

**DLSU Libraries' Collection Assessment about Philippine Languages
Collection and Collection Mapping of Filipino Reference List**

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Abstract

This study examines the extent to which the De La Salle University (DLSU) Libraries collect print resources about Philippine languages (more than 70 dialects) and how successfully the DLSU libraries in acquiring resources about Philippine languages. It also gauges how the DLSU libraries support the curriculum of the College of Liberal Arts in terms of its collection. This study employs a descriptive research method. It uses collection assessment or the systematic evaluation of the quality of a library collection to determine the extent to which it meets the library's service goals and objectives and the information needs of its clientele. Data were extracted and culled from the library's information system, and tables and percentages were used to describe Philippine languages' current collection of print resources. The DLSU library has an excellent primary collection of resources about Philippine languages. However, the collection assessment highlights many reference materials can still be acquired from the market and added to the collection. The Filipiniana section was able to establish a decent collection that could cater to the needs of the faculty and students. The library still needs to be aggressive in the acquisition of library materials recommended as required readings in the class syllabi of each course. The result of the study provides a profile of the DLSU libraries' collection of Philippine languages and the extent of its collection building, and how it supports the curriculum. The result of the study can be used to create a comprehensive collection development plan.

Keywords: Philippine languages, collection mapping, collection assessment, Filipiniana materials, collection development

The earliest written records of Philippine history can be traced back to the coming of Spaniards to the country in the 15th century. However, it was believed that ancient inhabitants of the land were a diverse agglomeration of peoples who arrived from different parts of Asia, who maintained little contact with each other. Trading of goods in China, India, and other Southeast Asian countries was recorded. It had also influenced the culture of the people, such as the Sanskrit-based writing system in the 7th to 13th century. An archipelago influenced by various cultures in the region, it is not difficult to imagine that the country developed numerous languages or dialects. In ‘Origins of the Philippine Languages’, Cecilio Lopez mentions that there are about 70 languages in the country which can be traced back to Malayo-Polynesia. According to an older school of anthropologists, Malayo-Polynesia was peopled by migration from west to east. From India, these communities migrated southward into Indo-China and Indonesia and then spread northward to the Philippines and Formosa (Lopez, 1967).

The existence of several languages in the country was considered one of the reasons why the colonial Spaniards quickly conquered the Filipinos. Ancient Filipinos had a hard time planning and working together against the force of foreign conquerors because they did not understand each other. Five hundred years later, many of these languages are extinct while others are still widely used. Many of these languages, such as Bisaya (Cebuano), Ilongo (Iloilo), and Ilocano (Ilocos), are used in everyday conversation and printed materials including books, periodicals, and manuscripts. If left unchecked and not given enough attention, these languages will die. Introducing these languages to younger generations is essential, thus building a good collection of print resources about these Philippine languages will help to preserve and maintain their study and teaching.

Academic institutions such as De La Salle University’s College of Liberal Arts and Filipino Department have a mission to build a community that will serve as a symbol of the university and, at the same time, function as an instrument in the enrichment and development of the Filipino language. To assist in the realization of this mission and to support their curriculum, DLSU Libraries need to acquire Filipiniana materials and resources that will augment the teaching, lecture, and research of the students and faculty in Philippine languages. In this regard, this study assesses and maps the collection of the DLSU Libraries in acquiring print resources about Philippine languages and the use of research and teaching of Filipino courses. Specifically, the following research questions are addressed:

1. To what extent do the DLSU Libraries collect print resources about Philippine languages?
2. How successfully do the DLSU Libraries in acquiring resources about Philippine languages?
3. How do the DLSU Libraries support the curriculum of the College of Liberal Arts, Filipino Department?

The study results provide a profile of the DLSU Libraries collection on Philippine languages by presenting its current status, which is used to determine its strengths and weaknesses. The results may also be used to determine the extent of its collection build-up with the Philippine National Bibliographies. And lastly, the paper maps the collection on the study and teaching of Filipino subjects and how it supports the curriculum of the Filipino department.

