

# Deployment Challenges and Opportunities of **Koha** as a Management System in Philippine Government Academic Libraries



Paper Presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Seminar-  
Workshop of the Mindanao Association of State Tertiary Schools  
Library Network (**MASTSLiNet**)

22-24 May 2018, Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU)  
Dapitan City, Province of Zamboanga del Norte

by

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Davao City, Philippines



# Deployment Challenges



## Koha Library Software

The world's first free and open source library system

Koha is a fully featured, scalable library management system. Development is sponsored by libraries of varying types and sizes, volunteers, and support companies worldwide.

- Koha was created in 1999 by Katipo Communications for the Horowhenua Library Trust in New Zealand

**Koha** is a New Zealand Māori custom which can be translated as gift, present, offering, donation or contribution.

[Koha \(custom\) - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

### BASIC FEATURES OF KOHA

- an online public access catalogue (OPAC) of the library's holdings;
- a database of library users;
- issuing books to borrowers and returning books to the collection;
- borrower requests for library items;





# Why use Koha?

## 1. Full-featured ILS

- In use worldwide in libraries of all sizes
- is a true enterprise-class ILS with comprehensive functionality including basic or advanced options.
- includes modules for circulation, cataloging, acquisitions, serials, reserves, patron management, branch relationships, and more...

## 2. Dual Database Design

- utilizes the strengths of the two major industry-standard database types [text-based and RDBMS]

## 3. Library Standards Compliant

- is built using library standards and protocols that ensure interoperability between Koha and other systems and technologies, while supporting existing work flows and tools.
- uses MARC21

[MARC, MACHine-Readable Cataloging, is a data format and set of related standards used by libraries to encode and share information about books and other material they collect.]

## 4. Web-based Interfaces

- interfaces are all based on standards-compliant World Wide Web technologies-XHTML, CSS and Javascript-making Koha a truly platform independent solution

## 5. Free / Open Source

- distributed under the open-source General Public License (GPL).



# Why use Koha?

## 6. No Vendor Lock-in

- libraries are free to install and use Koha themselves if they have the inhouse expertise or to purchase support or development services from the best available source

## WHY USE KOHA INSTEAD OF A COMMERCIAL PRODUCT?

- main attraction of Koha is that it is free
- however, it is best to think of it as "free to change" rather than "free of cost"

## COST OF KOHA

- a pretty fair knowledge of web server software (usually Apache)
- Perl programming language knowledge in order to configure some parts of Koha
- some knowledge of MySQL for database maintenance chores

## WEB-INTERFACES

Two web addresses;

### 1. Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) or the patron interface

- Searching library materials

### 2. Intranet or the librarian interface

- Intranet address is the one that will be used by the librarians to get to the Koha programs they will use to manage library circulation, cataloging, etc.





# Deployment Challenges

- **Budget**
- **Procurement**
- **Classification Systems**
- **Library Systems**
  - **Commercial**
  - **In-House**
  - **Open Source**
  - **Sourced elsewhere**
  - **NS**
- **Differences**
  - **Geographically dispersed**
  - **Attitude (personality, political)**
  - **Professional**
- **Union catalog**
- **Realizing One VAM (One Vision, One Access, One Mindanao)**





# Opportunities

- 2 MASTSLiNet GA's (2016 USEP 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 2017 WMSU 4<sup>th</sup> approved the LC migration
- ExeCom affirmed the 2 GA resolutions at its 2017 mid-year meeting at USEP
- DNSC to host the training-workshop
- UP Mindanao tasked to formulate the LCCS for MASTSLiNet libraries starting with theses and dissertations with main class LG 221
- SPAMAST posted on the MASTSLiNet FB page its proposed Cutter's for degree programs, subsequently approved at the DNSC training-workshop on 6-10 November 2018





# Koha Training DNSC November 6-10, 2017



# The DNSC Resolutions, November 2017

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MASTSLNet

Brickmyer Maputi is with Carl Joseph Burlat and 9 others.  
November 13, 2017

MAJOR RESOLUTIONS FOR SWIFT AND APPROPRIATE ACTION BY ALL MASTSLNET INSTITUTIONS

Introduction

The Library of Congress Classification System (LCCS), and Koha Integrated Library System (ILS) training-workshop held 6-10 November 2017 at The Library, Davao del Norte State College (DNSC), approved significant resolutions that would, henceforth, chart the direction, identify goals, and achieve the objectives of #MASTSLNet towards realizing its vision of #OneVAM, One Vision, One Access, One Mindanao.

