

# *LIBRARIES AS MULTICULTURAL SOCIAL SPACES*

Presented by:

**MICHAEL A. PINTO, RL**

Head, Provincial Learning and Resource Center  
Province of Cagayan



Three-day conference on "Catalyzing Multicultural Librarianship : Opportunities, Challenges and Strategies in the 21st Century" at Tuguegarao City, Cagayan from February 28 to March 2, 2018

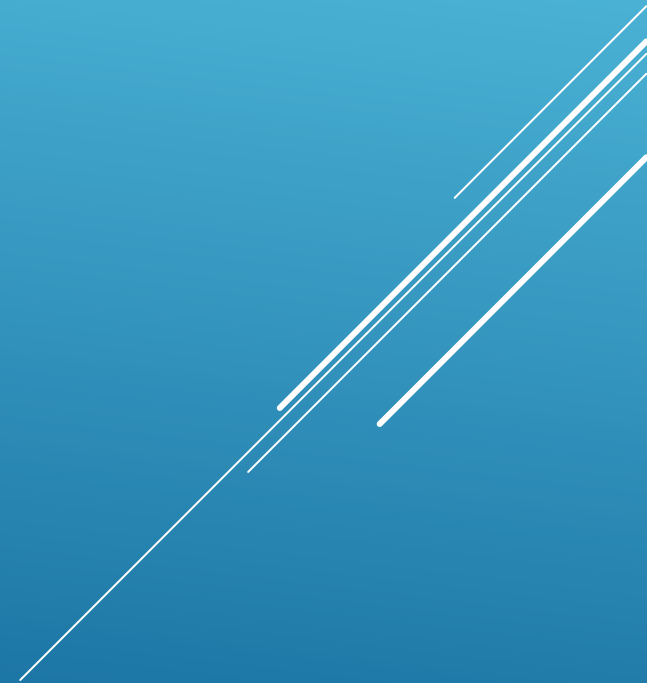
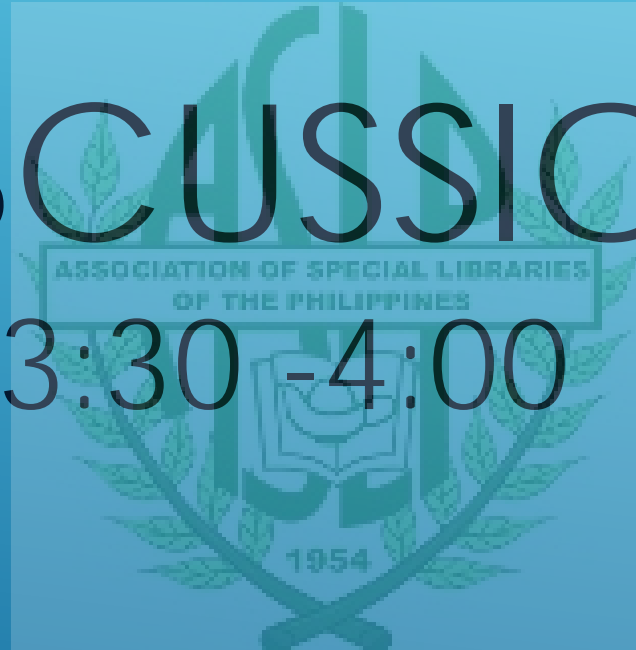
# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. Preliminaries
2. What is multiculturalism
3. Library and Multiculturalism
4. Missions of multicultural libraries
5. Skills needed by a multicultural librarian
6. Video Clips and Pictures
7. Workshop proper
8. Presentation



# DISCUSSION

3:30 -4:00



# WHAT DO LIBRARIES DO BEST?



Libraries serve as centers of what I like to think of as **“lived” learning**, the kind of learning that happens in a space where all aspects are targeted in a holistic manner.

Gricel Dominguez, Public Services Librarian/Assistant Administrator, St. Thomas University (Miami Gardens, FL)