Collection Assessment

Why use collection assessment? According to Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science (ODLIS), collection assessment is the systematic evaluation of the quality of a library collection to determine the extent to which it meets the library's service goals and objectives and the information needs of its clientele (ABC-CLIO > ODLIS > Odlis_C, n.d.). In a study by Johnson (2016), the difference between collection analysis and collection assessment is emphasized, focusing on why these tools are valuable within the library's strategic priorities. One quantitatively analyzes the library's collection by employing circulation rates, number of titles per subject area, and financial support on that particular subject in collection analysis. Collection analysis makes it possible to assess the cost-benefit of the resources, that is, if the resources that the patron needs and wants are being bought. At the same time, collection assessment is the qualitative analysis of a library's collection. It gauges the extent to which the library is purchasing the materials that users need. While collection analysis checks on what happens in the group, collection assessment catalyzes change, particularly what can be done to improve the collection.

In an article by Hyödynmaa, Ahlholm-Kannisto, and Nurminen (2010) entitled, 'How to evaluate library collections: a case study of collection mapping', the authors illustrated how to use collection mapping to evaluate and describe the subject-based collection in various universities in Finland. They applied collection mapping to gather data on subject-based collection and then utilize their users' usage. The study found that the collection mapping method can provide helpful information which is able to describe and present the current state of their collections. The data yielded by this study helps determine the strengths and weaknesses of their collection and show the results to the faculty concerned. Alternatively, in another study entitled, 'Indicators for collection evaluation: a new dimensional framework,' Borin and Yi (2008) propose that the two collection evaluation models, that is, collection-based and user-based collection assessment, can be bridged. Borin and Yi contend that doing so provides a different perspective to the literature full of practice-based assessment. It can implicate and offer a multidimensional approach that libraries can use and adapt to the specific situation. They further added that certain environmental factors need to be considered in collection assessment, such as the nature of the institution, levels, programs it offers, budget, pedagogy, new programs and growth direction, comparisons with similar institutions, and consortia.

The various collection assessments mentioned above give light to the researchers on the purpose and benefits that libraries can obtain in using these tools. Whether quantitative or qualitative methods are used – or a combination of both – the objective is to measure the library's collection vis-à-vis an established standard. In these terms, this study will employ collection assessment, mainly list checking, to determine if the DLSU Libraries could support the curriculum in the study and teaching of Filipino subjects and the acquisition of print resources about Philippine languages.

Methodology

This study employs a descriptive research method. Data were extracted and culled from the AnimoSearch (library system used in DLSU) and used tables and percentages to describe Philippine languages' current collection of print resources. In assessing the collection, this study utilizes a collection assessment method, that is, list checking. List checking is a qualitative method of determining the collection by comparing it against published or

standardized lists or bibliographies. In this study, the researchers used Philippine National Bibliographies (PNB) as the evaluation tool to assess the DLSU print collection about Philippines languages. The objective is to find out what titles listed in the Philippine National Bibliographies are or are not available in the DLSU Libraries collections. First, the researchers determine which entries per volume in PNB fit the category of Philippine languages. Keywords such as Language and languages, Philippine languages, Philippine dialects, Native languages, Native languages- study and teaching, Filipino languages, Filipino languages-study and teaching, multilingual education- Philippines, and so forth, were used to determine the subject quickly. It must also be noted that the researchers opted to choose only the titles of printed books related to Philippine languages and their teaching. Titles in different formats or types such as theses, dissertations, and textbooks were excluded. After the titles in PNB were selected, using the AnimoSearch, each title identified as being about or related to Philippine languages was searched. To quickly note the titles, coding was employed. Number one (1) indicates that a title has an exact match in the collection. Zero (0) was used to indicate that a title does not exist in the collection. A summary in tabulated form was made to interpret the results easily. To map the collection of DLSU Libraries and how it supports the curriculum of the Filipino department, the references and reading lists in class syllabi of each Filipino subject were checked against the AnimoSearch. The exact title and edition were checked for the process of coding and tabulation, just as it was in PNB list checking. The data were then analyzed using the measure of central tendency, that is, mean. Frequency and percentage were also employed to present the data and show its distribution.

