

How Do We Collect?

Experiences and Perceptions of Metro Manila Public Libraries in Collecting Local Cultural Heritage

By:

April R. Manabat, De La Salle University

Rafael Joseph C. del Mundo, House of Representatives

Paper Presentation for the
International Conference of
Asian Special Libraries (ICoASL
2017)

Theme:
“Curation and Management of
Cultural Heritage through
Libraries: Challenges and
Opportunities for the Digital
Society”

10-12 May 2017 at UIN
SunanKalijaga, Yogyakarta,
Indonesia



Authors:



April R. Manabat
Catalog Librarian
The Libraries
De La Salle University
Manila, Philippines



Rafael Joseph C. del Mundo
Legislative Staff Officer II
Legislative Information Resources
Management Department (LIRMD)
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

INTRODUCTION

- Public libraries have found its place in preserving the cultural heritage of the community.
- “The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition to lifelong learning, independent decision-making, and cultural development to individual and social groups”.

INTRODUCTION

- As pinpointed by Benedict Anderson , the nation is but an “imagined political community”, a socially constructed group wherein people considered themselves as members of a community or nation which deserved to be recognized by the rest of the world.
- This recognition can only be attained through preserved heritage, whether tangible or intangible in nature, which is usually found in cultural institutions like public libraries.

INTRODUCTION

- The same is true in the Philippine setting. The government has realized public libraries' role in the preservation of cultural heritage and nation-building.
- Republic Act 7743, “an act providing for the establishment of congressional, city, municipal libraries and barangay reading centers throughout the Philippines”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Identify public libraries

Reasons for collecting

Benefits of collecting

Issues and challenges encountered

Strategies in collecting

Ways of overcoming the issues and challenges

PUBLIC LIBRARIES INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

The study is primarily focused on sixteen (16) public city libraries in Metro Manila recognized by the Public Library Division of the National Library of the Philippines (NLP). These are located in the following cities:

- Caloocan City
- Las Piñas City
- Makati City
- Malabon City
- City of Manila
- Marikina City
- Muntinlupa City
- Navotas City
- Parañaque City
- Pasay City
- Pasig City
- Pateros
- Quezon City
- San Juan City
- Taguig City
- Valenzuela City

RESEARCH DESIGN

- Employs the qualitative descriptive method.
- Distributed Print and Online questionnaire.
- Purposive sampling was used in this study.

RESULTS

Profile of the Respondents

- Out of 16 respondents, only nine (9) questionnaires or 56.25% were accomplished and returned to the researchers. These include the following cities: Las Pinas City, Makati City, Malabon City, City of Manila, Marikina City, Muntinlupa City, Navotas City, Quezon City, and Valenzuela City.
- Six of them were in operation for more than 50 years while the three others were established in the last 20 years.

RESULTS

Profile of the Respondents

- 5 were designated as Officer-in-Charge or Librarian-in-Charge (OIC).
- 3 held librarian positions but were not designated as heads of the city library.
- 1 has a research specialist designation.
- Most of them have completed bachelors' degree and taken units in masters' or pursue a doctoral degree but not necessarily in library science or library management.

RESULTS

Public Libraries collecting cultural heritage

- 7 Public Libraries are collecting cultural heritage.
- 2 Public Libraries does not have a cultural heritage collection.