Three primary resolutions must be at the forefront of all these efforts. These are:

- 1) to migrate to the LCCS, focused on theses and dissertations;
- 2) to install the Koha ILS, make it operational, and launch it simultaneously in all #MASTSLNet institutions;
- 3) to formulate written policies for the first two primary resolutions taking into consideration global standards in library #database management (DBMS) and in #informationTechnology (IT).

In order to achieve the primary resolutions, specific #CoursesofAction (COA) are necessary. Along this line, each member-institution was given specific tasks to do after the training-workshop closed, and leading to the next #MASTSLNet #GeneralAssembly (GA), sometime in May 2018 at the Jose Rizal Memorial State University #RMSU, in Dapitan City.

1. Migrating to the #LCCS

For the record, the LC migration was approved at two GA's, the 3rd held at USEP, Davao City and the 4th hosted by WMSU at Grand Astoria Hotel, in Zamboanga City. The MASTSLNet Executive Officers affirmed these resolutions at its 2017 mid-year meeting held at the USEP Library in May. The affirmation, further, identified the training-workshop to be held at DNSC, and for the DNSC Library to be the host server for the Koha ILS.

UP Mindanao which uses LCCS was tasked to formulate the classification system for theses and dissertations. This classification system shall utilize the latest version of LCCS that identified Philippine colleges and universities in Mindanao to have as its main class L2 G21. Required Cutter shall make use of the standard LC Cutter.

Inasmuch as the first migration would be theses and dissertations, degree programs and applicable major areas of concentration were assigned Cutters numbers as well. #SPAMAST posted on the MASTSLNet facebook its proposed Cutters which, eventually, was approved at the DNSC training.

In other words, the MASTSLNet Classification System for theses and dissertations (#MCSSTD) is composed of the LCCS-based main and sub-classes, with Cutter numbers modified by MASTSLNet members.

Therefore, all MASTSLNet members, degree programs, specific major courses and fields of concentration now have their corresponding Cutter numbers and degree programs included in the DNSC

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DESCRIPTION

MASTSLNet is a library networking and resource-sharing group a... See More

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School or Class

A SPACE FOR JUST THE PEOPLE YOU WANT

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# MARC 21 Tags

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observations (#MASTSLN) is composed of the LLCS-based main and sub-classes, with Cutter numbers modified by MASTSLNet members. Therefore, all MASTSLNet members, degree programs, specific major courses and fields of concentration now have their corresponding Cutters. Institutions and degree programs not included in the DNSC output, are advised to refer to the MARC tag assignments and the institutions responsible for them which now form part of this policy.

**2. MARC 21 Tags**

MASTSLNet libraries are dependent on MARC21 in cataloging and classifying their collections for an ILS. MARC tags to be deployed in all libraries are the following:

Tag Description MASTSLNet Member Assignment

- 0XX Control Fields, Numbers and Code Fields UPMin
- 1XX Main Entries SPAMAST
- 2XX Title and Title-Related Fields, Edition, Imprint, Etc. Fields MSU-GenSan, Maguindanao
- 3XX Physical Description, Etc. Fields BSU, BSC, HSC
- 4XX Series Statement Fields DSSSU
- 5XX Note Fields DNSC
- 6XX Subject Access Fields DOSCST
- 7XX Added Entry Fields, Linking Entry Fields USM, PNU-Mindanao
- 8XX Series Added Entry Fields, Holdings, Location, Alternate Graphics, Etc. JRMSU
- Authority Headings, including local terms JRMSU, KCAST, KNP
- Other Descriptions and Fields UPMin

In the formulation of Cataloging Policies for MARC 21 tags, the following sub-fields must have specific required policies to be formulated by the assigned MASTSLNet member.

