

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9246, February 19, 2004]

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PRACTICE OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE PHILIPPINES THEREBY REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6966, ENTITLED: "AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF LIBRARIANSHIP AND PRESCRIBING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF LIBRARIANS," APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

ARTICLE I

**TITLE, STATEMENT OF POLICY, DEFINITION
OF TERMS, SCOPE OF THE PRACTICE**

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as "The Philippine Librarianship Act of 2003."

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* — The State recognizes the essential role of librarianship as a profession in developing the intellectual capacity of the citizenry thus making library service a regular component for national development. It shall, through honest, effective and credible licensure examination and regulatory measures, undertake programs and activities that would promote and nurture the professional growth and well-being of competent, virtuous, productive and well-rounded librarians whose standards of practice and service shall be characterized by excellence, quality, and geared towards world-class global competitiveness.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* — This Act shall govern the following:

- a. National examination for licensure, registration of librarians, issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card;
- b. Supervision, control and regulation of practice of librarianship;
- c. Integration of librarians under one national organization; and
- d. Development of professional competence of librarians.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined:

- a. Librarian - refers to an individual who is a bona fide holder of a Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card issued by the Professional Regulatory Board for Librarians and by the Professional Regulation Commission in accordance with this Act.
- b. Commission - refers to the Professional Regulation Commission.
- c. Board - refers to the Professional Regulatory Board for Librarians.

SEC. 5. *Scope of the Practice of Librarianship.* — Librarianship shall deal with the performance of the librarian's functions, which shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Selection and acquisition of multi-media sources of information which would best respond to clientele's need for adequate, relevant and timely information;
2. Cataloguing and classification of knowledge or sources of information into relevant organized collections and creation of local databases for speedy access, retrieval or delivery of information;
3. Development of computer-assisted/computer-backed information systems which would permit on-line and network services;
4. Establishment of library systems and procedures; dissemination of information; rendering of information, reference and research assistance; archiving; and education of users;
5. Teaching, lecturing and reviewing of library, archives and information science subjects, including subjects given in the licensure examination;
6. Rendering of services involving technical knowledge/expertise in abstracting, indexing, cataloguing and classifying; or the preparation of bibliographies, subject authority lists, thesauri and union catalogues/lists;
7. Preparation, evaluation or appraisal of plans, programs and/or projects for the establishment, organization, development and growth of libraries or information centers, and the determination of library requirements for space, buildings, structures or facilities;
8. Provision of professional and consultancy services or advice on any aspect of librarianship; and
9. Organization, conservation, preservation and restoration of historical and cultural documents and other intellectual properties.

ARTICLE II

CREATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD FOR LIBRARIANS

SEC. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* — There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board for Librarians, hereinafter called the Board, under the administrative supervision and control of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among the list of three (3) recommendees for each position submitted by the Commission from among the list of five (5) nominees for each position submitted by the accredited, integrated national professional organization of librarians from among the librarians of recognized standing who qualify under Section 7 of this Act. The new Board shall be constituted within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Qualifications of Members of the Board.* — The Chairperson and members of the Board, at the time of their appointment, shall possess the following qualifications:

- a. A natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. A good reputation and moral character;
- c. A librarian as defined in "Section 4(a)" of this Act;

- d. Active in the practice of librarianship for at least ten (10) years, five (5) years of which is in a managerial position;
- e. Must not be a member of the faculty of a university, college, school or institution conferring the academic degree on librarianship, or offering review classes for librarian licensure examination; nor a person who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any such institution; and
- f. Must not be an incumbent officer of the accredited, integrated national professional organization of librarians.

SEC. 8. *Powers, Functions and Duties of the Board.* — The Board shall exercise executive; administrative, rule making and quasi-judicial powers in carrying out the provisions of this Act. It shall be vested with the following specific powers, functions, duties and responsibilities:

- a. To promulgate and administer rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act;
- b. To administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- c. To adopt an official seal of the Board;
- d. To issue, suspend or revoke the Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card or grant or cancel a temporary/special permit;
- e. To look into the conditions affecting the practice of librarianship, and when necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high ethical, moral and professional standards of librarianship;
- f. To adopt policies and set the standards for all types of libraries, librarians and the practice of librarianship;
- g. To ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that all institutions offering library, archives and information science education comply with prescribed standards for curriculum, faculty and facilities for course offerings of library science, or library and information science;
- h. To adopt and prescribe a Code of Ethics and a Code of Technical Standards for Librarians;
- i. To hear and decide administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its Implementing Rules and Regulations or the Code of Ethics or the Code of Technical Standards for librarians; and for this purpose, issue *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* to ensure the appearance of witnesses and the presentation of documents in connection therewith;
- j. To prescribe guidelines in the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) in coordination with the accredited and integrated association for professional librarians;
- k. To prepare, adopt, issue or amend the syllabi or terms of specification of subjects for the librarian licensure examination consistent with the policies and standards set by the CHED; and
- l. To discharge other powers and duties as the Board may deem necessary for the practice of librarianship and the continued growth and development of librarians, libraries and library education in the Philippines.

The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations issued or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval of the Commission. However, the Board's decision, resolution or order rendered in administrative case shall be subject to review only if on appeal.

SEC. 9. *Term of Office.* — The Chairperson and the members of the Board shall hold

office for a term of three (3) years until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified: *Provided*, That members of the first Board to be appointed after the approval of this Act shall hold office for the following terms: the Chairperson for three (3) years, one member for two (2) years and the other member for one (1) year: *Provided further*, That the Chairperson or any member may be reappointed for another term of three (3) years but in no case shall the whole term exceed six (6) years. Interim vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each member shall take the proper oath of office.

SEC. 10. *Compensation of the Board.* — The Chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to that being received by the Chairperson and members of existing regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Removal or Suspension of Board Members.* — The Chairperson or any member of the Board may be removed or suspended by the President of the Philippines on recommendation of the Commission if found guilty after a proper administrative investigation, based on the following grounds: neglect of duty, incompetence, unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct; any violation of this Act, or the Code of Ethics and the Code of Technical Standards for Librarians; or commission or toleration of irregularities in the examination such as manipulation, rigging of examination results, disclosure of secrets and information on examination questions prior to conduct of examination, tampering of grades or final judgment, or criminal offense involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 12. *Executive Officer and the Secretary of the Board.* — The Chairperson of the Commission shall be the Executive Officer of the Board and shall conduct the licensure examination for librarians. The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the Secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

All records of the Board including the examination papers, minutes of deliberations, and records of administrative proceedings and investigations shall be kept by the Commission under the direct custody of the Secretary.

SEC. 13. *Annual Report.* — The Board shall submit to the Commission after the close of each calendar year, its annual report of accomplishments which shall include a detailed account of the operation of the Board for the year and the appropriate recommendation on issues or problems affecting the profession.

ARTICLE III

LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

SEC. 14. *Examinations.* — Applicants for registration, except those specifically allowed under Section 19 of this Act, shall be required to undergo a written licensure examination to be given by the Board in such places and dates the Commission may designate subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 15. *Qualifications of Applicants.* — Applicants for licensure examination must meet the following qualifications at the time of filing of applications: