

Educating Librarians and Information Professionals at the University of San Carlos

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Abstract

This paper shows the history and development of the LIS program of the University of San Carlos (USC). Started as a Library Science subject in the 1950's, the academic department is now a section in the Computer and Information Sciences. The LIS Section teaches future librarians and information professionals, monitors the licensure examinees, and continues to do outreach activities.

Keywords: Bachelor of Library and Information Science, Master of Science in Library and Information Science, Master in Library and Information Science, LIS curriculum, Library and information science education, Library education and training, Philippines, FAPE-USC Graduate Center for Library Science

HISTORY

The University of San Carlos (USC) opened Library Science as a minor subject in the curriculum of the Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE) program in the first semester of academic year 1950-1951. This must have been one of the benefits of the migration of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) priest-scholars from Communist China in 1949. They saw the need for competent librarians, especially that they had their books, papers, and research work with them, in a former college-seminary that became a university

only a year before their arrival. The university administration took their observation for serious consideration in planning.

In 1952-1953, Library Science became one of the subjects of instruction in the College of Liberal Arts. In 1953-1954, the College of Education offered Library Science as a major or minor field of concentration in the revised BSE curriculum. Based on the revision of the Bachelor of Arts (AB) curriculum in 1957, Library Science became a major field of concentration in the first

semester of AY 1958-1959. The 1960s saw the courses BSE major or minor in Library Science and AB Library Science grow in enrollment and graduation of librarians-to-be. One of the 1964 graduates, Prudenciana Cruz née Comiling, became the sixteenth director of the National Library of the Philippines in 2001.

In 1966, the University created the Department of Library Science under the College of Liberal Arts to contribute to the upgrading of librarianship as a profession in the country. Mrs. Nenita Po Sy, holder of the degree of Master of Arts in Library Science, became the first chair. A USC graduate of AB Library Science, she had served the University as Associate Librarian for five years when she received a graduate scholarship grant to study in the United States.

In seminars attended by librarians from the Visayas and Mindanao, the clamor grew for graduate studies in library science. The Department of Library Science, with full recognition from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, offered the degree Master of Science in Library Science in June 1970. Buoyed with support from the University administrators and bolstered with resolutions from the librarians' seminars, Mrs. Sy as chairman, had applied for and was granted sponsorship of the graduate program. On July 1, 1970, the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE) formally established the Graduate Fellowship and Development Program for Library Science. The University president, Fr. Amante P. Castillo, SVD, appointed Mrs. Sy as the program coordinator, Chief Librarian Fr. Joseph Baumgartner, SVD and Library Science teacher, Miss Ernestina Nadela, as two members, and Mrs. Catalina Y. Diluvio as secretary. In 1974, FAPE converted and renamed the program into the Graduate Center for Library Science, a name it kept until 1983.

The 1980 survey conducted by FAPE on the first nine years (1970-1979) of the Graduate Center for Library Science revealed the positive impact of the program it had funded. There were 28 graduates of the degree, Master of Science in Library Science. Theses from Bukidnon, Davao, Cotabato, Misamis, and Sulu provinces dealt with evaluation of academic libraries, collection development, checklist of Filipiniana holdings, service for judicial agencies, student staff program, and library instruction. Theses

from Cebu, Negros Oriental, and Negros Occidental were on a literary index, subject guide, bio-bibliography, centralized processing, barrio high school libraries, history of a library, and library management. A thesis from Luzon was about library manpower in some Southern Tagalog provinces. These graduates were students of faculty members from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, private universities, and public colleges from the Visayas and Mindanao. From UP, Prof. Consuelo M. Damaso taught *Literature of the Humanities* while Isagani R. Medina, PhD handled *Philippine Bibliography*. Fr. Joseph Baumgartner lectured on *The Book in the History of Civilization* while USC Graduate School Dean Alicia Tan, PhD served as professor of *Research Methods*. Clara Lucero, PhD, the dean of the USC College of Education, taught *Methods of Teaching Library Science*. Former USC Chief Librarian Nela D. Serrato, MALS, was the teacher in Advanced Cataloguing and Classification. Central Mindanao University Librarian Zenaida L. Caintic, a FAPE grantee herself, handled *Literature of the Humanities*. Ruth N. Foy, co-author of *The Science Book List for Children: An Acquisition Guide for Elementary School and Public Libraries*, was the visiting professor for the subjects, *School Libraries* and *Reading Materials for Children*.

