BUILDING A MOBILE DIGITAL LIBRARY UNIT FROM SCRATCH: AN EXPERIENCE FROM THE TEMPLE LIBRARY PILOT DIGITAL PROJECT WITH THE GENERAL LIBRARY OF THỪA THIÊN HUẾ JULY-SEPTEMBER 2014

Ngô Thanh Nhàn¹ & Mai Chí²
A Mini-Conference in Nôm Studies – 2015

ABSTRACT

This paper recounts a pilot field digital project with the General Library of Thừa Thiên Huế (GLH) funded by the Temple University Library Consortium and the Center for Vietnamese Philosophy, Culture & Society, from July to September 2014. The project is a test run for a mobile digital kit capable of capturing digital preservation images and internet accessible library copies, from private Nôm collections. After a one-week workshop, and a one-week field trial, the pilot project collected 125 resources, with 5,242 images digitized from 5 locations within the City of Huế: the Catholic La Vang Archives, the Palace Temple of Princess Ngọc Sơn, the Temple of Quy Quốc Công, the Phú Trì Hamlet Temple, and the Liên Hoa Buddhist Temple medicine archives. See Workshop activities, July 2014. The digitized resources can be viewed in full in the GLH reports.

The pilot project adopts the full circle product map: from acquisition, digital archiving, catalogue, and web deposit. The project involves members of the GLH offices of Information Technology, Acquisition & Coding, Catalogue & Maps, and General Reading Room working as a digital team in the field. The team produced a series of library Dublin Core catalog cards, a set of high resolution images for preservation, and a set of high resolution images with metadata for the web.

The experience is unique and valuable. Resources, written only in the classical Nôm script before the advent of the romanized quốc ngữ script, from each field location gave us a full history of a historical figure, such as the Temple of Quy Quốc Công and the Palace Temple of Princess Ngọc Sơn and their descendants, a full history of a village, such as the Phú Trì Hamlet Temple. These resources are coherent in the field which are normal dispersed from the library classification setting.

The pilot digital project has also revealed that without further field digital programs, managed by a public library, these valuable resources can be lost forever from destruction and ignorance. These digital programs can help bringing a large amount of invaluable data accessible to researchers in Vietnamese Studies everywhere.

¹ Center for Vietnamese Philosophy, Culture & Society, Temple University.
² Director, Office of Acquisition and Coding, General Library of Thừa Thiên Huế, Vietnam.
REFERENCE

[IFLA: International Federation of Library Associations]
[FRBR: Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records]


Proceedings of the Tenth Seminar of the IFLA Section on Library Buildings and Equipments.
Association.
Association.
Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.
Taylor, Arlene G., ed. 2007. *Understanding FRBR: What is It and How It Will Affect Our Retrieval
Tools.* Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.
Translated from French by Phyllis Aronoff and Howard Scott. Chicago, IL: University of
Illinois Press.