

SPPL-BASED ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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Abstract

This study assessed the public libraries based on Standard of Philippine Public Libraries (SPPL) in Region VII for fiscal year 2010. Specifically, it evaluates the status of public libraries in terms of: mission, goals, and objectives; administration; human resources; library collection; services and utilization; physical facilities; IT facilities and services; financial resources; and linkages and networking. The study employed descriptive survey method, using researcher-made survey questionnaires in collecting detailed and factual information of 39 public libraries. Results showed that development of library mission, goals and objectives are the responsibility of the library personnel in consultation with the LGU officials. Both city and municipal libraries met the standard in hiring support staff but BS in employing professional librarians. Hence, both libraries are in conformity with the standard considering the inputs of computers and internet connection. Furthermore, financial resources of the city libraries were well funded from sponsors, private donation and funds for city local officials. Finally, linkages and networking of city and municipal libraries were rated very good as they initiated to secure grants, scaling up concepts and sharing of knowledge. Thus, public libraries will eventually and hopefully become a channel of communication to advance literacy rate for all Filipinos nationwide.

Keywords: Standard of Philippine public libraries, assessment of public libraries, city and municipal libraries, local government officials

Introduction

Libraries are thus a source of education, entertainment, fun for youngsters as well as adults. It does not only help to inculcate the habit of reading but also a thirst of knowledge, which makes a person humble and open to new ideas throughout life. A library is a source of extensive information as references for people and perhaps the most peaceful place on earth! Nowadays, public libraries are resources of information about various

subjects and are supposed to keep up with the times and equipped with modern facilities.

The primary role of a public library is to provide an integrative type of educational experience as well as varied services, resources and facilities to reflect positive outcomes on the rapidly escalating changes of the intellectual outlook and whole personality of the end users. Thus, it must sustain the interests and needs of its clientele. The lack of desirable resources in the library affects its clientele in all aspects of educational and informational mission. In this milieu, the public library needs to bring about up-to-date scholarly and professional materials and equipment to cope with the encompassing changes besetting the educational and informational arena of the present time.

The R.A. 7743 calls for the management and establishment of a public library in every city and municipality but this remains only in a paper because in the Philippines only few cities and municipalities followed due to financial constraints and lack of enthusiasm to manage and establish a library that even the National Library of the Philippines, fail to enforce the setting up of libraries in many different islands. As reported by the National Library in the second quarter of 2009 only a total of 1,182 public libraries are established and managed in the country and distributed as follows: one Regional library; four Congressional district libraries; 101 City libraries; 576 Municipal libraries; and 500 Barangay reading centers. Such disproportionate numbers clearly illustrate the inaccessibility in many places especially far flung areas, thus greater numbers of public libraries are demanded.

It is underscored the importance of the libraries and reading centers, most especially in consonance with the Department of Education (DepEd) which consistently fell short in terms of providing adequate textbooks and reading materials to millions of children and young adults in public schools. Not to mention also, the many exposes regarding the factually erroneous contents of the textbooks which that contributed to the deterioration of the educational system in the country. City and municipal libraries are learning spaces which serve the intellectually starved, economically deprived constituents who cannot afford to access information in schools and cyberspace of which the city and municipal libraries are their sanctuary and the last bastion of hope. To declare city and municipal libraries dead, is like cutting off the intellectual lifeline that binds a significant percentage of the (marginalized) populace to the information needed to equip it to navigate this rapidly-changing world. It is clear that few seem to understand that the city and municipal libraries can be many things to many people – source of information, learning and collaboration, space experience of which its closure brings lifeless connection to development (Bolos, 2000).

Due to the lack of interest from city and municipal officials, public libraries were quite disappointed as one government official commented and stated “nobody looks more clever when they leave a library”. Despite the frustration, most libraries closely worked with the local officials to convince them that they are responsible of its operation and management. It is also understood that countries organizing public libraries can profit from experience and there is no short-cut to the period of development unless done with careful planning, and logical organization of services nationwide. It is noted that the absence of public libraries in local government units, the constituents in the community will suffer from illiteracy. To illustrate clearly, in Region VII, where there are sixteen (16) cities, and one hundred twenty (120) municipalities, only seven (7) city libraries, and thirty two (32) municipal libraries functioning and available to the region.

It is believed that the public library is the community’s intellectual lifeline and an agent of social inclusion thus the non-establishment of City and Municipal Libraries is indeed a blow to Philippine public librarianship and does not justify the diminishing process. Public Libraries are managed, established, and funded by the local government units to address the needs of the community in terms of library services, facilities, equipment and resources. In this study, the researcher used the provisions as the bases as well as supporting laws. The first provision is Republic Act No. 7743, which provides the Establishment of Congressional, Provincial, City, Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers throughout the Philippines, Appropriating the Necessary Funds Thereof and for Other Purposes”. It is hereby declared the national policy to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people; elevate the literacy level of every Filipino, and recognize the vital role of knowledge and information in nation-building by establishing public libraries in every congressional district, city and municipality, and reading centers in all barangays throughout the Philippines (RA 7743, 2010).

