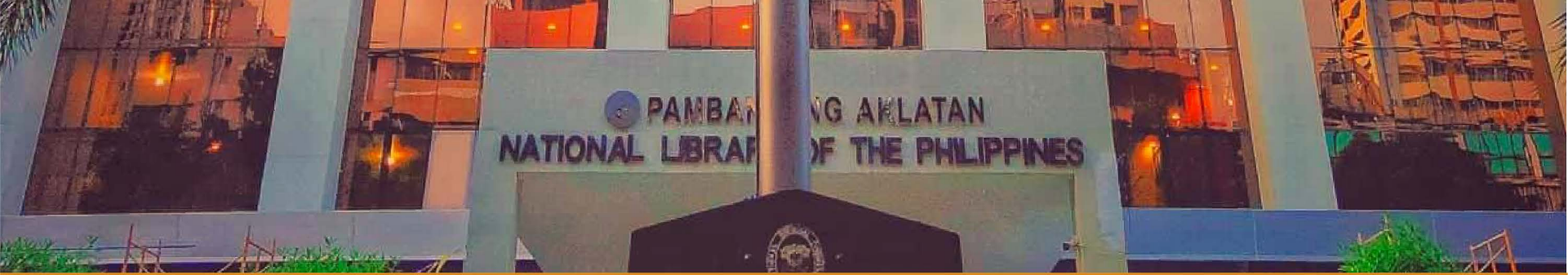




Impact Stories:

Public Libraries' Contribution to the Community





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Public Libraries' Contribution *to* *the* Community

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Foreword

The public libraries of the Philippines have a number of motivating and dynamic endeavors that impacted individuals and the local communities within their reach. The tale about libraries as simply a depository of history, culture and information has been changing.

I am personally inspired by the narrative of Bulacan Provincial Library who made in-depth research about their local history through the conduct of SINEliksik Bulacan Docufest. It involved filmmakers, local historical groups as well as researchers and was participated in by 21 municipalities and three cities. I commend their revolutionary way of bringing life to learning history.

I am inspired by the story of Butuan City Public Library on how they bridged classic and digital education, how they promoted grassroots development, how they provided opportunities for inclusive growth, and the free digital trainings they conducted for the different sectors of the society including senior citizens and the children.

The report of Cavite Provincial Library which went “beyond their own doors” in their aspiration to elevate the literacy level of the locals deserves great commendation. I laud the effort they spent in implementing their Computer Literacy Programs by giving free computer trainings to children, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, teachers, vendors, barangay workers and out-of-school youth, among others.

I congratulate them for launching their computer laboratory and Tech4Ed Center for the use of provincial jail inmates.

These are some of the inspiring stories of our public libraries in the Philippines. I believe the tales of public libraries’ best practices do not end here. I hope one day we may be able to read your narratives as well, and I also hope that day is not too far away.

The most inspired by this publication...

Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano

Director IV, NLP

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Introduction

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) define a public library as “an organization established, supported and funded by the community, either through local, regional or national government or through some other form of community organization.”

They likewise state that a public library “provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination through a range resources and services and is equally available to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic and employment status and educational attainment.”

It exists to serve communities, a “democratic equalizer, open to all and providing access to information that helps people improve their individual, family, and community lives.”

In many jurisdictions, public library services contribute to youth development, community health, agriculture, and community economic wellbeing.

Aptly put the IFLA UNESCO Public Library Manifesto says “the public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.”

By its very nature, the public library is an inclusive institution that reflects the community it serves.

Knowing and understanding the complexities and uniqueness of the community is the key to decision making processes whether be it in creating policy, defining services, purchasing library resources or providing service enhancements.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE LOCAL SCENE

Public librarianship in the Philippines started during the American colonial period around the 1900s. Henceforth, several laws were enacted relevant to the development of public libraries and the National Library of the Philippines.

In 1994, Republic Act No. 7743 was enacted to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people through elevating the literacy level of every Filipino to the end that illiteracy is eradicated, and recognizing the vital role of knowledge and information in nation-building by establishing public libraries in every congressional district, city and municipality, and reading centers in every barangay throughout the Philippines.

In the Philippines, a public library is an institution that is wholly or partially supported with public funds (national and local). It provides free services to the general public. It is the community’s show window of culture, with a basic objective to enhance the educational level and civic responsibility of the people in a community.

A public library hopes to provide opportunity for self-improvement, bring people and resources together and supply information on the topics of contemporary living.

As a way to ensure that they remain sync with the changing demands and needs of the community they serve, public libraries in the country develop relations with local government units, schools, state universities and colleges, non-governmental organizations, national government agencies, private sectors and individuals.

In 2018, the National Library of the Philippines launched its program for the public libraries to develop programs and services in a 5K framework. These are karunungan (knowledge), kultura (culture), kalusugan (health), kabuhayan (livelihood) and kalikasan (environment).

Though their countless innovations in pursuance to the 5K framework, public libraries in the Philippines have been a great contributor to government strategies of nation-building such as “malasakit” (enhancing social fabric), “pagbabago” (inequality-reducing transformation), and “patuloy na pag-unlad” (increasing growth potential).

The Filipino word “malasakit,” which translates to English as “care or concern,” refers to the goal to regain people’s trust in public institutions and cultivate trust to each other. It aims to ensure people-centered, clean and efficient governance, pursue swift and fair administration of justice, and promote Philippine culture and values. Specifically, public libraries are involved in increasing the awareness and knowledge on the value of cultural diversity and shared heritage among Filipinos.