- 0XX 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800
- 040 245 502 610 852
- 041 504 611
- 043 520 630
- 090 650
- 651
- 653
- 658
- 690

For reference by institutions assigned to MARC 21 tags, the following have already been approved for policy formulation:

**Suggested Groups** See All

**DIFFERENCE**  
Contact your PRP Recruitment Office:  
09176020168 021 431-5340  
99982757473 prp\_recruitment@yahoo.com

**NAPOLCOM EXAM ONLINE REVIEW**  
1 friend · 212,194 members

**Tagum City Businesses Official**  
6 friends · 81,242 members

**SMC-PAGADIAN MAED CLASS**  
308 members

**Davao Gadget.gadgets online selling**  
19 friends · 306,703 members

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- Mhac Doralom
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- Lynda Yda Buenaobra
- Sheena Marione T. N...
- GL Bastida
- Karen Joyce Gonzal...
- Richie Luz Susie Cen...
- Diocy Olaver Cloribel
- Maria Gladys B. Ama...
- Febrero Peace
- Aida Torres
- Ynel Sairamsal

Visited Sandringham, Victoria about 2 weeks ago

Became friends with Maricor Azote-Releva and 7 other people

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- Alaala ng mga Lar... 20+
- PESO SENSE SAV... 20+
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- Catholic Prayer 20+
- PLAI Officers and ... 16
- ASEAN School Lib... 20+
- Love the Catholic ... 20+
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For reference by institutions assigned to MARC 21 tags, the following have already been approved for policy formulation:

090 there should be a space between each sub-field, example:  
LG Z21 S68 E75 T64 2017 M45

245 title must be spelled out in full, copying exactly as it is written on the title page, to include alterations, embellishment, etc.; added entries must be considered at all times whenever, and wherever applicable, and consistent with these rules

300 spell out the word leaves

502 entry should be like this : MA Education major in Educational Management

850 name of holding institution should be translated in full, then enclose in parentheses the initials, for example:  
Davao del Norte State College (DNSC)

Indicators to be used are as follows:

- 10 - when the title has no article at all
- 12 - when the title starts with the article "A"
- 13 - when the title starts with the article "AN"
- 14 - when the title starts with the article "THE"

3. The Koha ILS

On the day MASTSLINet was born, the incessant concern of its members had always been an integrated library system (ILS), not for the network, but specifically for their local needs. Budget had always been the culprit for libraries that already have, and those that do not have.

Automated libraries complain either about their commercial, or in-house systems. Commercial ILS entails maintenance cost that are paid-out annually, the technical support which is usually online, and the upgrading of the system when new features are introduced. Annual payment for maintenance means justifying the cost with the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit (COA). The same is true for system upgrading that has to follow bidding regulations. Aside from these issues, most libraries can only afford the cataloging, OPAC, and circulation packages of commercial ILS because availing of all operating modules means bigger and sustained budgets for maintenance and installation which libraries do not have.

In-house systems, on the other hand, are bereft of library standards as these are developed by non-librarians whose knowledge of DBMS are not connected to library operations, particularly, MARC 21. While in-house systems work to a certain degree, other library operations could not be integrated because of relational issues.

Another issue on in-house systems, is personnel. Since MASTSLINet members whose IT personnel are actually IT of the State University or College (SUC) and therefore, are not full-time library IT personnel, the

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308 members

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# MASTSLiNet IT Practitioners Koha Team

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Another issue on in-house systems, is personnel. Since MASTSLiNet members whose IT personnel are actually IT of the State University or College (SUC), and therefore, are not full-time library IT personnel, the library software may either become inoperative, or collapse in the long-term. Effort and resources put into its development may just go to waste as it will not be sustained at all.

