

2013 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Honorable Maria Lourdes P.A. Sereno, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Mrs. Corazon M. Nera, former Chair, Board for Librarians, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Peralejo, President, Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. Officers of various national associations, ASLP founders, ASLP members, Colleagues in the industry, Ladies and Gentlemen, a pleasant morning to everyone.

I am deeply honored to share with you the accomplishments of the 2013 ASLP Board! The past year was a very successful and thriving year for ASLP. All the hard work paid off.

In one of the invited talks I had this year, they asked me, "what is your organization's vision and mission?" And I can't answer anything. I proposed to the board if we can have our own vision and mission in time for the 60th anniversary. In one of its monthly meetings, the board put it into agenda to have an ASLP vision and mission. After reading the proposals and voting for the appropriate vision-mission, the ASLP has now its own one after 59 years. It was approved on September 12, 2013 and set into a resolution on October 24, 2013. I personally thank Dr. Briccio M. Merced, Jr., Chair of the Library Committee of DACUN for inspiring ASLP to create its vision and mission.

Vision: The ASLP aims to stimulate the professional enhancement of its members and their personnel by providing advanced learning, propagate theoretical knowledge and strengthen partnerships and linkages among special libraries in the Philippines and abroad.

Mission: ASLP is a national library association of librarians and information professionals working in special libraries which upholds the dignity of the library profession and observes professional ethics at all times.

The planning-workshop and team-building was the first agenda of the 2013 Board. Though not yet formally placed into office, this team assured that they will work together all through-out the year. They had a promise to look into each other and profess the importance of team-work. The presence of everyone in this planning-workshop and team-building marks the start of a grander year. We are grateful to have Ms. Edelle Gallo for facilitating the team-building.

January 16, 2013 marks ASLP's 59th anniversary. Our inducting officer is Mrs. Elizabeth R. Peralejo, PLAI President. Present in this momentous occasion is Hon. Corazon M. Nera, former chair, Board for Librarians. Around 40 members and guests attended this ceremony.

For the last time, I present to you the 2013 ASLP Board who has graciously devoted their time and efforts. Let us all put our hands together for this magnificent team who worked hard for this year to solicit funds, find sponsors, create wonderful activities and nurturing events for all its members across the country.

We had our first official activity in a form of an outreach. This outreach activity poured a lot of blessings on ASLP. As we help others, blessings will return to us, as they say, a thousand folds. ASLP did not shell-out money on this project. All we had to do is get book donations and share our expertise on the requested topics by the teacher-librarians. We are very thankful to KaEskwela for inviting us in this endeavor. Five members of the board went to F. Angeles Memorial Elementary School, Morong, Bataan.

The 3rd ICoASL was really a huge activity that we all prepared for since 2012. About 150 delegates across Asia and the world gathered in Manila to listen to the experts in the field. The principal objective of ICoASL is to provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and skills relevant to information professionals in Asia with a global perspective. More detailed information can be read in the second issue of our newsletter which is downloadable from the wiki site (<http://aslpwiki.wikispaces.com/>)

SLA-Asia recognized the efforts of ASLP and we cherish the plaque given to us. This plaque is now placed at the PLAI office at the National Library of the Philippines where all other plaques of other organizations are placed for safe-keeping and display.

Since we are a very workaholic team, right after the 3rd ICoASL, we celebrated the "International Special Librarians Day." We took the opportunity to invite Prof. Paul Nieuwenhuysen from VUB Belgium to discuss information literacy and the role of special libraries in the digital age. International Special Librarians Day (ISLD) was established by Special Libraries Association (SLA) in 1991 to "recognize the unique contributions made by information professionals around the world and the critical role they play in the changing global information community." In 2013, ASLP in partnership with American Corner - Manila, joins SLA in celebrating the annual ISLD.

As we continue to evolve our activities, we had our summer activity in a form of a hands-on training-workshop. This training will help librarians to learn more effectively as they follow the instructions of our young speakers. The title is "Training on the use of Koha, DSpace and Greenstone Digital Library" with the theme: Organize IT Digitally, Open-Source Tools for your Library. These are online and open source software and are available for free. This time we partnered with SEAFDEC as they provide the venue for free to ASLP. A total of 86 participants joined this training. The newly elected Mayor of Tigbauan, Iloilo, Atty. Suzette Alquisada delivered the welcome remarks.