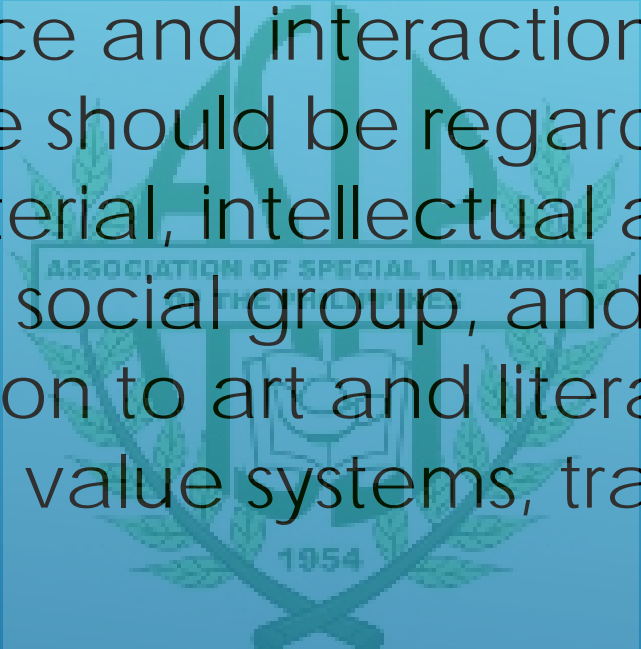
# Diversity of our Clients:

- a)Active
- b)Potential



# WHAT IS MULTICULTURALISM?

“Cultural Diversity” or “Multiculturalism” refers to the harmonious co-existence and interaction of different cultures, where “culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature; lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs”.



Cultural diversity or multiculturalism is the foundation of our collective strength in our local communities and in our global society.

# LIBRARY AND MULTICULTURALISM?

As libraries serve diverse interests and communities, they function as

- a) Learning centers
- b) Cultural centers
- c) Information centers.

In addressing cultural and linguistic diversity, library services are driven by their commitment to the principles of fundamental freedoms and equity of access to information and knowledge for all, in the respect of cultural identity and values.

*IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto*





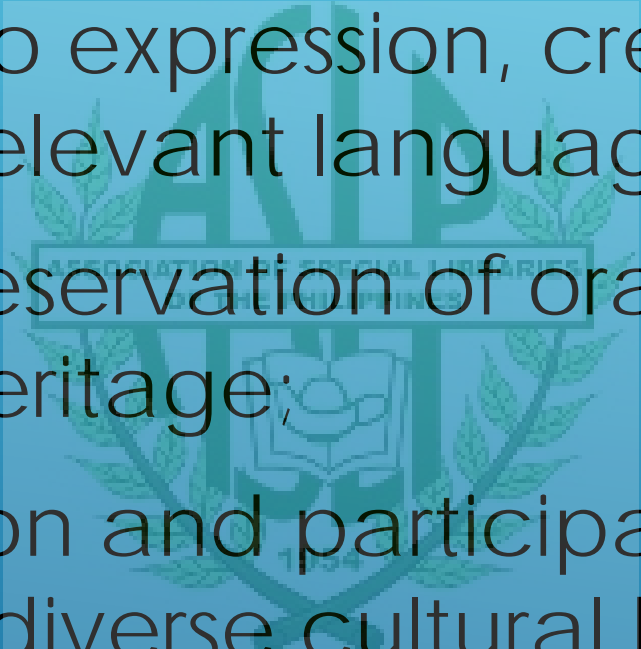
# MISSIONS OF MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY SERVICES

1. Promoting awareness of the positive value of cultural diversity and fostering cultural dialogue;
2. Encouraging linguistic diversity and respect for the mother tongue;
3. Facilitating the harmonious coexistence of several languages, including learning of several languages from an early age;





# MISSIONS OF MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY SERVICES

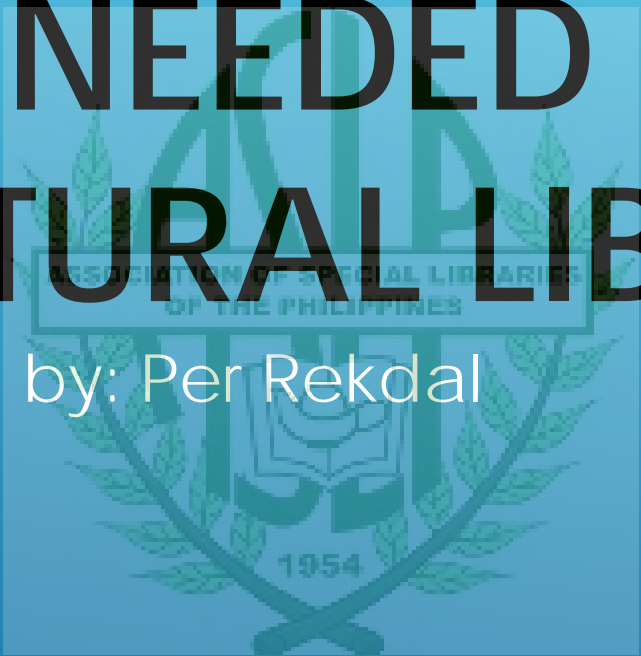
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4. Safeguarding linguistic and cultural heritage and giving support to expression, creation and dissemination in all relevant languages;
  5. Supporting the preservation of oral tradition and intangible cultural heritage;
  6. Supporting inclusion and participation of persons and groups from all diverse cultural backgrounds;

