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Examining librarians' rights in the Philippine copyright law: The academic law librarians' standpoint

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ABSTRACT

Academic law librarians have two primary responsibilities in the profession: to be faithful to the fundamental law of library science, and to be the frontrunners in implementing the law of the land. The Philippine copyright law tests the academic law librarians' purpose in accomplishing both responsibilities. In this pandemic, when most library services are on online modality, the academic law librarians' duty of providing information the fastest way possible may slow down due to their obligation to abide by the copyright law. To avoid this scenario and provide recommendations when this happens, the researchers of this study examines the overall perception of academic law librarians on the following: (1) the degree of which the copyright law in the country affects the librarians' provision of information service in this time of online modality; (2) the copyright law's impacts in fulfilling librarians' mission of carrying out the first fundamental law of library science; and (3) the extent of support the copyright law is providing the librarians while performing their tasks. Results are gathered using a 3-part survey questionnaire that tackles the demographics, perceptions, and concerns, and suggestions of the respondents. These are analyzed using percentages, weighted mean, and Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient. Salient results such as the low level of support the academic law librarians perceive they can get from the Philippine copyright law, and their conviction that the prevailing law needs additional provisions to protect librarians in providing information services while adhering to the fundamental law of librarianship, are significantly discussed in this study.

Keywords: Academic Law Librarians, Copyright Law, Fundamental law of librarianship, Information service

I. Introduction

The Copyright Law in the Philippines

The Philippine government enacted its very first Copyright Law on March 06, 1924, which started protecting the intellectual property of authors and publishers of "(a) Books, single volume or voluminous; (b) Periodicals, including pamphlets; (c) Lectures, sermons, addresses, dissertations prepared for oral delivery; (d) Dramatic or dramatico-musical compositions; (e) Musical compositions with or without words; (f) Maps, plans, sketches, charts, drawings, designs; (g) Works of art; models or designs for works of art; (h) Reproductions of a work of art; (i) Drawings or plastic works of a scientific or technical character; (j) Photographs, engravings,

lithographs, lantern slides, cinematographic pictures; (k) Prints and pictorial illustrations; (l) Dramatizations, translations, adaptations, collections, compilations, abridgments, arrangements, commentaries, critical studies, abstracts, versifications; (m) Other articles and writings" (*Act No. 3134: Copyright Law of the Philippine Islands, 1924*). Creators of the work may assign to their heirs or person lawfully assigned the copyright of their works. Years later, former President Ferdinand E. Marcos signed a presidential decree that included additional works, namely: a) original ornamental designs or models for articles of manufacture, whether or not patentable, and other works of applied art; b) Computer programs; c) Prints, pictorial illustrations, advertising copies, labels, tags, and box wraps; and other literary, scholarly, scientific and artistic works on the list of works eligible for copyright (*Presidential Decree No. 49: Decree on Intellectual Property, 1972*).

On June 6, 1997, the copyright law of the Philippine Islands became a part of a new and broader law, the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines. This new law focused on intellectual property rights consisting of a) Copyright and Related Rights; b) Trademarks and Service Marks; c) Geographic Indications; d) Industrial Designs; e) Patents; f) Layout-Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuits; and g) Protection of Undisclosed Information (*Republic Act No. 8293: Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, 1997*). This law created the Intellectual Property Office tasked to regulate and implement the intellectual property law of the country. The said law allowed libraries and archives to reproduce a single copy of a copyrighted work, amended in 2013 to accommodate a *limited number* of reprographic reproduction instead of a single copy only (*Republic Act No. 10372 | Amendments to R.A. No. 8293, 2013*). The most important feature of this law was the introduction of *Fair Use*, which allowed information users to use copyrighted materials following specific conditions. The doctrine of Fair Use also gave librarians a breathing space in sharing information with their users.

From the promulgation of the copyright law in 1924 until the present, libraries and librarians only rely on the doctrine of fair use to support their primary task of sharing information.

Ranganathan's Fundamental Laws of Library Science

S.R. Ranganathan is well-known for the fundamental laws of library science. Out of the five fundamental laws he formulated in 1928, four talked about how libraries provide quality service to their users (*Five Laws of Library Science, 2015*). The first fundamental law, which states that *books are for use*, tells librarians to make their resources accessible and not hide them (Gorman, 1998). Ranganathan emphasized in this first fundamental law that providing access to information materials is an essential task of libraries and librarians; that all library resources must be made available to their users and not suppress users in retrieving information. This law emphasizes the "fundamental issue of access" (Leiter, 2003).

