ARCHIVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING THE PHILIPPINES

SOCIETY OF FILIPINO ARCHIVISTS

PHILIPPINE ARCHIVAL HERITAGE

- Culturally diverse country with long history of colonization and a rich archival heritage
- Archives and record-keeping traditions started in 1521 during the Spanish regime
  - Archives of colonial past a blend of religious, secular and government records
  - Core Spanish archives kept in the Bureau of Archives in 1901 as stipulated in the Treaty of Paris of 1898
- Archives brought to the forefront during the centennial celebrations in 1998
- Need for archival education and training to preserve and promote archival heritage became more pronounced
Legal Framework for Archives

• Local Government Code of 1991
  – Recognizes the importance of archives for local governance and stipulates that every local government unit should establish its own archives

Legal Framework for Archives

• Code of Canon Law
  – Mandate each Roman Catholic Church to establish her own archives
Legal Framework for Archives

- National Archives Act
  - Establishing the National Archives of the Philippines

Development of Archival Education and Training in the Philippines

- Intertwined with the development of library education
- Unknown to many, the Philippines is the first in the ASEAN region to offer courses for the training and education for librarians
- Archives curriculum began in November 1954 at the University of the Philippines
Development of Archival Education and Training in the Philippines

• Unfortunately, these courses were abolished in 1960
  – Low enrolment rate
  – Lack of archival infrastructure
  – Absence of local faculty to teach the courses
• Lone faculty teaching archives, Dr. Isidoro Montiel Garcia, a Spanish professor of Archival Science left in 1958

• 1991, 5 archives courses were approved at the University of the Philippines with only 1 part-time faculty teaching the subjects every semester
• SFA as a advocate of archival training has partnered with the University in the development of courses
• 1994, an archives undergraduate subject was developed
• Archives and Records Management became a specialization, later a tract in the undergraduate and graduate programs
Development of Archival Education and Training in the Philippines

• Among the courses is LIS 198 (Special Topics)
  – The course is explored for new and emerging courses. The *Foundation of Audiovisual Archives* was offered under this course.

• Recently, a course module, *Introduction to Audiovisual Archives* was submitted to the University Curriculum Committee of UP for approval. Hopefully, the course will be taught next year.

NON-FORMAL ARCHIVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

• Role of SFA
  – Registered in 1990 as a non-profit organization, it is committed to the advancement of the archives and records management professions
  – Developed and implemented training courses in basic and advanced archives
NON-FORMAL ARCHIVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

• Role of SFA
  – Coordinated with UPILIS, NCCA-CA, Society of Film Archivists and SEAPAVAA in creating and/or implementing training modules for AV archivists
    • Safeguarding AV Collections (2006)
    • Preservation Workshop on Safeguarding AV Heritage (2008)

• Role of SFA
  – Support members attending trainings and conferences (local and international) like that of SEAPAVAA and SOIMA
  – To keep members abreast of the theories and practices of the profession
  – To ensure a pool of knowledgeable trainors
  – To broaden professional networks
ISSUES AND CONCERNS

• Strengthening the archival infrastructure
• Professionalization of archivists
• Development/offering of formal degrees
• Strengthening the non-formal training programs
• Lack of training programs for trainors
• Lack of training programs for AV archivists

SUMMARY

• The SFA has been going around the country training and developing would-be archivists
• We have been gaining ground in convincing various sectors to establish their archives
• Though, our members are more on the general archives administration and AV archiving is only a part of our activity, we are more than willing to help and grow with you in the profession
Lastly,

Thank you for giving the Society of Filipino Archivists this opportunity to share with you our humble contribution in the development of archival education and training in the Philippines.