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The Philippines Digital Project

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Downloaded from Deep Blue, University of Michigan's institutional repository

Online resources for locating archives:

- [ArchiveFinder](#)
 - Used ArchiveFinder to find lesser known museums, libraries, or historical societies.
- [ArchiveGrid](#)
 - Not as useful due to limited search options, however it provides an exhaustive list of all known Philippine collections in the United States.
- Google Search
 - For Google, it is best to be as discriminatory as possible. An example of terms I would use were “State” and “Philippine collections” or “Philippine archives” or “Philippine repositories”. I would also type in words such as “special collections”, “historical society”, “manuscripts”, and “holdings”.
 - It’s best to keep scrolling past the first page of results. Even if there’s nothing of value, since the first page is only the web pages with the top hits, you could miss something on the next pages.
- MIRLYN
 - By re-examining our own holdings, we discovered a number of POW biographies. Although these are secondary sources, they still relate to the Philippines, and would be useful for scholars.
- [WorldCat](#)
 - Another great resource that can be used to verify results on ArchiveFinder and ArchiveGrid. For example, at Central Michigan, there was supposedly a microfilm copy of a manuscript, however by cross-checking with WorldCat and Central, this was incorrect.

Communication with other repositories

During the project, I found that communicating with other repositories wasn’t entirely necessary unless we wanted more information about some materials that didn’t have complete finding aids online. If we wanted such information, **email worked best** seeing as many of the curators didn’t have very detailed knowledge about the holdings we were interested in. For those that did (i.e. Philippine or Southeast Asia specific collections), there was either 1) enough information online for us, or 2) email was still appropriate, given that most people could sum up the information nicely. Calling would still be a useful method of communication, given that it is more direct, however it can also lead to less than desirable results if a curator or archivist is not as knowledgeable about the sources in question. A successful method would be emailing first, and then following up with a phone call if it is necessary.

When initially emailing or calling a repository, some questions such as these might be useful:

1. How did you acquire these documents?
2. Is there any relevant information that would be useful that is not online?

3. How frequently are they used? Do you know if anyone has come in to use them for research on the Philippines?

Interviews with Special Collections, the Bentley, and the Clements Library have been included in this guide in the event that more interviews with acquisitions and/or archivists staff take place.

Assessing whether a source is useful or not:

This was one of the most challenging parts of the research process. Because much of the material on the Philippines in the United States is focused on the American experience in the Philippines, a critical eye must be used to determine how useful the source is. In addition, one needs to determine whether it would be 1) useful for the comprehensive list, and 2) useful for highlighting understudied sources. For the comprehensive list, we would like to include everything, however some considerations for why a source might not be useful would be:

1. It is located in a historical society, museum, or archive with extremely limited hours and/or does not have an online catalog.
 - a. In this case, it's best to communicate with an archivist or curator first to find out more information about the source in question.
2. A very small portion of the source details the Philippines.
 - a. This would have to be investigated either through an online finding aid or through communication with an archivist.

For highlighting understudied sources, subjects to look out for are: missionary work, American women in the Philippines, husband and wife correspondence, racial, ethnic, and/or religious minorities in the Philippines, educational history, environmental history, and other aspects of social history not covered.