On the other hand, “pagbabago,” or change in English, is a strategy aimed at reducing inequality by increasing opportunities for growth and transformation. This is achieved by expanding economic opportunities, strengthening social protection, and accelerating human capital development.

Lastly, “patuloy na pag-unlad” or continued growth focuses on economic growth. This is achieved by maximizing demographic dividend, promoting technology adoption, and stimulating innovations.

These are just some of the reasons why public libraries need to be strengthened and improved.

The public library must be viewed as a living force of the community which exists primarily for the public.

It is one of the most liberal and democratic institutions whose doors are always open to serve all irrespective of race, class, sex, or gender. It is one of those social institutions whose distinctive place in the progressive scheme of things cannot be doubted.

The collection of such an institution is all inclusive as it encompasses the broad range of what really constitute human knowledge and civilization.

And as Appadorai has said, “public library is humankind’s gift to society because its services are free, impartial, unfettered and neutral. It provides free access to information in order to realize the long-cherished goal of social justice and full democratic participation of all citizens.”



**NATIONAL PAMBANSANG AKLATAN
LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES**





National
Library *of*
the Philippines



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES

More than just *storytelling*

A genuine love for reading is one of the many things parents would want their children to have at a young age. Not only does this give their kids an advantage on increasing their vocabulary, but reading would also help them develop their analytical thinking.

But how could one really inculcate a love for reading to a young person?

One possible way is to expose kids to books early on, and this may be done through storytelling.

To aid the parents of these young children, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) has adopted storytelling programs that would encourage more kids to have good reading habits of their own.

“Akala nila pagdating sa pagbabasa o pagkukuwento, Lola Basyang type,” registered librarian Melanie Ramirez said of NLP’s storytelling sessions.

“Ngayon interactive storytelling na. ‘Yung pagtatanong sa mga bata, sinasama mo siya sa pagkukuwento. At nandoon ‘yung making face na hindi ka gumagamit ng props. And nandoon ‘yung boses mo na hindi ka gumagamit ng mga background music, kundi mga boses na puwede mong iba-ibahin na angkop sa kwento mo,” she added.

Ramirez said her love for children’s literature started in college and it eventually blossomed into a full-fledged commitment to make stories alive for children. She, however, noted that her journey towards becoming a storyteller was far from brief.

She attended various workshops and was fortunate to have as her mentor Manolo Silayan, one of the founders of “Alitaptap Storytellers Philippines.” He was the one who tested her ability and honed her skills, taught her the styles and techniques that she needed to be effective at what she does.

For Ramirez, storytelling builds important bonds and imparts valuable information that children need to learn while they are young.

“Through pagbabasa, nakaiisip ako ng ideya o technique para maagaw ‘yung attention nila, at matuto silang magbasa na puwede rin nilang gayahin ‘yung storyteller na malakas din magbasa, may aksyon ‘yung mukha,” she said.

At present, storytelling sessions spearheaded by the NLP happen thrice a week. From this program also spawned the initiative of the NLP to launch a Book Cart and bring books closer to those who cannot visit the library.

Originally launched on July 12, 2017, the Book Cart is filled to the brim with books and other reading materials appealing to and geared towards underprivileged children and out-of-school youth hungry for learning.

Regularly patrolling the Rizal Park, the purpose of the Book Cart project is to reach out to young children who do not have the means and access to reading materials that could help broaden their horizons and increase their chances for a better future and brighter outlook in life.

Once “hooked”, the project also aims to promote the habit of reading and a lifelong predilection for learning by easing access to reading materials that otherwise would be hopelessly out of reach to them at a point when they are most impressionable and at the ideal stages for learning.

The Book Cart project mainly utilizes storytelling sessions, read-aloud and coloring book sessions, arts and crafts mini-skits, play and game sessions to engage its young audience into the habit of reading and learning.

At the end of the day, these two programs of the NLP have become not just a community link but also a form of public service.



CITY LIBRARY





Alaminos City
Public Library

ALAMINOS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Role of Libraries in developing a well-educated citizenry



Even in today's high-tech world, learning is still much more fun to a majority when holding an actual copy of what they are reading.

In fact, there have been studies around the world which suggest that having printed copies of books help children become better readers as compared to when they use e-books.

Aside from the fact that they are simpler on the eyes, reports say it is easier for people to absorb more information when reading printed books rather than browsing through a phone or a tablet.

In the Philippines in particular, the National Library of the Philippines has acknowledged that while the convenience of internet use is causing a dilemma among libraries, researchers and readers alike still prefer the actual book or the actual resources they need.

In support of this, the public library in the city of Alaminos, Pangasinan launched the "Aklatang Pambarangay: Book Donation Project" in March 2018.

This timely initiative is in compliance with Republic Act No. 7743 focusing on the establishments of Barangay Reading Centers in elevating the level of every Filipino and eradicating the illiteracy, also, to fathom the vital role of knowledge and information in nation building through these means.

In partnership with the various education stakeholders and benevolent private entities, businesses and some schools and colleges, the project has collected more than 9,200 books in less than a year since its launching.

All the donated books were equally distributed to the city's 37 public elementary schools, 11 public high schools and some private schools. Newly organized Barangay Reading Centers were also the beneficiaries of this noble cause.

Kurt Anna dela Cruz, who is the SSG President of Brgy. Tawin-Tawin's Ildefonso Quimson Community High School, spoke about how this effort has made a positive impact in her life and those in her school.

