 July 2025

Institute of Biology Auditorium,  
College of Science UP Diliman

### UP Librarians Conference 2025

24 - 25 July 2025

Institute of Biology Auditorium,  
College of Science UP Diliman

### AKDA at HAYAG:

Propelling Progress through Impactful Research

[The University Library's Faculty Advancement Program 2025]

8 August 2025

Audio-Visual Room, Junio Hall,  
National Engineering Center (NEC), UP Diliman

### STDC Events

Ctrl + Alt + Tab: Switching Skills and  
Enriching Perspectives for Service Excellence

29 July - 1 August 2025

Lobby, Environmental and Energy  
Engineering Bldg., UP Diliman

### LibTalks:

Expanding Conversations Beyond Library Spaces  
[University Library Public Forum and Training Series]

29 August 2025

8 September 2025

10 November 2025 | Hybrid

### Saliktroniko Training for UPD Librarians

29 September 2025 | Zoom

### HWC Events

PWD Massage (tentative September)

Zumba Friday (tentative September)

Baking Demo (tentative October)

Sex Education in collaboration with UL GAD  
(tentative November)

### AASDI Events

Tagisan ng Talino Year 2  
GAD Fun Run in partnership with AASDI

## ABOUT THE COVER

Z.C. Garcia, Main Library

This issue of Aninaw celebrates the spirit growth, innovation, and camaraderie as the center of our day-to-day environment.

With vibrant themes of green and yellow, this issue's cover shines a spotlight on our library staff awardees who stand at the heart of a flourishing community—nurturing an environment where colleagues and friends uplift one another and spark inspiration, encouragement, and the confidence to reach their highest potential.

Together, through genuine support and shared purpose, we can shape a workplace where growth blossoms, innovation thrives, and camaraderie endures.

## MULA SA BAUL

by E. C. Lagrama, University Library

(digging into the proverbial past)

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### OFFICERS OF LS CLUB ELECTED

In a meeting last June 21st of the UP Library Science Club, the following were elected to office: Pilar Lacsamana, President; Monching Verzosa, Vice-President; Myrna Policiano, Secretary; Mrs. Encarnacion Lopez, Treasurer (Seniors) Carolina Memonzo, Treasurer (Juniors) Hammama Prado, PIO.

The first affair of the Club will be an acquaintance party at Professor Bernardo's cottage on June 30th. The club members are planning to revive the Library Mirror, organ of the U.P. Library Science Club of the pre-war years.

### A LINE FOR THE LINEMAN

If the authorities will grant Miss Marina Dayrit's request for the installation of a telephone in the Reference Section of the Reading Room, the library service of answering reference questions via the telephone will be a much simpler matter. As it is now, Miss Dayrit has to travel the whole length of the library building to get the question and back again for the reply. In some cases, according to her, the party hangs up before she can leave her section to answer calls.

In this day and age, landlines are seen as anachronistic, as today's students prefer messaging apps and video calls to phone calls. If Marina Dayrit were alive today, she will be glad to know that the University Library and its Unit Libraries are reachable by the public via multiple means and in some cases, until the wee hours of the morning, especially during the pandemic.

Students familiar with the Gonzalez Hall remember the vast length of each of the wings; can you imagine having to walk across the library to just answer a phone call, and when you get there, find out that the caller has hung up.

In any case, the University Library keeps all of the lines open, whether it's the old school PABX landline, our emails, or our social media pages. We will be here.

### DESIGNATED HEAD LIBRARIANS

Yabes, Mildred  
OIC, College of Science Library

### NEW STAFF

Zulueta, Nicole  
Librarian I (ISAIS, Serials)

Deximo, Vienna Rose  
Administrative Aide VI (Acquisitions)

Estepa, Mark Lester  
Librarian I (Cataloging, ISAIS)

Caro, Mae Lanie  
Librarian I (UARD)

### STAFF PROMOTIONS

Arce, Yedda Marynel  
L I to CL I

Garcia-Atuel, Crizell Joy  
CL II to CL III

### TRANSFER

Cauca, Mitos  
UPD OSE

Guzman, Calvin  
SE Library

### REVISED WORK ASSIGNMENT

Guimba, Alessandra  
CSSP Library (full-time)

### RETIREMENT

Abalos, John Esteban †  
Admin Asst IV (Bookbinder)