

Extending Europe in Asia: The Spanish Colonial Imprints of the Philippines (1593-1750)

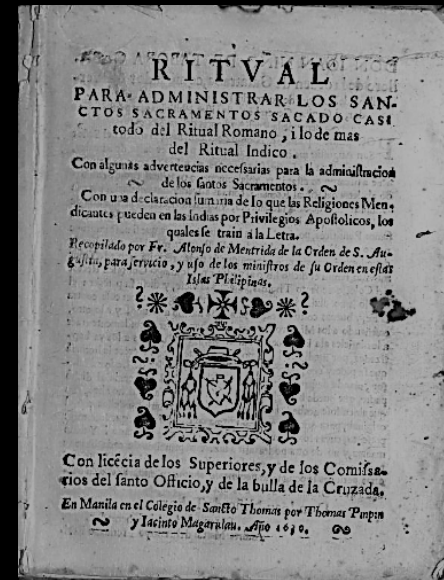
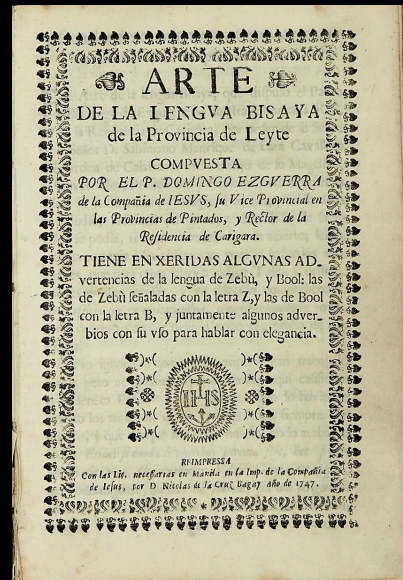
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Image credits-JCB on Internet Archive, Bancroft Library, Public Library of America and HS Rare books (Buenos Aires)



Research Questions

1. How did the printing in the Philippines begin during the Spanish period?
2. How many titles were approximately published during the sixteenth, seventeenth and in the first half of the eighteenth centuries in the Philippines? And what were the languages and subjects of these titles?
3. And what are some of these titles that are in the collections of Bancroft Library at the time of writing this article in the early part of 2019?
4. What were some of the significant titles that are available as a part of Open Access institutional repositories electronically? And what are some of the databases that hold these titles?

Image source: Crónica de la provincia de San Gregorio Magno de religiosos descalzos de N.S.P. San Francisco en las islas Filipinas, China, Japón, etc., escrita por el padre fray Francisco de Santa Inés (Bancroft Library).



Scope and Limitations

Scope

- Only the imprints that were published in the Philippines were included.
- The years of publication: 1593-1750.
- Languages: Spanish and the languages of the Philippine Islands.

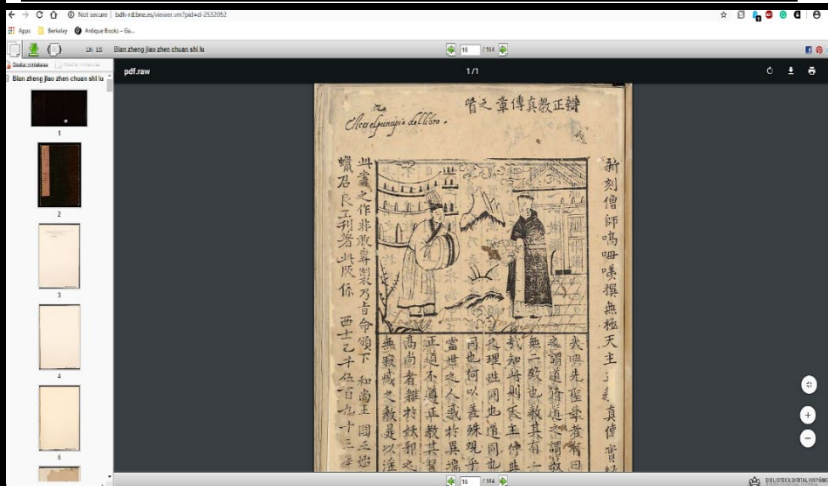
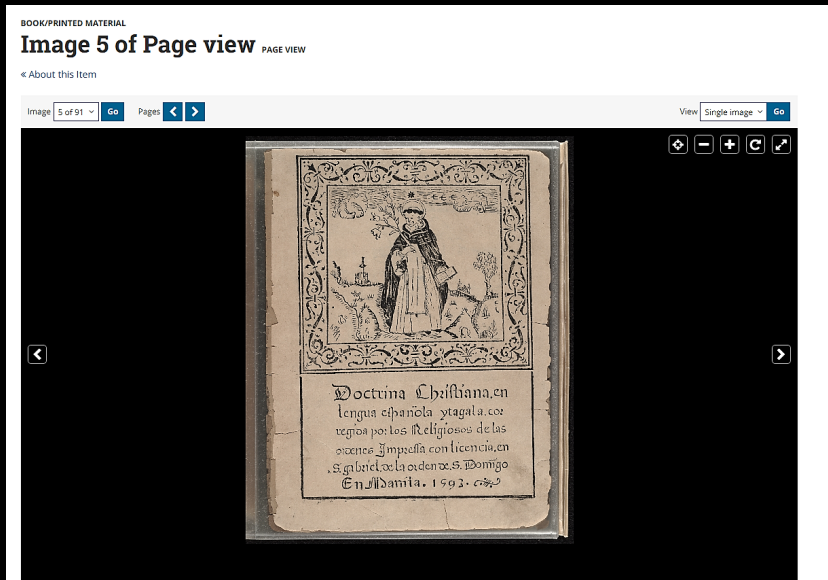
Limitations