"Maganda ang naging resulta ng Aklatang Pambarangay Project sa mga mag-aaral lalo na sa mga liblib na barangay sa ating lungsod," said Kurt Anna Marie.

"Maswerte pala kaming mga estudyante kahit na simple lamang ang aming paaralan, dahil may mga taong tumutulong sa amin at nagsisilbing inspirasyon na parating magpatuloy sa buhay," she added.

Up to present time, Kurt Anna continues to recognize the importance of the "Aklatang Pambarangay: Book Donation Project" especially in light of today's modern technology.

"Dahil sa programang ito, natutuwa naming linangin pa ang aming kakayahan. Higit sa lahat, natutunan po naming maging responsable at pahalagahan ang mga librong ibinigay ninyo sa aming paaralan at gamitin ito ng tama," she said.

"Isa din po kayo sa mahahalagang tao na nagturo po sa amin na magkaroon ng pag-asa sa buhay, mangarap at abutin ito para sa mas magandang bukas. Higit sa lahat, laging maging positibo at i-angkla sa ating Panginoon ang alinmang aspeto ng ating buhay," she ended.

The National Library of the Philippines has recognized the success of this campaign that it donated 50 boxes filled with more or less 3,000 books.

Undoubtedly, this advocacy has contributed in the realization of Alaminos City Public Library's vision of being instrumental in developing a well-educated citizenry.

The city library helped meet the development needs of its students and youth for them to become better assets of the society and extend their fair share in building a stronger and better nation for all.

Through these books that were given to barangay reading centers and public school libraries, students in Alaminos City can now readily quench their thirst for knowledge and vital information which could help them improve their academic performance.



PANLALAWIGANG AKLATAN NG BULACAN





Bulacan
Provincial
Library

BULACAN PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

Sineliksik Bulacan revisits grandeur of province's history and culture

More than just being a place for books that may be used freely by its clients, some people lose sight of a library's role in preserving the truth.

While libraries generally offer a great selection of fictional materials, they also house countless resources containing information about a place's history.

In fact, libraries are actual repositories of the printed and recorded cultural heritage of different places in the country for they store accumulated intellectual, literary and information sources over the years.

These preserved records have been of significant use not just for academicians in particular, but also for the general public who wish to dig deep about something of value.

In line with this function, the Bulacan Provincial Library under the Provincial History, Arts, Culture and Tourism Office of Bulacan collaborated with historical and cultural agencies in coming up with projects aimed to immerse its people towards a higher level of awareness and appreciation of its rich history, arts and culture.

The collaboration gave birth to the "SINEIiksik Bulacan DocuFest" which creates and strengthens the involvement of all Bulakeños in historical research and production of documentary films.



It is a unique and competitive program which has become a venue for researchers, filmmakers, local historical groups and other Bulakeños who want to share their accounts on history and culture. The quality research gathered will be consolidated into a documentary film which are 10 to 15 minutes long. This would apparently bring life to learning history the revolutionary way.

For three years now, “SINEliksik Bulacan DocuFest” featured different themes annually.

During its pilot run in 2017, participants from 21 municipalities and three cities in Bulacan had to conduct in-depth research about their own local history. This helped them have a more profound appreciation of their own locality’s significance.

The following year, it targeted to promote the preservation and conservation of national cultural heritage by requiring participants to provide comprehensive features about heritage structures which are 50 years or older within the province.

Lastly, in 2019, the docufest highlighted great Bulakeño heroes of the Philippine-Spanish and Philippine-American wars. The entries featured their heroism and its relevance to the present so as to inspire and inculcate nationalism in the minds and hearts of the locals.

After every competition each year, the winning documentary films were featured in film showing activities spearheaded by the provincial government. All full-blown researches submitted also became part of the Bulacaniana Collection of the Bulacan Provincial Library for the benefit of all.

Moreover, the SINEliksik Bulacan Coffee Table Book was launched where essays and other supporting articles and researches depicting the documentary films in DocuFest were featured. Copies of this book were disseminated in various local government units in Bulacan, public schools and libraries which could serve as guide for teachers.

These initiatives gave way for the Bulacan Provincial Library to bag an award in 2017 from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Library of the Philippines and Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.







Butuan City

Public Library

BUTUAN CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library in digitally *evolving society*



Nowadays, finding any information you need is just within a person's fingertips.

With technology advancing faster than most people thought it would, it has become a necessity for a person to be at least be digitally knowledgeable in this day and age.

This, however, does not mean to say that the relevance of libraries in the society has diminished.

The Butuan City Public Library (BCPL) proved this after it has successfully transformed from a traditional, passive institution to a dynamic, engaging entity starting in 2014 after it was heralded as a Tech4Ed center.

A project by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Tech4ED program "provides access points for individuals and communities to bridge the digital and education divide."

Additionally, the DICT aimed it to "promote grassroots development and opportunities for inclusive growth and poverty reduction. It will give communities access to information, communication, technology, government services, non-formal education, skills training, telehealth, job markets, and business portals."

Being the first of its kind in the Caraga Region, the BCPL has managed to become its information hub, providing opportunities for economic and social development through interactive, innovative, timely and responsive contents and services.



Among its innovations include providing free digital literacy trainings to different sectors of the community. The training is usually done in two to three days with modules designed according to the profile of the participants.

Since 2015, the sectors that have benefited the most from these trainings are the senior citizens and the barangay nutrition scholars.

