

THE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF ART MATERIALS: THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES IN CONTEXT

By Elizabeth R. Peralejo

Abstract: This paper will focus on a national repository on arts and culture in a developing country, the Library of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It will present a brief historical background on how the CCP Library and its collection started, evolved and developed. It will give a glimpse on how the Library functions toward the realization of the Center's goals and objectives. Furthermore, it will discuss the procedure on how the various types of materials are organized and disseminated to the clientele. In the process of the presentation, some problems which affect the Library's goals and activities will likewise be shared.

1. Introduction

The Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) is a government institution mandated to preserve, promote and enhance the Filipino people's cultural heritage. It realizes the fact that crucial to our development as a nation is the assertion of a national identity. Only a people who understands and takes pride in its cultural heritage can develop an economy and a government that can hold its own in the community of free and independent nations. As such, it envisions a Filipino national culture evolving with and for the people.

In pursuit of its vision, the CCP has for its objectives the following: to encourage the creation of original Filipino works; to promote artistic activities all over the country; to increase critical awareness and support of cultural activities among various publics; to foster artistic excellence among artists; and to increase understanding of the various cultures in the country among Filipinos and the rest of the world.

Based on the above mentioned objectives, the CCP does not only serve as a national venue for the performing arts but also as a coordinating center for artistic

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and cultural programs and activities throughout the country, mainly through the local arts councils which it helps to organize. In these art councils, local artists of a particular city, province or region plan and implement their own cultural programs and they can request for a subsidy from the Center for such programs.

II. Functions of the library

The Library of the Cultural Center of the Philippines serves as a national repository of Filipiniana and foreign materials not only on arts and culture but on the humanities in general. It functions as a reference and a research library not only for CCP employees, artists and scholars interested to do research on Philippine culture but for the general public as well.

Filipiniana materials refer to those print and non-print materials about the Philippines, authored by Filipinos and/or published in the Philippines. Humanities, on the other hand, includes the fields of philosophy, religion, linguistics and philology, literature, drama, music, fine arts as well as applied arts.

In support of the vision, mission and objectives of the Center, the Library aims:

1. to acquire, organize, disseminate, promote and preserve works of Filipino artists regardless of ideology and cultural background;
2. to provide bibliographic guides to the collection and produce a location tool for all available resources on Philippine culture scattered in various institutions in the country;
3. to extend library services to the regions through the holding of seminar-workshops among librarians and cultural workers as well as through roving mini-libraries;
4. to establish linkages and networks with libraries, schools, cultural institutions and government agencies in the regions;
5. to gain an understanding and appreciation of world cultures and to create linkages with international bodies and institutions that would provide exchanges of materials and ideas.

III. History

The CCP Library was envisioned as a special research library with a non-circulating collection on the performing arts. Although established as part of the CCP complex in 1969, it became operational only in 1972, three years after the Center formally opened to the public. This was due to the fact that there was no collection yet to

begin with. The first Library Director had to solicit donations from private individuals and institutions since funding then was very limited.

The nucleus of the collection was the forty or so art books donated by Asia Foundation in 1970. A similar gesture was made by Ford Foundation which donated a certain amount which was used to purchase selected titles among publications by and about Filipinos in the humanities and social sciences. Then, a good number of books on world culture, serials, pamphlets and non-print materials were donated by foreign governments represented in the Philippines during that time. This build-up of collection expanded the original intent to specialize in the performing arts to a widened scope in the humanities.

Today, the CCP Library is an excellent reference library with adequate facilities for reading, viewing and listening. It has a Filipiniana Section, a World Culture Section, a Periodical Section and a Special Collection Section which houses the donations of famous artists and private collectors. It also has an archives of manuscripts (i.e. personal papers of famous artists, writing grants, literary entries to all CCP competitions, young composers' entries to composition contests) and musical scores (i.e. piano vocal, orchestral, national anthem, commissioned works on Philippine music and foreign compositions).

The Audiovisual Section, on the other hand, contains a wide collection of slides, photographs, maps, posters, phono records, audio tapes which includes oral history and video tapes of CCP performances. There has been a tremendous increase in terms of non-print collection starting in the late 80's when all CCP departments / divisions were directed to turn-over their productions to the Library for safekeeping, preservation and dissemination. All these make the CCP Library collection one of the best in the country today.

From a non-circulating collection, the Library now allows CCP employees on permanent status to borrow as many as five materials at a time. Outsiders are allowed to use the materials within the Library only and are required to secure a membership card to be able to use the resources and facilities. This card is valid for one year and is non-transferable.