While the 2nd fundamental law focuses on collection development and information relationships to library users, the 3rd law that states *every reader his book* focuses on readers services. The law calls for libraries to look for ways to help users arrive at the information every user needs. In this present time, the emergence of integrated library systems, electronic databases, and discovery service made it easier for librarians to adhere to this fundamental law.

Further, the 4th fundamental law tells librarians to *save the time of the reader*. In the early years, this law means that librarians and library staff should arrange their collections properly so users can locate materials fast. In today's time, when speed is one of the best factors in measuring efficiency, and users may assess access to information through bytes per second, librarians can

interpret this law as (1) providing the correct information to users using the highest Mbps, (2) providing more online reference service, or (3) even making use of social media to provide information. Leiter (Leiter, 2003) says that this fundamental law talks about satisfying library users in any way possible.

The 5th law asserts that *the library is a growing organism*. This law means that libraries continuously change (Rimland, 2007). Librarians cannot help the library's growth and the revolutionizing of services, programs, and facilities. Technology is the root of this change. To keep astride with this change, librarians must keep track of technology and apply it to his/her library. Subscription to electronic information such as e-books, e-journals and other e-databases, for example, would help tremendously in space problems brought about by growing collection. Employing online services, as another example, such as e-reference service and integrated library systems, would help provide fast circulation and reference services to the users. If librarians can use the current technologies, adhering to the fundamental law of library science would be very easy.

The Dilemma of Academic Law Librarians

Academic law librarians have two primary responsibilities in the profession: to be faithful to the fundamental law of library science and be the frontrunners in implementing the law of the land. Unfortunately, these two primary responsibilities of academic law librarians bring them to a dilemma, especially in this pandemic. While copyright law binds everyone to the legal use of information, librarians and other stakeholders may interpret the legality of using the information in many ways. For example, the fair use doctrine may allow reprographic reproduction of information up to a limited number of copies. However, librarians cannot determine how many is the limited number of copies, nor the law stated that these reproductions are for everybody's access.

The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily halted face to face modality. This situation increased the academic law librarian's dilemma, as they cannot share information readily. They cannot readily scan or photocopy printed resources and share them through e-mail with their users who cannot go inside their libraries. Even if they subscribe to electronic resources, sharing electronic articles and e-books is bound by intellectual property rights, making it difficult to make these resources readily accessible.

Suppose academic law librarians hold on to the fair use doctrine to adhere to the fundamental law of library science. In that case, they have to evaluate every situation first if sharing a document passes the four-factor test of fair use. Unfortunately, even in the United States of America, fair use is still difficult to use as a defense against intellectual property infringement due to the "lack of any systematic, comprehensive account of their fair use case law" (Beebe, 2008).

To come out of this situation, the researchers of this paper aimed to study the perceptions of academic law librarians on the prevailing copyright law of the country and assess its effect on librarians' task of providing information service. Mainly, this study has the following research problems:

1. What is the academic law librarians' level of understanding of the Philippine copyright law?

2. To what degree does the law affect the librarians' provision of information service, especially in this time of online modality?
 - a) What is the copyright law's impacts in fulfilling librarians' mission of carrying out the first fundamental law of librarianship?
 - b) Does the copyright law help lighten the load of librarians' work? To what extent?
3. Are academic law librarians satisfied with the current copyright law? Why?

Scope and Limitation of the study

This study focuses on the perceptions of academic law librarians (ALLs) regarding the effects of the Philippines' copyright law on librarians' duties and responsibilities, especially in this time of the pandemic. This study based the perceptions on the degree of their agreement to the statements that focus on (1) librarians' mission of carrying out the first fundamental law of librarianship, and (2) changes in workload felt by librarians due to the implementation of the copyright law. The instrument used is a 3-part survey instrument, where the researchers decoded the 2nd part of the questionnaire according to pre-researched factors. The researchers collected data collection between April 12-30, 2021. Only the academic law librarians with valid email addresses found in the Network of Academic Law Librarians, Inc. (NALL) database were sent with the survey instrument.