- Excluded Chinese language publications of the Philippines.
- Excluded pamphlets, chapbooks and any other non-book formats.
- Excluded publications that were published outside of the Philippines.

- Image resource: JCB Internet Archive



The debate: Two books one in Chinese and the other in Spanish/Tagalog.



- The history of early printing in the Philippines under the Spanish rule has been examined in detail by Retana, Buhain (1998), and others. There is a substantial debate about which book was published first in the Philippines. This debate is covered well in an article by Totanes (1998) by which the author has asserted that there were two books published in the Philippines in 1593 by a Chinese convert using the woodblock printing.
- One cannot state for sure that one book preceded the other during the same year. However, one can make an informed guess that it is quite possible that the Chinese language book could have been published earlier than the Spanish/Tagalog version due to existing woodblock printing. Image source:
- Doctrina Christiana-The Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/item/48031307/>)
- The National Library of Spain (<http://bdh-rd.bne.es/viewer.vm?pid=d-2532052>)--of Bian zheng jiao zhen chuan shi lu / seng shi Hemu Xian Zhuan

The secondary sources.

1. W.E. Retana's "[Tablas cronológica y alfabética de imprentas é impresores de Filipinas \(1593-1898\)](#) .
2. Manuel Artigas y Cuerva's, "[La Primera Imprenta en Filipinas.](#)"
3. [Catálogo sistemático é ilustrado de la Biblioteca filipina reunida y puesta en venta por P. Vindel.](#)
4. José Toribio Medina's "[La imprenta en Manila : desde sus orígenes hasta 1810.](#)"

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 Tablas cronológica y alfabética de imprentas é impresores de Filipinas (1593-1898) Por W. E. Retana.

Main Author: [Retana, W. E. 1862-1924](#)

Language(s): Spanish

Published: Madrid, V. Suárez, 1908.

Subjects: [Printers > Philippines](#), [Printing > Philippines > Manila > History](#), [Printing > Philippines > History](#).

Note: "Esta tabla constituye el esqueleto de un libro que podría llevar por título Historia de la imprenta en Filipinas." Advertencia, p. [7]
"Tirada de 150 ejemplares."

Physical Description: 114 p., 1 l. 16 cm.

Locate a Print Version: [Find in a library](#)

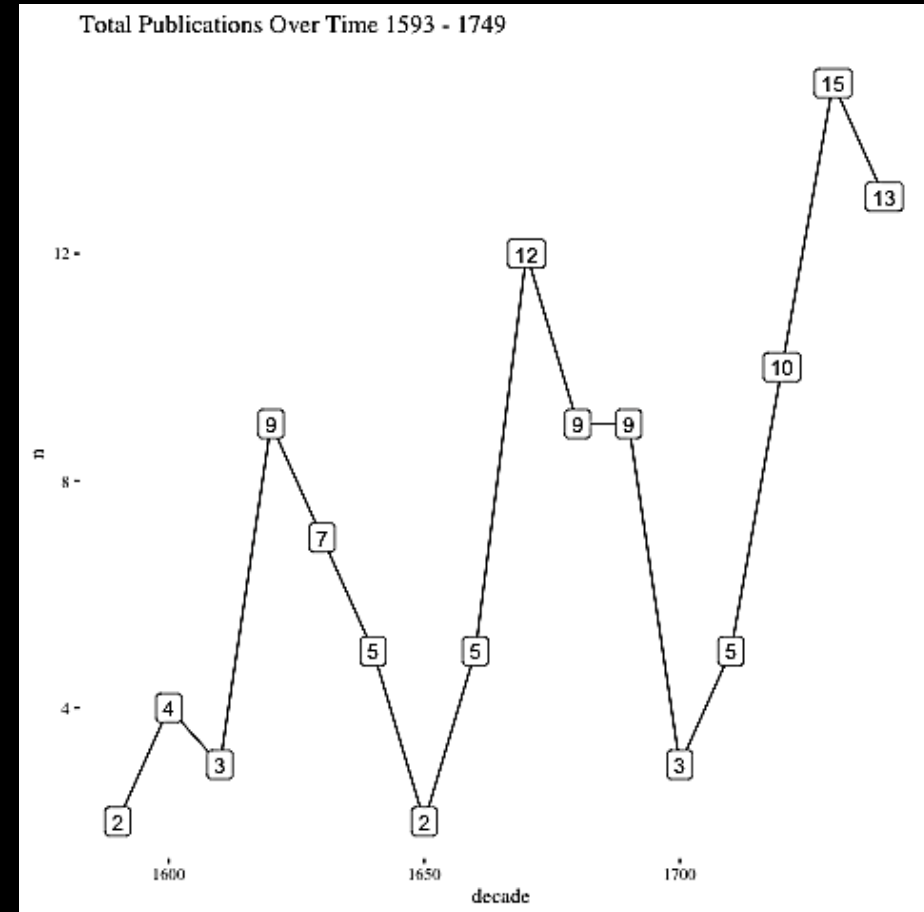
Viewability:
 Full view (original from Harvard University)