Results and Discussion

DLSU Collection of Print Resources about Philippine Languages

To answer research question number one—To what extent do the DLSU Libraries collect print resources about Philippine languages?—the researchers asked for help from staff in charge of the library systems. The staff culled all the print titles about Philippine languages from the AnimoSearch and forwarded them to the researchers for tabulation and summary. In culling the data, the researchers used various subject entries that are related to Philippine languages. Some of these include Philippine languages, Bilingualism—Philippines, Oriental languages—Reform, Filipinos language, Pilipino languages, Aklanon language—Study and teaching, Batan language—Study and teaching, Biko language—Study and teaching, Cebuano language—Study and teaching, Iloko language—Study and teaching, Pampanga language—Study and teaching, Tagalog language—Study and teaching, etc.

Table 1
Number of Print Titles about Philippine Languages

Library Section	Total Number	On-shelf	Lost/Missing	In-cataloging	For Binding	Withdrawn
Filipiniana	2183	2074	75	27	4	3
Special Collection	990	982	1	7	0	0
Circulation	10	8	2	0	0	0
Laguna	235	227	0	8	0	0
BGC	10	10	0	0	0	0
BBLRC	25	25	0	0	0	0

Table 1 shows the summary of print titles about Philippine languages from the DLSU Libraries collections. As shown, most print titles are located in the Filipiniana section and are available on the shelf. It was followed by the special collection, while the section with the least number of print titles about Philippine languages is the circulation section. It must also be noted that there is a good number of lost/missing titles in the Filipiniana section. It is expected that the Filipiniana section holds the most number of titles about Philippine languages since it is imperative that the collection focus on supporting the curriculum on Filipino subjects and courses. The number of volumes per title was not included in the culling of data.

Upon further reviewing the data, the oldest title in the DLSU Libraries collection was dated 1849; however, it was withdrawn. The oldest title available on the shelf was published in 1860. The DLSU Libraries Filipiniana section has 15 titles published from 1908-1920, eight of which were already withdrawn in terms of the number of titles per publication year. From 1922-1950, 56 published titles, 34 of which were available on the shelf, seven were lost/missing, and 14 were withdrawn. From 1951-1960, 50 published titles, 37 were available on the shelf, three were lost/missing and ten were withdrawn. From 1961-1970, 265 published titles, 189 were available on the shelf, 12 were withdrawn, and 25 were lost/missing. From 1971-1980, 408 published titles, 278 were available on the shelf, nine were withdrawn, and 20 were lost/missing. From 1981-1990, 439 were published titles, 361 were available on the shelf, two for binding, three in-cataloging, two lost/missing, and seven withdrawn. From 1991-2000, 376 published titles, 338 of which were available on the shelf, four were withdrawn, three lost/missing, two in-cataloging, and one for binding. From 2001-2010, 609 published titles 600 were available on the shelf, three were lost/missing, two were withdrawn, and four were for binding. From 2011-2019, 229 published titles, 205 were available on the shelf, 22 were in-cataloging, and two were for binding.

It is noted that in the case of the Special Collection, from 1860-1865, it has ten published titles, nine of which were available on the shelf and one in cataloging. Table 2 shows the summary

of the number of print materials by period. It can be noted that the decade with the most number of Filipiniana titles is from 1971-1980 and from 1981-1990.