In the case of barangay nutrition scholars, they were able to trim down the time in recording data of kids aged zero to five in various areas. Before undergoing the digital literacy training, these volunteers used to accomplish their jobs in two to three weeks, writing down on paper everything they have gathered. Today, it only takes three days for them to complete and submit their outputs to their respective barangays. The total number of barangay healthcare volunteers trained from 2015 up to 2017 was 95.

The training for the senior citizens had a different objective. During the digital literacy trainings, the BCPL taught them the basics of operating a computer. They were then introduced to various social media platforms with the aim of helping them use it to get in touch with friends and relatives here and abroad, and as a source of news and entertainment.

Another innovation of the BCPL is the introduction of virtual assistant training for the jobless and underpaid workers, and the E-Commerce training for small and starting business entrepreneurs of Butuan City. These were conducted in four batches last September until the first week of November.

The virtual assistant training session lasted for six days with a module that covered English grammar, proper pronunciation, call simulations, virtual assistant job orientation with video presentations, online profile creation and on-the-spot online application at various job portals. Out of the total 81 trainees for virtual assistant, 25 have already landed online jobs.

On the other hand, the e-commerce training session lasted for 5 days with a module that covered fundamentals of E-Commerce, E-Commerce Platforms, Online Presence and Content Planning, Managing E-Commerce Processes, Basic Marketing/Advertising/SEO Techniques, Cybersecurity and E-Commerce Ethics.



There were a total of 46 participants to the E-Commerce training. While its impact on their businesses cannot be measured immediately, some of the trainees were able to create online presence for their products.

Furthermore, the BPCL also offered an e-Gov portal assistance for OFWs and LET applicants. This service involves assisting their clients in navigating specific government websites and filling out online forms. While they could always go to internet cafes for their ICT needs, the BPCL provides this service free of charge. To date, the BPCL has already assisted 14,000 OFWs and over 2,000 LET applicants.

As testament to the success of its innovative services, the BCPL has been given national and international awards in the last two years.

As Benjamin Disraeli said, “the secret of success is constancy to purpose.” And the Butuan City Public Library is always on the lookout for opportunities to address the needs of the community in the area of learning and skills development.



PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY
National Department of Special Education Services
Dr. Gerson M. Sison
Chairman, Special Education Council

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY
National Department of Special Education Services
Dr. Gerson M. Sison
Chairman, Special Education Council





Cavite
Provincial
Library

CAVITE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

Furthering knowledge *beyond its own doors*

Aware of the paradigm shift towards becoming a more digital world, public libraries have been on their toes in coming up with ideas to adapt to these changes. Like other libraries around the world, the ones here in the Philippines have to respond to this modernization so as to continue serving its purpose. One way to do this is by being instrumental in making library clients more digitally literate.

Whether it is just teaching them how to operate a computer or how to navigate different software, or assisting them to get on social media or simply searching online, many local public libraries today are already offering digital literacy trainings.

The integration of the information and communications technology into the services they offer serves as avenue to enable people to harness their skills and provide opportunities to work and generate income.

Of course, these trainings are in consonance with the law-mandated role of libraries to “elevate the literacy level of every Filipino to the end that illiteracy is eradicated” and to “recognize the vital role of knowledge and information in nation-building.”

But the Cavite Provincial Library is pushing the envelope a little further.

Even as it serves as a venue where basic computer courses can be taught, the library has gone beyond its own doors to provide that same literacy to others.



Probably its most remarkable initiative is when it made available to inmates basic computer trainings.

In 2018, several inmates participated in the Basic Computer Literacy Program conducted by the Cavite Provincial Library. In July of the following year, the Computer Laboratory and Tech4Ed Center were launched for the inmates' use at the Cavite Provincial Jail.

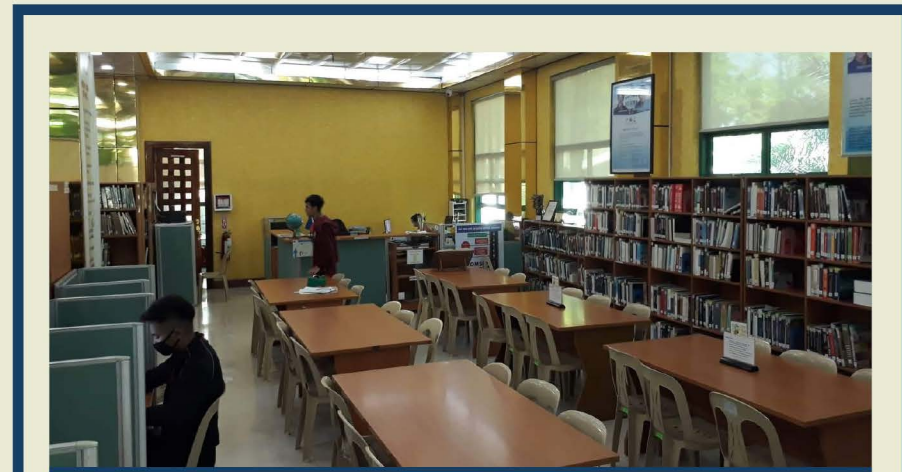
With over 60 participants in the Basic Computer Literacy Program in July 2019, the Cavite Provincial Library is optimistic the new knowledge gained by the inmates could help them become productive members of society again once they are set free. After getting out of jail, these inmates could pursue advanced courses in computer and possibly be hired for gainful employment.

Concurrent with these onsite efforts are trainings which the Cavite Provincial Library conducts within its four walls.