Similar Items:

- [Tablas cronológica y alfabética de imprentas é impresores de Filipinas \(1593-1898\) por W. E. Retana.](#)
By: Retana, W. E. (Wenceslao Emilio), 1862-1924.
Published: (1908)
- [La censura de imprenta en Filipinas.](#)
By: Retana, W. E. (Wenceslao Emilio), 1862-1924.
Published: (1908)
- [Orígenes de la imprenta filipina: investigaciones históricas, bibliográficas y tipográficas. Obra premiada en certamen internacional celebrado en Manila en 1910.](#)
By: Retana, W. E. (Wenceslao Emilio), 1862-1924.
Published: (1911)
- [Fiestas de toros en Filipinas.](#)
By: Retana, W. E. (Wenceslao Emilio), 1862-1924.
Published: (1896)
- [Filipinas: cosas de allá \(páginas literarias\)](#)
By: Retana, W. E. (Wenceslao Emilio), 1862-1924.
Published: (1893)
- [Índice de personas nobles y otras de calidad que han estado en Filipinas desde 1521 hasta 1898.](#)
By: Retana, W. E. (Wenceslao Emilio), 1862-1924.
Published: (1921)

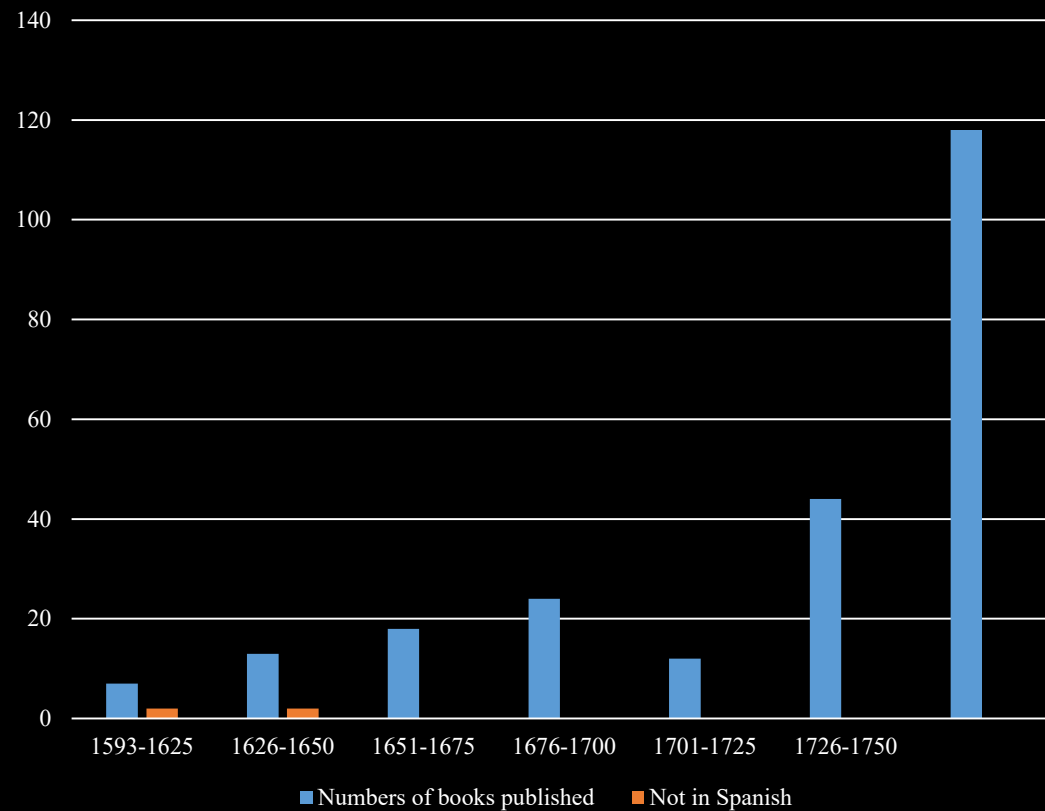
How many titles were published from 1593 until 1750?