II. Methodology

The researchers used a quantitative method in addressing the problems of this study. A three-part survey questionnaire was designed and validated by the researchers. They tested the instrument's internal consistency using the Cronbach Alpha test, wherein it scored a high 0.82, which is equivalent to a more than acceptable level of internal consistency. Table 1 shows the computation of the questionnaire's internal consistency using the Cronbach Alpha test.

Table 1. Internal Consistency of the Instrument

Variables	Description	Values	Internal Consistency
K	# of items	12	Good
$\sum s^2y$	sum of the item variance	9.93	
s^2x	variance of total score	40	
α	Cronbach's alpha	0.82	

To test the validity of the instrument, the researchers employed one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test after they conducted a pilot test to 10 respondents. The said test proved the survey instrument was valid when all results deemed to be "no significant differences between means," hence the instrument was safe to use in this study. Table 2 presents the results.

Table 2. Validity Test Results of the Instrument

Variable	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>	Interpretation
Level of Awareness to the copyright law	1.27	0.30	2.91	No significant differences between means
Adherence to the Fundamental law of library science	1.26	0.31	2.95	No significant differences between means
Effects to workload and responsibilities	1.49	0.23	2.87	No significant differences between means

The parts of the said survey include 1) demographics, 2) Librarian's Perception, and 3) Librarian's suggestions and recommendations.

The demographic part enables the researchers to analyze correlations between librarians' perceptions and their demographic information, particularly the a) length of experience, b) geographic location, and c) institutional affiliation.

The Librarian's Perception part provides information about how copyright law affects libraries and librarians in the country. The researchers used a 5-point Likert scale to 10 statements where responses equated to relationships between the copyright law and the academic law librarians in the country. In this part, respondents answer if they a) Strongly Disagree (SD); b) Disagree (D); c) Neutral (N); d) Agree (A); or, e) Strongly Agree (SA) on each featured statements. Responses were decoded and subjected to extraction of the weighted mean for analyses.

Moreover, the Librarian's Suggestions and Recommendations section solicited suggestions and recommendations from librarians to further improve the relationship between copyright law and librarians. Responses in this part were collated, compared against each response, and generalized.

The researchers also used an additional statistical measure, the Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient, to confirm the relationships of the factors included in this study.

Lastly, in order to collect data despite the pandemic, this study conducted the data gathering using google forms.

III. Findings

A. Demographics

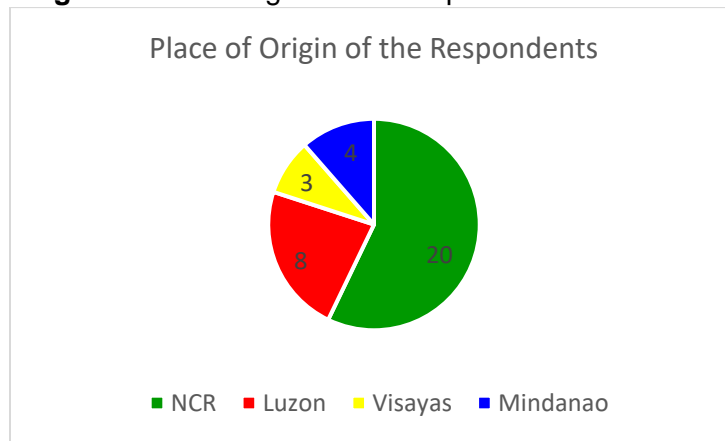
Out of 49 registered members of the Network of Academic Law Library (NALL), 35 academic law librarians, equivalent to 71.43% of the population, responded to the survey questionnaire of this study. The total respondents are all currently working as law librarians in different higher legal education institutions. 45.71% of the respondents are working as law librarians for 1-5 years, 34.29% are working as law librarians for 6-10 years, only 5.71% are working in academic law libraries for 11-15 years, while 14.28% are working for more than 20 years in the same type of library. Table 3 presents the itemized data regarding respondents' length of experience as academic law librarians.

