



## From the Director

### Is Attending Conferences Significant?



Human resources are very vital to an organization aiming to deliver quality service. The library staff is no exception. Librarians nowadays are not only keepers of books but also are information creators, collectors, communicators, consolidators and disseminators. Hence they need to be better equipped with more knowledge and skills which can be done through continuing studies, participating in conferences, seminars, trainings and workshops either as resource speakers or attendees.

In AY 2013-2014 librarians and library staff were given opportunities to participate in seminars, conferences and other trainings in local, national and international venues. Each opportunity allowed them to interact with others, benchmark and exchange ideas on best practices. This also developed more learning linkages and communities.

This first special issue of Infogateways gives us a glimpse of the nine university librarians' participation in the 79<sup>th</sup> World Library and Information Congress, sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) last August 17-23, 2013 at Suntec City, Singapore.

  
**Mrs. Maxie Doreen Leva Cabarron**  
 Director of Libraries

## SCOPE

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# IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) 2013 Singapore Delegates

August 17-23, 2013, Suntec, Singapore

## ARLENE Y. BACAYO

School of Law & Governance Librarian

IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) 2013 Singapore delegates Fr. Alfonso Araceli, SVD ( Humanities), Arlene Y. Bacayo (School of Law & Governance), Lorna Eguia (School of Business & Economics), Susan Tapulado (College of Education), Gloria Trinidad (BED SC) were recipients of the IFLA Grant while Cristita Lanticse (Science & Technology), Estrella Lobetos (Cataloging Section), Mary Allen Mae Oral (Cebuano Studies Center) & Divina Tenorio (Social Sciences) were recipients of ALBASA SCAP. This year, a good number of delegates represented the UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS LIBRARY SYSTEM in the gathering of over 3,200 librarians from 120 different countries of the world.



**FR. ALFONSO A. ARACELI, SVD**  
Humanities Librarian



**ARLENE Y. BACAYO**  
Law Librarian



**MA. LORNA A. EGUIA**  
SBE/AC Librarian



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Education Librarian



**DIVINA C. TENORIO**  
Social Sciences  
Librarian



**GLORIA A. TRINIDAD**  
Basic Education  
Librarian-South

# More than just the Merlion

**FR. ALFONSO A. ARACELI, SVD**

Humanities Librarian

It is a fact that one who visits Singapore could not just turn his back to its famous landmark – the Merlion. Once there, a deluge of jump shot and wacky pictures spreads like wildfire on the internet via Instagram, Facebook or any other social networking sites. For one who travels alone, a selfie pose to his heart's content will do. Indeed, it is worthwhile to go out once in a while, away from the usual atmosphere of work, to explore the new developments in the profession in a place like Singapore.

As one colleague reminded, this trip should not just be for vacation or tourism as this year's International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), 79<sup>th</sup> World Library and Information Congress is again being held in Asia. The first time was in 1980 in Manila, followed by Tokyo, Japan in 1986. Beijing, China was next in 1996; Bangkok, Thailand in 1999 and Seoul, South Korea in 2006. This year, Singapore had the opportunity to host said International conference for library and information professionals on August 17-23, 2013.

Being a first-timer in this conference, it amazed me to know that librarianship is such a big force to reckon with in the world of professions. This year's participants alone numbered to 3,750 participants from 120 countries. I knew for sure that with this huge turnout of participants, all the four types of libraries, i.e. public, academic, special and school libraries were well-represented. Dwelling on the theme, *"Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities"*, this year's conference topics were loaded with different aspects of librarianship that a participant like me would just have to contextualize his present status as a librarian and choose particular topics tailored to his professional requisite.

To realize this, however, I did not just choose one that suited me as an academic librarian alone, rather I made it a point to

balance and be holistic. Topics such as *"Marketing on a shoe string – Management and Marketing,"* *"Library, Information and archives: work-in-progress,"* *"From OPAC to archive: integrated discovery and digital libraries with open source,"* *"Advancing cultural competency in library and information science,"* *"Preserving for the future: integrating physical and digital preservation,"* and *"National library and information policy as advocacy for future libraries,"* were just few of those that stirred the mind for the week-long intellectual engagement.



Like any other international conference for library and information professionals, a library tour is always included in the package.