- The dataset consists of 118 works. These were identified using secondary sources. There are no existing copies of the four titles however the secondary sources vouch for their existence.
- The image in the side panel shows distribution by the years of publication. One can see the drop in the number of books in 1650. One must note that there were several revolts during this time in the Philippines. Also, there was a conflict with the Dutch.
- Image credit-Former UC Berkeley's Data Librarian-Josh Quan.

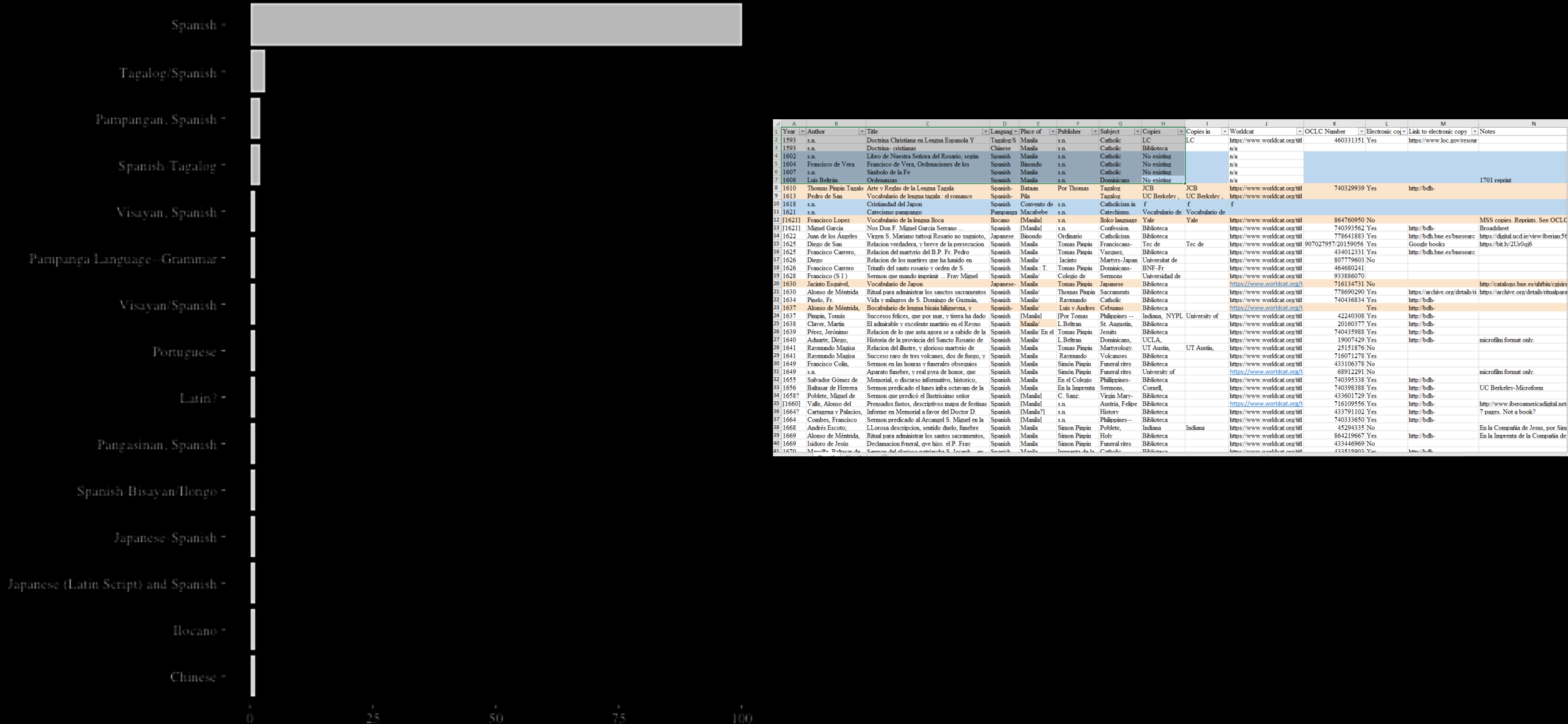


The distribution by the year of publication.

The distribution of books by 25 years period.