The position of Coordinator changed hands in these years. Miss Nenita Navarro, the FAPE researcher, sat as coordinator in 1977-1978, and in the following year, USC Director of Libraries Marilou P. Tadlip took over. Upon finishing her master's degree, Library Science teacher and FAPE grantee Catalina Y. Diluvio served as coordinator from 1979 to 1983. When she qualified for a Fulbright doctorate scholarship in 1983, she relinquished the position to Atty. Emma M. Acosta, a Library Science teacher and also a FAPE grantee. There were 32 more grantees from 1980 to 1983; there were 8 theses produced in the three-year period. In 1987, Atty. Acosta worked to strengthen the AB major in Library Science curriculum with core areas in librarianship in anticipation of a professionalization law. In 1992, Dr. Catalina Y. Diluvio, the third Library Science doctorate in the country, came back as chairman of the department.

Atty. Acosta and Dr. Diluvio steered the Center's Summer Institute for Training and Upgrading of Librarians (SITUL) from 1984 to 1995. There

were 164 FAPE-SITUL grantees; 23 of them finished the degree Master of Science in Library Science (MSLS) by 1992. There were also nine original grantees who finished their master's degree. The rest of the 164 were either writing their theses, preparing their research proposal, finishing the academic course work, or dropping from the course.

The Department of Library Science had to prepare the graduates for the first licensure examination for librarianship in 1992. In 1994, the Department had its first graduate in the top 10 examinees; Cristita L. Lanticse earned the ninth place in the licensure examination.

The mid-nineties saw the Department lose Atty. Acosta and Dr. Diluvio to untimely death of natural causes. Marilou P. Tadlip, EdD, USC Director of Libraries filled the vacancy in the position of chairman. The Department and the USC Library System have always worked together. The Library Science students go to the library as their laboratory and the USC librarians serve as part-time teachers for the undergraduate and graduate levels.

When Mrs. Evelyn A. Sanson, a USC FAPE grantee, assumed the chair's office in 1997, she implemented the new Commission on Higher Education (CHED) mandated undergraduate curriculum, Bachelor of Arts major in Library and Information Science (AB-LIS). The students had to take Information Science and Information Technology subjects.

In 2005, the Department offered the CHED's standardized Library Science degree program, which is the, Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS). Graduate students could enroll either in Master of Science in Library and Information Science (MS LIS) or the non-thesis Master in Library and Information Science (M LIS). The Department enlisted the expertise of Computer Science and Information Technology professionals to give lectures on their field as applied to Library and Information Science. The first BLIS graduates were conferred their degrees in March 2008, the first M LIS batch of five in October 2009, and the first MS LIS graduate in March 2013.

From 1995 to 2007, there was an output of 24 master's theses. With the May 2007 retirement of

Mrs. Sanson, Dr. Marilou P. Tadlip, Director of Libraries, became the concurrent chair on a part-time basis. In April 2009, she requested a new name for the Department due to the changes information and communication technologies have wrought upon librarianship. The endorsement of College of Arts and Sciences Dean Ramon S. del Fierro, PhD, and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Fr. Felino B. Javines Jr., SVD, DM secured the approved change of name to the Department of Library and Information Science. In three years' time, 12 students graduated with MSLS degrees; several thesis topics were on librarians' ICT competencies, computer-aided retrieval systems, and computer-stored bibliography and indexes.

In June 2011, the librarian of the USC North Campus Basic Education Department and a former part-time teacher of the then Department of Library Science, Maria Luisa K. Burdeos, MSLS, was appointed as chair. When the building for the Learning Resource Center of the USC Library System was opened in 2012, the Department of Library and Information Science moved to the Talamban Campus. The new building housed its office, conference room, and classrooms as it also became a laboratory with digital libraries in addition to the print, non-print, electronic and multi-media resources in the unit libraries and audio-visual centers.