RESULTS

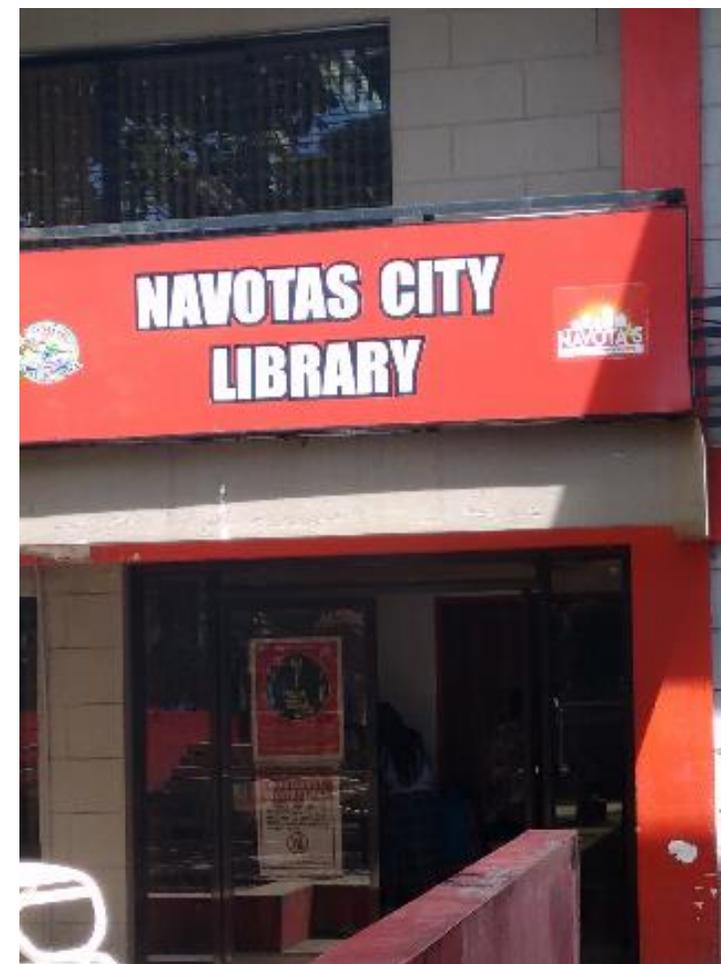
Public Libraries collecting cultural heritage



Quezon City Public Library
Your local gateway to information



Navotas City Library



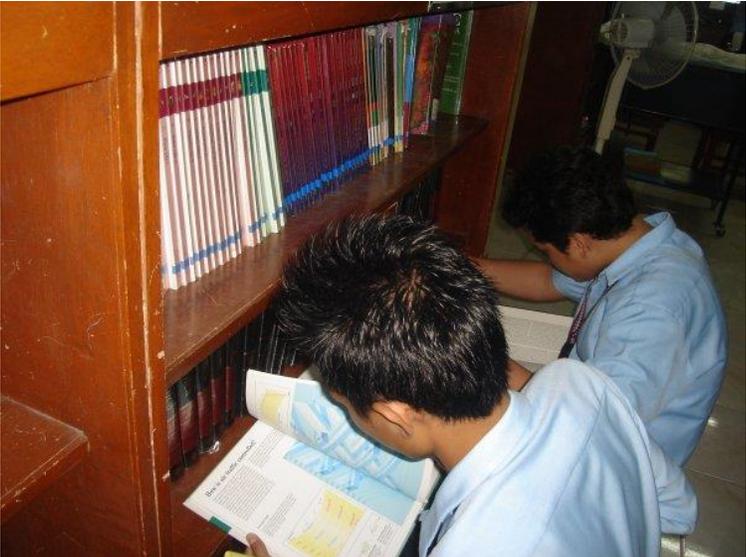
Manila City Library



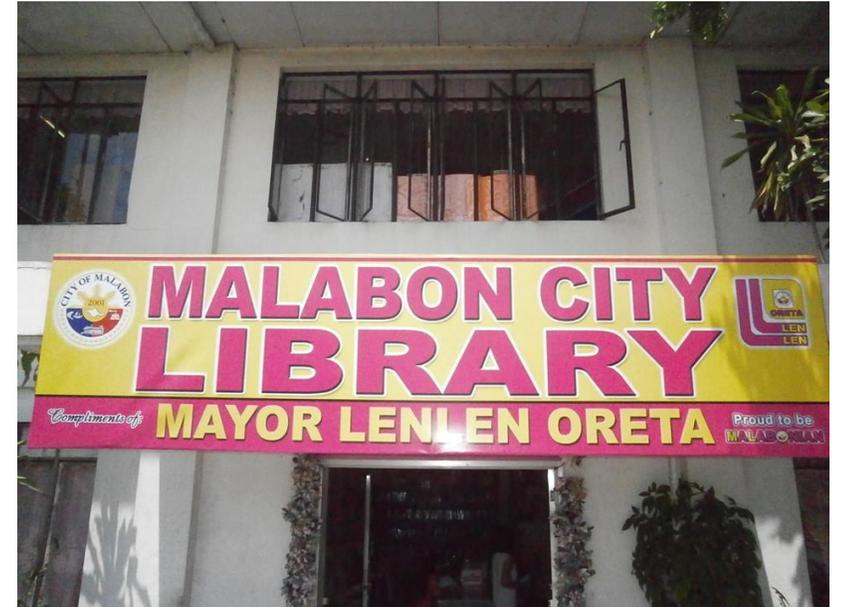
Makati City
Library
and
Marikina City
Library