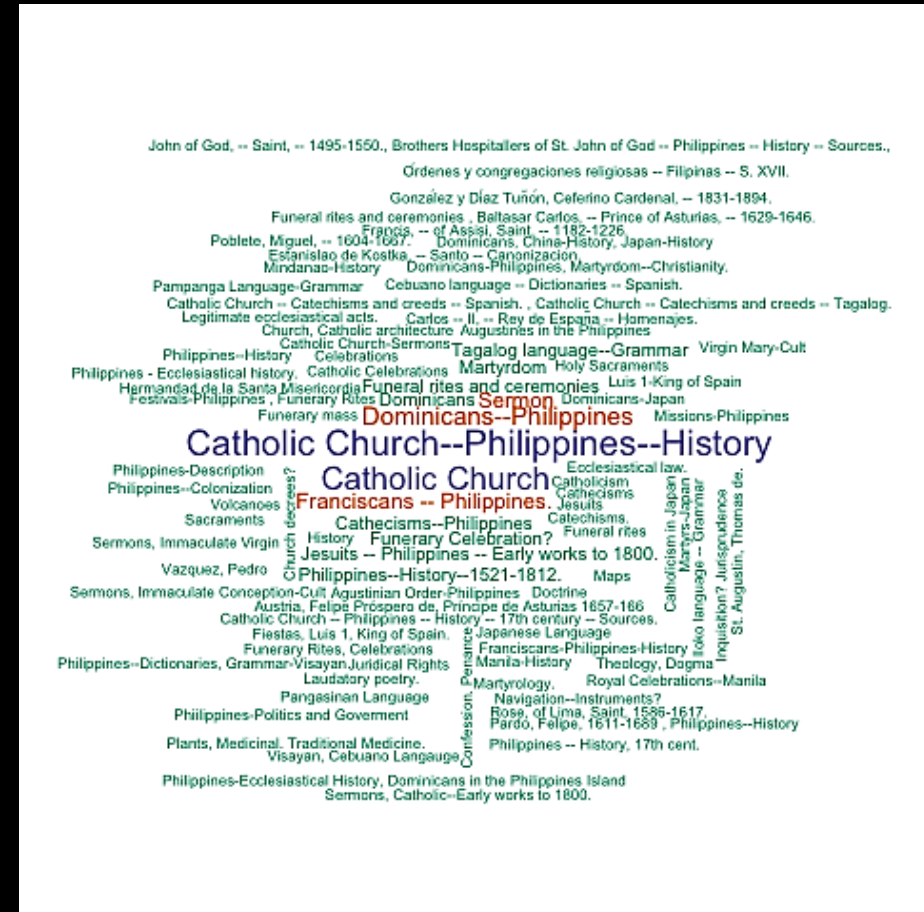
The distribution by the languages



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	
Year	Author	Title	Language	Place of	Publisher	Subject	Copies	Copies in	Worldcat	OLC Number	Electronic copy	Link to electronic copy	Notes	
2	1593	s.n.	Tagalog/S	Manila	s.n.	Catholic	LC		https://www.worldcat.org/tit	46031351	Yes	https://www.loc.gov/resour		
3	1593	s.n.	Chinese	Manila	s.n.	Catholic	Biblioteca		n/a					
4	1602	s.n.	Spanish	Manila	s.n.	Catholic	No existing		n/a					
5	1604	Francisco de Vera	Spanish	Binondo	s.n.	Catholic	No existing		n/a					
6	1607	s.n.	Spanish	Manila	s.n.	Catholic	No existing		n/a					
7	1608	Luis Beltrán	Spanish	Manila	s.n.	Dominicans	No existing		n/a				1701 reprint	
8	1610	Thomas Papin Tazola	Spanish-	Bataan	Por Thomas	Tagalog	JCB	JCB	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	740329939	Yes	http://bdh-		
9	1613	Pedro de San	Spanish-	Phil	Tagalog	UC Berkeley,	UC Berkeley,	UC Berkeley,	https://www.worldcat.org/tit					
10	1618	s.n.	Spanish	Coventro de	s.n.	Catholicism in	f	f	https://www.worldcat.org/tit					
11	1621	s.n.	Pampangan	Macabebe	s.n.	Catechisms	Vocabulario de							
12	1621	Francisco Lopez	Vocabulario de la lengua Iloca	Ilocano	(Manila)	s.n.	Iloko language	Yale	Yale	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	864760950	No	MSS copies. Reprints. See OCLC	
13	1621	Miguel García	Nos Don F. Miguel García Serrano	Spanish	(Manila)	s.n.	Confession	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	740391562	Yes	http://bdh-	Broadsheet	
14	1622	Juan de los Angeles	Virgen S. Mariano entre el Rosario no suspiroto,	Japanese	Binondo	Ordinario	Catholicism	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	770641883	Yes	http://bdh.bne.es/bnesarc	https://digital.ucd.ie/view/berian:56	
15	1625	Diego de San	Relacion verdadera, y breve de la persecucion	Spanish	Manila	Tomas Papin	Franciscans-	Tec de	Tec de	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	907027957/20159056	Yes	Google books	https://bit.ly/2Ufoqj6
16	1625	Francisco Carrero	Relacion del martirio del B.P. Fr. Pedro	Spanish	Manila	Tomas Papin	Vaquez-	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	434012331	Yes	http://bdh.bne.es/bnesarc		
17	1626	Diego	Relacion de los martires que ha habido en	Spanish	Manila	Jacinto	Martys-Japan	Universitat de	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	807779603	No			
18	1626	Francisco Carrero	Tiempo del santo rosario y orden de S.	Spanish	Manila	Tomas Papin	Dominicans-	BNP-Fr	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	464680241				
19	1628	Francisco (S I)	Sermon que mando imprimir ... Fray Miguel	Spanish	Manila	Colegio de	Sermons	Universidad de	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	933886070				
20	1630	Jacinto Escrivél,	Vocabulario de Japon	Japanese-	Manila	Tomas Papin	Japanese	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	716134731	No		http://catalogo.bne.es/ubiaja/cpiaz	
21	1630	Alonso de Méndrida	Ritual para administrar los santos sacramentos	Spanish	Manila	Thomas Papin	Sacraments	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	778690290	Yes	https://archive.org/details/vi	https://archive.org/details/vitalpara	
22	1634	Pablo, Fr.	Vida y milagros de S. Domingo de Guzmán.	Spanish	Manila	Raymundo	Catholic	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	740436834	Yes	http://bdh-		
23	1637	Alonso de Méndrida,	Vocabulario de lengua Visiata bilowana, y	Spanish	Manila	Luis y Andres	Cebano	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit					