Table 2
Number of Print Materials by Period

Period	On the shelf	In-cataloging	Lost/Missing
1901-1920	26	0	0
1921-1950	28	1	0
1951-1960	28	0	0
1961-1970	123	0	0
1971-1980	291	0	1
1981-1990	208	0	1
1991-2000	166	2	0
2001-2010	62	1	0
2011-2019	23	1	0

Figure 1
Print Titles about Philippine Languages by Publication Year

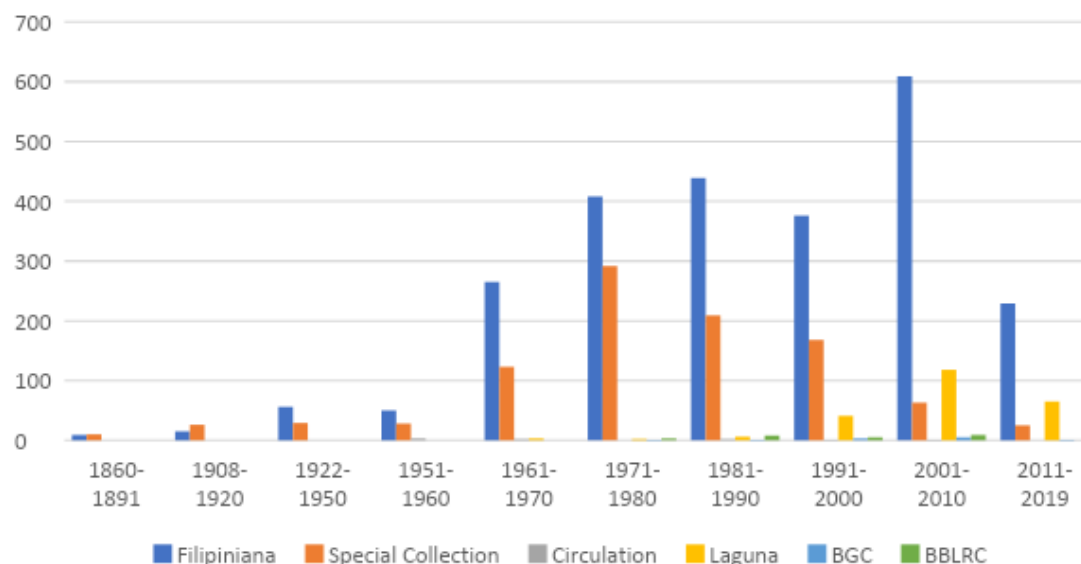


Figure 1 shows the overall distribution of the number of titles per section and publication year. Based on the figure, only the Filipiniana and Special Collection sections have print titles published from 1860-1950. However, most of the print titles in the Filipiniana section were either withdrawn from the shelves or lost/missing. Unlike the print titles in the Special Collections, most if not all are still available on the shelf. It can also be noted that the Filipiniana collection has more print titles published from the decade 1971-1980, 1981-1990, 1991-2000, and 2001-2010. The reason for this might be because since many titles were published during

these decades and are still available in the market. The most print titles available for the Special Collections are from 1971-1980 and 1981-1990. For other sections, most of their titles were published 1991 up to 2019. This may be because these sections are new and so they acquired the latest titles only.

DLSU Libraries Collections vis-a-vis Philippine National Bibliography

To determine how successful the DLSU Libraries were in acquiring resources about Philippine languages, the researchers tediously checked titles about Philippine languages from 2010-2020 of the Philippine National Bibliography. After which, the researchers checked these titles from the Animosearch to determine if the DLSU Libraries have them in their collection. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of titles that appeared in PNB, and that matches in the Animosearch.

Table 3

Titles Appeared in Philippine National Bibliography (PNB) and Matches in Animosearch

PNB	Number of titles	Found exact edition in DLSU Libraries	Not found in DLSU Libraries	Found in DLSU Libraries but different editions	Found in DLSU Libraries but missing on the shelf	Found in DLSU Libraries but online edition
2010	19	2	10	2	0	5
2011	122	4	78	15	15	10
2012	19	2	16	0	0	1
2013	12	3	9	0	0	0
2014	43	9	33	1	0	0
2015	38	3	32	0	0	3
2016	22	6	14	2	0	0
2017	20	2	18	0	0	0
2018	15	2	13	0	0	0
2019	18	4	12	0	0	0