Public libraries are divided into different specifications, such as congressional, provincial, city, municipal, and barangay reading centers. The focus of this study is on the city and municipal libraries which are an organization established, managed, supported and funded by the community, through the local government units. It provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination through a range of resources and services and is equally available to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic and employment status, and educational attainment. Its primary purpose is to provide resources and services in a variety of media to meet the needs of individuals and groups for education, information and personal development including recreation and leisure. It has an important role in the development

and maintenance of a democratic society by giving the individual access to a wide and varied range of knowledge, ideas and opinions (Libraries, Information and Archives Division, 1999).

Republic Act 7743, mandates local government units to establish congressional, provincial, city, municipal libraries and reading centers at the barangay level. In Southern Mindanao, people are lobbying hard for the LGUs' compliance with this 16-year old mandate. They are ground working religiously to mainstream city and municipal libraries, and bringing them back to the consciousness of Southern Mindanaoans (Mindanao Librarian, 2008).

Moreover, RA 7743 directs the establishment of congressional, city and municipal libraries and barangay reading centers throughout the Philippines, appropriating the necessary funds therefore and for other purposes. Cotabato Governor Ampatuan issued a memorandum mandating local governments to establish libraries in the areas. All local government officials in the Region need to implement this endeavor considering the impact on the campaign to improve the literacy rate (Ampatuan, 2007). The Philippine News Agency reported that funding for libraries is drawn from the local governments' annual income based on budget estimates proposed by head librarians on an annual basis. The law requires that public libraries should have a separate building or room of adequate size, sufficient number of chairs, reading tables, bookshelves and other equipment that conform with the standards for Philippine Public Libraries with up-to-date books, periodicals and other library materials. The national library provides the standard set of reference books and other reading materials taking into consideration the immediate needs of the community.

In the performance of its function the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) acts as the central node of the city and municipal library system in the country. It also provides guidance and technical assistance to local government units (LGUs) in the management, development and maintenance of public libraries and bookmobile services in the provinces, cities and municipalities and barangays throughout the country (Bolos, 2000).

According to Fitch and Warner (1998), city and municipal libraries assist local communities to encourage democratic society in providing citizens with accessibility to information regardless of race, income, class, age, and gender. Equal information access for all is a primary component of a "smooth democratic process". "Furthermore, municipal libraries are the primary site to locate information about and produced by the various levels of government. Governments, in turn, depend on libraries to collect and disseminate government information. As the government is increasingly making information available, it becomes even more important for libraries

to provide free access to users, so that all members of the community, regardless of their income will find the needed government information”.

It is imperative that the public library should meet the needs of all groups in the community regardless of age and physical, economic or social circumstances. It has a special responsibility to meet the needs of children and young adults to inspire them by the excitement of knowledge and by works of the imagination at an early age, which they likely benefit vital elements of personal development throughout their lives, which are enriching and enhancing. Children and young people who experience difficulty in learning to read a library must be accessible to provide the appropriate resources (IFLA, 2001).

Frequently overlooked, however, in the consideration of the “value” of a public library are the economic benefits it provides to its own community; to the businesses that supply services to the library; the retailers, wholesalers and publishers who sell to libraries; and to the national economy through active promotion and support given to literacy and literacy-based programs, and indeed, to boost the community’s culture (Fitch and Warner, 1998).

In consonance with the aforementioned statement, IFLA (2001) emphasized that the city and municipal libraries should provide material in the appropriate media to support formal and informal learning processes. They also help the user to make use of these learning resources effectively as well as provide facilities that enable people to study, access information and make effective use of it is vital to successful education and, where possible, public libraries should cooperate with other educational organizations in teaching the use of information resources. From these observations, the researcher assessed the operational management of public libraries in Region VII, specifically the city and municipal libraries. Thus, it conceptualized with the end in view of the establishment and development to improve library management which will contribute to the goals of developing fine and intellectually-oriented cities and municipalities. It is assumed, therefore, that the results of the study will provide information and knowledge to the local government officials for a plan of action which is attainable and will cater to the needs of the constituents.

Framework Of The Study



Objectives Of The Study

This study aimed to assess the Standard of Philippine Public Libraries (SPPL) based on the public libraries in Region VII (Central Visayas) for calendar year 2010 to formulate a plan of action to improve its operations. Specifically, it sought to evaluate the status of public libraries in Region VII in terms of: mission, goals, and objectives, administration; human resources; library collection; services and utilization; physical facilities; IT facilities and services; financial resources; and linkages and networking.

Methodology

The study employed descriptive survey method which refers to the collection of detailed and factual information describing the existing phenomena, a situation or area of interest factually and accurately. The questionnaire were carefully phrased and formulated to obtain valid answers to different questions. There were 32 municipal libraries and 7 city libraries. Bohol has twenty five (25) municipal libraries; Cebu has four (4) city libraries, and six (6) municipal libraries; and Negros Oriental has only three (3) city libraries, and one (1) municipal library.