There was a major change when the Department became a section under the Department of Computer, Information Sciences, and Mathematics, (DCISM) in June 2015. The last chairman of the defunct department served as the first LIS Section head. The DCISM teachers who used to handle the ICT subjects for LIS students had the same teaching load. There was a move to encourage Information Technology students to take LIS subjects as electives. In 2017, 10 faculty members of the DCISM wrote a textbook for the senior high school students of the University. Three of them were teachers of the LIS Section.

From 2011 to 2017, out of the 22 who finished their master's degrees, six were MS LIS, and 16 were MSLS. The thesis topics were on information literacy, information services to special groups, cataloging of books and non-book materials, collection development, and library management. There were 24 who graduated with

the non-thesis degree of M LIS. Three of them finished with the closure of the program in March 2014. In October 2017, the MSLS program effectively ended with its last batch of graduates. All students, returnees or new, had to take up MS LIS, a thesis program.

The University was chosen as a feeder school for the MS LIS degree of the CHED K-12 Scholarship Program in 2016. Three of these scholars graduated in 2018 and two in 2020. There are 4 scholars still enrolled in the program as of May 2021. Prof. Cristita L. Lanticse, MSLS, the current Coordinator of the LIS Section under the DCISM, serves in various capacities in the scholarship program.

Mission and Vision of the Program

The *Library and Information Science Section* of the Department of Computer, Information Sciences, and Mathematics aims to produce graduates who:

- Qualify as professionals for positions of responsibility in the various areas of librarianship and information science in business, education, government, publishing, or where information is used in the local and global arenas;
- Demonstrate expertise, skills, and competence on information products, services, and management practices throughout their lives as information professionals;
- Manage information organizations, user-based information services, and information products with high-tech and high-touch skills;
- Sustain professional growth through skills on critical analysis, problem-solving, written communication, teaching, and research;
- Engage in research in the various areas of librarianship and information science as contribution to the development of the different memory institutions in the Philippines;
- Show the charism of San Carlos Borromeo and St. Arnold Janssen by sharing their time, talent and treasure to the community as living Witnesses to the Word;
- Demonstrate the Carolinian spirituality of being witnesses to the Word, professional attitudes, and interpersonal skills in dealing with information users, colleagues and peers; and
- Draw upon the personal and lived experience to reflect on and examine ethical and social implications of situations, actions, policies, and

proposals and uphold the ethics of their chosen profession.

Curriculum Development, Degrees/Courses Offered

Over the years, the curricula for the BLIS and MS LIS programs underwent revisions to provide the balance between core courses, technology application, and internship subjects. The subjects in the licensure examination and the standards on the LIS competencies in the global community were also considered in the revisions. The LIS curriculum is standardized based on CHED Memorandum Order no. 24, series of 2015 titled *Revised Policies, Standards and Guidelines for the Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) Program*. It has several subjects on technology applications. While the LIS Section follows this BLIS curriculum, it acts on its own to provide training on the specific needs of libraries and librarians in the Visayas and Mindanao provinces. The Section also adapts the unified syllabi developed by the Council of Deans and Heads of Library and Information Science Schools (CODHLIS).

The purpose of the thesis program, MS LIS, is to enhance the librarians' professional competence for various areas of responsibility in the field and to contribute, through research, to the upgrading of librarianship as a profession in the Philippines.

Profile/Contribution of Faculty Members

The LIS Section has produced graduates who now serve as LIS teachers, academic/school librarians, directors of libraries, learning resource coordinators, library systems analysts, database managers, bibliographers, documentalists, and multimedia librarians. They also work in business and industry, media, and government. Many of these librarians are volunteers in the accreditation work of the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA), and Association of Christian Schools, Colleges and Universities-Accrediting Council, Inc. (ACSCU-ACI) of the umbrella organization, Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP). Catalina Y. Diluvio, MSLS, PhD is the first doctorate in Library Science from the Visayas and Mindanao. She finished her dissertation entitled *Science in the Philippines: A Bibliographic and Bibliometric Analysis of the Periodical Literature* at the