Valenzuela City Library



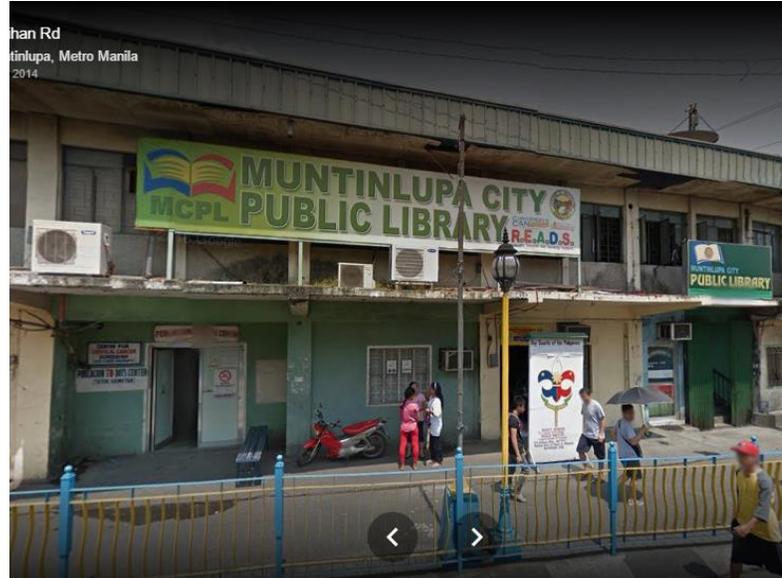
Malabon City Library



Las Piñas City Library

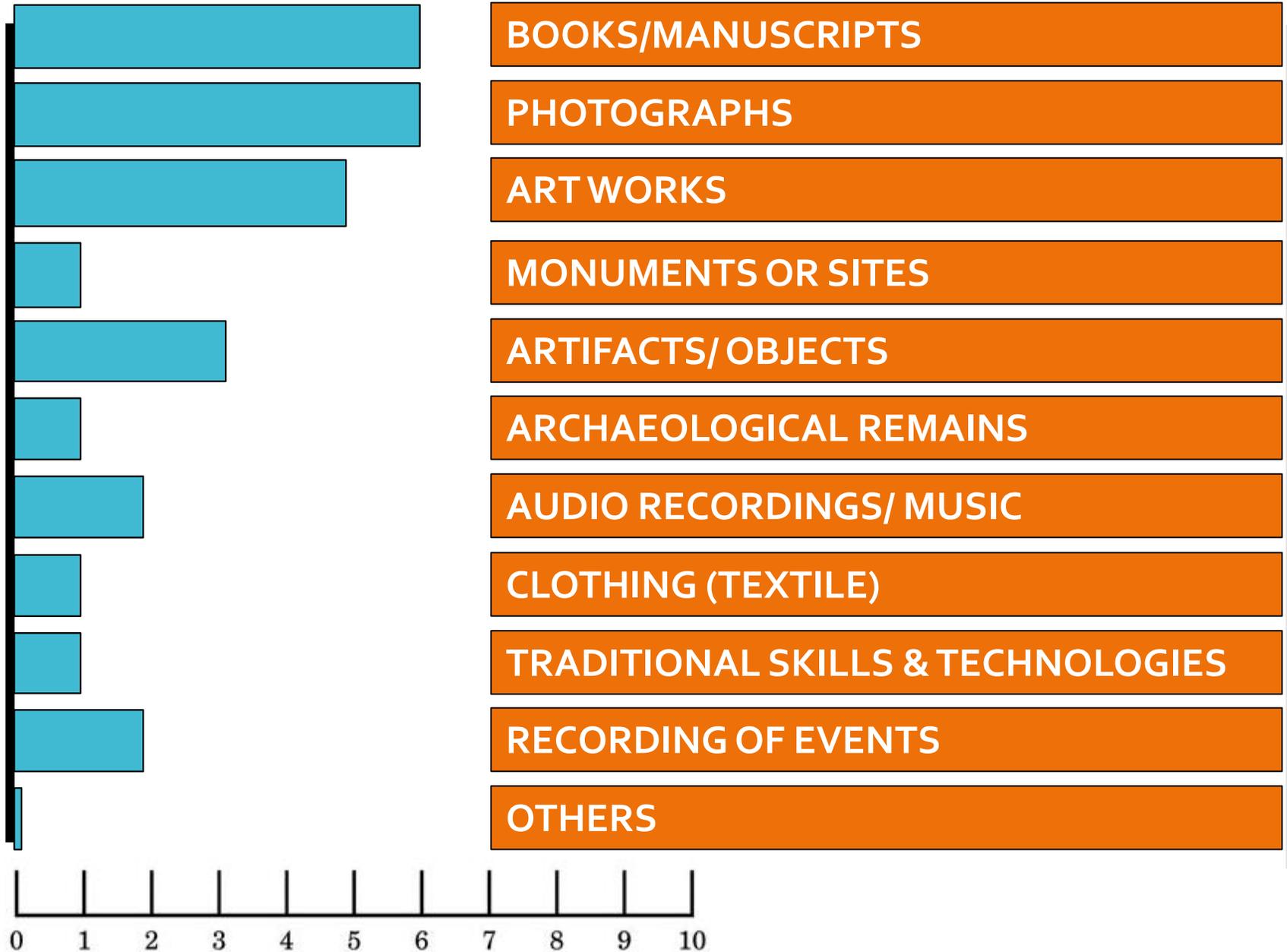


Muntinlupa City Public Library



RESULTS