The Library adopts an "open-shelf" policy for books and periodicals with certain restrictions on the use of archival, special and non-print collections. Access to these materials are made upon request and under the supervision of the librarian incharge of the Section. These materials are supposed for room use only; however, due to the limitation of scarce facilities researchers are allowed to bring the materials to the general reading area thus, exposing them to certain risks such as mutilation, misplacement and loss.

IV. Collection development

Collection development is a phase which need no explanation except that it should be taken in its broadest sense, that is, as the process of selecting, acquiring and evaluating the strenghts and weaknesses of the collection. At the CCP Library, this is done systematically to intensify the total Library holdings.

a. Selection

The responsibilty for selecting materials rests with the acquisition librarian but the final decision lies on the Library Director. Selection is being done following certain policies and guidelines in accordance with the objectives of the CCP and of the Library.

In the process of selection, the acquisition librarian consults bibliographies and book reviews found in magazines, newspapers and outside sources; examines stocks regularly sent by local book dealers or publishers; visits book sales and exhibits; and attends book launchings. But this is only as far as published materials are concerned. When it comes to unpublished materials, particularly those in the provinces, we rely mostly from recommendation of scholars and researchers well as from linkages with individuals and institutions. That is why there is a felt need for a centralized data bank, especially in the area of cultural researchers done by and among the various ethnics groups in the country which are unpublished.

b. Acquisition

The process of acquiring materials for the Library's collection is being done through purchase, subscription, gift, donation, exchange and deposit. In certain instances, rare collections of famous artists and/or private collectors are being borrowed for photoduplication or dubbing.

1. Purchase and Subscription

The Library purchase its Filipiniana and foreign books from local dealers and distributors but funds allotted for this purpose is very limited to enable us to update our reference materials and buy expensive scholarly publications. There is also no provision for rare materials being sold in the market. Furthermore, government restrictions inhibit us to indent foreign books and non-print materials.

Aside from those already mentioned, another problem concerns subscription of foreign periodicals. Most of the time, magazines or journals arrive very late or not at all. This results to a lot of problems for the acquisition librarian who does the follow-up, both with the publisher or at the Post Office. To minimize this problem, we recommended the hiring of a jobber who will do the subscribing for us, pay the foreign publishers in dollar, get the magazines from the Post Office and deliver them to the Library.

2. Gift/Donation

Through the linkages established by the Library with various artists, private collectors, libraries, schools and other institutions, including government and non-government organizations, a sizeable number of materials are being acquired. Among the significant acquisitions are musical scores, librettos, literary manuscripts, photographs and memorabilia of famous personalities such as National Artists for Music Lucrecia Kasilag, internationally renowned soprano Dalisay Aldaba, record producer and song lyricist Manuel Villar and the late film/TV director Lino Brocka.

Our problem with regard to donations is the lack of space and the facilities where to put them. At present, the room allotted for special collections is getting smaller and too cramped for comfort. Unless the proposed library expansion plan will be approved and started by next year as projected, there will be no more room for expansion. Due to this space problem, some of the donated materials are temporarily placed in boxes, thus making them inaccessible to researchers.

3. Exchange

Another source of materials for the Library is the exchange agreements with various academic/cultural institutions, both local and foreign, where it gets some of its scholarly journals. Added to this is the cultural agreement entered into by the Philippines with other countries. To this date, we have been exchanging materials with Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cuba, Canada, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, People's Republic of China, Republic of China, Sweden, the United States and the USSR.

The problems with exchange agreements, both local and foreign, are that the materials are very irregular and that some journals have already ceased publications. These may be due to a defective postal system, unreasonable taxes or high cost of freight rates, not to mention the high cost of printing nowadays. With regard to the foreign materials we receive, our problem is that a number of them are in the language or text of the donor country. Since these could not be understood by most of our users they are not being used and simply occupy needed space. Therefore it has been recommended that for future cultural agreements with other countries, only publications written in English or with English translation will be included in the exchange.

5. Deposit

When the Library became the repository of all materials documented, produced and published by the other CCP departments/divisions, the holdings increased a great deal, especially in the area of non-print. This heavy influx of materials entails two types of problems: space and staff. There is only a little space left to accommodate the

increasing collection and we lack the personnel to organize them, not to mention the staff to attend to the increased number of viewing, listening and dubbing requests. Due to these limitations, some of the departments have been advised not to turn over their materials yet until we find the space to put them. Furthermore, we have already made recommendation for the hiring of one full time professional librarian to assist in the organization of collection and for an additional clerk to assist in the AV.