In the e-library, basic and advanced computer literacy program for kids is conducted every summer to introduce computers into a child's education and develop early advancement of their literacy skills.

There is also a similar program offered to different sectors of the community such as persons with disabilities, senior citizens, out-of-school youths, alternative learning system learners, teachers, vendors, employees, barangay health workers, barangay secretaries and treasurers, kamineros, capataz, and the like to help them improve their knowledge in technology. Immersion activities at the e-library are also available for high school students where they could learn about vector, HTML, photo shop and animation from highly qualified trainers and speakers who are more than willing to share their knowledge and expertise.

When it comes to sticking to its traditional function, the provincial library allows all Caviteños to avail for themselves a library card with a minimal charge. By using it, they could not only borrow books but they could also use its desktop computers with Internet connection for one hour. It also comes with an access to the library WiFi, free printing, photocopying and scanning of documents.



By staying committed to all the aforementioned, the Cavite Provincial Library continuously fulfills its function of assisting in the creation and maintenance an educated population.





Dagupan City *Public Library*

DAGUPAN CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mobile library and its role in the society



The public library as a place is important to the society because it offers an avenue for informal education to its frequenters. In a world that is progressively becoming digital, it seems the role which it plays in the communities is gradually diminishing.

This is the very reason why initiatives to reinvent itself continue, with the aim of staying relevant and making an impact within its immediate society. One way of doing this is by bringing the library literally closer to the people.

In the case of Dagupan City, it came up with a mobile library that went around the city, visiting daycare centers.

This project spearheaded by its public library was in line with the city's commitment to educate every child and to bring its services more available to community members. It is one of the city's ways of delivering effective, innovative and borderless educational programs for its residents, especially the children who belong to the lower financial strata of the society.

Since it started in 2013, the mobile library has already benefited no less than 36,250 pupils as of November 2019.

Through the project, storytelling, fun art activities as well as entertainment or educational videos are conducted by the librarians and their assistants. The public library sometimes taps guest storytellers from members of the Rotary Club and Inner Wheel Club as well as prominent Dagupenos, businessmen and politicians.

An eye-catcher in itself because of its design, the mobile library is equipped with *books, toys, magazines, newspapers, two television sets and other learning devices.*



As part of this effort, the public library prepares a month-long schedule so as to ensure that every Child Minding Center is visited regularly, no matter how far it is from the center of the city. Coordination of every activity is done with the teachers of Child Minding Centers, those in charge in barangay reading centers, barangay officials and sometimes even with the barangay health workers.

Indeed, this kind of initiative is a good measure in making connection between public libraries, the community and its clients. A continued commitment on the part of the government will surely go a long way in sustaining the purpose for which public libraries are created.



CITY OF IMUS LIBRARY

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF CAVITE
CITY OF IMUS



IMUS CITY LIBRARY Citizen's Charter

The IMUS CITY LIBRARY is committed to provide the reading public valuable information through books, periodicals, pamphlets, non-print materials, electronic sources and other data sources classified and catalogued for fast and easy access and to deliver service with the highest degree of efficiency and integrity.

MISSION

The IMUS CITY LIBRARY aims to educate the reading public by providing valuable information through books, electronic source and other data sources and to deliver service with the highest degree of efficiency and integrity.

VISION

It has been the vision of the IMUS CITY LIBRARY to be a partner in attaining better quality of life for the reading public through literacy.

SERVICE STANDARDS

1. Service to our clients with the highest degree of efficiency and integrity.
2. Assist our clients regarding the use of library and library materials to the best of our abilities.
3. Humane consideration to the clients' welfare, specifically on their comfort and convenience.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Reader's Service
- Internet Service

SERVICE PROCEDURES

1. The library user must register first before using the library and its facilities.
2. Bags and other belongings should be left in the depository section.
3. The library staff is always ready to assist the user or the user may use the card catalog and/or the Online Public Access to Catalog (OPAC) for research purposes.
4. The library user should present at least one (1) valid ID when photocopying books and other library materials.
5. For internet users, use only the assigned computer and do not open unauthorized websites.

CITY LIBRARY



SUGGESTION BOX





Imus City
Public Library

IMUS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

...and they read happily ever after



Reading is the gateway to all learning.

Considered one of the most fundamental abilities needed to be successful in any field, reading helps a person develop his or her vocabulary and analytical thinking.

Studies provide that reading also improves both concentration and memory because it involves brain exercise.

Hence, it could not be more emphasized why reading should be instilled in children early on.

Without the development of good reading skills, students are placed at greater risk for academic failure.

The City of Imus in Cavite, however, would not have any of it.

To address this, the Imus City Public Library (ICPL) went beyond the confines of its building to spearhead a program that aims to develop love for books and reading among children.

Dubbed "Kwentuhan na sa Plaza... Mga Bata Tara na!," the program began in 2016 in partnership with the City Parks and Historical Sites Administration Unit. As it regularly runs, children would gather every first Friday of the month at the city plaza after sundown.

Like the good old Filipino tradition, it is like having your grandmother tell you and your friends interesting stories -- except that the storyteller is not her.

To make learning more interesting, storytellers employ props and gimmicks such as scattering slippers around the plaza when telling “Ako si Kanan, Ako si Kaliwa,” or distributing toothbrush when sharing a story encouraging dental hygiene.