Types of
collected
cultural heritage
materials

Physical/Tangible cultural heritage materials



RESULTS

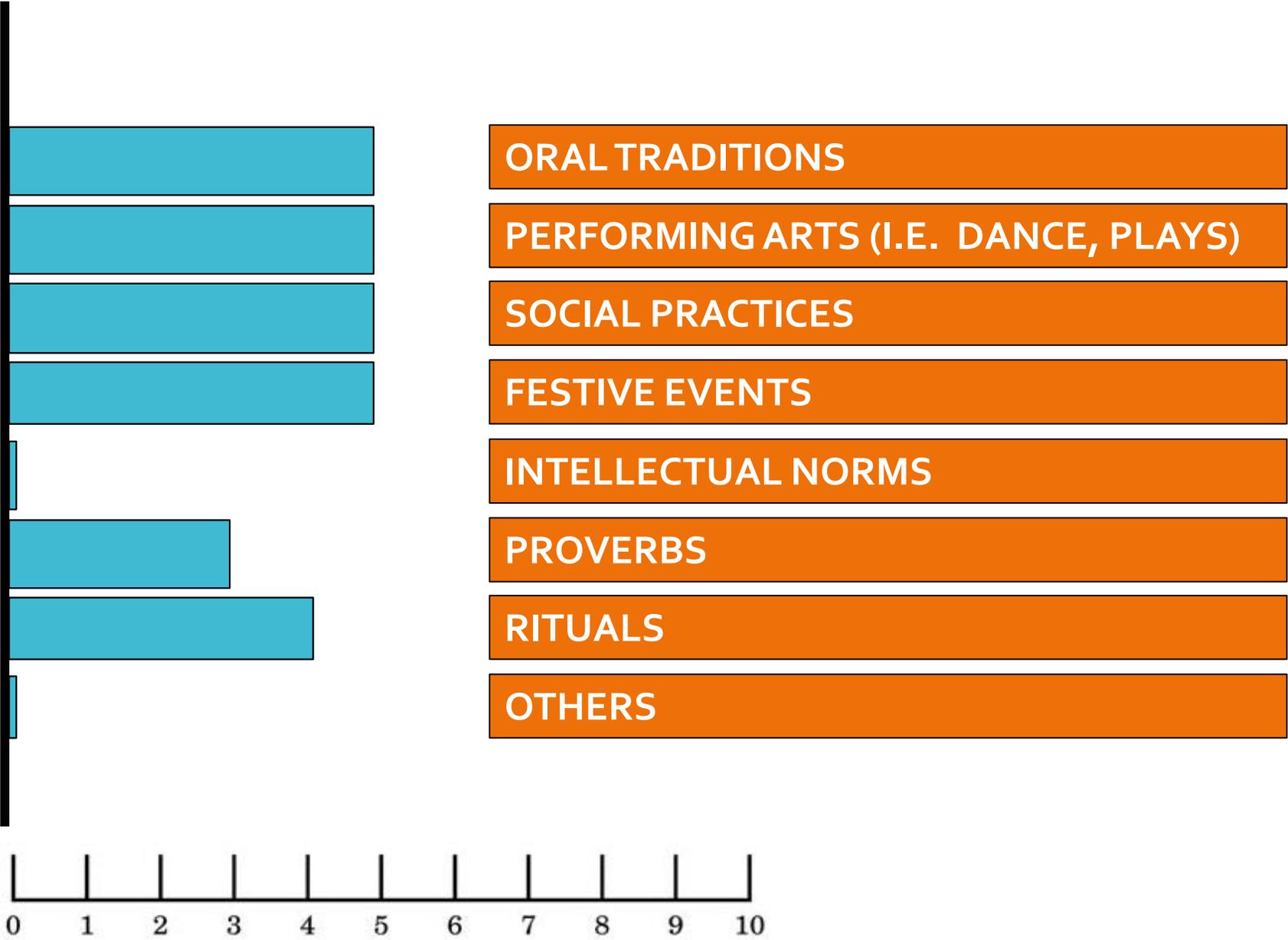
Types of collected cultural heritage materials

