



FROM FIELDWORK TO IMMERSION:

A TRANS-CONTINENTAL PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF TRANSFORMATION AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN INFORMATION PROFESSIONAL

Destination:
Manila, Philippines

TONDO CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY

'Do'-ing

THE 'FIELDWORK' ASPECT

Skills Knowledge

'Be'-ing

THE 'IMMERSION' EXPERIENCE

Holistic Disruptive

What does it mean to be an information professional? This question was posed in my fieldwork journal. I found the answer not just in those traditionally valued library skills but in meeting patrons at their humanity.



Reading stories to children is a service a librarian may offer but by 'be'-ing present to the patron's human need, I learned more from this terminally-ill child.

Tondo library's outreach service to street children who could not afford to go to school also involved providing complimentary food demonstrating the library's holistic approach to patron needs.

My immersion experience taught me that patrons have other needs that go beyond information needs and being an information professional is more than providing the best resources. It is ok to **DARE** and **LEAP** beyond familiar library practices.



Many thanks to the Tondo Congressional Library team and the generous volunteers who make a difference by acknowledging the humanity of each library customer