Director General Tseng Visits Libraries and Institutions in Australia

Director General Tseng visited Australian National University's Menzies Library and Chifley Library, the Gungahlin Public Library of Canberra and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in November, 2015.

The Menzies Library is the hub of the Library's Asia Pacific focused services. The Library's holdings of Asian scholarly materials are considered to be the most comprehensive among Australian university libraries and are well compared internationally. Material unique to the Library includes: East Asian language collections (Chinese/Japanese/Korean), Asia Pacific official documents, rare books, manuscripts, special collections, etc.



Director General Tseng (right) with ANU University Librarian, Ms. Roxanne Missingham, at the Menzies Library.

When Director General Tseng visited the Chifley Library, Chief Librarian, Roxanne Missingham, introduced the 24/7 library service area and many friendly well-designed services which include wireless printing service, laptop power lock, extension cords, phone booth and food services as well.



The Chifley Library's 24/7 service area.

The Gungahlin Library and Gungahlin College share a common library. The exterior of the Library

and its interior design have bright colors and well lighted. The lighting design of the children's area, the youth animated area, the bookshelves design, the directions, the tables and chairs of the discussion area are also all very bright. Altogether they give a lively, relaxed feeling.



A number of self-service machines displayed at the Gungahlin Library.

AIATSIS collects Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander related audio-visual materials, photographs, drawings, artwork, and preserve them through digital scanning. AIATSIS usually holds multicultural educational activities. It is also engaged in related academic research as well as offers scholarly studies incentives. It has a publishing house, and actively carries out language preservation, collects materials and engages in multicultural education.



AIATSIS possession of a number of works of art and paintings.

Director General Tseng Visits Libraries in Belgium

Director General Tseng visited the Leuven Public Library (Bibliotheek Tweebronnen, BT), the Royal Library of Belgium (RLB) and the Riches Claires Library in December, 2015. She visited audiovisual area, reading halls, children's area and other facilities, as well as children's books illustrators' exhibition at the BT. During her visit, the BT was holding the movie "Star Wars" exhibition. The exhibition expenses are provided by the Star Wars Fan Club, the BT has only to assume insurance expenses. This practice not only enhances the promotion of the community participation in librarianship, improving library utilization of readers, it can also help to save in operating expenses, create news topics, so that more people become aware of the new features of the library. This practice is worth learning.



The audiovisual area at the BT.

When Director General Tseng visited the RLB and the Riches Claires Library, she received a warm welcome and a tour by RLB Director Robert Nouwen, Heritage Collections and Special Collections Head Mr. Claude Sorgeloos, as well as Riches Claires Library's Directress Marie-Angèle Dehaye.

The RLB is the national library of Belgium. Director General Tseng visited RLB's exhibition room, museum, and rare books room where she saw ancient maps and manuscripts. The museum contains many pieces of furniture and decorations from Belgium's royal family. The exhibition room houses many works and files from writers of the past. The display cases are made of bullet-proof glass that controls light intake to minimize light damage done to these ancient books and manuscripts. Each case also has a mini screen in it that explains the items on display. Head of special collections, Mr. Sorgeloos specifically had displayed an ancient map of China from the Qing dynasty. When those visiting saw a map of Taiwan, they were excited and took photos as keepsakes. Also on display was a translated medical book by Wen-kai Yin (1870-1927). It stands as a witness to the effort Mr. Yin put forth to help Chinese understand Western medical knowledge.



A specially-designed display case at the RLB.

Public libraries in Brussels are divided into Frenchspeaking and Dutch-speaking branches. Director General Tseng visited the French-speaking Riches Claires Library and discussed experiences with its director on library operations. Director General Tseng donated cultural curios from the NCL and publications from Taiwan to Riches Claires Library's Directress Marie-Angèle Dehaye and tour guide Mr. Chantal Stanescu. Everyone was particularly interested in the aboriginal crafts the NCL created.



Shelving at the Riches Claires Library.

Events

Poet Mo Chang Donates Manuscripts to NCL

The NCL held a donation ceremony for manuscripts that poet Mo Chang presented to the library. The NCL was honored to receive and preserve over 280 of his paintings and calligraphy works. In October and November an exhibition of these manuscripts was held so that the general public could admire Mr. Chang's black ink paints and poetry.

Mr. Chang is the founder of the poetry magazine Chuang shi ji (The Epoch Poetry Quarterly) and has for many years actively promoted the development of