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I began to work in the library in 1972 as a part-time student employee. After I graduated from the Department of Physics in the Faculty of Science in 1973, I continued to be a part-time student employee for the Central Library of Hue University and began a Master's degree in "*Statistics and Measurement*". On April 30th, 1975, my master's degree program was cancelled, I did not know what to do apart from continuing to work for Hue University Library. I became the librarian for Hue University Library on November, 1976.

In 1980, I moved to Ho Chi Minh City and worked for the HCMC University Library. I had intended to change my job – to teach for HCMC University of Architecture, but I was informed of the Scholarship of Harvard Yenching. I remember meeting Mr. Baker for the first time at the interview in 1993. He was busy writing something as he asked without looking at me, "What is your position in HCMC University Library?" I replied, "I don't hold an important position but I do many important things for our library". He stopped writing and began to pay attention to my presentation. Mr. Baker himself made me change my idea about my career. And GSLIS at Simmons College brought me my career – Librarian.

When I was a student, I read Nietzsche, Dostoievski, Nikos Kazantzakis, and Yukio Mishima. I was under their influence and I really loved the free man Alexix Zorba of Kazantzakis. I wanted to do something really useful which would change the old values and inspire everybody to work together. I love working hard with the spirit of a scout and I don't wish for anything else – I'm a free man.

WHAT I DID AFTER I GRADUATED FROM SIMMONS

1. I worked together my colleagues.

- **June 1994:** I began a project to build a model modern library – The Graduate Library in the HCMC University with the support of the Department of Post-Graduate Education in the Ministry of Education and Training.
- **May 11, 1995:** The Graduate Library opened, with over 1,000 books, one 10 computer network, one remote access server with 8 phone lines, two CD-ROM databases from EBSCO with the features:
 - The books are arranged by subject on open stacks
 - They are cataloged using AACR2, DDC, and Subject Headings
 - The library used the first library management software using MARC, not CDS/ISIS

- An online catalog with subject access was used.
- An Intranet using the LINUX operating system was developed.

After I graduated from the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996, I had the intranet developed and the first homepage designed (the first webpage in Vietnam National University at HCM city). With the remote access server, the Intranet of the Graduate Library was accessed by dialing-up.

The Graduate Library attracted much attention from my colleagues over the whole country.

- **February 22, 1997:** I held the first seminar at the Graduate Library in order to introduce the innovation of librarianship through the model of Graduate Library as well as to discuss cooperation among academic libraries.
- **December 12, 1997:** I held a round table seminar at the Graduate Library entitled *“To determine the development and direction of libraries.”* The seminar gathered together many colleagues in Ho Chi Minh city and other cities in the region, such as Hue, Buon Ma Thuoc, Nha Trang, Da Lat, Tien Giang, and Can Tho. The seminar topic was STANDARDIZATION – INTEGRATION.



The First Seminar at the Graduate Library on Feb. 22, 1997



The Round Table Seminar at the Graduate Library on Dec. 20, 1997

- **February 02, 1998:** I began to publish the first newsletter on the Internet in Vietnam.. Up to now the newsletter was published with PDF format at the web site: www.glib.hcmuns.edu.vn/btclb.htm and is now organized in a Greenstone collection at the web site www.glib.hcmuns.edu.vn/greenstone/
- **October 02, 1998:** I began the first in-service training for the HCMC University of Education including 40 faculty and librarians.



The First In-service Training for HCMC University of Education on Oct. 2, 1998



The In-service Training at Da Lat University Library on Oct. 9, 1998

- **October 9, 1998:** I held an in-service training course at the Da Lat University Library for my colleagues in Da Lat.
- **November 02, 1998:** I held the first in-service training course at the Graduate Library by enrolling trainees. Twenty nine colleagues came from Nha Trang, Song Be, Tien Giang, Can Tho and HCM City. It was the first time they heard about DDC, AACR2, MARC, Subject Headings, and the benefits of open stacks and subject cataloging. They learned about the Internet and how to design a web page, etc...

- **November 21, 1998:**
The Library Club was formed at the Graduate Library and it gathered together 162 members from over 60 libraries from Ha Noi, Hue, Da Nang, Buon Ma Thuoc, Da Lat, Nha Trang, Song Be, Tien Giang, Can Tho, Dong Thap, and HCM city. I was elected the chairman of the Library Club.



The Founding Members of Library Club

- **November 30, 1998:** Two in-services training courses for the libraries of the Vietnam National University at Ho Chi Minh City were held at the Graduate Library since Nov. 30, 1998 to Dec. 23, 1998.