In its 34th year, the Manila International Book Fair offered again their venue for free to ASLP. Our speaker was Director Jose Javier Reyes, a well-known director in the country. The forum aims to enlighten the librarians and information professionals in their role in the media industry and to provide them insights coming from a TV/media personality on how library and its information help them in their field. A total of 228 participants attended the forum.

Running in its 3rd year, ASLP had its 3rd NCSLP at the Hotel H20. Participants learned a lot from the local speakers as they share their strategies in achieving better careers.

For the first-time, PLAI invited national associations to be part of their annual congress. Conforming to the theme, we invited Prof. Mary Allen Mae P. Oral of the Cebuano Studies Center, Univ. of San Carlos to discuss local studies centers as place for historical and genealogical research. The PLAI Congress generated more than 300 participants. We appreciate and thank PLAI for this move to include library associations in their program.

We were again given by the PLAI to have a free venue at the NLP to conduct a forum relevant to this year's theme: Libraries: Preservers and Promoters of Culture and Arts. We invited the FHL to discuss their newest project called Filipiniana Online. Free snacks were given to the attendees of this event.

ASLP is a caring organization, we donated P10, 000 to the survivors of Super Typhoon Yolanda thru PLAI. We shall await of the report of PLAI on how they managed to use the funds.

There were four resolutions passed by the board: advisers, signatories, journal, vision/mission.

As the BFL commits itself to the revision of the standards for special libraries, the former and present board allows ASLP to use this definition of special libraries: "libraries established and supported by private and government agencies, corporations, research institutions, international organizations, and others (i.e. academic, school) that collect, manage, preserve, and provide immediate access to knowledge resources dealing with specialized subjects, and focused information services to its clientele."

The definition of special libraries was formulated by the Task Force on the Revision of the Philippine Special Library Standards, August 1, 2013.

The ASLP membership is still growing as seen in this slide. As our gratitude to them, ASLP in partnership with Philmont gave Identification Cards for the first time. We produced a total of 133 IDs. I personally thank Ms. Mercy Servida for coordinating with the ID maker. I encourage everyone to renew their membership with ASLP.

Four newsletters were released in 2013. We make it a point to release them before every quarter ends. Creating these newsletters is a labor of love, an act of commitment. I personally thank Ms. Shine Galora and Ms. Cecil Ayson for their lay-out and editing skills.

Another first for the ASLP is the journal. My sincerest thanks to the editorial board composed of Ms. Mila Ong, Ms. Alma Prosperoso, Ms. Alice Paraiso, Ms. Shirley Cruz and Ms. Gladys Entico. The online version of the journal which is available for free is uploaded at the Philippine E-Journals hosted by the C&E Publishing, Inc. The ASLP Journal was registered with copyright at the National Library of the Philippines last April 5, 2013. In addition, the ASLP Journal has also three ISSN numbers depending on the issued format (print, online and cd). This journal is again sponsored by Philmont. With me is the over-all site usage report from January – November

2013. There is a total of 99, 898 downloads. On country visits, 77% of those who accessed came from the Philippines.

The ASLP wiki is the repository of all presented lectures from ASLP activities or by ASLP officers/members.. To date, there are more than 55 authors and 84 presentations/papers uploaded via Scribd. The wiki had more than 25, 000 visitors as of December 2013.

As I mentioned a while ago, ASLP also maintains its Scribd account to upload and secure the presentations. Uploaded files at Scribd can't be downloaded by anyone, only for online reading.

As ASLP is very recognized online, its Facebook friends have grown to 2, 653 with 301 likes. It has 86 tweets and 79 followers in Twitter.

I wish to thank Ms. Aster Gerolaga of the PLAI office for managing to replace the keys for our ASLP file cabinet. Our files are now secured.

Let us take this time to ponder on the lives lost of our dear ASLP colleagues: Mrs. Susima Gonzales, ASLP past president and Mrs. Amparo Tayag, one of the founders of ASLP.

Moving on, seen on the screen are the represented events of the president for the whole year (a detailed table of events can be read at my accomplishment report). I was a busy man from January – December. I started the year presenting in a student congress for LIS participants. Each month, my schedule was really full and hectic.

The board members have also notable achievements and contribution in the field.

So this is the journey of ASLP for 2013. I hope I did well during my term and thank all the officers, members, sponsors who gave their support. I will forever cherish this experience. Thank you and Mabuhay ang ASLP!