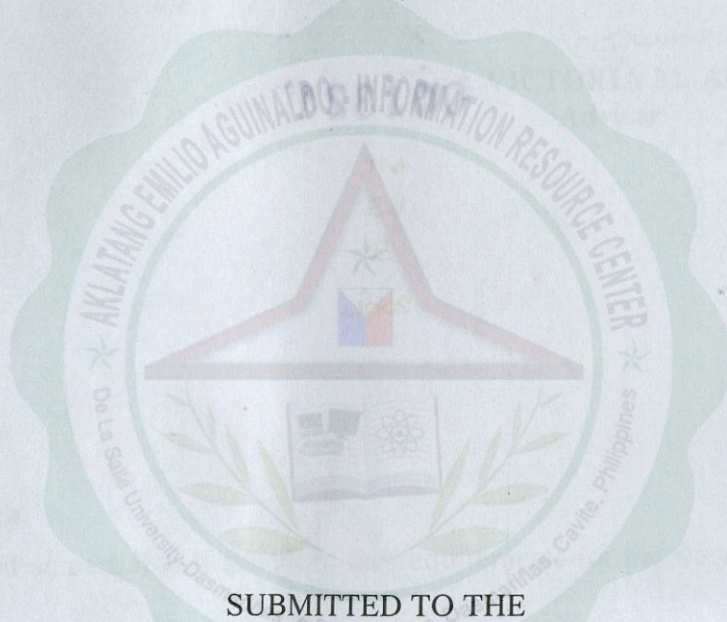


DEVELOPMENT OF A CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM
FOR PHILIPPINE LOCAL STUDIES MATERIALS

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to investigate the extent of collection and methods of organization of selected local studies centers in Luzon as basis for a proposed development of a classification system for local studies materials. Survey questionnaires, actual visits and interviews were used to gather data. Likewise, surveys of published and unpublished local studies materials at UP Main Library, UST Central Library and National Library were conducted to get samples of types of materials which may be classified with the proposed scheme.

The findings revealed that the majority of the local studies centers had varied collections of materials ranging from municipal, provincial and regional materials dated as early as 1500 up to 2005. Most of their collections included a relatively broad range of items in terms of type, format, and classification of sources. Printed materials comprised most of their collections. In terms of organization of local studies collections, two of the respondents used in-house scheme while the other two utilized DDC and LCC schemes, respectively. As to the proportions of collections that have been organized, one has already organized 75% while one organized less than 25% of the collection. One center has organized between 50% to 75% of its collection and another center organized at least 25% of its collection. All of the local studies centers had expressed difficulties in organizing their collections. They all find subjects covered by their collections unique and not represented in the standardized list of subject headings and classification schemes.

Based on the findings, it was concluded that there really is such a need to develop a specialized classification scheme for this type of materials. The proposed classification system for local studies materials developed by the researcher was based on place-subject principle of arranging the local studies materials developed by Hobbs. The system is alphanumeric. It identifies as many as three levels of organization. The first level organizes the materials by geography. Alphanumeric codes were established for the three major groups of the Philippine islands and its 16 regions. The numeric second level is subject-based with a potential decimal number extension for sub-classes. The last level distinguishes one publication from another using Cutter Table for Author/Title. The Local Studies Materials Classification Scheme is composed of the schedules, auxiliary tables, and an index. A guide to the use of the system is also provided.

The researcher hoped this standardized scheme would ease the organizational burden of classifying local studies materials, help save time and provide uniformity as well as flexibility.

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