Specific materials collected:

- In **Quezon City Public Library**, they have materials on the history of the barangays (*smallest administrative district in the Philippines*).
- **Valenzuela Public Library** has a city cultural heritage and history collection.
- **Manila Public Library** have materials on the different landmarks, streets and churches of the city.
- Other libraries also collect posters, clippings and souvenir items.

Intangible cultural heritage materials

RESULTS
Types of collected cultural heritage materials



RESULTS

Reasons for collecting cultural heritage materials

- For the library to be storehouse of information.
- To entice or encourage the community to make use of the library.
- As per instruction of the City Mayor or city government.
- In response to the community's request to collect these kinds of materials.
- To promote the local tourism of their community.

RESULTS

Reasons for NOT collecting cultural heritage materials

- Lack of available space in the library or a facility to preserve the collection.
- Due to the difficulty in sourcing out materials.
- Lack of qualified librarians or staff to handle such collection.

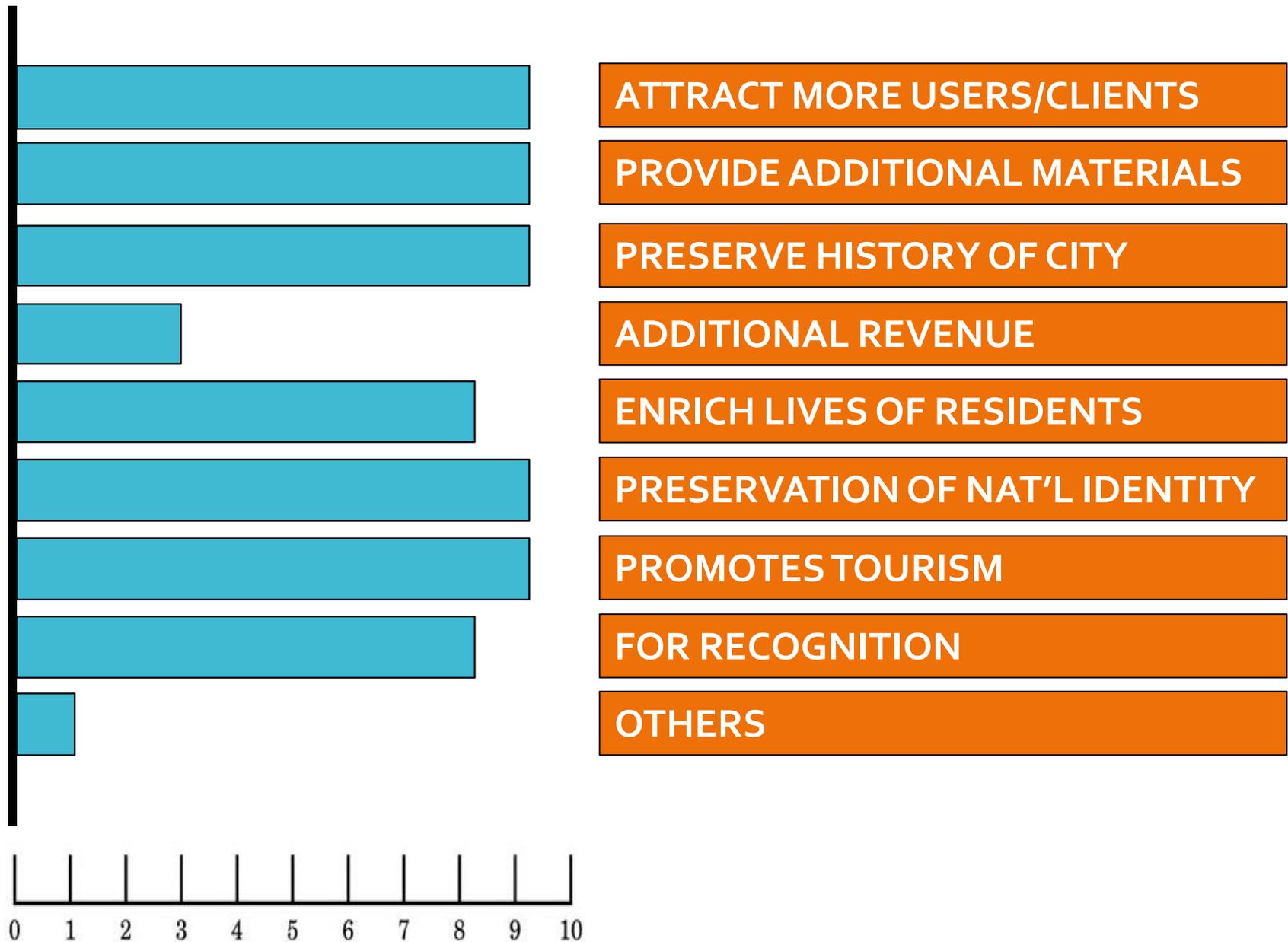
RESULTS

Methods of Acquisition

- Majority of the respondents acquired their local cultural heritage collection through donations.
- One responded that they got some of their materials through different library activities, including contests while the other one obtained their collection in partnership projects with their local university students through their history classes.
- A lone respondent said that some of their materials were acquired through purchase.

