



Local Heritage Networking for ASEAN Connectivity*

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Abstract

According to Brathwaite, cultural diversity is not merely the existence of different cultures occupying a single space, but also a dynamic engagement between cultures, their values, beliefs, and ways of knowing. In other words, cultural diversity consists of social and cultural interaction and understanding among peoples of the world. Heritage collections of institutions reflect the cultures, religion and languages of each community and these need not only be preserved and protected through the equal distribution of resources and an equitable rendering of concrete services to all communities but also promoted and disseminated for purposes of research, scholarship and documentation. ASEAN institutions of higher learning have organized heritage collections and established networks among themselves not only to preserve but also to disseminate for greater understanding and connectivity among themselves. This paper aims to present existing heritage collections networks as well as collections of institutional repositories which contain scholarly works on aspects of culture, governance and political development of countries in the ASEAN Region.

Keywords: Heritage Collections/ Cultural Diversity/ Heritage Networking/
Institutional Repositories

The ASEAN Region

The ASEAN Region consists of the countries Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, and Vietnam.

ASEAN is 3% of the total land area of Earth, and has a population of more than 600 million people, which is 8% to 9% of the world's population. The sea area of ASEAN is about three times larger than its land counterpart. As a single entity, ASEAN ranks as the sixth largest economy in the world, behind the US, China, India, Japan and Germany.

The ASEAN Region is a culturally diverse society. This is generally known as multiculturalism which refers to the harmonious co-existence and interaction of different cultures, where 'culture' includes racial, religious or cultural groups and is manifested in customary behaviours, cultural assumptions and values, patterns of thinking and communication styles (Gill).

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Cultural diversity is not the mere existence of different cultures occupying a single space. It is a dynamic engagement between cultures, their values, beliefs, and ways of knowing (Brathwaite). In other words, cultural diversity consists of social and cultural interaction and understanding among peoples of the world.

ASEAN Connectivity

The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity was adopted in October 2010 “to enhance regional and national physical, institutional and people-to-people linkages.” A well- connected ASEAN will bring goods, services, and capital together, thereby enhancing competitiveness and resiliency of the region.

Through ASEAN Connectivity, the ASEAN Community is achieved. Such community includes the following: ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

This paper shows the initiatives of ASEAN institutions and their respective libraries and information centers toward achieving ASEAN Connectivity through networking of their collection on local heritage or local knowledge thereby enhancing socio-cultural and political understanding among peoples of the ASEAN Region.

ASEAN University Libraries and ASEAN Connectivity

Libraries of higher educational institutions in individual ASEAN countries have formed networks to augment information sources that are otherwise very difficult to acquire due to budgetary constraints. These networks of academic libraries have the common goals and objectives of developing a library system and computer network linking various libraries. This is a very significant development that facilitated information retrieval and exchange among member institutions (Siengthai) Library networking, thanks to new information and communications technologies, has expanded considerably in the last 20 years and has spread not only within every ASEAN Region countries but also among libraries and information centers in the ASEAN Region. It is also worth mentioning that these networks are linked to various networks found elsewhere in the world. Today, more than ever, networking activities have expanded from the simple inter-library loan to staff exchanges, knowledge and skills transfer, cooperative or shared cataloging and indexing, document delivery as well as referral services and actual sharing of resources for the participating libraries’ client. Some of these networks include the Provincial University Libraries Network (PULINET) the Thai Academic Library Network Metropolitan (THAILINET-M) in Thailand; the national library system of Indonesia; the Berita Bibliography of Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei; PAARLNET, Philippine eLib, Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN), University of the Philippines Library System of the Philippines, etc.



In the ASEAN Region, the ASEAN University Network Inter-Library Online (AUNILo) is one group or network that has undergone projects meant to promote connectivity and cooperation among member countries. AUNILo is a network of ten (10) countries represented by three (3) of the premier universities in each country except Thailand that has four (4) members since Thailand hosts the ASEAN University Network (AUN). The member university libraries have organized heritage collections and established networks not only to preserve but also to disseminate contents of such collections for greater understanding among themselves. The resources in this network contain records on culture, governance and political development of countries in the region and shared by all communities.

