

The President's Report, 2004

Greetings to One and ALL!

January last year, I outlined a program of activities that was designed to keep PAARL's presence in the library community in an enviable position. As promised, we reached out to our colleagues in distant places, where PAARL has never set foot because of traveling distance and accommodation nightmares. Our summer conference was held in Sarangani Province to the delight of our SOCOLA librarians, and the mid-year seminar-workshop was strategically located at the isolated Baler town in Aurora Province, which is now severely devastated by the recent typhoons. The third successful seminar was held at prestigious Villa Escudero in San Pablo City. Though not isolated and distant, Villa Escudero was a compromise alternative to the originally proposed venue in the island of Corregidor. The themes and topics we chose were carefully selected in terms of relevance, timeliness, and impact, such as *"Libraries and Library Professionals in e-learning: Issues and Opportunities," "The Role of Support Staff in Today's Library,"* and *"The Essential Library: Creating and Sustaining a Leading Edge."*

As one of the largest and oldest professional library organizations in the country, PAARL has contributed significantly in updating our librarians' knowledge and skills, aside from holding these three seminars-conferences, but also through various fora and symposia. We started last year with a series of campus lectures conducted by Dr. John Willinsky of Pacific Press, Professor of Literacy and Technology from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, who graciously flew at his expense to talk and interact with our librarians on the topic of online and open-access publishing, and how free-to-read online publications can foster the research capacity of our academic institutions. He conducted separate public lectures at our initiative in different campuses (at DLSU-Manila, UP-Diliman, CEU-Manila, and RTU, Mandaluyong) which were well attended. This activity was capped by another well-attended gathering at The National Library Auditorium last February 19.

Two other symposia were held, one in celebration of the Manila International Book Fair, and the other, the annual celebration of the National Book Week:

- *"Networking for Survival: a Sharing of Consortial Experiences"* (A Panel Discussion led by leaders/organizers of the different consortia, namely, the Inter-Institutional Consortium, the Mendiola Consortium, the Intramuros Library Consortium, the DOST-ESEP Consortium, the European Studies Program Consortium, and the Ortigas Consortium, DACUN, and the E-Library Project)
- *"Partnering and Collaboration among Libraries, Museums and Archives"* (A Panel Discussion led by Prof. Ambeth Ocampo of NHI, Ms. Cotrazon Alvina of the National Museum, Ms. Teresa Montesa of NCCA National Committee on Archives, and Ms. Salvacion Arlante of the UP-Diliman Libraries)

Also as promised, we embarked on two very worthy projects, one on a 2-year publication project of a book, *Developing an Outstanding Core Collection for College and University Libraries*, which may very well serve as a reference tool for CHED in providing a basic list of books required for colleges and universities in the undergraduate programs. Already, we have completed bibliographic searching for the first volume on the Social Sciences. The other project involves the expansion of PAARLNET, a networking project which I began in June 2000 with more than 30 institutional members, and now has grown to 138. It has launched in August a Book Acquisition Consortium program to enable libraries, big and small, under the principle of economies of scale, to buy books at discounted (between 5-10 percent) publishers' list prices, delivered door-to-door, and at regular weekly/bimonthly frequencies. This project will not only bring about savings that will eventually rebound to more acquisitions and more efficient use of scarce resources, but will also eventually result in improved collections and enhanced services.

Without doubt, PAARLweb continues to keep our librarians informed of our activities, thanks to the support of DLSU Library, which has maintained our website under its server. Complementing it is our regular publication of the newsletter. Although we have discontinued the practice of mailing it to individual members due to enormous postage expense, we continue to send a quarterly **"shared copy"** to every member through its institutional address, and complimentary copies are disseminated during our seminars, fora and other gatherings.

PAARL awards and scholarships are intended to promote greater involvement of our members not only in the profession, but also in the association. This year, PAARL pays homage to UP Diliman Libraries as the *2004 Outstanding Library*, to Ateneo de Manila University's Rizal Library for its *Outstanding Library Program*, to Mrs. Erlinda F. Flores for her *Lifetime Achievement*, to Dr. Briccio M. Merced Jr.

and to Ms. Mona Lisa P. Leguiab as *Outstanding Academic Librarians*, and to Ms. Susan O. Pador, for her outstanding service as our immediate past president. Cash award was given also to Mr. David Cabonero for the completion of his masteral thesis. Donations were also granted, with the Board for Librarians as a principal beneficiary for the publication and wide dissemination of our new librarianship law's implementing rules and regulations.

All these accomplishments would not have been possible without the valuable support from our general and institutional membership, the "walang-sawa" hospitality of our institutional hosts led by the National Library, the unselfish generosity of our community of book dealers, library suppliers, and exhibitors, and last but not least, my colleagues in the 2004 Board. No act is too small to be of significance. **You all made the difference. ALL OF US MAKE WHAT PAARL IS TODAY.**

On behalf of the 2004 officers and members of the Executive Board, I wish to thank all those who have contributed to PAARL's success, to name a few:

Book dealers/Library Suppliers

Academic Book Sales Inc.
De La Salle University Press
F & J de Jesus Inc.
Forefront Book Co.
GRB Enterprises
Info Ed Marketing
Linar Educational Materials
MegaTEXTS Philippines
National Book Store
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Rex Book Store.
YBP Library Services

Institutional Hosts

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De La Salle University-Manila
Rizal Technological University
The National Library
UP Diliman Libraries
UP Institute of Library Science

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Manila Bulletin
Philippine Star
Philippine Daily Inquirer
YBP Library Services

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Dr. Allan Benedict I. Bernardo	Vice-President for Academic Affairs, DLSU-Manila
Ms. Prudenciana C. Cruz	Library Director, The National Library

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. Kasiyahan nawa tayo ng Panginoon.

NBW forum held despite strike

In celebration of the National Book Week, PAARL conducted a forum on "Partnering and Collaboration among Libraries, Museums and Archives" held last November 25, 2004 at The National Library. Sr. Ignatius Tal Placido delivered the Opening Prayer. Mrs. Prudenciana Cruz, Director of The National Library welcomed the 100 participants, who came inspite of the nationwide strike.. Mrs. Dionisia M. Angeles, Vice-President, PAARL, formally opened the activity, in the absence of President Fe Angela M. Verzosa, who, unfortunately, could not attend the activity because of her participation in the ALIC 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand as speaker and session chair.

Panel presentations were given by our distinguished speakers, namely: Hon. Ambeth Ocampo, Chairman of the National Historical Institute on libraries, Director Corazon S. Alvina of the National Historical Institute, Ms. Salvacion M. Arlante, University Librarian of UP Diliman and Mrs. Teresa S. Montesa, Senior Records and Archives Officer, Information Resources and Services Section of the Asian Development Bank.