

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6966, September 19, 1990]

**AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF LIBRARIANSHIP AND
PRESCRIBING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF LIBRARIANS**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Librarianship Act."

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* - (a) *Librarian* - A librarian is a bona fide holder of a certificate of registration issued by the Board for Librarians in accordance with this Act.

(b) *Scope of the practice of librarianship* - The practice of librarianship shall constitute in holding out oneself as skilled in the knowledge, art and science of the organization, dissemination, preservation and conservation of recorded information; the rendering, furnishing and contracting of professional services such as consultations and advice on the organization and management of libraries, data banks, research and information centers to clients on a fee basis or otherwise; the teaching of subjects in the library and information sciences; and the signing or authenticating for clients of documents or reports when called for.

(c) *Board* -- It shall refer to the Board for Librarians.

**ARTICLE II
ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD FOR LIBRARIANS**

SEC. 3. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* - Within sixty (60) days after this Act takes effect, there shall be created a Board for Librarians to be composed of a Chairman and two (2) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Professional Regulation Commission from among certified librarians of recognized standing in the Philippines representing the academic, public and special libraries as may be certified by the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. and possessing the qualifications prescribed under Section 4 of this Act: Provided, That the members of the first Board for Librarians appointed under this Act shall each be considered certified for the purpose thereof, and shall, upon payment of fees prescribed under the revised rates of the examination, registration and other fees, be issued a certificate of registration in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications of Board Members.* - Each member of the Board must, at the time of his appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- a. A citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. Of good reputation and moral character;

- c. A holder of baccalaureate degree in Library Science, Information Science, or Documentation;
- d. At least forty (40) years of age;
- e. A registered professional under the Board for Librarians; and
- f. Had been in active practice for at least ten (10) years, five (5) years of which is in a managerial position, and none of the following disqualifications:
 - 1. A member of the faculty of any university, college, school or any institution conferring the academic degree or certificate for the practice of librarianship, or offering review classes for librarianship licensure examination, or one who has pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any such institution; and
 - 2. An incumbent officer of the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.

SEC. 5. *Functions and Duties of the Board.* -- The Board shall have the following functions and duties:

- a. To administer and promulgate rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act in accordance with the charter of the Professional Regulation Commission;
- 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 for the practice of librarianship;
- e. To look into the conditions affecting the practice of librarianship in the Philippines and, whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the maintenance of the good standard and ethics of the profession of librarianship;
- f. To establish policies and standards for all types of libraries and the education and practice of librarianship in the Philippines;
- g. To ensure that all educational institutions offering library science degree comply with the essential requirements for curriculum, faculty, and facilities for the library science degree;
- h. To investigate such violations of this Act or of the rules and regulations issued thereunder as it may come to the knowledge of the Board and, for this purpose, to issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum to secure the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith;
- i. The Board shall set ethical and professional standards for the practice of librarianship in the Philippines. Such ethical standards, rules and regulations shall take effect three (3) months after publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation; and
- j. To discharge such other powers and duties as the Board may deem necessary for the practice of librarianship and the continued growth and development of libraries and library education in the Philippines.

SEC. 6. *Term of Office.* - The Chairman and the members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the date they assume office, regardless of the nature of their appointment: Provided, That the first appointees to the Board under this Act shall hold office on the following terms: one (1) member shall serve for one (1) year; one (1) member for two (2) years; and one (1) member for three (3) years. Vacancies shall be served for the unexpired term only. No person who has served for two (2) successive terms shall be eligible for reappointment until after the lapse of one (1) year. Appointment to fill an unexpired term is not to be

considered as a complete term. They shall take oath before assuming office.

SEC. 7. *Executive Officer and Secretary of the Board.* - The Commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission shall be the Executive Officer of the Board and shall Conduct the examinations given by it. The Secretary of the Professional Regulation Commission shall act as Secretary of the Board. All the records of the Board, including examination papers, minutes of deliberations, and records of administrative proceedings and investigations shall be kept by the Professional Regulation Commission Linder the direct custody of the Secretary.

SEC. 8. *Compensation of the Board.* - The Chairman and the members of the Board shall each receive as compensation *per diems* as determined by the Professional Regulation Commission for every Board meeting, the sum of Twenty pesos (P20.00) for each applicant examined, and the sum of Ten pesos (P10.00) for every applicant granted a certificate of registration as librarian without examination. Any librarian in the service of the Republic of the Philippines appointed as member of the Board shall also receive compensation herein provided.

SEC. 9. *Removal of a Board Member.* - Any member of the Board may be removed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Professional Regulation Commission for neglect of duty, incompetence, unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct for commission or toleration of irregularities in the examination, after having been given the opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation.

SEC. 10. *Annual Report.* - The Board, through the Professional Regulation Commission, shall submit at the end of each fiscal year an annual accomplishment report to the President of the Philippines and to Congress, including therein a detailed account of the proceedings of the Board during the year and embodying such recommendations as the Board may desire to take.

ARTICLE III EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATION

SEC. 11. *Inhibition Against the Practice of Librarianship.* - Unless exempt from registration, no person shall practice or offer to practice librarianship in the Philippines or be appointed as a librarian to any position calling for a librarian and documentalist or information specialist working in a library, without having previously obtained a certificate of registration from the Board.

SEC. 12. *Examination Required.* - Except as otherwise specifically allowed under the provisions of this Act, all applicants for certification as librarians shall be required to undergo a written examination which shall be given annually in such places and dates as the Board may determine.

SEC. 13. *Qualifications of Applicants.* - In order to be admitted to the examination for librarians, an applicant must, at the time of filing of application therefor, meet the following qualifications:

- a. A citizen of the Philippines;
- b. At least twenty (20) years of age;
- c. In good health and of good moral character; and