The First In-service Training at the Graduate Library on Nov. 02, 1998



The In-service training Courses for the Libraries in VNU-HCM at the Graduate Library

- **The In-service Training for the Library Club:** Since 1999, in-service training courses have been organized regularly at the Graduate Library. They provide knowledge and technical skills about standardization in librarianship in order to build and rebuild libraries. The courses consisted of:
 - o Reorganization of book arrangement from with size to with subject
 - o The book stacks are generally open to all students
 - o How to use DDC instead of BBK and the “19 class classification” (Vietnamese Classification)
 - o How to use subject headings to create a subject catalog instead of a classified catalog
 - o Introduction and practice in using an OPAC and in developing Web PAC
 - o Introduction to Library Management Software with MARC format instead of the CDS/ISIS software
 - o Introduction and practice in searching the Internet, Web and How to design a web page.
 - o Information Presentation and Electronic Publishing.
 - o Electronic library



The In-service Training Courses for the Library Club Members at the Graduate Library and the Nha Trang University of Fisheries Library

The in-service training is sometimes held at the participant libraries such as the Nha Trang University of Fisheries Library, Van Lang Private University Library, etc...



The Seminar of the Library Club at the University of Agriculture and Forestry Library on Oct. 02, 1999



The Seminar of the Library Club at the University of Architecture Library on Nov. 21, 1999

- **The Seminars of Library Club:** The Library Club held seven seminars at participant libraries:

1. March 25, 1999 *“Communication and Cooperation in Libraries”* at the Graduate Library
2. July 3, 1999 *“Standardization in Librarianship”* at the Graduate Library
3. October 02, 1999 *“Bibliographic Standards”* at the University of Agriculture and Forestry Library
4. November 21, 1999 *“The First Anniversary of the Library Club”* at the University of Architecture Library
5. March 25, 2000 *“Electronic Library”* at the Graduate Library
6. June 30, 2000 *“The Role of Academic Libraries”* Can Tho University Library
7. November 17, 2000 *“The Second Anniversary of the Library Club”* at the HCMC Open University Library



The Seminar of the Library Club at the Can Tho University Library on Jun. 30, 2000



The Seminar of the Library Club at the HCMC Open University Library on Nov. 17, 2000

- **The Formation of the Federation of Southern Academic Libraries – FESAL:** After two years of effective activities of Library Club, we decided to form the Federation of Southern Academic Libraries - FESAL. The conference to form the FESAL was on June 7, 2001 at the University of Natural Sciences. I was elected chairman for two terms (2001-2003 and 2003-2006). All the activities of FESAL are described in FESAL 's seven newsletters, which were published in hard copy and in electronic form on the internet at the web site: <http://www.glib.hcmuns.edu.vn/btclb.htm>.



The Conference to Form the FESAL at the University of Natural Sciences on Jun. 7, 2001



The 2nd Conference of FESAL at the University of Natural Sciences on Feb. 20, 2004

2. What I wrote and spoke about:

a. Books:

- *To Choose Subject Headings for the Library*: 1999
- *English for a Specific Purpose: Library and Information Sciences*: 2000
- *An Introduction to Library and Information Science*: 2001, 2002
- *Handbook of Library and Information Management*: 2003
- *A Practice Guide to Dewey Decimal Classification*: 2003
- *Practical Digital Libraries*: 2004

b. Textbooks in powerpoint:

- *The Organization and Management of Electronic Libraries*
- *Practical Classification of DDC*
- *Automation*
- *Practical Assigning Subject Headings*
- *Practical Digital Libraries*

c. Proceedings:

- *It's necessary to build libraries driven by standardization* – Proceedings: Federation of Libraries of Tay Nguyen and Southern Central Provinces. – “*Information Science in the Library Activities of Libraries of the Tay Nguyen and Southern Central Provinces*”. – July 8-10, 1997, Buon Ma Thuoc

- ***Building the Library System of National University of Ho Chi Minh City.***
– Proceedings. – 10th International Conference “*New Information Technology*”. – March 24-26, 1998, Hanoi, Vietnam
- ***Building Electronic Libraries: Problems and Solutions*** – Proceedings: Federation of Libraries of Tay Nguyen and Southern Central Provinces. – “*Application of IT in the Library Activities*”. – May 10-12, 2001, Da Lat
- ***Innovation in Training in Library and Information in Vietnam: An Essential Requirement*** – Proceedings: The First Seminar on Library and Information Science: VNU-Hanoi. University of Social Science and Humanities. Department of Library and Information Science. – November 25, 2001, Ha Noi
- ***How to cooperate among the academic libraries of FESAL: step-by-step guidelines.*** – Proceedings. – VNU-Ha Noi: “*To share Information Resources*”. – December, 5-6, 2001, Ho Chi Minh City
- ***Training in Library and Information Science Based on Information Technology.*** – Proceedings: International Conference “*Recent Developments in Reliability Engineering and Its Applications*”. – May 29-31, 2002, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- ***The Problems in Computerization and Library Management Software.*** – Proceedings. – Federation of Libraries of Tay Nguyen and Southern Central Provinces.: “*Application of Information Technology in the Library Activities*”. – December 27, 2001, Qui Nhon
- ***Standardization – Integration – Development.*** – Proceedings. – The Second Scientific Seminar: VNU-HCM. University of Social Science and Humanities. Department of Library and Information Science: “*Libraries and Librarians in the age of Industrialization and Modernization*”. – July 26, 2002, HCM City
- ***To Raise the Abilities in Librarianship and Information: Library Activities: Problems and Solutions.*** – Proceedings: Seminar on the Solutions to Raise the Abilities in Librarianship for Librarians and Information Managers.- Information Resource Center of Da Nang University . – September 25, 2002, Da Nang
- ***The Strategies for Training in Library and Information Science in Vietnam.*** – Proceedings: Seminar on Textbook Services. – VNU-HCM. – March 25, 2003, HCM City