24	1637	Papin, Tomás	Successos felices, que por mar, y tierra ha dado	Spanish	(Manila)	[Por Tomas	Philippines--	Indiana, NYPL	University of	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	42240308	Yes	http://bdh-	
25	1638	Claver, Martin	El admirable y excelente martirio en el Reyno	Spanish	Manila	L. Beltran	St. Augustin,	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	20160377	Yes	http://bdh-		
26	1639	Pérez, Jerónimo	Relacion de lo que asta agora se a sabido de la	Spanish	Manila	En el	Tomas Papin	Jenats	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	740435988	Yes	http://bdh-	
27	1640	Adante, Diego,	Historia de la provincia del Sancto Rosario de	Spanish	Manila	L. Beltran	Dominicans,	UCLA,	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	19007429	Yes	http://bdh-		
28	1641	Raymundo Majisa	Relacion del illustre, y glorioso martirio de	Spanish	Manila	Tomas Papin	Martvrology,	UT Austin,	UT Austin,	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	25151876	No		microfilm format only.
29	1641	Raymundo Majisa	Successo raro de tres volcanes, dos de fuego, y	Spanish	Manila	Raymundo	Volcanoes	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	716071278	Yes			
30	1649	Francisco Colin,	Sermon en las horas y funerales obsequios	Spanish	Manila	Simon Papin	Funeral rites	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	433106378	No		microfilm format only.	
31	1649	s.n.	Asuntis funebre, y real pyra de loose, que	Spanish	Manila	Simon Papin	Funeral rites	University of	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	68912291	No			
32	1655	Salvador Gómez de	Memorial, o discurso informativo, historico,	Spanish	Manila	En el Colegio	Philippines--	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	740395338	Yes	http://bdh-		
33	1656	Babasar de Herrera	Sermon predicado el hanes infra octaviana de la	Spanish	Manila	En la Imprenta	Sermons,	Cornell,	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	740398388	Yes	http://bdh-	UC Berkeley-Microform	
34	1658	Poblete, Miguel de	Sermon que predicó el illustrissimo señor	Spanish	(Manila)	C. Sanz	Virgin Mary-	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	433601729	Yes	http://bdh-		
35	1660	Valle, Akomo del	Prensados fastos, descriptivos mapa de fiestas	Spanish	(Manila)	s.n.	Austria, Felipe	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	716109556	Yes	http://bdh-	http://www.ibeamericadigital.net	
36	1664	Cortacaena y Palacios,	Informe en Memorial a favor del Doctor D.	Spanish	(Manila)	s.n.	History	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	433791102	Yes	http://bdh-	7 pages. Not a book?	
37	1664	Combes, Francisco	Sermon predicado al Arcangel S. Miguel en la	Spanish	(Manila)	s.n.	Philippines--	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	740333650	Yes	http://bdh-		
38	1668	Andrés Escoto,	LLorosa descripcion, sentido duelo, funebre	Spanish	Manila	Simon Papin	Poblete,	Indiana	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	45294335	No		En la Compania de Jesus, por Sim	
39	1669	Alonso de Méndrida,	Ritual para administrar los santos sacramentos,	Spanish	Manila	Simon Papin	Holy	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	864219667	Yes	http://bdh-	En la Imprenta de la Compania de	
40	1669	Indoro de Jesús	Declamacion funeral, que hizo el P. Fray	Spanish	Manila	Simon Papin	Funeral rites	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	433446960	No			
41	1670	Miguel de	Sermon del abate de San Esteban S. Fray	Spanish	Manila	Imponente de L.	Catholic	Biblioteca	https://www.worldcat.org/tit	432818002	Yes	http://bdh-		