As I browsed the schedule of the simultaneous tours on the last day of the conference, I realized that I could not have everything at the same time, for the variety of libraries to visit were overwhelming. Although I am not into the public library system, I have always been curious about their public library the National Library Board Singapore. Without having second thoughts, I chose to visit it. Looking at the enormous building and the magnificent facilities it offers to readers, I realized that the public library system in the Philippines is so lagging behind. The ineptness of the government in addressing the needs of public libraries despite the birth of R.A. 7743 on October 5, 1994 is much felt. Taking as an example is our public library in Legazpi City, Albay.

As a regular patron in my high school years, I observed that it has transferred location a number of times: from its previous location between the public market and tourism building, to capitol annex and now the basement of the public park. I just hope that it has finally found its resting place in its present location. There are other libraries all over the Philippines---too many to mention, which have experienced or are experiencing the same fate as we or worst, they never existed at all, while still others are facing the threat of extinction courtesy of some local government officials. Indeed, the public library system is just one of the most neglected sectors in Philippine society.

In contrast, as regards Singapore's public library system that offers a variety of services to readers, Director of the National Library Board Singapore Mr. Gene Tan spoke about their various activities to encourage lifelong learning, such as the nationwide reading programmes, storytelling sessions, exhibitions and a fully equipped mobile-library-in-a-bus, called Molly. Not to forget is NLB's initiatives like the Singapore Memory Project and the National Information Literacy Programme. These can be felt in its 24 branch libraries all over Singapore. Among these is the "library @ esplanade" located at Esplanade Mall, Raffles Avenue. This is Singapore's first dedicated library for the performing arts. It specializes in Music, Dance, Theatre and Film. This library is relatively young as it opened only on September 12, 2002, but the collection it offers caters to the varying levels of interest of readers in the performing arts. The location itself is strategic for parents with children inclined to the performing arts. While they are relaxing by the bayside, their children may be in one of the facilities of the library such as the piano practice room, the silent studio for jamming sessions, and the

screening room, or in a reading room where they may simply browse its available resources.

As a sort of breather from the



information overload on libraries, I decided to do a little side trip. Taking the public transport to my destination, I noticed that orderliness and discipline is the name of the game in Singapore. From the time you

enter a public bus or a train up to the moment you alight, or even when you are just crossing the street, discipline is observed. Drivers would stop if there are still people crossing the pedestrian lane even if the traffic light has been switched on to the "go" signal unlike in the Philippines where you see drivers beating the red light, pedestrians crossing anywhere, carefree bikers traversing the middle of the highway, motorcycle drivers counter-flowing and street vendors and beggars adding more chaos to the scene.

Reaching the different places of interest such as the Gardens-by-the-Bay and Sentosa, I noticed that Singapore is such a clean place, with greeneries interspersed with modern buildings. It is where modern architecture and the green initiative meet. I was reminded of Dan Brown's book "*Inferno*" describing Manila as "*the gates of hell.*" Though fictitious in nature, we could just look around and affirm that what was written has some hints of truth in it in contrast to Singapore's cleanliness, orderliness and discipline that commensurate with their progress.

More than just the Merlion...  
From Page 3

Our Filipino saying “*Sa ikauunlad ng bayan, disiplina ang kailangan*” should be put to heart always, or we will never attain the progress that we long aspire for just like in Singapore.



It was such a fruitful week attending the IFLA conference with much realization and learning to be shared to colleagues in the profession. Leaving Singapore without taking a look at the mythical figure and what it symbolizes contradicts my nature of being curious and informed about places I visit. But one thing is sure, the trip was more than just for the Merlion!

## WOW! IFLA WLIC 2013 ...*Moments of inspiration* ...

**SUSANA NIMFA A. TAPULADO**

Education Librarian

The opening ceremony had an Olympic feel with an army of enthusiastic volunteers. Its traditional Chinese dancing and 80 Singaporean school children on stage waving flags and singing along to the Congress anthem (***“So young... so free... the world is your playground”***). Thus, IFLA's theme - FUTURE LIBRARIES: INFINITE POSSIBILITIES was presented.



Having joined in IFLA's public talk on accessibility at The National Library of Singapore gave us the chance to

explore Central Public Library housing the world's first green library for kids called **MY TREE HOUSE (MTH)**. It has a grass carpet, tree-house in the middle, recycled wallpaper on the walls, recycled

cardboard sculptures and used painted bottles as leaves of the tree colored yellow & green. There is an area specifically for parents to read to children and a corner for children to see movies. It is the ultimate destination for children in Singapore and the best children's library I have ever seen. Hence, even before I travelled to Singapore **MTH** was in my bucket list.