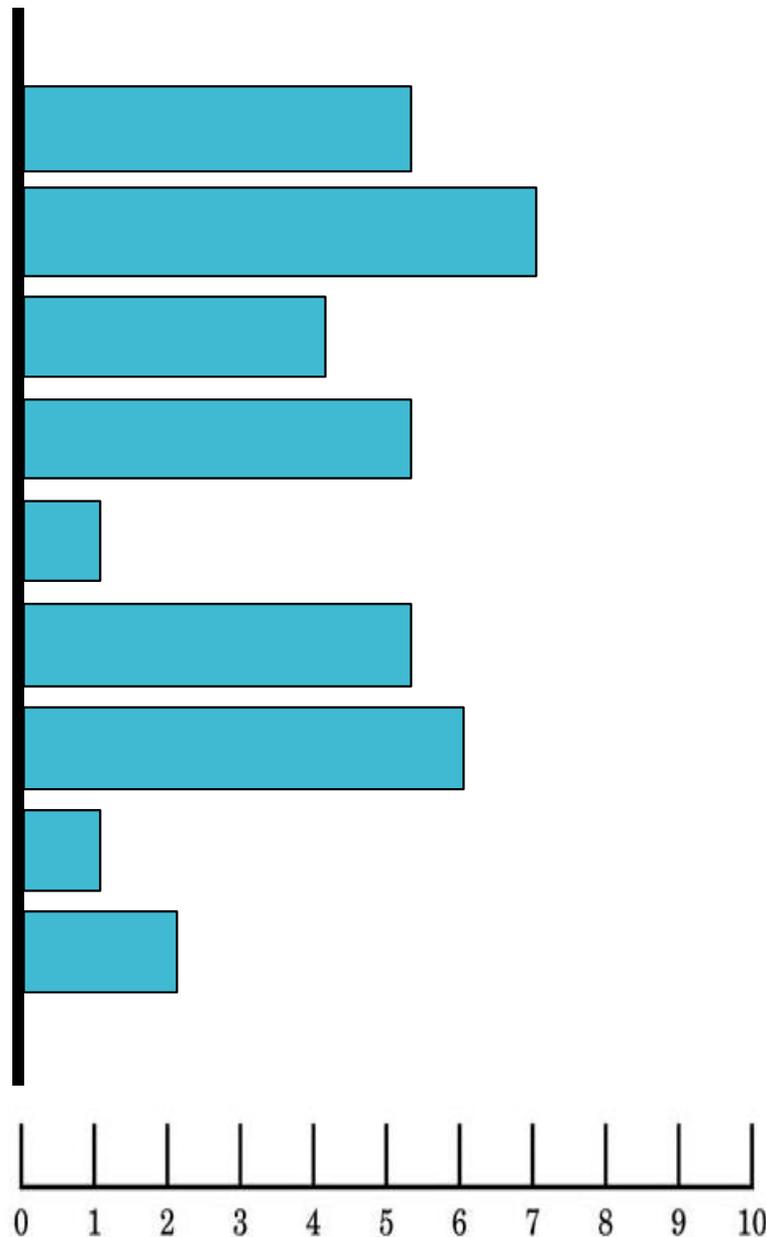
RESULTS

Perceived benefits of collecting cultural heritage materials



RESULTS

Issues and challenges in collecting cultural heritage



LACK OF BUDGET

LACK OF STAFF TO HANDLE COLL.

NO TRAINING OF STAFF

UNAVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

DIFFICULTY IN TRANSPORTING MATERIALS

EXPENSIVE MAINTENANCE

LACK OF AVAILABLE SPACE

LACK OF SUPPORT FROM GOV'T

OTHERS

RESULTS
Strategies to overcome the issues and challenges in collecting cultural heritage

- Coordinating with the city council to support the advocacy of the library.
- Crowdsourcing or gathering information from the members of the community.
- Meeting key people in the area to discuss the plan of collecting cultural materials.
- Encouraging constituents to take part in various activities of collecting local cultural heritage.

RESULTS

Strategies to overcome the issues and challenges in collecting cultural heritage

- Sharing resources with other stakeholders such as museums and record centers as well as coordinating with other government agencies like National Library of the Philippines (NLP), National Archives of the Philippines (NAP) and National Museum (NM) as well as with NGOs to support the library's initiative especially in the aspects of collecting, managing and preserving the collection.

CONCLUSIONS

- Based from the respondents of this study, majority of the public city libraries in Metro Manila collect local cultural heritage resources.
- Public libraries collect tangible materials like books, manuscripts and photographs and intangible materials such as social practices and festive events with their common reason to house such collection and to preserve and keep information for the future.

CONCLUSIONS

- The common reasons of collecting are to house such collection and to preserve and keep information for the future.
- Benefits of collecting such resources include encouraging library users, preserving the city's history and promoting local tourism.

CONCLUSIONS

- Challenges such as lack of knowledgeable and skilled staff was one of the primary issues they faced.
- The respondents believed that they can overcome this through coordination and collaboration with the city government and the active participation of the community living in the particular city.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The authors of this study suggests a similar or follow-up study that will cover all public libraries in Metro Manila.
- Furthermore, a study that specifically focuses on the collection management practices such as acquisition, organization and preservation on these type of collection is also recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The study also proposed that city libraries continue to explore ways of preserving (i.e. digitization) these kind of resources for posterity.
- Lastly, allocating a portion of the library budget for the acquisition and maintenance of such collection will also help public libraries in their quest to gather and make available materials of cultural value.

FINAL WORDS

Public city libraries, through its collection, play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage, in supporting nation-building and in safeguarding the identity of its people.

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Maraming Salamat!
(Thank you very much!)

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