Results And Discussions

The **status of public libraries** is based on the standards for Philippine public libraries which elucidate the role of mission, goals, and

objectives; administration; human resources; library collection; services and utilization; physical facilities; information technology facilities and services; financial resources; linkages and networking.

Mission, Goals and Objectives aimed to improve the access, usage, administration, management and collection of public libraries. Table 1 revealed that city and municipal libraries shall provide library and information service to the needs of the community, build within each library an information center about its respective community – its resources, history, people, customs and traditions, etc., and develop nationally, a network and linkages among public libraries with the National Library as the center to facilitate research reference needs of patrons. Moreover, the development of library mission, goals and objectives shall be the responsibility of the professional librarians or library in-charge in consultation with the LGU officials. Furthermore, the city libraries were rated very good while the municipal libraries were good. It was indicated that the city and municipal libraries had an active role in the development and implementation of the policies and procedures.

Table 1. MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Variables	Municipal (N=32)		City (N=7)	
	WM	Interpretation	WM	Interpretation
Provide library and information service to the needs of the community	3.20	G	3.45	VG
Build within each library an information center about its respective community – its resources, history, people, customs and traditions, etc.	3.12	G	3.60	VG
Develop nationally, a network and linkages among public libraries with the National Library as the center to facilitate research reference needs of patrons	3.02	G	3.80	VG
<i>Average Weighted Mean</i>	3.11	G	3.61	VG

Range of Weighted Mean

4.21 – 5.00

3.41 – 4.20

2.61– 3.40

1.81 - 2.60

1.00 – 1.80

Interpretation

Excellent (E)

Very Good (VG)

Good (G)

Fair (F)

Poor (P)

Administration. Table 2 showed the administrative status as to the qualifications of library personnel, organizational set-up, and library policies.

Qualification of Library Personnel. There were 30 or 94% of the library personnel in the municipal libraries who were graduates of bachelor's degrees in Library and Information Science 2 or 6% were graduates of bachelor's degree in library and information science and licensed librarians in the municipal libraries. There were 7 or 100% holders of Bachelor's Degree in Library and Information Science, 5 or 71% had MA units in

Library and Information Science, and 7 or 100% were licensed librarians in the city libraries.

Table 2. ADMINISTRATION

Variables	Municipal (N=32)			City (N=7)		
	f	%	Description	f	%	Description
Qualification of Library Personnel						
Any Bachelor's Degree						
Bachelor's Degree in Library and Information Science						
With MA units in Library and Information Science	30	94%	BS	0	0%	
Master's Degree in Library and Information Science	2	6%	S	7	100%	S
Registered/Licensed Librarian	0	0%		5	71%	AS
	0	0%		0	0%	
	2	6%	S	7	100%	S
Organizational Set-up						
LGU Officials	32	100%	S	7	100%	S
Professional Librarian	2	6%	S	7	100%	S
Support staff	32	100%	S	7	100%	S
Clientele	32	100%	S	7	100%	S
Library Policies						
Admission	27	84%	S	7	100%	S
Circulation	2	6%	S	7	100%	S
Acquisition	20	63%	S	7	100%	S
Cataloging	0	0%		7	100%	S
Internet	0	0%		2	29%	S

Verbal Interpretation

Above Standard (AS)

Standard (S)

Below Standard (BS)

Description

Very Adequate

Adequate

Inadequate/did not meet the standard

Out of 32 libraries, only 2 were managed by professional librarians in the municipal libraries considering that the number of professional librarians were not enough to cater to the needs that even in the academic libraries without librarian position. Thirty (30) out of 32 municipal libraries were assigned as clerks, utility workers, and social workers in the library. The municipal libraries were below standards in the qualification of library personnel. All the city libraries met the standards in terms of qualification of library personnel. 7 or 100% of them were managed by professional librarians considering the professional librarians' positions which were available. All of them met the standard qualifications of library personnel.

Organizational Set-up. There were 32 or 100% LGU Officials, support staff, and clientele; but only 2 or 6% were professional librarians in the municipal libraries. In the city libraries there were 7 or 100% LGU officials, support staff, clientele, and professional librarians. All municipal

and city libraries were directly under the supervision of the LGU officials as established and supported by RA 7743 and RA 7160.

The establishment and management of city and municipal libraries in Region VII conformed to the standard as stated “a public library shall be managed by a professional librarian; and the public library as a local government entity shall have, as its immediate superior, the local chief executive or any legally designated local official in accordance with the Local Government Code”.

Library Policies. Out of 32 libraries, there were 27 or 84% libraries which were had an admission policy; 20 or 63% had an acquisition policy, and only 2 or 6% libraries had circulation policies; there was no cataloging and internet policy in the municipal libraries. There were 7 or 100% libraries which had admission, circulation, acquisition, and cataloging policies, and only 2 or 29% had an internet policy in the city libraries (see appendix F.1, sample of library policies).