It is impossible to mention all moments of inspiration, and I certainly feel that joining IFLA was a WOW!



# A Second Chance

**DIVINA C. TENORIO**

Social Sciences Librarian

Welcome to Singapore! Actually, it was my second time to visit the country. The first time I went there, I was with my family to bond and leisure. But for the second time, I attended the IFLA WLIC 2013. This experience instilled in me a lot of new information about being a librarian. It also gave me a chance to mingle with other librarians from all around the world. Attending and listening to seminars were just half of the life we had in there for a week.

We stayed in a backpackers place called "Feel at Home". The room was quite small and dark for the four of us because the room had only one lampshade. But these things did not hinder us to have a good time. We woke up early in the morning because we had to follow the schedule of the sessions of the day at the convention center. After the sessions, we used the time left to tour around the city. I instantly recognized the tour guide because I was there before. We tried to ride their public transportation like bus and subway trains. At first, we got lost because we did not know which stop we should step off. After some time, I memorized the landmarks and the bus stops so that we would not get lost again. Aside from riding the public transportation, we also walked going to our destinations. We were so amazed of the discipline the people have like: they do not throw their trashes anywhere; they use pedestrian lanes in crossing the streets; the drivers wait for all the pedestrians to cross the street even if the signal is already green and many more. They do not fail to follow the rules and regulations. They have the latest technologies in order to make their lives easier and safer. We just wished that we can experience those things back home.

We tried to visit the Orchard Road, the iconic shopping belt, where multinational brands are expensive. As we strolled along the street, we ended up in Lucky Plaza, where most of the employees are Pinoys and some of the items or products sold come from our place.

Thursday morning, August 22 was our schedule to visit museums and libraries in Singapore. We visited the National Library Board and I was overwhelmed with how it



looks and how fully organized it is. It seemed so genteel and the place was tranquil. We had the chance to visit the Merlion, a mythical creature with the head of a lion and the body of a fish, that spitting water was one of the "wow moments" we had. As we

proceeded to our adventure, we dropped by The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands and were amazed with the inner side of the mall. We proceeded to Gardens by the Bay and all we could all say, was "WOW". It's a horticultural attraction that houses over 250 thousand rare plants and there's a restaurant on top of the tallest tree.

The last day of the seminar was scheduled for library and museum tours. Since we were done visiting the museums and libraries, the group decided to visit the Universal Studio instead. We roamed around the place and had our pictures taken.

The most challenging part for us was to choose where to eat so that we would not exceed our budget for tasty food. We always went home tired after having our adventures. But the feeling of tiredness was washed away after a session of sharing with my roommates. Time flew so fast that we did not notice that we were already leaving Singapore. After I arrived home, I said to myself: "Welcome back to the real work." We may be in Singapore momentarily, but were not there for relaxation alone, but also to experience work in a new environment away from our respective families, in a country where rules are strictly followed.

Our one week stay in Singapore made me realize some realities in life. First, it is important to follow the rules and regulations of the country we visit to avoid penalty. Second, it is necessary to bring directional maps of places and landmarks so as not to get lost and enjoy our tour/visit. If given the chance to visit this place again, I would love to come back to Singapore.



Convention Center



library @ esplanade



Tanjong Beach



Exhibit Area

# My IFLA Experience

**MARY ALLEN MAE P. ORAL**

Cebuano Studies Center Librarian

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference for the year 2013 was held in Singapore. I was very lucky that I was one of those allowed to attend the conference.

The Singapore experience was the best as it was my first time to visit the place and to attend an IFLA conference. That very first time experience had impressed me so much that the thought of going back to the place is worth dreaming. Overall assessment of the conference was great especially varied topics were presented and the venue was also excellent.

For the benchmark of libraries, we visited the National Library of Singapore



and the Library @ Esplanade. The National Library of Singapore is a public library that has the best physical set up and collection. The Children's Corner was so amazing that it really encourages the children to visit the library. While the Library @ Esplanade located in a mall is a one-stop resource library for the performing arts, it also offers information and services in the areas of music, dance, theatre and film. Another place we visited was

the National Museum of Singapore. The place was impressive particularly the exhibition hall, the artifacts, the technology used in the tour as well as the security of the building. It was an enriching educational benchmarking experience.

The visit to Singapore is not complete if one cannot drop by the Merlion, Sentosa and the Marina Bay Sands. Indeed, it was a very unforgettable experience.