The search for a stable ILS ended with a committee on networking and linkages within MASTSLiNet. However, akin to either the commercial or in-house ILS, the committee did not find time to meet, and discuss what to do with the planned networked ILS. Taking up the cudgels from where everyone has left off, Dr. Briccio M. Merced, Jr., UP Mindanao University Librarian searched far and wide, and talked to people and government agencies who could offer their resources to MASTSLiNet.

The searching and waiting ended until Dr. Merced bumped into an old friend who has a classmate working with The National Library of the Philippines, and who has a good working relationship with Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano. Dr. Merced, on behalf of MASTSLiNet, wrote a training-workshop proposal which was approved in record time by Director Adriano.

The National Library Koha Team set the date of the Koha training, and preparations were in full-swing right after the confirmation. Communications through emails and facebook posts facilitated the announcement from the islands to the islands of Mindanao. TNL Koha team was headed by Prof. Edgardo Quiros, TNL Acting Assistant Director; and members Christopher Diaz, Charlie Garcia, and Israel Mendoza.

Finally, the stage has been set for Koha as the ILS of MASTSLiNet. Now, the hard work begins.

4. The MASTSLiNet Koha Team

MASTSLiNet now has a vessel, but it has no captain and crew to sail away. On the last day of the DNSC training workshop, a Friday, the 10th of November 2017, with Dr. Merced presiding on the combined-meeting of both librarians and IT, the MASTSLiNet IT Practitioner, hereon to be referred to as the Koha Team Champion, elected its first set of officers. Elected on the platform of developing Koha as the MASTSLiNet ILS, were:

Position SUC Representative

President USTP Claveria Jonathan Jacobo

Vice-President MSU-Maguindanao Marvin Cagaanan

Secretary SDSU Lianga Cristine Pitos

Treasurer DNSC Reglien Montealto

Auditor BuKSU Fritz Paul de Guzman

PJO UP Mindanao Von Bryan Sultan

Social Media Manager HSC Jonathan Araco

Dr. Merced immediately sworn into office the first set of MASTSLiNet IT Practitioners, who have committed themselves to fully develop Koha as the ILS. Their next goal is to develop mobile apps, alongside the

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# Agenda of the MASTSLiNet IT Practitioners

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- PESO SENSE SAV... 20+
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- Catholic Prayer 20+
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Dr. Merced immediately sworn into office the first set of MASTSLiNet IT Practitioners, who have committed themselves to fully develop Koha as the ILS. Their next goal is to develop mobile apps, alongside the continuing development of Koha to further respond to the needs and requirements of MASTSLiNet libraries.

After the swearing-in ceremony, the officers immediately tackled the task entrusted to them. With respect to Koha, the MASTSLiNet IT Practitioners will implement the following:

1. make the Koha more user-friendly;
2. study Ubuntu as an alternative operating system (OS) to Fedora;
3. study further the terminal commands;
4. modify, and / or edit the scripts; and,
5. study the work of librarians to further understand their needs.

In terms of networking MASTSLiNet libraries, the IT Practitioners resolved to:

1. study the system flows of Koha by making them relevant to library work;
2. design individual homepages using the Koha ILS;
3. arrange the folders in order to find easily the various commands;
4. develop a Koha browser, or a simple HTML with the logos of MASTSLiNet members;
5. create a Koha support group in order for its members to have a strong relationship, combine ideas developed and generated, and to help each other whenever Koha problems arise.

