

Forum on Aging and the Filipino Librarian

Mr. Edward M. Gerlock, Founder of the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), and Ms. Fe Angela M. Verzosa, DLSU Archivist and our immediate past president, served as resource speakers at PAARL's public symposium on the theme "Aging and the Filipino Librarian." Mr. Gerlock discussed "Aging: Problems and Concerns" while Ms. Verzosa dwelt on Aging as the gray area in librarianship, touching on not only certain aspects of aging, its myths and realities, and some frequently asked questions about ageism in the library workplace, but also on the implications of a mature workforce in the academic environment, and the legislations needed to protect the aging workforce. She also presented an agenda for the aging workforce in terms of the implications of performance evaluation, late-career development and managing changes, especially IT training. The participants gamely contributed to the discussion during the open forum, sharing their insights and reflections on the aging process. One even sent a powerful message to our members in the PAARLYahoo web with this comment:

"Mr Gerlock has no Powerpoint but what I remember most from his lecture was-- "When anyone of us passes away, it's like a whole library burning down..." The speakers presented the beauty of aging gracefully like a beautiful season as autumn, tinged with a little sorrow but enriched with wisdom and love. It takes a whole lifetime to learn how to love. Ang ganda. Sana lahat tayo nakaka-attend ng ganitong mga fora palagi. May sharing pa ng beauty secrets, health tips... enjoy talaga!"