“Kwentuhan na sa Plaza”

“Kwentuhan na sa Plaza” started out with only about 20 kids attending. It eventually evolved to a hundred children participating every session, with volunteer storytellers also expanding including police officers, firefighters, employees of the city government, representatives of civic organizations, and even the City Mayor himself, Hon. Emmanuel L. Maliksi.

At present, barangays within the city are already planning to open their own reading centers and start their own storytelling sessions.

“Kwentuhan sa Plaza” also spun-off a free summer reading program in 2018 labeled the “Summer Reading Program for Kids” for children who need one-on-one reading tutorials.

For two consecutive years, a total of 81 children were chosen to undergo a 15-hour reading course facilitated by volunteer education students of the Cavite State University Imus Campus. To date, 76 children have graduated this program.


With a current population of 403,785 and literacy rate of 99.78%, the highest in the province for four years now, “Kwentuhan sa Plaza” and the “Summer



Reading Program for Kids,” among others, have clearly made an impact among the lives of children in Imus City.

This only proves that public libraries could play an essential role in providing accessible and free educational resource not only within its four walls, but also within a community. Through its various programs, public libraries have expanded its purpose by largely playing a part in community development.

CHAPEL



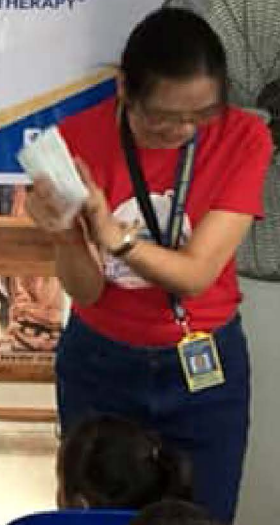
LAGUNA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
LAGUNA MEDICAL CENTER AND DISTRICT HOSPITALS

**BOOK WAGON MOBILE LIBRARY
STORY TELLING AND OUTREACH ACTIVITY**

THE LEADING BOOK STORIES FOR CHILDREN'S THERAPY™
WITH COS MYRNA H. SORIANO

MEMORIAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL

2026 10:00 AM





Laguna
Provincial
Library

LAGUNA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

Book wagon mobile library: Reading book stories for children's therapy

Who would have thought that a public library could be very much involved in efforts of helping ill children tread the path to recovery?

Through its Book Wagon Mobile Library (BWML) project, the Laguna Provincial Library partnered with hospitals within its jurisdiction to reach out to confined children.

With the theme “Reading Book Stories for Children’s Therapy,” the project not only aims to help these kids recuperate, but it also serves its purpose for which it was developed which is to promote the love of reading and lifelong learning among the children.

Just like any mobile library, the BWML brings the “library experience” outside the bounds of its building every time it carries children’s books and toys as it moves around public hospitals in Laguna to conduct storytelling sessions with children in the ward section.

These books and toys were donated by different provincial government offices as well as private individuals.

To more effectively carry out this initiative, the Laguna Public Library also tapped local government officials and department heads to read book stories to sick children.



The project kicked off at the Laguna Medical Center led by public library personnel last September 16, 2019.

This was followed by conducting a similar activity at the following hospitals: Bay Medical Center on October 16, 2019; San Pablo District Hospital on October 29, 2019; Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Hospital on November 6, 2019; San Pedro Municipal Hospital on November 13, 2019; and Nagcarlan District Hospital on November 15, 2019.

As of writing, three more hospitals were set to be visited for the month of December including the Gen. Cailles Memorial Hospital, Luisiana District Hospital and Majayjay District Hospital.

Several doctors acknowledged the BWML storytelling session is a good way of therapy for sick children admitted in their hospitals.

The activity supposedly helped children ease pain and discomfort and it likewise inspired them to develop a love for reading as observed by hospital staff who mingled with them every day.

In addition, parents and guardians expressed their gratitude for the wonderful opportunity given to their children, saying the storytelling sessions touched and entertained their children in more ways than one.

Undeniably a success, the governor of Laguna commended its provincial library in fulfilling its goal of instilling to the young generation the love of reading and also ensuring the welfare of the sick children.





QUEZON CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY





Quezon City

Public Library

QUEZON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Building hope, fulfilling dreams

Students nowadays are inclined to go to coffee shops to settle in and get some work done. These cafes offer air conditioned space, comfortable seats and at arm's length food for the brain. However, it is important to note that not all establishments like this are suitable for studying most especially when full concentration is needed.

While there are a few that tend a relatively quiet ambience, most coffee places in the country have bustling environment that could reduce one's productivity. This is where the importance of a conventional library comes in.

In the Philippines, there is usually a public library in local governments which its constituents could use for free. This proved to be very helpful for both Nastassja Kaye Pine Tan and Jose Parcon who are residents of Quezon City.

In Nastassja's case, she wanted to attest that although she may have less in life, this is not a hindrance to succeed in her chosen field. And in her struggle trying to make both ends meet, Nastassja found comfort and convenience inside the four walls of the Quezon City Public Library (QCPL) while reviewing for her board examinations.

While some of her fellow board examinees studied and reviewed in fancy cafes, Nastassja quietly sat at one corner of the QCPL where she diligently reviewed during weekdays.



An almost permanent fixture at the library, Nastassja kept her routine for two to three months far from the noise of the outside world.

Within its walls, Nastassja had the luxury of creating her own environment either by indulging its uninterrupted silence or by playing through her earphones some music when too much silence becomes a distraction.

Jose has an almost similar story.

