The Philippines Digital Project

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The Philippines Digital Project
Blair Scott | Michigan Library Scholars | Capstone Project | Aug 2015 | Mentor: Susan Go

Why is this important?

Thank you!

Future Steps
- Reach out to Filipino and Filipino-American organizations
- Investigate uncataloged materials at Michigan
- Expand to rest of the United States
- Work with Drupal

Lessons Learned
- Project:
  - Philippine history
  - Google Sites
  - Archival work and logistics of special collections
  - Working with primary sources
- Behavior:
  - Adapting to communication styles
  - Working independently
- Project Management

Challenges
- Communication with other repositories
- What do we want our final product to be?
- Undercontrolled sources vs. comprehensive
- Lack of experience

Solutions
- Nine projects, many from different departments
- Summarize process
- Focus on existing skills
- Practice

Tasks
- Updating the online database catalogue
- Interview and record oral traditions, the health of Filipinos in Michigan, and the William J. Rhoads Memorial Library
- Publish different reports at several collections and the broader historical collections
- Website hosting and website design for website template

American Voices
- Diplomacy
- Military
- Education
- Religion
- Overseas
- Interactions with other Americans and upper-class Filipinos

Southeast Sources
- Drawings and descriptions of historical sites and events
- Many descriptions of the Philippines, some on written, others oral

Thank you!
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Lessons Learned

- Project: Philippine history
Summary of Project

- Locate all repositories of Philippine collections within the state of Michigan
- Reexamine collections at the University of Michigan
- Highlight understudied sources and lesser known repositories
- Develop idea for web resource
Why is this important?
American Voices

- Diplomacy
- Military
- Education
- Religion
- Weather
- Interactions with other Americans and upper class Filipinos
Scattered Sources

Due to an array of diverse colonial rulers and conflicts, many repositories of Philippine documents are scattered all over the world.

Not only is it a matter of hearing different voices, but also a lack of a unified voice.
Tasks

- Locating the archives and viable collections
- Interviewing staff at Special Collections, the Bentley Historical Library, and the William L. Clements Library
- Working with primary sources at Special Collections and the Bentley Historical Collection
- Usability testing and drafting content for website template
Challenges

• Communication with other repositories

• What do we want our final product to be?
  • Understudied sources vs. comprehensive list

• Lack of experience
Solutions

- Move project away from being dependent on repositories
- Narrow scope
- Focus on existing skills
  - Practice
Final Product: Website Template

Interactive Map

This map details the locations of Philippine archives, libraries, special collections, historical societies, museums, and etc. in the United States.

Click on a marker to view a repository and a brief summary and links. You can also click on the bulleted list icon in the top left corner to view a drop down menu of all repositories on the map.

Click on the name of a repository to be taken to the location of the repository on the map.

Use the + and - icons to zoom in and out in the bottom right hand corner of the map. Zoom in to see more detail. Some locations have multiple repositories, such as the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI.

Navigate by clicking and dragging with your mouse.

Alternatively, use the Advanced Search option under our Search bar on the left hand side of this website.

If the map is not functioning properly, please let us know by accessing our contact information under 'Contact Us'.

List by State

District of Columbia

Michigan

- The Worcester Philippine History Collection, University of Michigan Special Collections (Ann Arbor, MI)
  - This collection contains over seventeen hundred books, manuscripts, and photographs of various areas of Philippine history. Emphasis is placed on the period between 1899 and 1913. The collection was started by Dean C. Worcester in 1914, former member of the United States Philippine Commission and secretary of the Interior for the Insular Government of the Philippine Islands.

- American-Philippine Relations, Bentley Historical Library (Ann Arbor, MI)
  - A rich collection of manuscripts, correspondence, and photographs, primarily focusing on Michigan citizens and University of Michigan alumni in the Philippines. Highlights include the Frank Murphy papers, who served as governor-general and High Commissioner to the Philippines.

- William L. Clements Library (Ann Arbor, MI)
  - The William L. Clements Library contains a number of manuscripts of American accounts of time in the Philippines. The majority of these materials can be found online through the Manuscripts Division,
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Parker Hitt Photograph Collection

About the Collection:
Parker Hitt was a civil engineering student at Purdue University (Indiana) before joining the U.S. Army in 1938. He served in the Philippines, Alaska, and California. The collection consists of seven albumen cabinet cards with portraits of Parker Hitt from infancy through adulthood. From Hitt’s tour of duty: seven panoramic photographs of the Mindanao countryside; and fifty photographs depicting members of the Tausug (Moros), sites and buildings of the area in and around Agusan, Lanao, Marawi, and Panto (Palau, Indonesia), soldiers and officers of the United States Army, and settlements and encampments on Mindanao and Palau. (taken from the collection website)

A full finding aid is available online here for the Parker Hitt collection, as well as a digital archive of all the photographs.

Americans and the Tausug: “Others” or Tourists?

Dorothy A. Sims Letters and photos, 1938-1941

Dorothy A. Sims was a missionary at the All Saints Mission in Bontoc, Mountain Province. Ms. Sims describes her experiences working with Filipino children at the mission, and corresponds frequently with an American friend named Edna. In her March 8, 1939 letter, Ms. Sims requests Edna ask some girls to write letters with her Filipino students. Ms. Sims writes about the challenges of corresponding with “wealthy” Americans for Filipino students, and how many of the students are old for their grade. This particular letter describes many of the issues in working in developing nations as a foreigner that are still present today, as well as insights into how young Filipino girls perceived Americans. That being said, because Ms. Sims is an authority figure and an American, her description does not provide the whole story, although there is undoubtedly some truth to her words.

Additionally, Ms. Sims’ letters describe local life at the mission, such as the wedding of the local Frier, traveling in the Philippines as a woman, and studying to become a deaconess. Overall, Ms. Sims’ letters are a fascinating look into missionary life in the Philippines, and an excellent source for scholars studying American women in the Philippines, missionary work, or the history of education.
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Lessons Learned

- **Project:**
  - Philippine history
  - Google Sites
  - Archival work and logistics of special collections
  - Working with primary sources

- **Overall:**
  - Adapting to communication styles
  - Working independently
  - Project Management
Future Steps

• Reach out to Filipino and Filipino-American organizations

• Investigate uncataloged materials at the Clements Library

• Expand to rest of the Midwest using research model

• Work with Drupal and Fedora Commons
Thank you!
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Lessons Learned

- Project: Philippine history