

inked chronicles

Volume 1 Issue No. 1 | September 2021



Photo taken from AAFL's Facebook group page.

The Dream that Started It All

Filipinos give great value to their family—a family they love and respect! With this orientation, they seek to find a family even in their workplace and in their profession. As a family, they give support and encouragement, which is true among librarians here in the Philippines.

On May 30-31, 2011, through the leadership of Michelle Carbonilla of Manila Adventist College (MAC) and Mila Sales of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), the librarians of our colleges and universities met on the ground of MAC for the very first assembly and seminar of Adventist librarians in the Philippines. Among those who attended were: Megumi Flores and Jennifer Libalib of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS),...

Mila Sales, Ofelia Padilla, Nelah Miado, and Alva Marquez of Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), Dionisio Tuapin of South Philippines Adventist College (SPAC), Maricel Villanueva of Negros Mission Academy (NMA), and Michelle Carbonilla and Lilette Abacan of Manila Adventist College (MAC). They organized themselves as an association during the two-day event and named the group Adventist Librarians of the Philippines. Due to work transfers among its members and the demanding responsibilities in their respective institutions, the group could not meet again.

In June 2012, a significant event was held in AIAS hosting the 32nd Annual Conference of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians (ASDAL). Fifty-nine Adventist librarians from around the world came, including many librarians from Asia who participated.

The ASDAL leadership at that time had seen the potential of putting up an ASDAL Chapter in Asia. However, the chapter still continued to remain inactive years after the conference.

It's a dream of the librarians before us to unite Adventist librarians like a family. However, many factors affected these attempts to connect the librarians. Two of the main reasons are distance and time. Institutions are widely spread out throughout the country, and coming together would mean time and money. Also, two decades ago, our institutions in the Philippines lacked qualified librarians. The time of professional librarians is used primarily on training paraprofessionals to keep the work going. Unlike these days, there are more well-trained librarians deployed to our institutions, and technology hastens communication among professionals wherever they are.

Featured chronicles

Making the dream a reality

AAFL began with a question of concern during the pandemic! As the AIIAS Librarians found ways to serve their patrons during the quarantine period, they also thought of their sister institutions. They decided to meet their fellow professionals from Adventist institutions in the Philippines to ask how they are doing during the lockdown. The AIIAS Librarians extended the invitation to other Adventist librarians working in government and private institutions. July 15, 2020 - First virtual meeting. As the librarians gathered during the first virtual meeting, they shared what had taken place in their respective areas of responsibility, the services they offered, and how the pandemic situation became a blessing in their libraries.

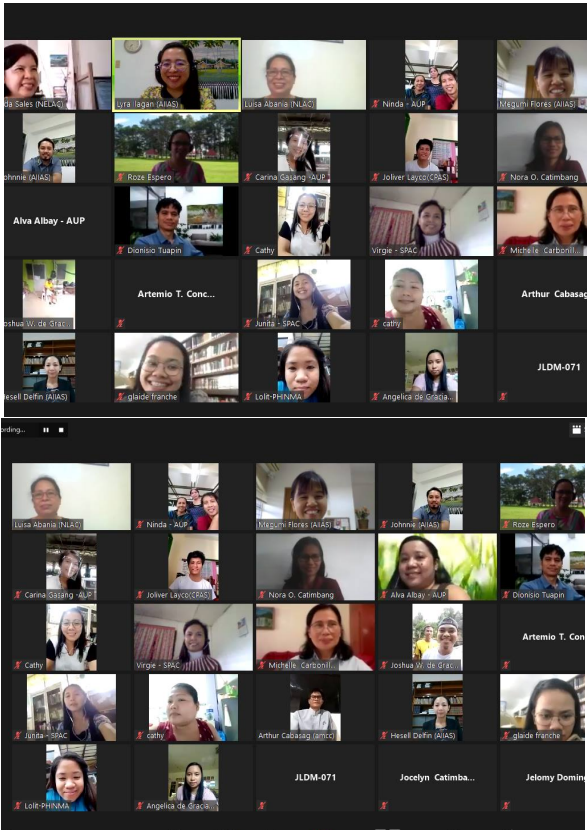


Photo taken from the first zoom meeting

They also shared simple safety protocols and library procedures in the new normal. Later on, some attendees expressed their dream to form the group as an association of Adventist librarians in the country, to support them professionally, and to become an accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Provider by the government.

On July 22, a week later, the group held another meeting to discuss the association's future. With the librarian's suggestions addressed during the first meeting, possible names for the group were accepted, short-listed, and had undergone online polling. After the final tally, the Association of Adventist Filipino Librarians (AAFL) was born! The group also decided to have a working committee to formulate the constitution and bylaws and process the requirements by the government. The current situation hindered the processing of papers, and the heavy load during the pandemic did not permit the committee to meet, making the association unproductive for several months.

On July 21, 2021, exactly a year later, the group met again with renewed energy. The AIIAS Librarians facilitated the meeting and presented the new possible direction the association may take. The members of AAFL agreed to function under ASDAL and aim to be a subchapter of ASDAL Asia. This action responds to the growing need for a professional family that provides support and nurturing activities. AAFL also decided to have the first year as a "getting to know " year to get acquainted with the association's members. With this, virtual meetings once every two months will take place. It will highlight the members, feature some presentations, and tackle business-related items. Lastly, the facilitators also launched the group's communication platforms—including the web page, discussion list, and newsletter. The release of the first newsletter issue is expected to take place during the scheduled meeting in September.