Table 3. Length of Experience as Academic Law Librarians

Experience Range (in years)	Number of respondents	Percentage
1-5	16	45.71
6-10	12	34.29
11-15	2	5.72
16-20	0	0.0
Above 20 years	5	14.28
Total	35	100.00

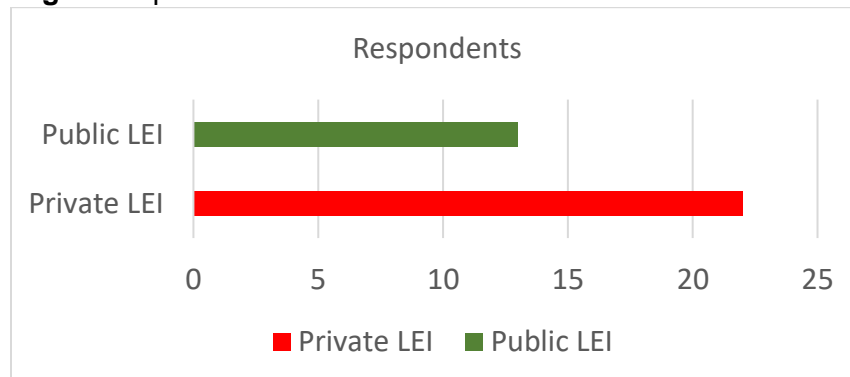
Law librarians from Metro Manila dominate the respondents. 57.14% of the respondents came from Metro Manila, 25% are from Luzon, 8.57% are from the Visayas, and 11.43% are from Mindanao. Figure 1 shows the picture of places of origin of our respondents.

Fig. 1 Place of Origin of the Respondents



Finally, the respondents are dominantly from private higher legal institutions. Out of 35 respondents, 22 or 62.86% came from the private higher legal institutions and 13 or 37.14%. Figure 2 illustrates respondents' institutional affiliation.

Fig. 2 Respondents' Institutional Affiliation



B. Level of understanding

Librarians, in general, play a vital role in implementing the copyright law of the country. They serve as the balance between the creator of the literature and its users (Henderson, 2019) They act as advocates to users for them to use copyrighted materials without additional costs. It is, therefore, necessary for librarians to fully understand the copyright law to be able to implement it without jeopardizing their positions as the balance between the creator of the works and the users.

Having the premises above, everybody expects that academic law librarians fully know the law and implement it accordingly. Therefore, this study examined the level of understanding of academic law librarians on the country's copyright law. This study used two statements about librarians' understanding of the Philippine copyright law. The first statement focused on their overall assessment of the copyright law, while the second statement was confirmatory, which asked if librarians still want to clarify some provisions in the said law. Both statements garnered weighted means of 3.63 and 4.0, respectively. This result means that while the respondents collectively categorized their understanding of the law as almost neutral, they perceive that there are still provisions in the said law that need to be clarified. Table 4 presents the actual results.

Table 4. Academic Law Librarians' Level of Understanding on the Copyright Law

Statement	Weighted Mean
It is easy to understand the provisions in the Copyright law.	3.63
There are provisions in the copyright law that need to be clarified.	4.00

C. The Effect of the Copyright Law

Copyright Law and the Fundamental Law of Librarianship

Books are for use; every reader his book; and save the time of the reader are three fundamental laws of library science that guide librarians in providing quality readers services. The said laws had been every librarian's inspiration since S.R.Ranganathan formulated and published this in 1931 (Carr, 2014). These laws meant that librarians must always make information materials available to their users. These laws also emphasize the dissemination of information in the fastest way possible. However, adhering to these laws may have a conflict with the copyright law of the country. Thus, this study derived the perceptions of academic law librarians to determine the impact of the copyright law on the librarians' mission of fulfilling these fundamental laws of library science. Results showed an overall weighted mean of 3.11 on librarian's degree of agreement to four statements about their adherence to the fundamental laws of librarianship. Academic law librarians' highest agreement is on the 2nd statement, which is the general statement on this topic. However, their agreement went lower as the statements became more specific about the tasks they tackle every day. The statement where academic law librarians gave the lowest agreement was on the statement that says they feel free to share their resources without any responsibility. Table 5 presents the itemized results on this topic.