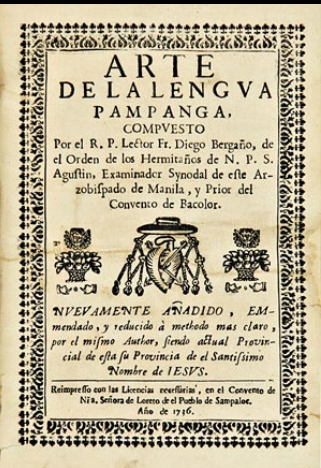
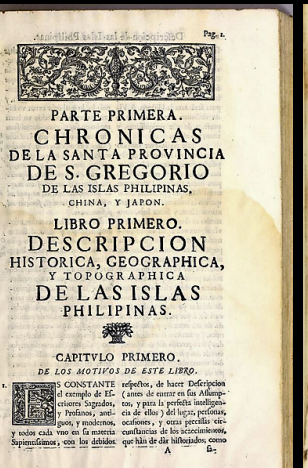
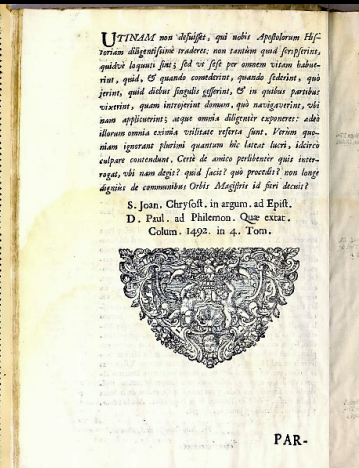
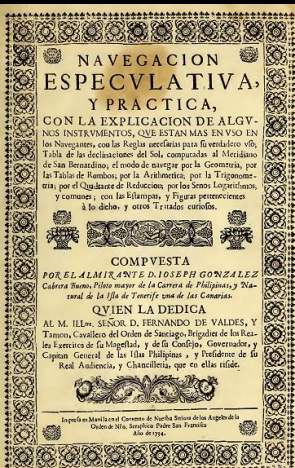
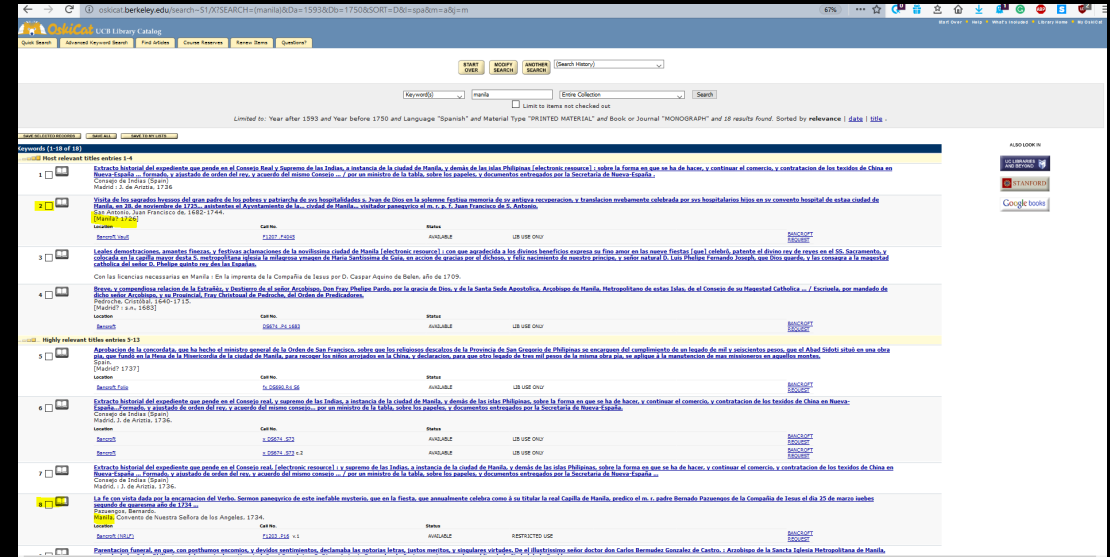
The subject distribution of the imprints

- The ecclesiastical authorities published most items in the Philippines. Several religious orders were involved.
- Dictionaries and language grammars represented a small portion of the whole corpus. This timeline asserts that the first printed dictionary of the Visayan language, however, appeared in 1711 in Manila.
- The relative, late printing of this dictionary, indicates that although the need for spreading the Gospel among the inhabitants of the Visayan Islands was great, there could have been sufficient interlocutors from Manila or elsewhere in Cebu that could have orally conveyed the faith. History of the region was another subject with limited coverage.
- The word-cloud in the next panel shows the major themes.