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1989. Nora G. Agustero, MSLS, PhD is the first Philippine doctorate in Information Studies at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom. Her dissertation is entitled *The Collaborative Behaviour of Academic Libraries: The Case of Library Consortia in the Philippines*. A good number has finished doctorate degrees in Education and Management, served as directors of their library, or taught Library and Information Science in their institutions. Due to the dedication of the librarians to the profession, several have been recognized by the librarians' organizations. One of these, the Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL), awarded its Lifetime Achievement Award to Annabelle P. Acedera (2020), Dr. Virginia I. Caintic (2019), Dr. Marilou P. Tadlip (2018), and Arabella M. Ananoria (2017). PAARL also bestowed the Outstanding Academic Librarian of the Year honors to nine Library Science alumnae. They are Maxie Doreen L. Cabarron (2017), Dr. Virginia P. Mollaneda (2016), Dr. Leticia A. Cansancio (2015), Rainera

C. Boholst (2014), Prudenciana C. Cruz and Virginia I. Caintic (2007), Arabella M. Ananoria (2002), Hinie S. Gonzales (2000), Annabelle P. Acedera (1999), and Marilou P. Tadlip (1998). The library system of USC was the Outstanding Library of the Year 2008. The faculty members of the LIS Section had themselves ranked in 2014. Except for the coordinator, all of them are part-time teachers, namely:

1. Fr. Alfonso A. Araceli, SVD, MAPM, MLIS, EdD (Assistant Instructor)
2. Cristita L. Lanticse, MSLS – Coordinator (Assistant Professor 1)
3. Maria Gloria A. Trinidad, MSLS (Assistant Instructor)

These are the advisers and panelists in the master's program:

4. Arlene Y. Bacayo
Assistant Instructor, LIB, MSLS)
5. Fidel E. Bendanillo, MS Biology
6. Angelita A. Bisares, MSLS

Table 1

Library and Information Science LLE Topnotchers

NAME	RANK	DATE OF EXAMINATIONS
Padin, Frances Riscel S.	3rd	September 19-19, 2018
Oyao, Seachel S.	2nd	April 22-23, 2015
Salve, Lorraine Claire K.	1st	November 23-24, 2011
Martinez, Kristine Y.	4th	November 11-12, 2008
Rose, Nora P.	3rd	November 21-22, 2000
Agustero, Nora G.	6th	November 21-22, 2000
Apale, Karina Immaculada B.	5th	December 2-3, 1999
Natividad, Prosamel	8th	December 2-3, 1999
Saronillo, Whagie G.	7th	December 2-3, 1998
Lanticse, Cristita L.	9th	December 7-8, 1994

7. Maria Luisa K. Burdeos, MSLS(Assistant Instructor)
8. Virginia P. Mollaneda, MSLS, EdD
9. Elmer S. Poliquit, MS Mathematics
10. Marilou P. Tadlip, EdD

Students and Alumni - Demographics and Performance in Licensure Examinations

In the Librarian Licensure Examination (LLE), USC has been consistently a top performing school in the country since 1992 when the first examination was given. In 1994, USC garnered the ninth place in the examination, seventh place in 1998, fifth and eighth places in 1999, third and sixth places in 2000, fourth place in 2008, first place in 2011, second place in 2015, and third place in 2018 (see Table 1).

In the November 2012 LLE, all seven fresh graduates and four re-takers passed, earning for the then Department a 100% passing rate. In November 2001, its passing rate was 90.48%, the second highest in its history. The LIS Section consistently scored above all the national passing averages, except in 2017, when it had 60% and the national passing average was 60.29%.

Research

There are 180 master's theses written from 1972 to 2020. The research findings became the basis for the institutions' improvement of library operations, installation of automated systems, collaboration in information literacy skills teaching, and intensified involvement in research. The institutions rightfully earned the returns on their investment in support of their FAPE scholars and their own study grantees.