Every library has its own policies with regard to the available library collection, facilities and equipment, and services. Only 27 out of 32 libraries had an admission policy, 20 or 63% with an acquisition policy, 2 or 6% had a circulation policy but no cataloging and internet policy in the municipal libraries. The remaining 5 or 16% without admission policy, 12 or 37% without acquisition policy, 30 or 94% without circulation policy, and 32 or 100% without cataloging and internet policies, which means that their libraries were not active in terms of collection, facilities and equipment, and services.

The fact that these libraries were established for the purpose of compliance with RA 7743 but they have no admission, acquisition, circulation, cataloging, and internet policies because no one used the library; nobody knows the existence of the library; the collection was no longer useful in terms of informational value; and have no policies because these services were not available in the library. There were 7 or 100% of the city libraries which had an admission, circulation, acquisition, and cataloging policy, while only 2 or 29% had an internet policy considering that they are managed by professional librarians and had the following policies who were active in library collection, facilities and equipment, and services.

Human Resources refer to the professionally trained and qualified personnel who manage the library and the number of support staff member who assist the professional librarian. Table 3 showed the status of human resources with respect to the number of professional librarians and support staff.

Table 3. HUMAN RESOURCES

Personnel	Municipal (n=32)			City (n=7)		
	f	%	Description	f	%	Description
Professional Librarian						
No professional Librarian	30	94%	BS	0	0%	
At least one (1) Professional Librarian	2	6%	S	7	100%	BS
2 to 4 Professional Librarians	0	0%		0	0%	
5 above	0	0%		0	0%	
Support Staff						
At least one (1) full time support staff	26	81%	S	7	100%	BS
2 to 5 support staff	6	19%	S	7	100%	S
6 to 10 support staff	0	0%		4	57%	AS
11 to 15 support staff	0	0%		1	14%	AS
16 above	0	0%		1	14%	AS

Verbal Interpretation

Above Standard (AS)

Standard (S)

Below Standard (BS)

Description

Very Adequate

Adequate

Inadequate/did not meet the standard

Professional Librarian. Thirty out of 32 libraries had no professional librarians, and 2 or 6% had at least one (1) professional librarian in the municipal libraries since there was no librarian's position available so the social workers, clerks, or utility workers were assigned or designated as full time library staff.

The municipal libraries met the standards, considering the "first class municipalities had at least two professional librarians with adequate support staff. On the other hand, the lower class municipalities requires at least one full time library staff members, and, if funds allow, one clerk and one utility worker if funds are available.

All city libraries had at least one professional librarian which implied that there was a position available. The city officials created a librarian's item to comply with the standard for public libraries. However, the city libraries did not meet the standard for the number of qualified professional librarians because according to the standard, the "city libraries should have at least four professional librarians".

Support Staff. There were 26 or 81% of the libraries which had at least one (1) full time support staff, and 6 or 19% had 2 to 5 support staff assigned or designated in the municipal libraries as required by the standards for public libraries to at least have one full time support staff.

Two or 29% of the libraries had 2 to 5 support staff, 4 or 57% had 6 to 10 support staff, and 1 or 14% had 16 or more support staff in the city libraries.

The city libraries were above the standards required as for the number of support staff. To mention the Cebu City Public Library which had 9 library personnel a professional librarian with 8 support staff, but with this number of personnel, there are still available vacant positions for the smooth delivery of the library services. Per the interview with Mrs. Rosario Chua, librarian, Cebu City Public Library).

Library Collection is the process of acquiring library resources such as print and non-print, considering the size and annual increase of the library collection. Table 4 showed the classification of library collections, the total number, persons involved in the selection and acquisition, and the annual increase of library collections.

Classification of Library Collections. All municipal libraries had books, periodicals, maps, and local history collections; 14 or 44% had multimedia and non-print collection, 8 or 25% had audio-visual materials and equipment, and 6 or 19% had pamphlets.

All city libraries had books, periodicals, maps, and local history collections; 6 or 86% had multimedia and non-print collections and audio-visual materials and equipment, and 5 or 71% had pamphlets.

