

# The BLIS Program of Leyte Normal University

Rhodora T. Navarro  
BLIS Program Head, Leyte Normal University  
*rhodoranavarro@lnu.edu.ph*  
(corresponding author)

Mary Ann Sanita-Dalan  
BLIS Faculty, Leyte Normal University  
*maryann.sanita@lnu.edu.ph*

## *Abstract*

*The paper presents the establishment of the BLIS program of the Leyte Normal University (LNU). Through Board Resolution No. 022, series of 2009, the LNU Board of Regents approved the opening of BLIS Program at the Leyte Normal University under the administration of Dr. Evelyn C. Cruzada. The pioneering batch of BLIS graduates were conferred with their degrees in March 2013 and took the Librarian Licensure Examination (LLE) in November 2013. In December 2020, the last batch of students under the old curriculum, prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) no. 8, series of 2005, finished their degrees. At present, the BLIS program has already produced 180 graduates with 119 licensed professional librarians who are employed in various public and private schools.*

**Keywords:** Bachelor of Library and Information Science, LIS curriculum, Library and information science education, Library education and training, Philippines

## **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROGRAM**

In the late 70's, the Leyte State College (now Leyte Normal University or LNU) offered Library Science as a specialization in the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (BSEEd) program, and as a major subject in the Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE) and in the Bachelor of Arts curricula.

In 1990, it was phased out due to the retirement of two library science teachers. In September 2008, the former Chairman of the Board for Librarians of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Ms. Elnora Conti, conducted a survey of the physical plant and facilities of the library, faculty and administration to determine whether LNU is capable of offering library science as a degree program. Based on the general evaluation of the survey, all items asked were complied.

She then encouraged the university to offer the program Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS).

Through Board Resolution No. 022, series of 2009, the LNU Board of Regents approved the opening of BLIS during its March 2009 board meeting. It was in June 2009 that the former University President, Dr. Evelyn C. Cruzada, implemented the new curriculum. Mrs. Rhodora T. Navarro was designated as the Program Coordinator up to May 2017. Major subjects were handled by LNU librarians who were experts in this field. This included Mrs. Rhodora T. Navarro, Ms. Rosalinda N. Oreo, Mrs. Luzviminda F. Alcober and Ms. Hydelyn T. Navarra. Mrs. Yolanda C. Cabo from Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) was also invited to teach as a part-time instructor.

In July 2013, an unannounced survey visit was conducted by one of the members of the PRC Board for Librarians, Arabella Ananoria. Among the areas that were given commendations were the library facilities, student services, and the curriculum. On the other hand, she observed that the program did not have full-time faculty members and thereby recommended that this be addressed immediately. Indeed, this was given prompt attention by the LNU Administration. At present, the BLIS Program has two full-time faculty members, Ms. Mary Ann S. Dalan and Prof. Rhodora T. Navarro, who also serves as the Program Head.

The pioneering batch of BLIS graduates were conferred with their degrees in March 2013 and took the Librarian Licensure Examination (LLE) in November 2013. In December 2020, the last batch of students under the old curriculum, prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) no. 8, series of 2005, were able to finish their degrees. Most of these graduates are already working in their own field in various universities and colleges in the country. At present, the BLIS program has already produced 180 graduates with 116 licensed professional librarians who are employed in various public and private schools and offices.

In June 2018, LNU started its implementation of the new BLIS curriculum prescribed by CMO no. 24, series of 2015. In the same year, the BLIS program was awarded the Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC) by CHED. It also got a Level I Accredited Status from the Accrediting Agency for Chartered

Colleges and Universities of the Philippines (AACCCUP) in 2019.

## MISSION AND VISION OF THE UNIVERSITY

### LNU Vision:

A leading university of education and diverse disciplines attuned to local and global development needs

### LNU Mission:

To produce top performing professionals equipped to engage on knowledge and technology production so necessary to develop a sustainable society

### BLIS Program Mission and Vision:

To produce information specialists equipped with the professional and personal competencies necessary to provide highest quality of information services

## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The BLIS faculty actively participates in the curriculum development and its revision. Because of the demand for licensed librarians in the region, the BLIS curriculum was crafted based on CMO no. 08, series of 2005. It was presented to and approved for implementation by the LNU Board of Regents in 2009. With the issuance of CMO no. 24, series of 2015, the curriculum underwent revision in 2018. The new curriculum was approved by the Board of

**Table 1**

*Profile of Faculty Members*

Name of Faculty Member	Educational Qualification	Position/Designation
RHODORA T. NAVARRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor of Science in Education major in Library Science</li> <li>Master of Library and Information Science</li> <li>Licensed Professional Teacher</li> <li>Licensed Librarian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Professor 1</li> <li>Designated as BLIS Program Head</li> </ul>
MARY ANN S. DALAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor of Library and Information Science</li> <li>Master of Library and Information Science (Candidate)</li> <li>Licensed Librarian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor 1</li> <li>Designated as Unit Research Coordinator</li> </ul>

Regents and CHED and was implemented during the first semester of school year 2018-2019.

### PROFILE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FACULTY MEMBERS

The BLIS Unit is composed of two full-time faculty members who handle the LIS professional courses and Special Topics. Table 1 presents the profile of the faculty members.

### CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FACULTY MEMBERS

Although the BLIS program is relatively new in the University, its faculty members had already made significant contributions to the University. They served as facilitators and area committee members during the monitoring conducted by CHED and PRC. They were also instrumental in the attainment of COPC and of Level I Accredited Status by AACUP for BLIS.

Aside from these, the faculty members devoted their time, effort and even personal resources to the conduct of review sessions for its graduates a few months before the annual licensure examination, thus producing professional librarians who are equipped with the necessary skills and competencies in the LIS profession.

### STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

During the first year of implementation of the BLIS program, there were only few who enrolled since there was no promotional campaign done. But in the following year, there was an increase in the enrolment. From 2013 to 2019, there are already 180 students who were able to finish the program. Graduates are already employed in both public and private libraries and other agencies. Some of them are working in libraries where they had their internship.

**Table 2**

*Performance of LNU Graduates in the LLE from 2013 to 2019*

EXAM DATE	NATIONAL			LEYTE NORMAL UNIVERSITY				
	Total Examinees	Total Passers	Passing Percentage	Passing Performance	No. of Takers	First Timers	Re-takers	No. of Passers
SEPTEMBER 2019	1,024	565	55.18%	43.14%	49	25	24	22
SEPTEMBER 2018	951	466	49%	47%	51	40	11	24
SEPTEMBER 2017	904	545	60.28%	58.14%	43	27	16	25
SEPTEMBER 2016	1,140	738	64.74%	54.35	46	34	12	25
APRIL 2015	742	349	47.04%	45.83%	24	22	2	11
APRIL 2014	533	149	27.95%	0%	4	0	4	0
NOVEMBER 2013	834	382	45.80%	56.25%	16	16	0	9

### SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN THE LIBRARIAN LICENSURE EXAMINATION, 2013-2019

Table 2 presents LNU's performance in the LLE from 2013 until 2019.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

#### RESEARCH AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

The BLIS faculty conducts research in line with the university's research agenda.

#### RESEARCH PROGRAM

The BLIS Faculty has two research studies which were published in the LNU research journal *Sanghiran*. These are the following:

1. Information-Seeking Behavior and Needs of the Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEED) Student Teachers of Leyte Normal University,

Tacloban City (Rhodora T. Navarro)

2. A Tracer Study of the Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) Graduates of Leyte Normal University, School Year 2013-2016 (Navarra, H; Navarro, R. Sanita, M.)

The BLIS students also conduct research during their fourth year in the program. Table 3 presents the titles of their completed studies.

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

The BLIS Program has its community outreach program through the LNU Community Extension Office even before LNU's adoption of a barangay. The first recipient was a far-flung barangay in La Paz town, 50 kilometers from the City of Tacloban. The BLIS students through the student organization, Book Enthusiasts, did

**Table 3**

*Research Conducted*

RESEARCH TITLE	RESEARCHERS	YEAR COMPLETED
The Utilization of the Undergraduate Library of the Leyte Normal University S.Y. 2015-2016	Fabicon, Donnabelle Gay Badilla, Jobe Grace Malate, Roselyn Cinco, Catherin	2015
Level of Satisfaction of Users in Leyte Normal University College Library S.Y. 2015-2016	Aguillo, Urika May Culminar, Rowena Fevidal, Neña Divina Mazo, Patrice	2015
The Staffing Pattern in One Public and One Private Academic Library	Beronio, Azenith Remo, Chara Jane Cabato, Lyca Jane Garcia, Rea Joy Paet, Ruby	2015
An Evaluation of the Library and Information Science Program of Leyte Normal University	Cagara, Angelica Daño, Camille Rose Almanzor, Maegan Lou Abajon, Ma. Elluisa	2015
Evaluation of the LNU Library Resource Center and Facilities	Albay, Ramoncito Bosa, Arian Daitol, Apple Grace Molabola, Joanne Sasi, Lauren	2015
Level of Satisfaction of Library Users of the Leyte Normal University Library S.Y. 2015-2016	Agang, Marissa Carilla, Rosario Elic, Neri Joy Ibayan, Ma. Niña	2015

storytelling among the children there and donated some books for the barangay reading center.

The university has an adopted barangay, which is Barangay San Miguelay in Sta. Fe, Leyte, where all academic units regularly hold various extension activities. One of the projects spearheaded by the BLIS Program is the construction and furnishing of a mini-library. Books and other reading materials were donated for the barangay reading center.

### PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The BLIS Unit plans for wider linkages on its internship program. It specifically aims to deploy its student interns to national and international libraries in order to provide them with more exposure and relevant experience in the industry that will hopefully absorb them after graduation.



*Community outreach in Brgy. San Miguelay, Santa Fe, Leyte*

*Community outreach in Brgy. Bocawon, La Paz, Leyte*

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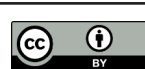
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### AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

**Rhodora Trecene-Navarro** is an Assistant Professor 1 of Leyte Normal University, Tacloban City, where she graduated her Bachelor of Science in Education major in Library Science (1984) and Master of Library and Information Science from the University of San Carlos (2012). She has been a College Librarian for seventeen years and LIS Educator from 2009 to the present. She was designated as Program Coordinator from 2009-2017, Program Head of the BLIS Program from 2017 to the present. She teaches Indexing and Abstracting, Organization of Information Sources, Research Methods in LIS, Educational Technology and Philosophies and Principles of Teaching. Her researches include tracer studies of BLIS graduates and information needs and seeking behavior. She has been elected as Secretary (2017-2018) and is the current President of Philippine Librarians Association Inc., - Eastern Visayas Region Librarians Council. She is also the Vice-President for Visayas of PLAI.

**Mary Ann Sanita-Dalan** is a licensed librarian. She finished her degree in Library and Information Science at Leyte Normal University (LNU) in 2014. She is now MLIS candidate at Cebu Normal University, Cebu City. She has been faculty at the Leyte Normal University's Library and Information Science Department since July 2017, and she handles selection and collection management, reference services, special and public librarianship, and information literacy subjects. She is currently affiliated as the research coordinator of the LIS Department in the same institution. Prior to her recent appointment at the LNU, she was a College Librarian at the San Lorenzo Ruiz College – Ormoc City. Her research interests include career trajectories of LIS graduates, information literacy, and reference services.



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