

■ Basic Training Courses in Public Library Management Begin

In order to enhance library services and the professional skills and knowledge of library staff, in September the National Central Library (NCL) assisted New Taipei City and Tainan (臺南) City in hosting Basic Training Courses in Public Library Management. Seven scholars specializing in library information were invited to lecture for the course, providing library staff with a solid basic training.



NCL Director-General Tseng (center) with Tainan City Library staff and the course participants.

At present, libraries should provide a diverse range of services. Besides maintaining an excellent attitude when serving the public, those employed by libraries must also ensure that they maintain the quality of their libraries' collections and that their activities to promote reading meet the needs of readers. Librarians must continuously train to meet the challenges of providing services.

The lecturers spoke on the following topics: NCL Director-General, Shu-hsien Tseng (曾淑賢): "The Design of Library Spaces and Environments"; NCL editor, Hui-chen Cheng (鄭惠珍): "Developing Library Collections and Procurement"; NCL editor,

Shu-fen Hung (洪淑芬): "Using the NCL's Digital Resources and E-Learning Campus"; Prof. Nei-ching Yeh (葉乃靜): "Reader Services and Reading Promotion"; Prof. Pao-nuan Hsieh (謝寶媛): "Quality Management and Customer Satisfaction"; Prof. Hao-ren Ke (柯皓仁): "Information Technology and Internet Management"; Prof. Tzu-heng Chiu (邱子恒): "Reference Resources and Services."



NCL Director-General Tseng with New Taipei City Library Director-General Peng Kao (高鵬) and the course participants.

■ Reading Promotion Lecture Series in Autumn

2017 National Central Library (NCL) autumn reading promotion lecture series took place between August and October. The theme for this season is "Miraculous Foresight: Fortune-Telling, Geomancy, and Traditional Beliefs."

The lectures introduced many aspects of well-known writings and famous figures from the history of fortune-telling. They guided us through the rich, mysterious world of the traditional cultural practice of forecasting the future. The saying, "No. one, fate; No. two, luck; No. three, *fengshui* (風水); No.

four, accumulating merit; No. five, study,” reflects thousands of years of Chinese divination activities. It is really worth investigating the mysterious hidden meanings, profound philosophies, and widely-disseminated fortune-telling books associated with these practices.



Prof. Yung-tang Chang (張永堂) speaks on “The Treatise on Harmonizing Times and Distinguishing Directions (協紀辨方): Selection of Dates and Ancient Chinese Taboos.”

This season’s speakers and lecture topics are as follows:

1. Prof. Chia-Che Chang (張哲嘉), “Translating and Adjusting: The Arrival in China and Sincization of 2000 Years of Western Astrology”
2. Prof. Hsiang-kwang Liu (劉祥光), “The People Are Fond of Ghosts and Gods: The Practice of Fortune-Telling in the Song Dynasty”
3. Prof. Tseng-Kuei Liu (劉增貴), “*The Treatise on Harmonizing Times and Distinguishing Directions* (協紀辨方): Selection of Dates and Ancient Chinese Taboos”
4. Prof. Yung-Tang Chang (張永堂), “Scholars and Fortune-Telling”
5. Prof. Ping-yi Chu (祝平一), “Catholicism and Fortune-Telling in the Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasty”

6. Prof. Kin-Weng Huang (洪健榮), “The response of officials and gentry in Qing dynasty Taiwan to geomantic culture”



Attendees fill up the lecture venue.

NCL Publications

■ National Central Library 2016 Annual Report



Published in July 2017
ISBN 978-957-678-633-4

National Central Library 2016 Annual Report is a collected report on the NCL achievements of the year 2016. The great improvement on library and information services, the creativity of service models, and the quality of library management have made NCL to march forward with great steps among the excellent national libraries in the world.