5. Koha ILS Simultaneous Launching

Agreed also at the DNSC workshop is the simultaneous launching of the Koha ILS in all MASTSLiNet member-libraries. This will be on Friday, 8 December 2017, at 9 in the morning. The uniform program to be disseminated to all stakeholders are as follows:

Invocation – should be ecumenical with IP representation

Pambansang Awit – school choir

School Hymn – school choir

Welcome Remarks – Vice-President for Academic Affairs, or equivalent rank

The Koha System – IT Practitioner who participated in the training workshop

The Koha ILS : Benefits to Users, and Future Developments – Librarian who participated in the training workshop

Intermission Number – vocal rendition by either IT or Librarian

The MASTSLiNet : Cooperation, Collaboration, and Networking With One VAM for Mindanao's Development (a video presentation using youtube as platform)

Dr. Briccio M. Merced, Jr., MASTSLiNet Consultant  
University Librarian, UP Mindanao

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# Koha December 8, 2017 Simultaneous Launching

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School Hymn – school choir  
Welcome Remarks – Vice-President for Academic Affairs, or equivalent rank  
The Koha System – IT Practitioner who participated in the training workshop  
The Koha ILS : Benefits to Users, and Future Developments – Librarian who participated in the training workshop  
Intermission Number – vocal rendition by either IT or Librarian  
The MASTSLiNet : Cooperation, Collaboration, and Networking With One VAM for Mindanao's Development (a video presentation using youtube as platform)  
Dr. Briccio M. Merced, Jr., MASTSLiNet Consultant  
University Librarian, UP Mindanao  
Response and Inspirational Message – SUC President, or equivalent rank  
Closing Remarks – Head Librarian  
Picture Taking  
Public Testing of the Koha ILS  
Snacks  
Concluding Statement

MASTSLiNet members are not perfect organizations just as its members are not perfect librarians, the same with the IT Practitioners, and the Koha ILS. However, with the combined commitment, determination, professionalism, tenacity, and perseverance of all sectors involved, we now see brighter light at the end of our search to network SUC libraries in Mindanao.

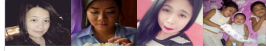
Forward, and march ahead with MASTSLiNet's One VAM, One Vision, One Access, One Mindanao.  
(Kindly tag the rest please, thank you)

Like Comment Share

1 friend · 212,194 members

  
#ICouldNotASHFAMOR | The Wedding of Ash & Eve  
126 members  
+ Join


  
Tagum City Businesses Official  
6 friends · 81,242 members  
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SMC-PAGADIAN MAED CLASS  
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Board for Librarians - Continuing F Government Organization

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- Ana Sheila Alolod Afo
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- Aida Torres

Search





# Koha Simultaneous Launching Uploaded to YouTube

Inbox (283) - bmmcerced@up.edu.ph - University of the... (7) Facebook (1,375 unread) - brfx\_merced2001@yahoo.com - Yahoo... www.ccgtr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Indigenou... KOHA Simultaneous Launching

YouTube PH Maghanap

**KOHA Simultaneous Launching**  
74 (na) panonood

UP Mindanao Library  
Na-publish noong Dis 5, 2017  
#MASTSLNet Library Management System (LMS) Simultaneous Launching, 8 December 2017  
MAGPAKITA NA NG HIGIT PA

1 Komento

Maglagay ng pampublikong komento...

Susan Martinez · 4 (na) buwan ang nakalipas  
Ready 1,2 3, GO! MASTSLNeters prepare for the simultaneous launching on Dec. 8, 2017.

Susunod

**TRANSFER PRANK: NFL QB Jared Goff pranks unsuspecting**  
Red Bull  
1M (na) panonood  
Bago

**Relaxing Music Delta Waves: Relaxing Music to Help you**  
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**Gordon: De Lima hid vital info on Matobato**  
ABS-CBN News  
Inirerekomenda sa iyo