The Institutional Repository

Recognizing that the member libraries have very rich local heritage collections, the idea of establishing an Institutional Repository (IR) in each member university was launched in February 2011 at AUNILo's 7th International Meetings. The information resources (publications, research outputs, archival or rare manuscripts, special collections) owned by the institutions and contained in their respective university library form the core collection of the IR. An institutional repository is a set of services that a university offers to the members of the community for the management and dissemination of digitized materials created by the institution and its community members (Lynch) and as part of the process of scholarly communication (Ware). The institutional repository (IR) has the potential to serve as tangible indicator of a university's quality and to demonstrate the scientific, social and economic relevance of its research activities or outputs, thus increasing the institution's worldwide visibility, status and public value (Crow). Institutional Repositories have become an important source of primary information for researchers and is popularly used in many countries.

The IRs of AUNILo Member University Libraries

The IRs of the AUNILo member university libraries contain digitized resources on open access to their constituents and linked with the AUNILo Portal ranging from university and faculty publications, theses and dissertations, examination papers, manuscripts, rare research reports, students' final projects, conference papers and proceedings, patents, inauguration speeches, scientific papers, images, video recordings and music, oral history materials, cartographic materials, course materials, learning manuals, research outputs, photographs, and journals published by these institutions.

The IR of the Libraries of the University of the Philippines Diliman.

The University Archives and Records Depository (UARD) is the official institutional repository of the University of the Philippines (UP) pursuant to Executive Order No. 13 dated June 7, 1974 issued by then UP President Salvador P. Lopez. The same executive order designated the University Librarian as the concurrent University Archivist. The two major functions of the UARD are:



- To collect and maintain archival materials that will assist researchers in tracing the development of the University and reflect the professional careers and achievement of the University administrators, faculty, and alumni; and
- To provide service relating to the establishment and maintenance of an efficient and effective records management program.
- E-prints is the system used to manage the Institutional Repository (IR).

The contents of the IR of the UARD includes the following:

- **Faculty Publications** -- output of research grants to faculty members funded by the University through the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Development.
- **Theses and Dissertations** – research studies produced by students as part of the requirements for degrees granted by the University.
- **University Publications** – in-house publications of the University published by the University Press, the University's Information Office (both system and Diliman, the flagship campus), the research outputs of the major research centers of the University, academic catalogues, academic calendars, faculty handbooks and manuals, directories, reports issued regularly by central administration, brochures, guides, alumni and student yearbooks, newsletters, community and student newspapers/bulletins.
- **Images/Video recordings** – E-resources produced by the University's Information Offices, the Office of Initiatives for Culture and the Arts, and the Office of the Vice - Chancellor for Student Affairs, in celebration of events/occasions, and tributes held in the University such as commencement exercises, yearly awards (parangal), honoris causa given to outstanding alumni, local or foreign personalities who have significant contributions to national development and/or relevant contributions to the University and to the world.
- **Books and Serial Articles** -- include books and serial articles about the history of the University and its colleges/schools/institutes, etc., writings and messages of university officials.
- **Cartographic Materials** – includes campus maps and its environs.
- **Presidential Papers and donated memorabilia** of outstanding alumni and faculty members
- **UP Gazette containing policies, issuances, directives, resolutions of the Board of Regents (governing body of the University)**
- **Research outputs of the major research centers of the University:** UCIDS on vital areas of Philippine society covering population resources, environment and sustainable development, values, culture and communication in relation to nation building, education, basic human need, governance, public welfare and social justice, studies on the peace conflict resolution and human rights, studies on psych-social trauma that relates to human rights violation brought about by political violence at the level of victims, survivors and care givers, studies on marine affairs, biodiversity conservation, Mindanao studies and disaster management; **Law Center** on legislative reforms, studies on the court system, international law, law of the sea, Asian legal systems, foreign