Table 5. Copyright Law vs Fundamental Law of Librarianship

Statement	Weighted Mean
2. Librarians feel secured in providing printed and electronic information to library patrons because of the copyright law.	3.29
3. The copyright law supports the provision of the right information to the right reader at the right time.	3.51
4. The copyright law clearly supports the reproduction of all information needed by library patrons.	3.00
5. The said law gives librarians the freedom to share what is in his/her library without thinking that he/she may become accomplice to infringement	2.63
Overall Weighted Mean	3.11

Copyright Law and Librarian's Workload and Responsibilities

Mary Mousmouti (2014) cited "alignment to purpose" as one of the characteristics of effective legislation. Mousmouti said a law is effective if the provisions are aligned to the purpose of its stakeholders. One of the stakeholders of the copyright law is the librarians, being implementors of the said law. Thus, the purpose of the copyright law is also expected to be aligned with librarians' tasks and responsibilities while implementing the law. In this essence, this study measured the extent of workload given to librarians brought about by the copyright law.

Based on the collective responses of the respondents, academic law librarians do not see the copyright law as an ally in performing their daily tasks and in assuming their responsibilities in providing information service. Although they see the said law as helpful in general, they agree that the copyright law impose additional tasks and responsibilities. Table 6 presents these results.

Table 6. The Copyright Law and Librarians' Tasks and Responsibilities

Statement	Weighted Mean
1. The copyright law is helpful to libraries and librarians.	3.94
2. The copyright law doesn't require librarians to police for copyright infringers.	2.54
3. It is clear in the copyright law that librarians do not have responsibility on library patrons who commit infringement.	2.71
4. The copyright law does not give librarians additional responsibility in implementing it.	2.88
Overall Weighted Mean	3.02

Correlating Perceptions

This study extracted the relationships between the demographic factors, namely (1) length of experience as law librarians, (2) geographic location, and (3) type of institutional affiliation, to determine if the whole population of academic law librarians have the same set of perceptions on their rights on the copyright law of the country. The cohesiveness of their perceptions will

strengthen their stand on the subject. It will also help lawmakers decide if the current law needs revision and how to accommodate findings in this study.

The researchers used the Spearman’s Rho Correlation Coefficient, a non-parametric statistical measure, after confirming that the variables involved in this study are ordinal and ranked (*Spearman’s rank-order correlation: A guide to when to use It, what it does and what the assumptions are.*, 2018). To satisfy the two components of the said statistical measure, the researchers ranked the two variables first before extracting the coefficient and other data that would help in analyzing the relationships of the two variables.

Perceptions and Length of Service

The first correlation extracted in this study was between the length of service as law librarians and their perceptions. Ribeiro (2014) confirmed that experience plays a significant role in forming perceptions because daily experiences establish perceptions. Thus, academic law librarian’s differences in lengths of service and exposure to different issues on implementing the copyright law while rendering the service of providing information may result in differences in perceptions. However, the general result under this topic shows that the length of experience of academic law librarians has very weak correlations (as indicated by the lower correlation coefficients of each statement than their corresponding p-values) to their perceptions on the effect of the copyright law to the fundamental law of librarianship and librarians; workloads and responsibilities. Table 7 presents the itemized correlation coefficients.

Table 7. Perception v Length of Experience

Perception	Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
Adherence to the fundamental law of librarianship		
Statement 1	-0.19	Very weak correlation
Statement 2	-0.15	Very weak correlation
Statement 3	-0.01	Very weak correlation
Statement 4	-0.15	Very weak correlation
Librarians’ workloads and responsibilities		
Statement 1	0.01	Very weak correlation
Statement 2	-0.15	Very weak correlation
Statement 3	-0.19	Very weak correlation
Statement 4	-0.20	Weak correlation

Perceptions and Geographic Location

The environment is one factor that influences personality, which plays an essential role in forming perceptions. For example, introverts prefer mountainous places, while extroverts want to be near the oceans (Oishi et al., 2015). Happy people see things positively, which is different from people who are pessimistic. The Philippines is composed of thousands of islands and several mountain ranges (Cullinane, 2021). Most places in the northern and southern parts of the country are surrounded by mountains and waters, while the remaining parts of the country are plain. These differences in the environment among academic law librarians may emit differences in how they perceive things, including the effects of the copyright laws in their practice. Extracting the

relationship between perceptions and the geographic location of the respondents will then help determine the validity of the general perception of the respondents. In addition, determining this relationship will help lawmakers revise the law with flexibility that would fit all stakeholders, regardless of their geographic location.