For his part, he also spent a considerable amount of time at the QCPL while preparing for the bar examinations in 2018. Though enrolled at the San Sebastian Recoletos Review Center, Jose decided to self-review at the QCPL. Not only was he motivated by everyone around him studying as well, he likewise took advantage that the library has a wide array of law books in its Law Section.

In both cases, Nastassja and Jose did not have to worry about their prolonged stay at the library, unlike when studying at coffee shops where there's always that pressure of not taking enough space for a long time for other paying customers. Neither did they worry about having to spend on anything as they were allowed to use the space without a fee.

Fast forward to several months after studying at the library religiously, the saying "hard work pays off" aptly applied to both of them.

Nastassja successfully passed the licensure board examination for industrial psychologists on November 5, 2019 while Jose passed the bar in 2018.

With the set up that they experienced at the QCPL, both Nastassja and Jose were grateful that the public library generally offered them with everything they needed from well-maintained facilities and equipment to the most helpful staff.

Nastassja and Jose said the library has allowed them to stay focused with their review while keeping in mind the goals they had set for themselves and their families.



Not just a *study place*

Aside from serving its very purpose of being a conducive place to study, the QCPL is also many other things for its other residents.

For instance, it has become avenue for younger generation to learn about the importance of the environment given the magnitude of the issue on climate change through its "love for reading" campaign.

Last April, the QCPL launched this program where students were able to redeem books from the library in exchange for the plastic scraps they brought in. Nathan Sebastian Salinas, Zyrh Santiago and Genekeizer Dacusi from the Krus na Ligas Elementary and High School were among those who benefited from this program, and they now get to enjoy the books they have exchanged.

Furthermore, the QCPL has also been a perfect place to revisit the Philippine culture and heritage. Currently, its Novaliches branch has developed a mini-museum as part of a continuing effort to educate and inform the public, especially students, about the country's history.

Kristine Ceri Cagwing, 14, and Jay-R Corocoto, 15, both Grade-9 students from Novaliches High School, were among the students who now excel in their classes, significantly because of the lessons they learned in the museum.







San Jose City
Public Library
(Nueva Ecija)

Hatid Dunong: *Bridging gap for all sectors of society*

Every library has traditionally been perceived as an institution that, at the very core of its inception, is meant to serve its clients by providing free access to information with all its available resources.

In an attempt to expand its role, libraries nowadays have been coming up with innovative methods to be able to offer more to community members. This practice doesn't exclude public libraries in the Philippines.

The San Jose Public Library in Nueva Ecija, in particular, has gone beyond what's mandated of it by partnering with the local government in keeping with its purpose of being an institution of service.

Specifically, it launched in 2012 the Hatid Dunong program which eventually evolved into different types of outreach services, one of them being the Special Homestudy Program for PWDs.

As its name suggests, the San Jose Public Library bridges the gap for differently abled members of the society by bringing to them the "library experience."

This could be viewed as a compliance to the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons which provides that "the State shall ensure that disabled persons are provided with adequate access to quality education and ample opportunities to develop their skills."





The state shall also “take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all disabled persons.”

To promote inclusivity among all sectors of society, the public library conducts this program by coordinating with barangay officials who help identify residents they know with physical or learning disability.

Library staff then gets in touch with these residents before actually doing a house visit for one-on-one tutorial sessions including basic reading, writing, and counting. These sessions are made more fun by also incorporating educational games and storytelling.

Such activity is carried out twice a week in different barangays of the city for a period of six months for each batch of differently abled learners.

One of the success stories of the program is a boy with down syndrome named Christian Samonte from Dizol, a barangay which is seven kilometers away from the city. Not coming from a well off family, his parents are more than grateful that the San Jose Public Library provided Christian a chance to learn.

Since he began undergoing the program, Christian’s family witnessed his improvement and his eagerness to know more during the six-month period of homestudy. This motivated and inspired his family to make both ends meet just to be able to enroll him in a special education program in the city.

To date Christian is still enrolled in San Jose West Elementary School SPED class. He can now write his own name, manage to eat on his own, and has become sociable. According to his teacher, he is a diligent pupil and enjoys learning together with his classmates.

Inspired by Christian’s story, the local government of San Jose, through the efforts of City Mayor Mario Salvador and members of the Sangguninang Panlungsod, passed a resolution granting P6,000.00 allowance for differently abled persons especially children to help them afford the cost of transportation in going to SPED classes in the city.

With this, the San Jose Public Library has proved that it is not just a conventional institution of service.

Online Library

BARANGAY READING CENTER & e-library

A Project of Purok, Barangay Antonio T. Calabon and The Sanggunian, Barangay of Sta. Ana

Facebook Twitter




Sanggunian ng Barangay Sta. Ana

	Bayanihan & Welfare Officer
	Health & Nutrition Officer
	Public Health & Safety Officer
	Public Health & Safety Officer
	Public Health & Safety Officer
	Public Health & Safety Officer
	Public Health & Safety Officer
	Public Health & Safety Officer
	Public Health & Safety Officer
	Public Health & Safety Officer

BARANGAY READING CENTER & e-library

ENTRY →





Sta. Ana
Barangay
Reading Center
(Taytay, Rizal)



Sta. Ana Reading Center

Public libraries helping *shape the future*

Public libraries in general are meant to provide inclusive services for all irrespective of one's social standing. Its goal is to provide access to information and be a place for learning whether through its countless resources or through interactive activities.

Committed to fulfill these purposes, some public libraries provide reading and recreational activities that cut across all ages. These libraries provide neutral, welcoming community and ideal spaces for social interaction.