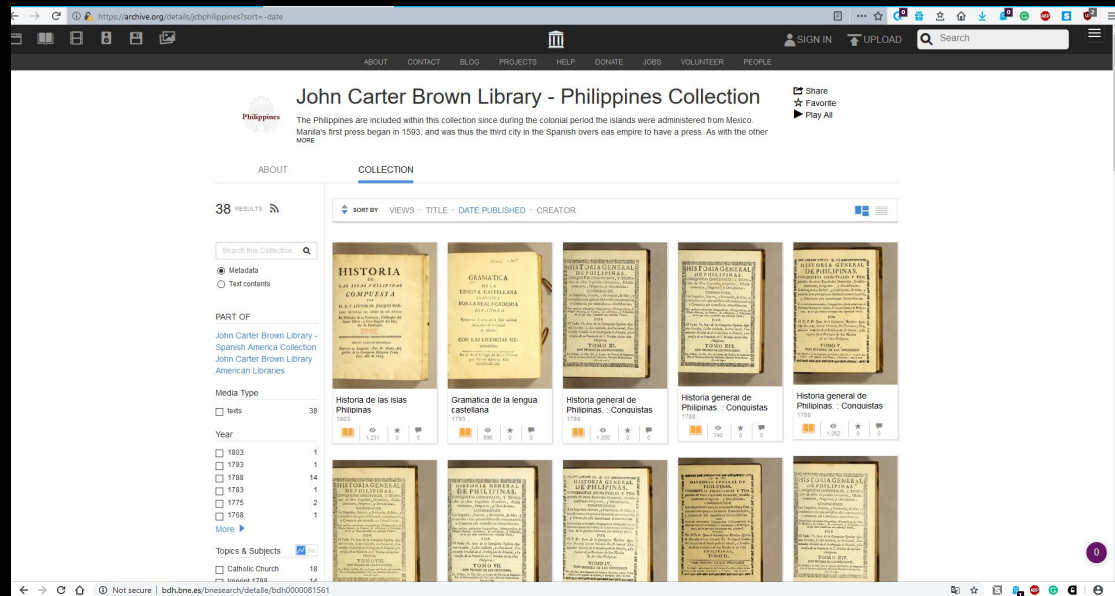
The Bancroft Filipiniana: 1593-1750

- Search string: Year after 1593 and Year before 1750 and Language "Spanish" and Location "Bancroft" and 10 results found. However, out of these only 4 titles were published between 1593-1750. The subject breakdown of these titles is shown in the side panel.



Bancroft Collection	Quantity
Franciscans	1
Navigation	1
Tagalog language -- Grammar.	1
Pampanga language -- Grammar.	1

Open-Access and the Filipiniana



- Out of 118 titles, 15 were without an electronic surrogate (13% of the total titles).
- In one instance, a 1835 edition was used. Out of 118 titles, 15 were without an electronic surrogate (13% of the total titles). In one instance, an 1835 edition was used as the original copy was not available for the digitization. Most of the electronic copies came from the Spanish digital library. The North American libraries held the physical copies of 25 out of 118 titles.
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- The North American libraries held the physical copies of 25 out of 118 titles.



Questions? Comments?

- The discovery of the "New World" by Columbus and the subsequent colonization of the American continent by Spain along with the formation and evolution of the printing first in Mexico in 1539 and then later on in the other parts of Latin American colonies remains a well-studied fact. The equally interesting is the scenario revolves around the Spanish colonial printing in the Philippines. Moreover, it has remained under-emphasized in the North American Library and Information Studies literature.
- Additionally, access to the originals remains problematic due to the rarity and scarcity of these print materials in the North American academic libraries. Thus the web-based open access platforms that host these resources represent an alternative way that a reference librarian can use to provide the researchers with the necessary tools to interrogate the Spanish Colonial histories of the linked worlds, i.e., the New Spain (Mexico) and the Philippines.
- In my present study, I have tried to address the specific issues of access to these imprints, and I have posited that these imprints as a group represent a discrete and rich historical archive of the early Spanish Colonial Philippines.



Thank you!

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- Special gratitude goes to the presenter on Liladhar's behalf

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Literature