This data shows that the majority of the titles in PNB are not found in the DLSU Libraries collections. Out of 328 titles in PNB, only 35 titles or 10.67%, were found in Animosearch with its exact edition. There are also other 20 titles or 6.09% which were found in Animosearch but with different editions. Furthermore, there are 15 titles, or 4.57%, found in Animosearch but marked as missing on the shelf and 19 titles or 5.79% which were found in Animosearch but online edition only. It must be noted that 71.65% or 235 titles about Philippine languages in PNB were not found in Animosearch. This data suggests that DLSU Libraries still need to acquire more titles about Philippine languages that were listed in PNB. It is in parallel with Kristick (2019), who notes that through the use of bibliography, it was possible to identify the strengths and gaps in the collection with regards to books present in the standardized bibliography. Based on the culled data, many of these titles are published within the last ten years, and the majority of its publishers are local publishers and distributors. In addition, titles found in Animosearch but missing and titles with different editions must also be replaced and updated. This also concurs with a study by Penaflor (2012) on her assessment of the Filipiniana

collection of DLSU vis-à-vis the Philippine National Bibliography. Her research also concludes that the DLSU Libraries' Filipiniana collection is strong in disciplines relevant to the university's course offering, such as Language, Social Science, and History. However, on checking the collection vis-à-vis the PNB, she notes how many titles in PNB do not exist in the Filipiniana collection. The results of her study serve as a basis in developing strategies to be used in acquiring these titles.

DLSU Libraries Collections vis-à-vis Class Syllabi of Filipino Department

In terms of how DLSU Libraries support the Curriculum College of Liberal Arts (Filipino Department), the researchers retrieved the updated class syllabi of every Filipino subject from both undergraduate and graduate programs of DLSU. Then, the researchers collated the print titles found on their list of references and look if each title exists in DLSU library collections.

Table 4

Number of Titles in Class Syllabi of Undergraduate Filipino Subjects

Undergraduate Filipino subjects	Total number of titles in class syllabi	Found in DLSU Libraries	Not found in DLSU Libraries	Found in DLSU Libraries but different editions
BASIFI 1	4	1	2	1
BASIFI 2/3	4	1	2	1
FILDLAR	7	4	2	1
FPLAR	3	0	3	0
GEFILI 2	10	6	4	0
LCFILIC	1	1	0	0
PHSAKAD	10	1	9	0
PHSAKMI	4	3	0	1
PHSDIAS	7	4	1	2
PHSKALI	7	4	3	0
PHSREMS	16	12	1	3
PHSRETS	4	2	2	0
PHSSOCI	24	22	2	0
PHSTURO	18	6	10	2
WIKAKUL	29	20	8	1
Total	148	87	49	12

Table 4 depicts a summary of the list of references in the class syllabi of every Filipino subject in undergraduate courses in the College of Liberal Arts. The data shows that in the undergraduate courses, the majority of the titles in the class syllabi, 58.78% can be found in Animosearch, while 8.10% can be found in Animosearch but with different editions. On the other hand, there are 49 titles or 33.11% titles in the class syllabi that cannot be found in AnimoSearch. This data suggests that DLSU libraries are somewhat successful in acquiring print titles that are being used as reference materials in undergraduate Filipino subjects. However, the number of titles that cannot be found in Animosearch is still significant, which would require DLSU libraries to strategize and acquire those titles in order to meet the

minimum requirements of print materials in undergraduate Filipino class syllabi. Furthermore, the titles found in Animosearch but with different editions must be updated.

Table 5

Number of Titles in Class Syllabi of Graduate Filipino Subjects

Graduate Filipino Subjects	Total number of titles in class syllabi	Found in DLSU Libraries	Not found in DLSU Libraries	Found in DLSU Libraries but different editions
AFL501M/D	19	14	3	2
AFL602M	36	31	4	1
AFL628D	19	6	5	8
AFL628M	19	9	7	4
AFL707D	4	1	3	1
AFL763D	3	0	2	1
AFL521M	9	1	5	3
Total	109	62	29	20

Table 5 illustrates the summary of the list of the references in the class syllabi of every Filipino subject in the graduate courses of the College of Liberal Arts. The data shows that in graduate courses, the majority of titles in class syllabi, 56.88% of the print references in the class syllabi can be found in Animosearch. There are also 18.34% references available but different editions from the class syllabi. Though 29 out of 109 titles or 26.61%, cannot be found in Animosearch, it is still a significant number to be considered.