Table 4. LIBRARY COLLECTION

Variables	Municipal (N=32)			City (N=7)			
	F	%	Description	f	%	Description	
Classification of Library Collection							
Books	32	100%	S	7	100%	S	
Multimedia and non-print collection	14	44%	BS	6	86%	S	
Periodicals	32	100%	S	7	100%	S	
Maps	32	100%	S	7	100%	S	
Pamphlets	6	19%	BS	5	71%	S	
Audio-visual materials and equipment	8	25%	BS	6	86%	S	
Local history collection	32	100%	S	7	100%	S	
Total Number of Library Collection							
Below 1000 volumes	15	47%	BS	0	0%		
1001 to 1999 volumes	10	31%	BS	0	0%		
2000 volumes	7	22%	S	0	0%		
2001-2999 volumes	0	0%		6	860%		BS
3000 volumes	0	0%		1	14%		S
3001 above	0	0%		0	0%		
Persons Involved in the Selection and Acquisition of Library Collection							
LGU	14	44%	S	7	100%	S	
Professional Librarians	2	6%	S	7	100%	S	
Support Staff	16	50%	S	7	100%	S	
Clientele	6	19%	S	7	100%	S	
Annual Increase of Library Collection							
0 to 9% increased	32	100%	BS	7	100%	BS	
10% increased	0	0%		0	0%		
11% above	0	0%		0	0%		

Verbal Interpretation	Description
Above Standard (AS)	Very Adequate
Standard (S)	Adequate
Below Standard (BS)	Inadequate/did not meet the standard

It is implied that both city and municipal libraries met the standards of books, periodicals, maps, and local history collections since these were vital collections and most needed information. Although, multimedia and non-print collections, audio-visual materials and equipment, and pamphlets were not found in all the libraries yet there were materials were essential according to the standards, but not all clientele needed these collections.

Total Number of Library Collection. There were 15 or 47% below 1000 volumes, 10 or 31% with 1001 to 1999 volumes, and 7 or 22% with 2000 volumes in the municipal libraries.

At the same level, there were 6 or 86% of 2001 to 2999 volumes, and 1 or 15% of 2000 to 2999 volumes of library collections in the city libraries.

It is implied that the city and municipal libraries failed to meet the standards of the initial library collections. The data were based on the accession book records of the city and municipal libraries as validated during the actual visits verified through available documents in the library like the accession book records. As documented, the initial total number of volumes of the library collections of the municipal libraries fell short of below two thousand (2000) volumes, while in the city libraries did not reach three thousand (3000) volumes.

Persons Involved in the Selection and Acquisition of Library Collection. In the municipal libraries, there were 16 or 50% support staff, 14 or 44% LGU officials, 6 or 19% clientele, and 2 or 6% professional librarians who were involved in the selection and acquisition of collections but no purchased of collection were done because mostly are donated by the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), private individuals, foundations, etc. However, in the city libraries, all LGU officials, professional librarians, support staff, and clientele were involved in the selection and acquisition of collections which showed there was an annual collection purchased.

Annual Increase of Library Collection. All city and municipal libraries had a 0 to 9% annual increase of collections. However, they were below standard of annual increase of collections. The average annual budget for municipal libraries was only Php10,000.00 while for city libraries was Php100,000.00 which are not sufficient enough to purchase good quality collection, facilities and equipment, and library maintenance.

Services and Utilization. The presentation is categorized based on the computed weighted means and their corresponding verbal interpretation.

Table 5 showed the services and utilization of the city and municipal libraries in Region VII and library promotion activities.

Library Services and Utilization. Ideally, in the municipal libraries, the library services shall be provided with the highest degree of efficiency and integrity. However, the municipal libraries scored Fairly (F) with regard to the following: library hours for the maximum benefit of the community,

Table 5. SERVICES AND UTILIZATION

Variables	Municipal (N=32)		City (N=7)	
	WM	Interpretation	WM	Interpretation
Library Services and Utilization				
The library shall observe library hours for the maximum benefit of the clientele	3.21	G	3.85	VG
The library shall initiate the organization of groups or volunteers to handle fund raising to financially support the library and handle activities such as storytelling and book talks for the children; book discussions, exhibits; poetry interpretation, play reading, lectures, demonstrations, puppet shows, etc.	3.18	G	4.08	VG
The library shall reflect the needs of the community which shall include books, pamphlets, ephemeral materials, non-print materials, classified and cataloged according to the standards for easy access and retrieval	2.28	F	3.65	VG
The library shall provide materials for wholesome development of the community regardless of age, creed, religion and cultural affiliations	2.18	F	3.78	VG
Library services shall be provided with the highest degree of efficiency and integrity in keeping in mind that the public library is a service agency of the government for the people	2.15	F	3.40	G
The library shall maintain local historical and cultural materials for preservation and conservation	2.12	F	3.05	G
Open shelves system shall be promoted to give users the free access to all materials	2.04	F	3.23	G
Average Weighted Mean	2.45	F	3.57	VG
Library Promotion Activities				
Organization of Friends Group to act as support of the Library	3.26	G	2.64	G
Reference and research service	3.15	G	4.15	VG
Organization and maintenance of a children's section	1.98	F	3.89	VG
Circulation and books for home use	2.53	F	2.58	F
Outreach programs and services especially to depressed areas of the clientele	2.38	F	2.72	G
Reading guidance for children and out of school youth	2.31	F	3.42	VG
Average Weighted Mean	2.60	F	3.23	G

Range of Weighted Mean	Interpretation
4.21 – 5.00	Excellent (E)
3.41 – 4.20	Very Good (VG)
2.61– 3.40	Good (G)
1.81 - 2.60	Fair (F)
1.00 – 1.80	Poor (P)

initiate the organization of groups or volunteers to handle fund raising although in book discussions, exhibits; poetry interpretation, play reading, lectures, demonstrations, puppet shows, etc., their score is good considering that the library personnel of the municipal libraries were not Library Science graduates.