USC Delegates with Mr. Gene Tan, Director of the National Library Board



At the lobby of Suntec City

## Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities

World Library and Information Congress  
79th IFLA General Conference and Assembly  
Singapore

17-23 August 2013 | [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)



### CRISTITA L. LANTICSE

Science and Technology Librarian

It was a privilege for me to join one of the prestigious international conferences held in Singapore on August 17-23, 2013. The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) was a gathering of 3,200



delegates mostly library educators, librarians, and information specialists from all over the globe.

IFLA 2013 was an avenue for library professionals to meet new friends, listen to the different learning experiences and good practices shared by the speakers and some colleagues in the profession who came from different cultures. Yet with only one thing in common, a desire for lifelong learning, these librarians who are eager and willing to know how to provide the best service to the library users using and maximizing emerging technologies available met and bonded. This was also an opportunity for me to visit

Singapore, a bustling cosmopolitan city, which offers a world-class living environment with her landscape populated by high-rise buildings and gardens. One interesting facet anyone discovers about Singapore is that it is a ubiquitous collage of cultures where people of different ethnicities and beliefs coexist. Besides a vibrant multicultural experience, I observed that Singaporeans are highly disciplined people.

Indeed, it was a fruitful week attending such Conference which offered so many challenges in almost all areas of librarianship, be it the improvement of library services, continuing education in the profession, community extension projects and services and research on the current trends.



Lobby



Entrance of the Library

# IFLA Experiences and Acquaintances

**GLORIA A. TRINIDAD**

South Grade School Librarian

I was one of the 3,000 delegates from across the world who is a new comer of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Conference in Singapore at Suntec City on August 17-23, 2013. The conference was a break from routine, an opportunity to meet different people and learn from other librarians' experiences. The opportunity to share school library programs and services brought joy knowing the similarities of shared experiences in our chosen profession. Regardless of the library type or size, whether in a developing or developed country, all embrace similar professional values. Every librarian wants to provide access to the vast information resources to multiple users as much as possible. These commonalities are the connectors that bind us together: this is the message the conference delivered to librarians as they help and guide their users to better and more prosperous lives.



Garden at Changi Airport



# library @ esplanade

**MA. LORNA A. EGUIA**  
SBE/AC Librarian



The library@esplanade, Singapore's first performing arts library, was officially opened on 12 September 2002 by Mr Khaw Boon Wan, then Senior Minister of State for Transport and Information, Communication and the Arts. A one-stop resource library for the performing arts, library@esplanade also offers information and services in the areas of music, dance, theatre and film. The library's location on the third level of The Esplanade, Theatres on the Bay is unique within Singapore, and makes it one of the few libraries in the world to be co-located within a performing arts complex. It spans an area of 2,300 square metres. ([http://www.esplanade.com/about\\_the\\_centre/library/index.jsp](http://www.esplanade.com/about_the_centre/library/index.jsp))



The Library Esplanade is an impressive place where one can't help but be curious and be engaged in the wide array of information in different formats. A beautifully crafted and envisioned activity center where the presence and essence of a library is not disrupted by live performances and creative activities of performing arts held within the complex, the Esplanade's raison d'être is to bring the arts closer to the lives of different community members - to entertain, engage, educate and inspire them.

This simply reflects their country's preservation of their culture, values and arts through this library. A display of "The Singapore Story" and a free community bulletin entitled "Reflections: What future do we want? How do we get there?" is an indication of their desire to look back and learn from yesterday and actively be part in drafting their tomorrow. What a noble task of listening from their people from all walks of life, gathering and collating comments, suggestions, plans and dreams from one and all!

With this, one can whisper a little prayer, that one day, a glimmer of hope springs from insights learned, from a glimpse of grandeur, from hope eternal.

# Singapore Trekking



IFLA Conference Delegates



Suntec Convention Center Lobby



Marina Bay Sands



Gardens by the Bay



At the background is Marina Bay Sands



library @ esplanade



Changi International Airport









Merlion Park



University of San Carlos

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## SERVICE HOURS

### JB-LRC

07:30 AM - 06:30 PM MON-SAT

### Bonk Library

07:30 AM - 08:00 PM

### Law Library

08:00 AM - 08:00 PM

### Education Library

07:30 AM - 06:30 PM M-F  
08:00 AM - 05:30 PM SAT

### Basic Education Libraries

07:00 AM - 05:30 PM