V. Organization of Collection

At the CCP Library materials are classified according to the American Library of Congress classification scheme. Non-print materials, on the other hand, are classified according to type or format and provided with letter symbols as media code and accession numbers. As for descriptive cataloging, the Library adopts the revised edition of Anglo-American Cataloging Rules both for print and non-print collections.

The Library of Congress (LC) classification scheme we have been adopting is already an expanded or modified version. In the early 80s, a group of university librarians was assigned to expand the LC provisions, particularly the literature, language, geographic location and historical period under "Philippine Languages and Literature" (5501-6184). This project was sponsored by the Philippine Library Association, Inc. (PLAI) in coordination with the Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians (PAARL). This expanded version is now adopted by almost all academic research libraries throughout the country, including the CCP Library.

With regard to nonprint materials, the accession number system has been adopted instead of the subject classification system. The main advantage of this system is the simplicity in assigning call numbers. Since we lack a cataloger, this simple routine task involves no judgement and saves professional time. Therefore, materials are made available for use before full cataloging is completed. Likewise, new materials are added to the collection without any rearranging. This is important since housing of our non-print materials is fixed and interfiling or shifting will be difficult due to the limited space.

At present, our nonprint collection is increasing. Because of this, problems are beginning to crop up with regard to the kind of system we are using. First, the chronological numbering shows no relationship between the assigned number and the subject of the material, thereby necessitating the use of the card catalog to locate specific items by subject. Second, items in each medium on the same subject can not be housed together. Third there is the problem on locating duplicate copies. And

finally, there is no uniformity in the Union Card Catalogue which sometimes results to confusion among the users.

Since the Library is currently understaffed, non-print materials will continue to be classified according to the accession number system. But eventually, plans are underway for the classification and cataloguing of these materials according to LC and AACR 2 respectively. Provisions have already been made in the budget for an additional cataloger and supplies.

VI. Dissemination of Collection

The collection of the CCP Library is open to the public, it being a government institution. But due to the limitation of space and facilities, around fifty clientele can only be accommodated at a time. Nevertheless we see to it that anyone who needs to make a research on culture and the arts will have the chance to use the collection. The following are the services being provided to them:

1. Reference Service

Assistance comes in the form of information from the card catalog, search through books, periodicals, archival and even non-print materials. For inquiries or research on collection not available at the Library, referrals are made to specific libraries where the materials may be found.

2. Bibliographic Service

List of books and audiovisual materials as well as indexes to periodical articles are provided to help in locating materials on specific topics of interest that are available in the Library. Besides these special bibliographies, the Library has produced the *Union Catalogs on Philippine Culture* - a series of catalogs of monographs, periodical articles, theses and dissertations on the seven arts published in the Philippines (i.e. music, dance, theater, film, visual arts and architecture, literature, broadcast media) that are found in various libraries throughout the country.

3. Exhibits and Displays

Exhibits and displays are put up regularly at the near entrance of the Library. These range from a monthly display of new acquisitions to exhibit of books and other printed materials in commemoration of a particular artist or celebration. Likewise materials coming from various embassies or individual donors are exhibited in recognition of donations made.

4. Viewing and Listening Service

The Library provides facilities for viewing projected materials and listening to records and tapes on a "first-come-first-served" basis. Arrangements are made with the AV librarian regarding the date and time of viewing and listening activities.

5. Dubbing/Taping Service

Since the AV Section has complete stereo and video facilities, requests for dubbing (from tape to tape) and taping (from record to tape) coming from CCP personnel and outsiders are accepted. However, request for dubbing of complete CCP performances are strictly prohibited; only excerpts are allowed to be dubbed.

6. Photocopying Service

Users who need pictures for their research, thesis, production and the like are allowed to take photo and / video shots from published materials and photograph collection upon presentation of a written request signed by the head of the institutions responsible for such project.

7. Photo/video taking

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VII. Conclusion

In spite of all the problems and limitation, efforts are being exerted to meet and satisfy the requirements of a national repository on arts and culture. The Library staff, with the support of the CCP management, continue on finding ways to develop and organize the collection. However, for a more improved and effective collection and services, the following programs and projects are envisioned:

1. computerized organization of collection, specifically in the area of cataloging, bibliography-making and indexing;
2. computerized data bank of resources, information on arts and culture and cultural researches done in the country;
3. microfilming of rare and valuable collection of the Library for preservation and posterity;
4. documentation of the oral history collection on cassette and reel tapes for fuller utilization;
5. more active and vigorous networking with other cultural repositories in the Philippines and in other countries;
6. strict compliance and implementation of the government legal deposit decree on art materials and other cultural resources.

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Elizabeth R. Peralejo
Cultural Center of the Philippines
Library
P.O.Box 1310
Manila 1053
Philippines