Results of this study show that in all eight statements pertaining to academic law librarian's perceptions, academic law librarians in all regions and areas are unified in having the same set of perceptions regarding the stand of copyright law to the fundamental law of librarianship and librarian's workloads and responsibilities. Thus, it could be generalized that geographic location cannot be considered as a factor in the formation of perceptions of academic law librarians on the copyright law. Table 8 presents the itemized results.

Table 8. Perception v Geographic Location

Perception	Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
Adherence to the fundamental law of librarianship		
Statement 1	-0.28	Weak correlation
Statement 2	0.09	Very weak correlation
Statement 3	0.14	Very weak correlation
Statement 4	-0.01	Very weak correlation
Librarians' workloads and responsibilities		
Statement 1	0.20	Weak correlation
Statement 2	-0.18	Very weak correlation
Statement 3	-0.07	Very weak correlation
Statement 4	-0.16	Very weak correlation

Perceptions and Institutional Affiliation

Differences in the extent of collections, types of services and programs differ significantly between private and public educational institutions (Davis, 2011). Technological capabilities and focus, which can affect libraries' dissemination of information, especially in this pandemic, also differ in public and private academic institutions. A study on the differences in public and private academic websites in Alabama confirms the differences between the two types of libraries' choices of topics, links and databases (Smith, 2014). This study also determined if there are differences in perceptions between public and private academic law librarians. Lawmakers may include addressing the differences in perceptions to revise the copyright law in the future.

However, all perception statements correlated with institutional affiliation posted "very weak correlation" results. This confirms that institutional affiliation does not affect the perceptions of academic law librarians on the copyright law. Table 9 presents the itemized results of correlation per statement and the law's characteristics.

Table 9. Perception v Institutional Affiliation

Perception	Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
Adherence to the fundamental law of librarianship		
Statement 1	0.02	Very weak correlation
Statement 2	0.00	Very weak correlation
Statement 3	-0.06	Very weak correlation
Statement 4	0.16	Very weak correlation

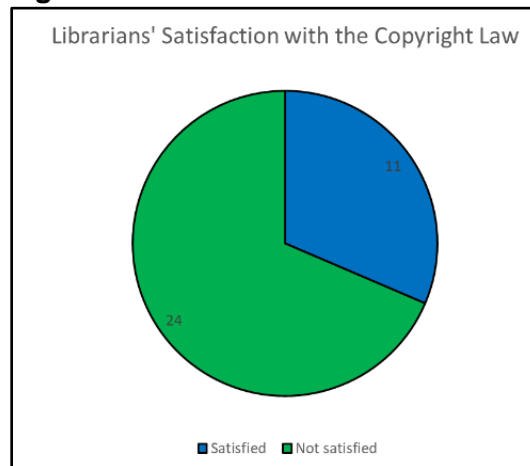
Librarians' workloads and responsibilities		
Statement 1	-0.05	Very weak correlation
Statement 2	0.01	Very weak correlation
Statement 3	0.01	Very weak correlation
Statement 4	-0.13	Very weak correlation

Librarians' Satisfaction with the Copyright Law

This study asked an outright answer of either a “yes” or a “no” about the academic law librarian's satisfaction with the present copyright law. This question was necessary to confirm if their perceptions are aligned to their overall feeling towards the subject. This outright question summarizes all the perceptions that the respondents have on the current copyright law.

Results under this topic show that 11 out of 35 librarians, equivalent to 31.43%, are satisfied with the present copyright law, while 24 respondents, equivalent to 68.57%, are not satisfied with the said law. Figure 3 illustrates the result.

Fig. 3 Librarians' Satisfaction with the Copyright Law



IV. Discussion

According to several pieces of legal literature, an effective law must first be known to the public (*Characteristics of an Effective Law*, 2015). However, for implementors of the law, the librarians, for example, an effective law must not only be known; it must also be clear to them, and fully understood. Librarians need to fully understand the copyright law to implement it properly, especially when performing the very sensitive task of providing information to their users. They must understand the extent to which they can share materials without jeopardizing their rights and responsibilities simultaneously. Unfortunately, the results of this study confirm that academic law librarians do not fully understand the extent of the copyright law. Firstly, they perceive that the said law is not relatively easy to understand. Their agreement that there are provisions in the copyright law that need to be clarified confirms that the said law is unclear.