policy and intellectual property rights.; University Center for Women Studies (UCWS) on the elderly, feminist theories and role of women on various spheres, health and sexuality, laws and women's rights, and violence against women; **Asian Center** on the Philippine revolution, the Southern Council for Peace and Development and the Brunei- Darussalam- Indonesia- Malaysia- Philippines East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA; **NEC** on coastal structures, studies on water resources hydrology, river control and sediment transport; **MSI** on coral reefs, red tide and seagrass ecosystems. More units of the University have also started turning over their research outputs and publications to the IR.

Local Information Network in Southeast Asia

Realizing the danger and further loss of local knowledge/wisdom that is unique to a culture in Southeast Asia, the Local Information Network in Southeast Asia was organized in 2004 by the Project of International Coordination on Local Information of the Sirindhornsan Information Center, Academic Resource Center of Mahasarakham University in cooperation with the Thai Library Association's International Librarians and Information Specialists Group. This is a network not only for learning and training but also a repository of digitized local information. Local information refers to traditional, local, and indigenous knowledge that covers all accumulations of books and other materials in all formats and contain information on local environment in all its physical aspects, including geology, paleontology, climatology, and natural history, and in terms of all human activities and historical and factual events, folklore and long standing traditions and practices.

The network is participated in by the six countries represented by their national or state university library. It has in its database bibliographic information as well as digitized resources on culture and the arts such as myths, legends, poetry, ballads, chants, etc. It also has a glossary of terms in their respective language with equivalent terms in English and the languages of the countries participating in the network. Pronunciation of such terms is also included in the glossary. Japan has joined the library systems and digitized information resources on maps and disasters specifically the Great East Japan Earthquake Archive have been uploaded in their databases. The websites of the participating institutions (Center of Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University and the National Diet Library) are linked to the network.

Networks and Databases in the Philippines Thai Promote ASEAN Connectivity

- **The Philippine eLib**

The Philippine eLib (www.elib.gov.ph) is the digital resource of five government agencies, namely: the University of the Philippines, the National Library of the Philippines, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Agriculture, and the Commission on Higher Education. It is the most comprehensive



consortium in the Philippines and is seen as to represent the evolving culture and modernity of the country. It is a national information resource-sharing consortium and one-of-a kind collaborative project between one academic institution and four non-academic government institutions. Funded by the Philippine government, the resources of the five institutions were pooled together to create the largest and most comprehensive database that contains over a million bibliographic records and more than 30,000 digitized full-text content of local (Filipiniana) cultural heritage materials, indigenous local materials, unique archival materials, and other special collections from the different partner institutions. Aside from these, the Philippine eLib also subscribes to large e-journal databases that are accessible free to clients of the member institutions as well as affordable fee for others.

The Philippine eLib was established primarily to provide increased access to information for a wide-range of purposes by providing a portal for Philippine materials like researches, statistical data, theses and dissertations, journals and books. In addition, the eLib's objectives include enriching local content in digital format for community and global access; building capabilities and expertise in the creation and generation of digitized information sources; providing library and information service network to academic and government institutions to maximize the use of resources; promoting and accelerating the exchange of knowledge resources among various sectors of society, including regional and international users; providing access to Filipiniana cultural heritage collections and indigenous materials through archiving and digitized data; and creating another means of preserving Filipiniana cultural heritage collections and indigenous local materials by providing surrogate digitized sources, thereby, safeguarding the originals. Content-wise, the five institutions contribute materials that are unique to each. The National Library of the Philippines as well as the University of the Philippines have plenty of cultural heritage materials; the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Agriculture have local studies that have scientific research value; the Commission on Higher Education has studies and statistics on higher education. The digitized version of the Official Gazette issues from 1902 to the present is uploaded in the database. The Official Gazette contains Presidential issuances, laws, executive and administrative orders issued by national government agencies and its instrumentalities.