# MISSIONS OF MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY SERVICES

7. Encouraging information literacy in the digital age, and the mastering of information and communication technologies;
8. Promoting linguistic diversity in cyberspace;
9. Encouraging universal access to cyberspace; supporting the exchange of knowledge and best practices with regard to cultural pluralism.

# SKILLS NEEDED BY A MULTICULTURAL LIBRARIAN

by: Per Rekdal





# 1. INFORMATION SKILL

- ✓ relates to the methods of obtaining and organizing knowledge.
- ✓ Obtaining information/literature and disseminating them to clients
- ✓ Informational approach presupposes that it is *the user* who possesses most of the specific cultural knowledge.
- ✓ *The user* must know what he or she is looking for and must turn for assistance to the librarian trained in the skills of information search.



## 2. AWARENESS SKILL

- ✓ focus on interaction, the treatment of identity and cross-cultural communication.
- ✓ The aim is to learn to adopt a critical and analytical attitude towards one's social surroundings, thus making it easier to understand not only one's own self and one's actions but also those of others.





### 3. CULTURAL SKILL

- ✓ Know and understand the culture
  - ✓ Norms
  - ✓ Traditions
  - ✓ Belief
  - ✓ Practices
- ✓ What's accepted and what are not accepted

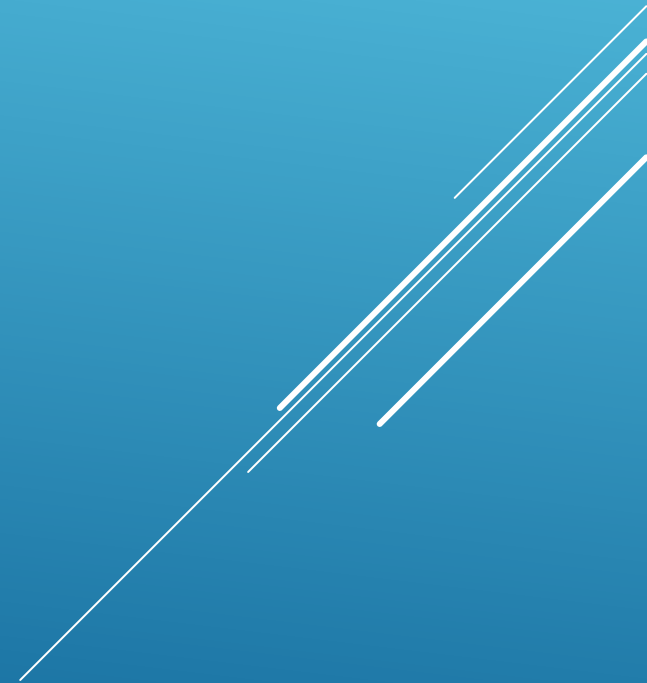
### 3. SOCIAL SKILL

- ✓ Learn to communicate with people of different ages
- ✓ Be a politician
- ✓ Be involved with social activities
- ✓ Attend social gatherings.

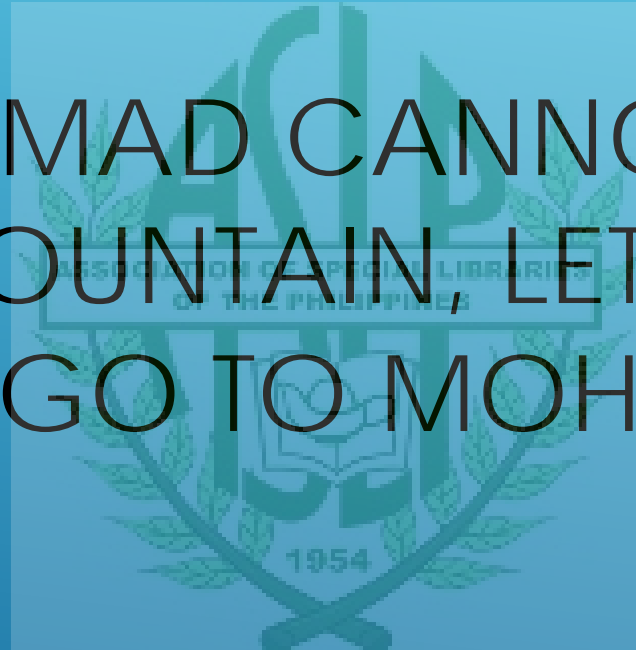




# MULTICULTURALISM IN LIBRARIES



“IF MOHAMMAD CANNOT GO TO  
THE MOUNTAIN, LET THE  
MOUNTAIN GO TO MOHAMMAD”