The great desire to encourage and support colleagues during this challenging time brings all the Adventist Filipino librarians together. Librarians need a family. A family to help us face the crisis brought about by COVID-19.

We pray that AAFL sustains and continually becomes the realization of those who started to dream. In its course of becoming a subchapter of ASDAL in the Philippines, may it prosper and meet the ideals of its mother organization. - Megumi Flores

“ Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. *Sidney Sheldon* ”

AAFL Updates

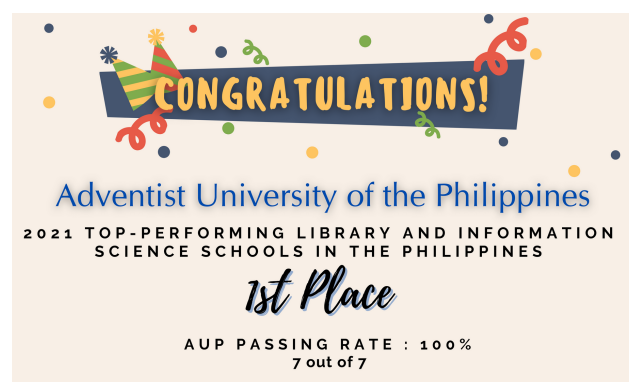
Membership Update

AAFL accepts to its roster of members all Adventist Filipino librarians around the globe! Whether you may be a practicing librarian serving at an Adventist, private, or government institution in the country, a retired librarian, or a LIS/MLIS student. You are welcome to join!

As of July 22, 2021, there is a total of 45 librarians who were able to attend at least one of the three meetings, and they are the following: Alva Albay, Angelica de Gracia, Angelyn Tabianan, Arline Masi Dela Cruz, Artemio Concordia, Arthur Cabasag, Belen Saboya, Carina Gasang, Catherine Arapoc, Catherine De Asis, Cyrus Bobier, Dionisio Tuapin, Donna Lou Aragon, Genie Rose Pesigan, Glaide France, Hesell Delfin, Imelda Sales, Jelomy Domingo, Jocelyn Catimbang, Johnnie Simyunn, Joliver Layco, Josephine Capecenio, Joshua de Gracia, Juanita de Guzman, Junita Madrid, Juveline Rosario, Kathy de Asis, Lolita Obrique, Luisa Abania, Lyra Ilagan, Maribel Nasis, Maricel Mostasa, Megumi Flores, Michael Empinado, Michelle Carbonilla, Naicy Sanidad, Neonem Felices, Neslie Taganap, Ninda Amurao, Nora Catimbang, Rowena Calvo, Roze Espero, Rubie Lagrada, Sheena Aquino, and Virgie Reconalla.



This issue is specially dedicated to
Ma'am Mila Sales & Dr. Michelle Carbonilla



Congratulations to the newly licensed librarians!

Meet the Group Facilitators

Megumi Flores, MLIS, is currently the library director at Leslie Hardinge Library of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS). She started her library career as a school librarian and transitioned to an academic library doing reference services. She had library education from AIAS, AUP, and the University of the East in Manila.

Lyra Jazel Ilagan, MLIS, is the Periodicals Acquisition and Web Services Librarian at Leslie Hardinge Library at AIAS. She's a proud alumna of Adventist University of the Philippines for her bachelor's and completed her master's degree from Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). She's also part of the reference service team facilitating library instructions and workshops.

Hesell Delfin, MEM, Reference and Book Acquisition Librarian at Leslie Hardinge Library, AIAS. She earned her bachelor's degree from Philippine Normal University, Manila, and a Master's in Education Management from the Polytechnic University of Philippines-Open University.

Johnnie Simyunn, Jr., MLIS, is currently the Patron Services and System Librarian at Leslie Hardinge Library of AIAS. He started his library career as the Media and Special Collection Librarian at the University of Mindanao in Davao City, where he also earned his Bachelor's degree in BSED-LibSci. He later became a school librarian in one of the international schools in Bangkok before joining AIAS in 2012. He finished his MLIS in the PUP, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Dionisio Tuapin, RL, LPT, is the Bibliographic Services Supervisor at Leslie Hardinge Library in AIAS. He received his bachelor's degree in school librarianship at Adventist University of the Philippines. He has experience managing a school and college library before working in AIAS.

About IC

Inked Chronicles (IC) is the official newsletter of the AAFL. It is a bimonthly newsletter containing news, events, features, and upcoming information by members of AAFL.

IC accepts articles written by any member of the AAFL. It is encouraged for members to participate and engage in this newsletter as it records and keeps track of the history of the association. This newsletter aims to preserve the historical accounts of events happening in AAFL for the benefit of future generations.

Looking for contributors and facilitators!

We want you to be part of the Inked Chronicles! Send an email to Meg at floresmm@aiaa.edu or to Lyra at ilaganlj@aiaa.edu.
Let's make history with our stories today!