The city libraries scored Good (G) in services but Very Good (VG) on the following: the library reflecting the needs of the community providing materials for wholesome development of the community regardless of age, creed, religion and cultural affiliations; library hours for the maximum benefit of the community; and initiating the organization of groups or volunteers to handle fund raising to financially support the library and handle activities such as storytelling and book talks for the children; book discussions, exhibits; poetry interpretation, play reading, lectures, demonstrations, puppet shows, etc. which were managed by professional librarians.

Library Promotion Activities. The municipal libraries scored Good (G) in the following aspects: the organization of Friends' Group supports of the Library reference and research service. On the other hand, they scored Fair (F) in the organization and maintenance of a children's section; circulation and books for home use; reading guidance for children and out of school youth; and outreach programs and services especially to depressed areas considering that the municipal libraries were not managed by professional librarians.

City libraries scored Fair (F) on circulation and books for home use; outreach programs and services especially in the depressed areas and organization of Friends Group who supported the Library; and scored Very Good (VG) on reference and research service, organization and maintenance of a children's section, and reading guidance for children and out of school youth since the city libraries were managed by professional librarians who were competent and experienced enough to provide library service.

Physical Facilities refers to the specific location of the library as to the building site and size, and the library equipment which is shown in Table 6.

Building Site and Size. With regard to the following requirements: 1) the library shall be accessible to all library users by all

means of transportation, 2) the development plan of the local government unit, it shall be a component of an integrated cultural complex, 3) the size of the public library shall consider the following: community population, the growing library collection, size of library staff and services to be rendered, 32 or 100% of the municipal libraries met the standard. 31 or 97% were centrally located within the community and not annexed to other agencies; 20 or 63% had buildings which access to physically disabled individuals; 12 or 38% made provisions for a minimum seating capacity of 48-60 people at any one time which is the standard for regional, provincial, city and first class municipal libraries and at least 36-48 for other municipalities; and 10 or 31% provided adequate space for reading areas: stack area, work room, multimedia room, storage room, staff lounge, toilets for the staff and for the public; and space for other facilities.

Municipal libraries met the Standard (S) for the building site but not the size since most of the municipal libraries were located at the center of the municipality and the space was not enough for the smooth delivery of library services and the provision of quality and updated information. This was confirmed the study of Cannen (1973) that the space of the library is too small. That 7 or 100% of the city libraries met the standard with regard to the following requirements: the library shall be centrally located within the community and not to be annexed to other agencies, the library shall be accessible to all library users by all means of transportation, in the development plan of the local government unit, the library shall be a component of an integrated cultural complex, the building shall provide access to physically disabled individuals and 6 or 86% provided access to physically disabled individuals.

With regard to size, 5 or 71% of the public libraries considered the following factors; community population, the growing library collection, size of library staff and services to be rendered, and adequate space for reading areas: stack area, work room, multimedia room, storage room, staff lounge, toilets for the library staff and for the public; and space for other facilities.

City libraries met the Standard (S) for building site and size, except for Tanjay City Public Library which is updated and fully air-conditioned yet space is not enough for the library collection.

Table 6. PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Variables	Municipal (N=32)			City (N=7)		
	F	%	Description	f	%	Description
Building Site and Size						
The library shall be accessible to all clientele by all means of transportation	32	100%	S	7	100%	S
In the development plan of the local government unit, the library shall be a component of an integrated cultural complex	32	100%	S	7	100%	S
Size of the public library shall consider the following: community population, the growing library collection, size of library staff and services to be rendered	32	100%	S	5	71%	S
The library shall be centrally located within the Community and not annexed to other agencies	31	97%	S	7	100%	S
The building shall provide access to physically disabled individuals.	20	63%	S	7	100%	S
Provision shall be made for a minimum seating capacity of 48-60 people at any one time for regional, provincial, city and first class municipal libraries and at least 36-48 for other municipalities	12	38%	BS	6	86%	S
Each library shall provide adequate space for reading areas: stack area, work room, multimedia room, storage room, staff lounge, toilets for the library staff and for the public; and space for other facilities	10	31%	BS	5	71%	S
Library Equipment						
Furniture shall be functional and in harmony with the architecture of the building.	16	50%	S	7	100%	S
Layout of equipment and furniture shall allow the smooth mobility of readers and materials.	16	50%	S	6	86%	S
Equipment shall be selected properly in such a way that they will help in the efficient operation of the library to keep abreast with the times.	15	47%	BS	6	86%	S
Equipment and furniture shall be adequate to generate an environment conducive for the pleasant and effective use of the materials and services.	14	44%	BS	6	86%	S

Verbal Interpretation

Above Standard (AS)

Standard (S)

Below Standard (BS)

Description

Very Adequate

Adequate

Inadequate/did not meet the standard

Library Equipment. As to the equipment concerned, the municipal libraries scores on each of the criteria were as follows: 16 or 50% had furniture which was functional and in conformity with the architecture of the building, and the layout of equipment which allow the smooth mobility of readers and materials; 15 or 47% had equipment which was selected properly which helped in the efficient operation of the library and 14 or 44% had furniture which was functional and in conformity with the architecture of the building.