# LET'S GO LOCAL

Sitio Paglita, Brgy. Calawis, Antipolo





# LET'S GO LOCAL

Tribo Panay Bukidnon



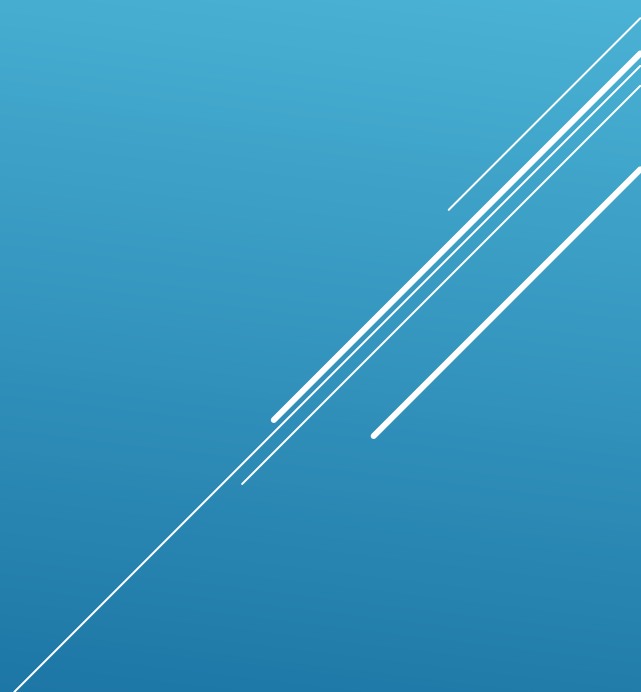
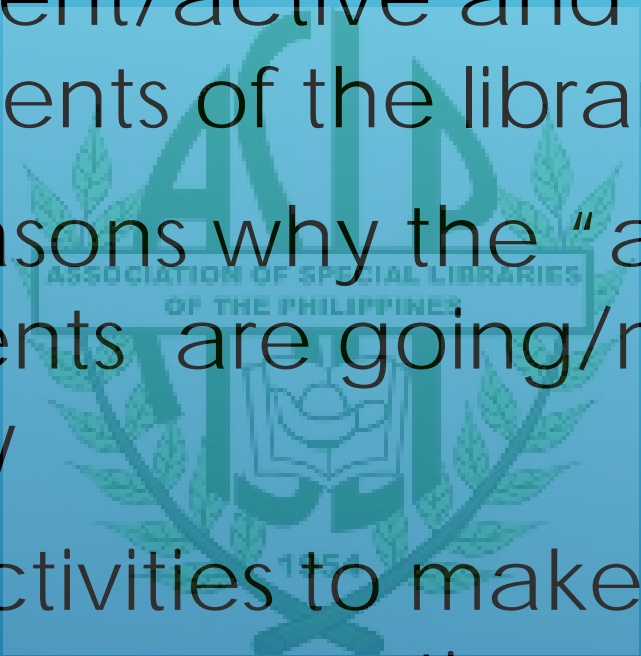


**ARE YOU READY TO  
HAVE A WORKSHOP?**



# WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To identify the current/active and future/potential clients of the library
- ✓ Enumerate the reasons why the “active and potential” clients are going/not going to the library
- ✓ Identify possible activities to make the potential clients become active
- ✓ Plan for actions to be taken



# WORKSHOP PROPER

## (4:00-4:30)

- ✓ Using a sticky notes, identify who are your current/active clients in your library
- ✓ After identifying the active clients, identify also those who are potential clients
- ✓ Enumerate the reasons of going and not going to the library
- ✓ Identify activities that can make the potential users become active users
- ✓ Prepare a plan for your library.