- **The University of the Philippines Diliman Library Network**

The University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, Quezon City Library Network is composed of a Main Library and thirty eight (38) college libraries. The UP Diliman Library Network maintains a strong collection in the fields of science, social sciences, the arts and humanities and are connected through the University of the Philippines Diliman Network or DILNET. Also, all libraries of the constituent units of the UP System (UP Baguio, Los Banos, Manila, Visayas, Mindanao, Cebu, and UP Open University) are connected by the iLib, an integrated library system developed and customized according to library users' expressed requirements for data processing, storage and retrieval of information. It is currently being updated to accommodate the requirements of the latest standard on cataloging called Resource Description and Access (RDA).



Rare Book Collection. Books and documents comprising the Rare Book Collection number around 3,500 titles with imprint dates ranging from the 16th to the early 20th centuries. The *De Moluccis* by Maximilianus Transylvanus (Rome, 1523), the oldest printed book in the Rare Book Collection is an account of the memorable voyage of Ferdinand Magellan during the years 1519 to 1522 culminating in the discovery of the Philippines and the circumnavigation of the world. The *Doctrina Christiana* or the *Teachings of Christianity*, the first printed book in the Philippines in 1593, has been the object of a hunt which has extended from Manila to Berlin, and from Italy to Chile, for 450 years. The book was found by a bookseller and collector in Paris in 1946. It was printed xylographically, that is from one wood-block carved by hand, page by page, in Manila at the Dominican Church of San Gabriel in 1593 (Galang, 1950). The book consists of prayers in Spanish with Tagalog translation in roman letters as well as in the native alphabet. It is one of the rarest books in the world and historically documents the start of printing in the Philippines. The UP Library in Diliman has a facsimile copy. About 1602, Fr. Francisco de San Jose, popularly known as Blancas de San Jose, introduced printing by typography. He came out with his *Arte y Reglas de Lengua Tagala* that was printed in Bataan, Philippines by Tomas Pinpin, who earned the title “Prince of Filipino Printers”. The other rare tiles in the Rare Book Collection include the following: *Librong Pag-aaralan ng mga Tagalog ng Uicang Castilla* (Tagalog Spanish Grammar) by Tomas Pinpin and printed in 1610 by Diego Talaghay; *Vocabulario dela Lengua Tagala, El Romance Castellano Puerto Primero* by Fr. Pedro San Buenaventura, printed in 1613 in Pila, Laguna, Philippines by Domingo Loag (Agoncillo, 1952); *Relacion de las Islas Filipinas* by Pedro Chirino was printed in Rome in 1604; and *Sucesos delas Islas Filipinas* by Antonio Morga was printed in 1609 in Mexico City.

Historical Papers. These are papers that are very rich primary sources on the history of the Philippines. However, most of these are on the Japanese occupation period in the Philippines. These papers include the following: *Carlos V. Ronquillo Papers* (on Philippine revolution against Spain), *Philippine Insurgent Records, 1896-1901* (on Philippine revolution against the United States); *Luther Parker Collection* (on histories and governments of various provinces, towns, and villages of the Philippines), *Japanese Occupation Papers*, *Jose Llanes Collection*, *Panay Guerilla Movement*, *Delfin Jaranilla Papers*, and *People’s Court Records, 1945-1948* (on Japanese occupation of the Philippines), and *Communist Party of the Philippines Papers*.

Vernacular Collection. The collection has a rich array of published materials and manuscripts written in the major languages of the Philippines namely Bikol, Cebuano or Sugbuanon, Hiligaynon, Iloko, Kapampangan or Pampango, and Tagalog. The bulk of the collection consists of literary works either in holograph, typescript or photocopies of original manuscripts. Some of these works were eventually published in books or periodicals which are found at the Filipiniana Books and Serial Sections of the Main Library. Researchers in Philippine literary and theater arts will relish this collection.