Conference in Da Lat, May 11, 2001

- Proceedings: Scientific Seminar. – Ha Noi University of Culture: *“To Raise the Quality of Training for Librarians and Information Managers”*. – April 29-30, 2003, Ha Noi
- ***From Material Management to Information Management.*** – Proceedings: Hue University , General Consulate of USA in HCMC, and FESAL *“Seminar on Library Modernization”*.- June 18-20, 2003, Hue
 - ***Communication and Cooperation Using Portal Technology.*** – Proceedings: Seminar on the Experiences of Building and Management of Electronic Libraries.- Information Resource Center of Da Nang University . – September 25, 2003, Da Nang
 - ***To Manage the VNU-HCM Electronic Library Using Technology.*** – Proceedings: Science and Technology Service of HCM City. - Seminar on Application of Portal Technology and Open Source Software in the Information Technology Projects in HCM City. – October 25, 2003, HCM City
 - ***Using the Open Source Software, Greenstone for Digital Libraries, in Order to Build the Learning and Raise the Training Quality of Human Resources .*** – Proceedings: Science and Technology Service of HCM City, VNU-HCM. – Seminar on *“To Raise the Training Quality of Human Resources”*. – November 12, 2004, HCM City
 - **Using the Open Source Software, Greenstone, in order to Build the Digital Library: An Opportunity for Every Library .** – Proceedings: – Federation of Libraries of East-Southern Provinces. – *“Application of Information Technology in Library Activities”*. – November 23, 2004, Vung Tau.

3. What I have taught

- At the Graduate Library: I regularly teach innovation in librarianship as in-service training courses.
- At the HCM College of Culture and Arts: I teach *“Automation”*, *“Multimedia Communication”*, *“Digital Library”*, and *“Assigning Subject Headings”* for the bachelor’s degree in Library and Information Science.



The Course of “Digital Library” at the HCMC College of Culture and Arts

- At the Bien Hoa School of Telecommunication and Information Technology, I teach “*Introduction to Library and Information Science,*” “*Dewey Decimal Classification,*” and “*Special English*” for trainees in the Electronic Library.
- At the Center for IT Development, VNU-HCM: I teach using distance education equipment: “*Introduction to Library and Information Science,*” “*Dewey Decimal Classification,*” “*Assigning Subject Headings*” for bachelor degree in Information Technology, with a specialty in the Electronic Library.

HOW I HAVE AFFECTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION CENTERS AND LIBRARIES IN VIETNAM

1. The innovation of the southern academic libraries.

The establishment of Graduate Library showing modern library practice, the foundation of the Library Club, and, especially, the organization of many in-service training courses on innovation in librarianship have helped to inform librarians and raise their training. These courses have brought new vitality to library activities..

2. The change of colleague’s opinions about librarianship.

Our in-service training courses have replaced old ideas and now the courses cover standardization and have replaced the old ones in *CDS/ISIS*, *Classification BBK*, *Assigning Keywords*, which used to be held in the South regularly. They outline new values and cover things important to Vietnamese libraries that are not being taught in the library schools in Vietnam. We are gradually changing the opinions of librarians from the North to the South. An example is the use of the Dewey Decimal Classification which went from frenzied opposition (1998) to concern (2000) and finally to cheerful acceptance (2003)!

I took 4 copies of DDC 21 and the DDC Abridged 13 from Ho Chi Minh city to Ha Noi and introduced DDC for the first time at the meeting about the use of DDC in academic libraries from the South to the North on March 17, 2000 at the request of Mr. Pham The Khang who was Head of the Department of Library of the Ministry of Culture and Information.



The 1st Seminar on DDC at the Ministry of Culture – Information on Mar. 17, 2000

THE NATURAL SCIENCES LIBRARY TODAY

We took great pride in building and developing the Graduate Library and today we are proud of the new Natural Sciences Library. We were the pioneers in the developing and promoting library driven standardization. Today we are also the pioneers in building digital libraries with the use of open source software. Professor Robert Stueart said that *“The value of a library isn’t in how many information resources it has, but in what new technology is used to supply the users information from everywhere.”* The Natural Sciences Digital Library is the site that uses new technology in order to provide answers to users’ questions.

CONCLUSION

I am very pleased about what I have done for these ten years in my career, as I think about my time as a student in the Faculty of Science, Hue University. I am proud of what I have taught and worked on so that others could benefit. I am not interested in honours and I love working with my honest friends. Because I am a boy scout and a person who is the friend of everybody, I am always grateful to two of my friends. They are “Father” Baker and “Mother” Oyler.



At the Lobster Picnic with Father Baker
in his yard in 1994



In my office with Mother Oyler
ten years later in 2004