**// PREPARE ACTIVITIES ON THE FOLLOWING:**

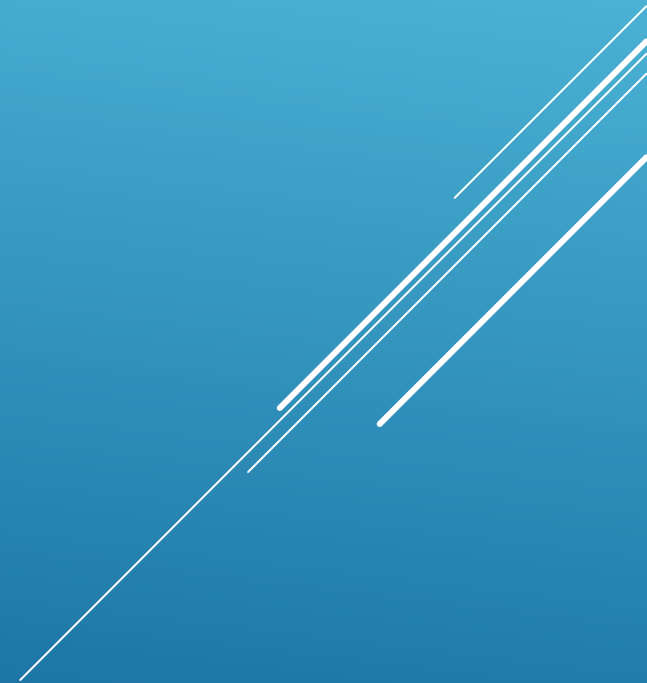
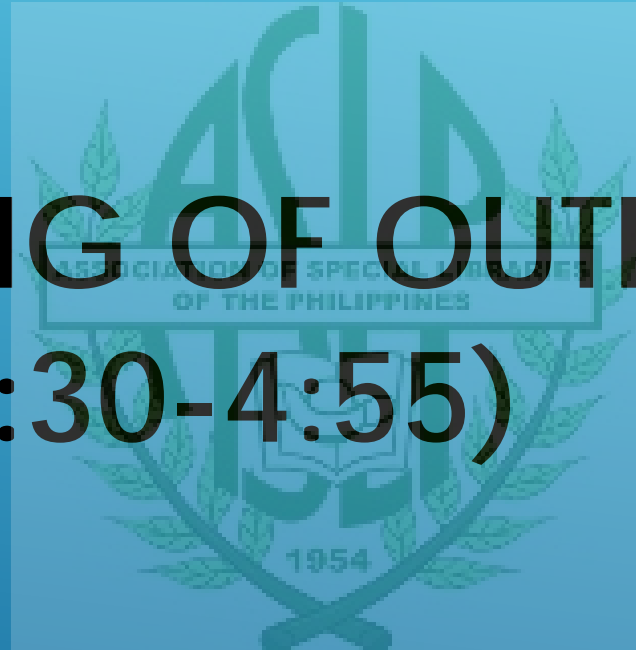
Library as:

**LEARNING CENTER  
CULTURAL CENTER  
INFORMATION CENTER**



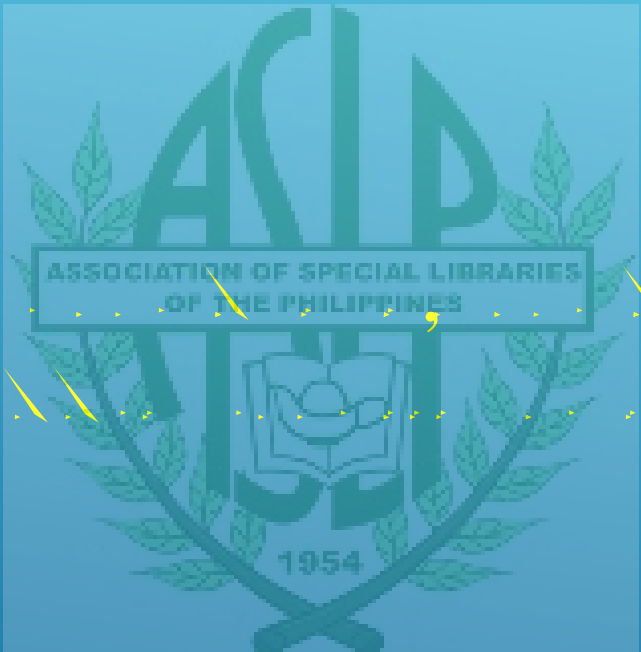
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# SHARING OF OUTPUT (4:30-4:55)



# BOTTOMLINE...

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**Thank you  
FOR  
LISTENING!!**



## REFERENCES:

1. <https://www.ifla.org/node/8976>
2. Recdal, P. [2003]. The multicultural society as the norm. SPLQ:4.
3. <http://www.programminglibrarian.org/articles/multiculturalism-happens-targeting-multicultural-literacy-libraries>