And what better institution to provide these than a barangay reading center that's truly aware of what its people need the most. As an institution that actually "lives" within the same community, it is better equipped to address the needs of its grassroots citizens especially those who cannot afford to have proper education.

In line with this, Barangay Sta. Ana Reading Center in Taytay, Rizal has been doing its part in educating its residents, especially the young ones.

Headed by librarian Maria Ruth Aquino, who her students fondly call Maria, Barangay Sta. Ana Reading Center has been conducting a series of creative learning activities that will certainly engage children.

This includes film showing wherein Filipino movies with moral stories are being screened. There are also origami making sessions to hone the artistic side of the kids. Maria leads this activity simply by following instructional clips available in the internet.

This includes film showing wherein Filipino movies with moral stories are being screened. There are also origami making sessions to hone the artistic side of the kids. Maria leads this activity simply by following instructional clips available in the internet.

Meanwhile, she also helps instill in these children the value of preserving the environment by encouraging them to collect plastic bottles and use them as art materials.

Of course, traditional tutorial sessions where Maria teaches the kids about the basics of reading is also a staple activity. For her, helping these kids develop a love for reading at an early age would give them an advantage in the future.

With these programs, the reading center is viewed by community members as a living force of the barangay which exists for public service.


To the society, it is an institution whose doors are always open to serve all irrespective of race, class, sex, or gender.

It is one of those social institutions whose distinctive place in the progressive scheme of things cannot be doubted.



BEATRIZ DE VERA OLIVAR
LEGISLATIVE BUILDING





Villasis
Municipal
Library
(Pangasinan)

VILLASIS MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Public libraries as community space

When a person thinks of a library, what often comes to mind is an actual place for studying or reading. However, its role has evolved over time as a consequence of the ever changing society.

In order to adapt to these changes, it has been a practice among public libraries to partner with government agencies to be more knowledgeable about what its clients need. After all, these institutions are more well-informed about the grassroots situation since they are providing the frontline services. Through these innovative collaborations, public libraries also get to serve the society better.

Currently, public libraries offer a variety of services for local communities -- from lending books, to providing unlimited resources for research or affording its visitors free use of computers or WiFi access. Some also put up mobile libraries to reach out to those who don't get to visit the place.

Meanwhile, there are also public libraries which make their spaces available as venues for social events. This was the case for the Villasis Municipal Library in Pangasinan.

As part of the celebration of the 59th Public Library Day, the Villasis Municipal Library hosted an actual demonstration of desert rose grafting, which gained the interests of the people within its locality.





In coordination with the Municipal Agriculture Office, agriculturists were tapped as facilitators who discussed everything there is to know about desert rose, taking care of it, and the different ways of desert rose propagation. Afterwards, the actual rose grafting demonstration began. Participants were enjoined to raise questions and do the grafting itself.

As a mark of the activity's success, those who participated have made it a point to keep in touch and update each other for monitoring of their grafted desert rose even months after the training.

Although the library was just the venue where the activity was conducted, it was instrumental in helping connect members of its community.

It also helped pave the way for participants to learn about an alternative source of income by selling these kinds of plants.



“Malaking bagay sa kagaya ko na kahit papaano nakakatulong ako sa aking asawa para maibigay namin yung mga pangangailan ng aming mga anak sa kanilang pag-aaral. Dahil sa pera na galing sa pagtitinda ko ng aking mga halaman, nakakatulong ito sa mga gastusin dito sa aming bahay,” said Ms. Sonia Bucsit-Rabara, one of the participants who ventured into gardening business after taking part in the activity.

Another participant, Edwin Esliza, is now making income by selling his successfully grafted adenium. Edwin already has different varieties in his collections even before the actual demo was conducted. But applying what he learned from the activity, he was able to successfully propagate more varieties which he was able to sell.



Considering the participants' success stories, the Villasis Municipal Library has contributed in enlightening the public that libraries could also be a perfect community space. As such, it stays true to its primary role of enriching one's educational experience by fostering active learning through various activities.

Undeniably, the Villasis Municipal Library is a testament that libraries take on functions well beyond what they are conventionally perceived to only be providing.

2019 NLP Accomplishments *on Public Libraries*



65 Public libraries established and affiliated



142 Public libraries visited for monitoring and evaluation



200 Affiliated public libraries with Tech4ed Centers



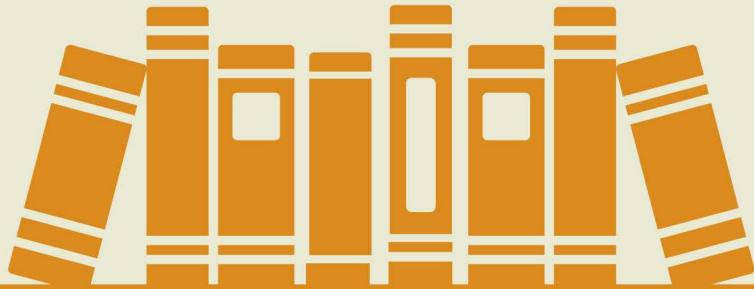
135 LGU's visited for affiliation



30 Trainings Conducted



9 Partnership Meetings



62,637 VOLUMES

Library resources/materials allocated

**319
LIBRARIES**

Recipient of library
resources



3,873,700



People visited the public libraries

176,620

Clients of Digital Literacy

140,529

Clients of E-Government Services

71,443

Clients of Workforce Development



1,508 **Affiliated Public Libraries**
As of December 2019