Because researchers need to validate this information, they made a follow-up questions to the respondents to ask if they have attended a sufficient number of webinars on copyright. The question posted a high degree of agreement of 4.05, which means that the respondents have already taken extra steps to understand the said law. However, still, the academic law librarians perceive the law to be unclear and less understandable.

Librarians' perceptions mirror how things affect them. In this study, the researchers used a group of statements representing the respondents' perceptions and asked them to indicate their degree of agreement. The collective degrees of perceptions of the academic law librarians, both on the copyright law's support in librarians' adherence to the fundamental law of library science and in lightening the tasks and responsibilities while performing information service, are shallow. Librarians do not see the copyright law as an ally in providing information. They feel that the copyright law does not give them the freedom to share information, which is the essence of the their profession. This perception matters more during the pandemic when libraries do not offer face-to-face modality. Since students cannot go to their libraries, how can they access information? If librarians cannot practice document delivery service, how else can they provide needed information to their users? If, in every step of information service, obeying the copyright law will always be at the back of their minds, how can they proceed to abide by the fundamental law of librarianship?

Furthermore, academic law librarians perceive copyright law as an additional workload and responsibility for them. They feel that strict implementation of the copyright law gives them the additional task of policing for possible infringement in the library, which also means additional responsibilities. This finding is contrary to two of the characteristics of an effective law, which are (1) alignment to purpose and (2) conduciveness to obtaining the desired results (Mousmouti, 2014). An effective law is aligned to its purpose if it creates a better environment for its stakeholders. One of the primary stakeholders and implementers of the copyright law are the librarians. If librarians feel burdened by the said law, then the said law is not adequate. Also, a law is effective if its provisions are conducive to attaining its objectives. If the main objective of the copyright law is to promote knowledge (*Purpose of Copyright Law*, 2021), making the librarians feel burdened by implementing it is not conducive to obtaining its purpose. The ineffectiveness of this law makes librarians perceive the said law as not helpful nor supportive of their profession.

The results of correlating librarians' perceptions on the copyright law with the different demographic factors confirm the stability of their perceptions. Not one of the demographic factors influenced the perceptions of the librarians. This result only imparts that the only factor influencing the perceptions of the law librarians is the law itself: how it affects them, either on their duty in the profession or their obligations in their work.

Lastly, academic law librarians' satisfaction with the said law confirms their perceptions. As most members of the group are not satisfied with the present copyright law, it is conclusive to say that the said law is not supportive of librarians' profession because because it does not have the clarity and understandability that librarians need to comprehend what is in its provisions entirely. It also does not present enough information that would support librarians' adherence to the fundamental law of their profession. Moreover, it does not provide a lever for librarians to lift enough workload in their everyday duty. Instead, it adds a burden in performing their daily tasks.

V. Conclusion and Recommendation

The effectiveness of the copyright law creates a significant impact on academic law librarians, being implementers of the said law. Suppose a complete understanding of the provisions of the said law and librarians' adherence to professional practice and lifting workload in their everyday tasks are achieved. In that case, the observance of the said law is ideal. However, this is not the case in the Philippine setting, albeit it is the opposite. Thus, academic law librarians are not satisfied with the current copyright law.

The government creates laws to protect individuals so that no one experiences injustice. Politicians draw laws to give equal rights to everyone (Ives, 2018). If a specific law does not provide equal opportunities to its stakeholders, if it does not support a professional purpose, one's rights might have been jeopardized by that law. Such is the case of the academic law librarians based on the provisions written in the Philippine copyright law. The copyright law fails to provide the librarians, who are implementers of the said law, the right to be assured and confident while doing their daily tasks as information providers.

To support the academic law librarians in performing their mission in the profession, the researchers in this study recommend drafting a position paper that would recognize librarians' dilemma in implementing the copyright law, especially in situations where face-to-face modality is challenging to experience. The said position paper should contain the results of this study to support their claim. Moreover, when drafted, this study recommends lobbying for revising the said law includes the provisions that would support and protect librarians while fulfilling their tasks as information providers.

This study also recommends follow-up studies that would either confirm or debunk the conclusion of this paper, such as the perceptions of all types of librarians to gather the perceptions of the whole Philippine librarians and librarianship, and actual experiences of law students and faculty related to the copyright law. Studies on the same subject using different methodologies are also encouraged.

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