However, municipal libraries were Below Standard (BS) in this aspect and only few libraries provided quality resources and equipment and smooth delivery of library services. During the researcher's actual visit, two towns of Bohol: Guindulman and Talibon were fully air-conditioned, with updated library resources, facilities and equipment, and provided quality and better services.

The city libraries scored as follows: 7 or 100% has furniture which was functional and in conformity with the architecture of the building, and 6 or 86% had equipment and furniture which were adequate to generate an environment conducive to the effective use of the materials and services. The equipment was selected properly which helped in the efficient operation of the library while the layout of equipment and furniture allow the smooth mobility of readers and materials.

The city libraries met the Standard (S) for public libraries since they provided good services in Tanjay City, Negros Oriental. Though the library was air conditioned, books and other library resources were updated and most of them had the latest copyright dates yet the new acquisition of books were kept inside the boxes due to lack of space.

IT Facilities and Services. The public library is required to have facilities for information technology and communication services to provide the best resources to clientele relating to the new library trends and technological advancement and serve as repositories of information. Table 7 showed the information technology facilities and services of the city and municipal libraries. It is included also the online public access catalog (OPAC), internet connection, internet workstation, E-Books, and E-Journals.

No municipal library had an OPAC, e-books, and e-journals. Two or 6% had an internet workstation, 6 or 19% had an internet connection, but 26 or 81% of the libraries were without information technology facilities and services since no professional librarians and the inadequate financial assistance given by the LGUs.

Table 7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Variables	Municipal Libraries (N=32)			City Libraries (N=7)		
	f	%	Description	f	%	Description
OPAC	0	0%		2	29%	S
Internet Connection	6	19%	S	4	57%	S
Internet Workstation	2	6%	S	3	43%	S
E-Books	0	0%		0	0%	
E-journals	0	0%		4	57%	S
Others	26	81%	S	0	0%	

Verbal Interpretation

Above Standard (AS)

Standard (S)

Below Standard (BS)

Description

Very Adequate

Adequate

Inadequate/did not meet the standard

In the cities, the libraries had no e-books. Two out of 7 had an OPAC, 3 or 43% had an internet workstation, and 4 or 57% had an internet connection and e-journals and they are managed by professional librarians but still considered inadequate.

Financial Resources. Table 8 showed the financial resources of the city and municipal libraries including cash donations, and the library resources.

Purpose of Funds. The municipal libraries scored Fair (F) in the following aspects: the public library shall be provided with adequate and reasonable budgetary appropriations to carry out effectively its plans and programs, maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) to include among others, funds for travel expenses, attendance at seminars, trainings, conferences, etc. subscriptions to serials, newspapers and periodicals; capital outlay to include funds to purchase library equipment, information technology equipment and materials, furniture and other reference materials; the library budget shall be adjusted annually as the need arises to make it relevant to the times. However, they scored Very Good (VG) on the personal services, including salaries and wages and other benefits common and due to all civil service servants.

At this point, the municipal libraries failed to meet the standard because of the minimal amount afforded by the LGUs and was distributed for library collection, facilities and equipment. It is noted, then that salaries and wages, seminars, training courses, and travel expenses of the library personnel were not included in the annual budget of the library.

City libraries scored Good (G) on the following item: the library budget shall be adjusted annually as the need arises to make it relevant to the times; but they scored Very Good (VG) on the following aspects: the public library shall be provided with adequate and reasonable budgetary appropriations to carry out effectively its plans and programs, maintenance

and others operating expenses (MOOE) to include among others, funds for travel expenses, attendance at seminars, trainings, conferences, etc. subscriptions to serials, newspapers and periodicals, and capital outlay to include funds to purchase library equipment, information technology equipment and materials, furniture and other reference materials; they were rated Excellent (E) on the item: personal services to include salaries and wages and other benefits common and due to all civil service servants.

Consequently, the city libraries met the Standard (S) because of the adequate funding provided by the LGUs.