In both undergraduate and graduate Filipino subjects, of 257 print titles in class syllabi, a total of 149 titles or 57.98% were found in DLSU Libraries, while 12.45% were found in DLSU libraries but with different editions and most of these editions were older editions. On the other hand, a total of 78 titles or 30.35% were not found in DLSU libraries. This data suggests that even if the DLSU libraries provided the majority of the print references mentioned in the class syllabi of each Filipino subject, the library still needs to acquire more materials on Filipino subjects considering the reference list of each Filipino subject. For the other print materials with different editions, these titles must be updated and replaced.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Philippine languages, just like any other language, are living organisms. They can survive, wither, or disappear forever depending on how they are nurtured and used in everyday lives. Aside from using these languages in conversation, producing and providing literature and materials on their use, study, and teaching, or even for entertainment purposes, will significantly affect the community in maintaining and preserving them, passing them down to generations. If DLSU libraries are to be a leading research library, they must be one of the front runners in supporting and cultivating the use and preservation by acquiring materials that will help the community in its study and teaching. Though the DLSU libraries have an excellent primary collection of resources about Philippine languages, the results of the collection assessment pointed out that many print reference materials can still be acquired in the market and can be added to the collection. The results of the study are in parallel to what Bobal, Mellinger, and Avery (2008) note about how collection assessment can be used to give light

on various ways that libraries contribute to the academic environment. These results may also serve as an avenue for making the libraries more visible on the campus and in dealing scholarly communication issues and their impact on library collections. The DLSU libraries can consider using the PNB list of titles to select and acquire materials about Philippine languages. Updating the collection development plan and acquisition strategies must be recalibrated to develop a more meaningful and purposeful library collection about Philippine languages. The DLSU libraries may also collaborate with other institutions, both public and private, to further improve the acquisition of Filipiniana materials and the use and access of it. It is in parallel with Ping's (2022) study on the collection assessment based on the quality-utility-value theory, in which she observes that coordination with public libraries, university libraries, and other scientific research institutions will help in addressing the information needs of the whole society.

When it comes to supporting the College of Liberal Arts curriculum, Department of Filipino, the library is doing well in building up the collection that provides references for Filipino courses. The different sections, particularly the Filipiniana section, were able to establish a decent collection enough to cater to the needs of the faculty and students. However, the libraries must still be more aggressive in acquiring library resources that are being recommended as required readings/materials in the class syllabi of each Filipino subject. Consultation and collaboration with faculty will significantly help build up an excellent collection that genuinely caters to the needs of both the faculty and students. In addition to this, promotion and making use of the Leganto reading list (feature of AnimoSearch) will also expedite the request-and-purchase relationship between the faculty and librarians.

The overall results of this study help to inform the selection and acquisition of resources about Philippine languages and references for the use and research of Filipino subjects. The results can also be used to create a comprehensive collection development plan to improve the library's collection about Philippine languages and the study and teaching of Filipino courses. This will significantly affect the budget proposal, acquisition plan, and future acquisition strategies. However, this study focused only on the collection assessment of print materials available in the DLSU Libraries' collections. A prospective study must be made that includes the print materials and the online or electronic materials available in the library. Furthermore, to update this study, others can also focus on incorporating the PNB list of titles from 2009 down since many Filipiniana references were published during those times and were acquired already by the DLSU Libraries. Lastly, as mentioned in the related literature, future studies can be made using collection assessment, both user-based and collection-based, to assess the collection better. Considering the usage of the library collection will also help the DLSU Libraries determine if what they are building is the needs and wants of its clientele.

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