Theses Collection. Numbering more than 10,000 titles, the theses and dissertations are the research outputs of masters and doctoral students of the University of the Philippines. The preliminary pages, including abstracts of these theses and dissertations have been digitized and may be viewed via the portal of the Philippine eLib.

Philippine Left (Radical Papers). The Radical Papers or the Philippine Left Collection consists of mimeographed papers, leaflets, newsletters and other fugitive materials issued by the Philippine Left organizations against the Marcos administration. It covers the activities and publications of the underground movements. The Library has the 1969-1991 issues of *Ang Bayan* (The Nation), the official publication of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the 1971-1972 issues of *Bandilang Pula* (Red Flag), the newsletter of the New People's Army, and the 1984-1996 local issue editions of *Liberation* and the 1992-1997 international issue editions published in The Netherlands. These papers have been microfilmed and a subject guide has also been published. Interested individuals and institutions and libraries may have a positive microfilm copy of the papers upon request and advanced payment of a fee for both duplication and postage.

Local History File is a collection of various information about the Philippines, particularly its provinces, cities, towns and municipalities, as well as villages. Most of the materials cover the periods of the 1960's to the 1990's. The papers presented during the annual National Conference on Local and National History (1993-1996) sponsored by the Philippine National Historical Society are included in the file.

Harley Harris Bartlett Collection, 1886-1960. This is a unique collection consisting of ethnographic-historical and linguistic materials on the Philippines and the East Indies. Contained in 82 microfilm reels, the bulk of this collection consists of metrical romances in various Philippine languages. Some parts are in French, Spanish, German, English, and other languages.

Harry Whitfield Harnish Collection, 1898-1907. This is an unusual collection consisting of more than 500 glass negatives, slide plates, film negatives and prints depicting scenery, peoples and edifices from Northern Luzon to Zamboanga, Philippines at the close of the last century and the early 20th century. The photographs were taken between 1898 and 1907 that showed significant aspects of Philippine economy and socio-cultural life at the turn of the 20th century. The Harnish Collection which has been digitized, is a useful iconographic collection for researchers in the culture, history, sociology, anthropology, and local architecture of the Filipinos at the turn of the century.

Newspaper Collection. The Newspaper Collection consist of national dailies and provincial or community newspapers. Six major newspapers, namely: *Manila Bulletin*, *Manila Chronicle*, *Manila Times*, *Malaya*, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, and *Philippine Star* are indexed. The index, which is now available free on line via the University of the Philippines Diliman Library website, includes not only entries about the Philippines and all aspects of Philippine life, including the economy, history,



politics and governance, social conditions but also index entries on all aspects of the Southeast Asian countries in relation to the Philippines.

Issues and Challenges

Diversity among societies within each member country of the ASEAN Region and among member countries of the ASEAN Region is still the greatest challenge in achieving connectivity among libraries of higher educational institutions. This diversity is expressed not only in different levels of financial capabilities and collection development of these institutions but the level of technological infrastructure and expertise of the information professionals in these institutions. There is therefore a need to enhance communication links among these institutions thru training and staff exchanges, conferences and other forms of networking among themselves. AUN should be able to extend assistance to members that lack technological hardware and expertise to this end.

In terms of digitized contents, we still have to deal with copyright issues that restrict access. The institutions in the ASEAN Region should pursue the acquisition of copyright waivers and fast track the conversion of print resources to digital files.

The AUNILO Portal must be able to link institutional repositories not only of the member academic institutions and their respective libraries but also accommodate IRs of other public as well as private institutions. This will enlarge AUNILO's coverage compared to its present composition. AUNILO must also re-evaluate restrictions on access of participating institutions in the network.

Conclusion

Our digital library systems have enabled institutions in the Region to preserve their unique collections on history and culture and academic records in digitized form. Usage of these digitized resources has enhanced information services not only to the academic community but to the rest of society. The networks have not only strengthened connectivity among peoples of the ASEAN Region but also enhanced its competitiveness and resiliency. This holds true as well to individual country members of the ASEAN Region..

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