**Top 10 Most UNFORGETTABLE Singing Auditions ALL TIME**  
Len Kan  
Inirerekomenda sa iyo

**ABAI! MGA DI GAMIT NA BALOTA SA CAMSUR, MAY**



# DOSCST, December 6



# • Kolehiyo ng Pantukan, December 7







# University of the Philippines Mindanao, December 8







# Where do we go from here?

- There is nowhere to go, but move forward.
- Cataloging policies assigned to respective SUC's must be completed to ensure data uniformity and database integrity.
- Push other MASTSLiNet libraries to install their Koha ASAP.
- Follow-up on either DNSC, or USTP Claveria as the KOHA host server.
- Union catalog be operational in 2018.
- Finalize MOA arrangements with TNL on MASTSLiNet institutions as training centers for public libraries.
- After the theses and dissertations, MASTSLiNet libraries are now ready to establish their Archives and Records.
- MASTSLiNet's One VAM is right on track, everyone must be onboard.
- WE BECOME STRONGER IF WE ACT AS ONE.
- WHEN WE ACT AS ONE, LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT OF SUC'S AND LCU'S IN MINDANAO BECOMES A REALISTIC ACHIEVEMENT, ULTIMATELY, DEVELOPING MINDANAO AS WELL.



Enter patron card number or partial name:

Submit

Check out

Check in

Renew

Search patrons

Search the catalog

Home



Circulation



Patrons



Advanced search



Lists



Cataloging



Authorities



Serials



Acquisitions



Reports



Tools



Koha administration



About Koha


# OPAC Protocol

Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help

Search results - bri... Inbox (308) - bmm... 2018-05-18.jpg 2.2... 2018-05-18.png 1... (1,401 unread) - bri... Facebook Relaxing Sleep Mu... 192.168.1.67-8080/... D35 Catalog -- Lib... Academic Libraries... dacin libraries - G... library.upmin.edu.p... www.lib.cam.ac.uk...

localhost/cgi-bin/koha/opac-main.pl

Log in to access cardholder features



## Integrated Library System

### Library Catalog Search

[Search Home](#) | [Book Bag](#)

Search the Catalog  [Search](#)

#### Search the Library Catalog

Enter Keyword(s):

[Search](#)

[Advanced Search](#) [More Options](#)

#### Recent acquisitions

Any item type  Acquired by  Any Branch

over the last  days [Search](#)

#### Change Language:

en  [Switch](#)

#### Log in to Check Your Account

Card Number:

Password:

[Log In](#)

National Library of the Philippines  
Information Technology Division  
2018  
itd@nlip.gov.ph

# Admin Protocol


Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help

Search results - br... Inbox (308) - bmm... 2018-05-18.jpg Z.Z... 2018-05-18.png T... (1,401 unread) - br... Facebook Relaxing Sleep Mu... 192.168.1.67-8080/... D3S Catalog -- Lib... Academic Libraries... dacun libraries - G... library.upmin.edu.p... www.lib.cam.ac.uk...

EastWest Personal Bank Loan  
ecomparemo.com  
EastWest Bank Personal Loan. Get fast cash loan at low interest rates and fixed...

Brickmyer Maputi  
facebook.com  
Facebook Search for people, places and things Brickmyer Home Friend Requests...

Facebook  
facebook.com  
Skip to News Feed Facebook Search for people, places and things Brickmyer Ho...



The image shows the login page for the UP Mindanao Library Integrated Library System. At the top, there are two circular logos. The left logo is the MASTSLiNet logo, featuring a book and a magnifying glass, with the text 'UP ASSOCIATION OF STATE TERTIARY-SCHOOL LIBRARY NATION' and 'MASTSLiNet' in the center. The right logo is the UP Mindanao Library logo, featuring a book with a sun and a star, with the text 'LIBRARIES ARCHIVES' and 'MINDANAO MUSEUM' around it. Below the logos, the text 'UP Mindanao Library Integrated Library System LOGIN' is displayed. Underneath, there are two input fields for 'User name' and 'Password', and a 'login' button.

User name

Password

login





## URL Protocol

<https://mils.suc.edu.ph>

### Examples

<https://mils.upmin.edu.ph>

<https://mils.dorsu.edu.ph>

<https://mils.usm.edu.ph>

<https://mils.psc.edu.ph>

<https://mils.jrmsu.edu.ph>

Padayun sa  
pag-uswag with



One VAM  
One Vision  
One Access  
One Mindanao