Thai Library Association

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The Thai Library Association (TLA), founded in 1954, has chapters all over Thailand. The present address of the headquarters is 241 Phrasumaine Road, Bangkok 2.

The initial proposal for the establishment of the association came from a group of Thai librarians, who were brought together through library-science courses offered by the first Fulbright professor at Chulalongkorn University in 1951-52. Subsequently, they met regularly to discuss library problems and to find ways and means of improving their libraries. Much as these librarians valued their co-operation in promoting library service, they recognized the serious handicap under which librarianship in Thailand was labouring because of the lack of any professional centre.

Their enthusiasm influenced officials of the Asia Foundation, who, in 1954, approved a substantial grant to help set up the association. The grant, which is still awarded, has made it possible for TLA to embark on several worthwhile projects and activities.

Objectives

The objectives of TLA are to: encourage co-operation and assistance among members; promote library education; help with the growth and development of libraries throughout the country; share professional knowledge and experiences with colleagues at home and abroad; improve the status of librarians and safeguard their welfare; help supervise the organization of any library upon request; and serve as a centre to receive assistance from any source so as to attain the objectives of the association.

Membership

Membership of the association is of three categories. Regular members are practising or former librarians of government agencies or organizations, with at least a third-grade appointment or a Bachelor's degree; persons who have completed library-science courses from recognized educational institutions; and persons who have been associate members for at least five years, and have shown evidence of their interest or submitted their scholarly works in librarianship to the association. Associate members are persons interested in library work; practising or former librarians without qualifications for regular membership;