These are the most recent research outputs of the Section:

- Boholst, R. C., Mollaneda, V. P., Oral, A. M. P., & Tadlip, M. P. (2012). *Information seeking strategies to digitized resources in Metro Cebu*. Cebu City: CHED USC Zonal Research Center.
- Burdeos, M. L. K., Lanticse, C. L., & Anud, M. (2017). *Utilization of the index to undergraduate theses at the Science and Technology Library of the University of San Carlos* [Paper presentation] 2nd University Research Conference, University of San Carlos, Cebu City.
- Burdeos, M. L. K., Sabellano, M. J. G., Cantara, A. D., Ceniza, A. M., Sarmiento, E. G. V.,

Mendoza, E. P., Polinar, S. B., Lanticse, C. L., Trinidad, M. G. A., & Capao, K. A. (2017). *Think. click & share: A comprehensive worktext in media and information literacy for senior high school*. Cebu City: University of San Carlos Press.

Outreach

Cataloging of books and storytelling were often the outreach activities of the faculty members and students. Some of these were short-term requests of public school libraries and barangay reading centers. In the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda in November 2013, the beginnings of an outreach program arose. Sr. Perry Inso of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Retreat in the Cenacle enlisted the help of Outreach Head Engr. Philip Marcon of the USC College of Engineering for the organization of a library put up by her congregation in Tindog, Medellin, Cebu. Engr. Marcon, in turn, invited the LIS faculty members and students to plan an outreach program for the Tindog Children's Public Library. A memorandum of agreement was signed by the Barangay Tindog captain, Sr. Inso, and LIS head in the presence of three faculty members, Engr. Marcon, two sisters of the partner religious community, and two teachers from the nearby Tindog Elementary School on Sunday, August 3, 2014. The library stands on a one-room concrete building. All the books, maps, charts, posters, and VHS tapes were delivered that day.

From August 2014 to mid-2017, the LIS faculty members and students organized the books and print materials of the Tindog Public Children's Library. In their semestral visits, the librarians and students conducted storytelling sessions and library lessons for the pupils of Tindog Elementary School, prepared a card catalog, labelled the books with call numbers and readied them for borrowing. There will be visits to Tindog, Medellin, Cebu to continue what has been started in the library.

Plans for the Future

The LIS Section as part of the academic infrastructure of USC has had its share of ups and downs. Its downgrading from a department to a section in its college serves as an impetus to live up to the pride of being the top LIS school in the Visayas and Mindanao. The decline in enrollment is attributable to many factors, but the Section has always had a population of not more than 10 but not less than four

enrollees in the BLIS program every year. This was reason enough for the University to suspend the offering of the program for over a year now.

The Section has embarked on a publicity campaign to attract enrollees. There is an intensive joint program promotion of the School of Arts and Sciences, such as career talks to HUMSS and STEM senior high school students of the University. The Section has an online poster and a brochure in its posts in social media. There are announcements, through print and online media, about a scholarship from an alumna and the Department of Science and Technology priority area scholarship.

When the University administration re-opens the BLIS program, the Section will implement all the promotional activities. If ever there is an increase in enrollees, the Section plans to apply for the Center for Development status with CHED. The Section has been working on it when the decision to close the undergraduate program came down. Meanwhile, the faculty members do their tasks, teaching, advising, editing, and assisting the master's students as they write their thesis. Serving in an academic section with the storied history of USC, one goes about the tasks inspired by the motto of *Scientia, Virtus, Devotio*.

DECLARATION ON CONFLICTING INTERESTS

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

DECLARATION ON SOURCES OF FUNDING

The authors received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Maria Luisa K. Burdeos started as a public school teacher, became a librarian, and ended as a full-time teacher of Library and Information Science. While at the University of San Carlos Boys' High School for three decades, she taught Library Science part-time, contributed to the library newsletter, and edited *Info Gateways* of the University of San Carlos Library System, from 1996 - 2010. She edited the short-lived *CLAI Journal* from 1994 -1998 and headed the Cebu Librarians Association, Inc. from 1996-1998. She has an Elementary Education degree from Mindanao State University in Marawi City and a master's in Library Science from USC. Known by her baptismal name, Nelia, in her work with the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities, she received, in November 2017, the James J. Meany, S.J. Award for 100 survey visits and consultancies, the first for a PAASCU accreditor from the University of San Carlos.

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The PhJLIS is published by the School of Library and Information Studies, University of the Philippines Diliman. ISSN 2719-0471 (Online)