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Legal collection management for effective legal research in the Philippines

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The Philippine legal system is a unique legal system, blending civil law (Roman), common law (Anglo-American), muslim law (Islamic) and indigenous law. Statute law and case law from 1901 are in effect until they are appealed or amended. The Philippines is therefore rich as far as statutes passed and case law promulgated. This is why we have to explore the best of 21st century modern practice. The other reasons are: lack of complete sources of printed/published statutes and jurisprudence; lack of indexes or search tools; and slow publication of the sources, especially of the primary sources (those published by the issuing agency or the official repository, the Official Gazette).



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In embracing modern practices, we need to value traditions by preserving the original and/or the primary sources and preserving the documents or data on how the sources of legal information were formulated. All this legal information needs to be maintained and preserved, despite issues of accessibility, using the latest technology. The choice of the type of digitization will further show the value of tradition for legal information.

In the Philippines these choices can be seen in the Philippine legal databases available on open access or by subscription. The Supreme Court E-Library is one online database that covers ALL sources of law, digitized from primary sources. The Supreme Court Library keeps the official/original sources of law. The SC E-Library has the policy that in case of conflict between the digitized and the printed primary/official sources, the latter prevails.





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The Supreme Court Library values the traditional and embraces 21st modern practice through its E-Library.