Table 8. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Variables	Municipal (N=32)		City (N=7)	
	WM	Interpretation	WM	Interpretation
Purpose of Fund				
Personal Services to include salaries and wages and other benefits common and due to all civil service servants	3.79	VG	4.28	E
Maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) to include among other funds for travel expenses, attendance to seminars, trainings, conferences, etc. subscriptions to serials, newspapers and periodicals	2.58	F	3.86	VG
The public library shall be provided with adequate and reasonable budgetary appropriations to carry out effectively its plans and programs	2.15	F	3.46	VG
The library budget shall be adjusted annually as the need arises to make relevant with the time	1.98	F	2.98	G
Capital Outlay to include funds to purchase library equipment, information technology equipment and materials, furniture and other reference materials	1.92	F	3.66	VG
<i>Average Weighted Mean</i>	<i>2.48</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>3.65</i>	<i>VG</i>
Sources of Fund				
Sponsorship	3.84	VG	4.28	E
Private Donations	3.68	VG	4.38	E
General Fund Budget of LGU	1.96	F	3.56	VG
Congressional Allocations	1.82	F	2.98	G
<i>Average Weighted Mean</i>	<i>2.83</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>VG</i>

Range of Weighted Mean

4.21 – 5.00
 3.41 – 4.20
 2.61– 3.40
 1.81 - 2.60
 1.00 – 1.80

Interpretation

Excellent (E)
 Very Good (VG)
 Good (G)
 Fair (F)
 Poor (P)

Sources of Funds. In the municipal libraries, the general fund budget of the LGUs and congressional allocations were rated Fair (F); however, they scored Very Good (VG) in getting private donations and sponsorship. The fact that the library personnel in the municipal libraries initiated and found means to generate funds like friends who were interested to help in the development of the library.

In the city libraries, the congressional allocations were considered Good (G); and the general fund budget of the LGUs were rated Very Good (VG); while private donations and sponsorship were rated Excellent (E). The city libraries scored above the standard because of friends who were willing to provide for the needs of the library users.

Linkages and Networking in the public libraries are encouraged for resource sharing to enrich their collections subject to existing rules and regulations. Table 9 showed the importance of linkages and networking in the city and municipal libraries.

The Importance of Linkages and Networking. The results show municipal libraries scored Fair (F) in the following items: the program outreach and visibility can be greatly increased, and technology transfer, sharing and dissemination of information can be facilitated by the networked organization and among the respective partners. They were rated Good (G) in the following aspects: sharing of knowledge, skill, expertise and experiences helps in improving effectiveness and efficiency; partnerships aid in replication and scaling-up of project ideas and concepts; and replication of funding can be avoided and the grants can be used in a better managed and meaningful fashion. The municipal libraries also met the Standard (S) considering the help from private individuals and institutions.

The city libraries scored Good (G) in the program outreach and visibility; they were rated Very Good (VG) in the following items: technology transfer, sharing and dissemination of information sharing of knowledge, skill, expertise and experiences and partnerships aid in replication and scaling-up of project ideas and concepts; and finally, they were considered Excellent (E) in the replication of funding and using grants. Thus, the city libraries scored above the standard than the municipal libraries.

Table 9. LINKAGES AND NETWORKING

Variables	Municipal (N=32)		City (N=7)	
	WM	Interpretation	WM	Interpretation
The Importance of Linkages and Networking				
Replication of funding can be avoided and the grants can be used in a better managed and meaningful fashion	3.88	G	4.28	E
Partnerships aid in replication and scaling-up of project ideas and concepts	3.36	G	3.78	VG
Sharing of knowledge, skill, expertise and experiences helps in improving effectiveness and efficiency	3.22	G	4.08	VG
The outreach program and visibility can be greatly increased	2.15	F	3.36	G
Technology transfer, sharing and dissemination of information can be facilitated the networked organization and among the respective partners	1.98	F	4.18	VG
<i>Average Weighted Mean</i>	<i>2.92</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>3.94</i>	<i>VG</i>

Range of Weighted Mean

4.21 – 5.00

3.41 – 4.20

2.61– 3.40

1.81 - 2.60

1.00 – 1.80

Interpretation

Excellent (E)

Very Good (VG)

Good (G)

Fair (F)

Poor (P)

Conclusion

The primary contributing factor of the city and municipal libraries in Region VII based on the SPPL assessment is the implementation of budget allocation and support from the local government officials. Unless these problems are addressed and taken into consideration, the community clientele will remain inadequate of the new information technology and development of the global changes.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are offered: the local government officials need to allocate the library annual budget in the resolution during their regular sessions and be presented by the chair of education committee that the annual budget be increased to at least 20% every year; the LGU officials should provide sufficient space for the city and municipal libraries for at least 200 square meters for municipal libraries and 400 square meters for city libraries; the LGU officials in the municipal libraries need to provide at least three (3) library personnel, one (1) professional librarian and two (2) support staff for municipal libraries while the city libraries follow the standard of employing

four professional librarians to manage the library; city and municipal libraries should consider the acquisition of the latest publications of library collection yearly for improvement and development; and the following are recommended titles for further studies: Public Libraries: Needs and Satisfaction of Users, Local Government Officials' Budget Allocation for Public Libraries, and Proposed Management Model for Public Libraries: A Plan of Action for Improved Services.

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