



A group picture of foreign scholars at the 2020 Dragon Boat Festival event.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ New Taipei City Holds International Reading Festival Online for the First Time

In response to the continued coronavirus pandemic, the New Taipei Bureau of Education held a press conference on April 23 for the Online International Reading Festival. Mayor Yu-ih Hou signed a memorandum of understanding with businesses and tried out digital reading games. Mayor Hou stated that because of the pandemic, many places for studying like public libraries are temporarily closed. As such, he encourages kids to use the Elementary Education Resource Platform online to learn new things. He also thanks FunPark and PaGamO for donating over 20 million dollars in resources so that children could have unlimited learning opportunities.

The New Taipei City's Bureau of Education stated, the platform selected nearly one hundred local and international well-known websites for online reading resources. It also integrated e-resources from the Bureau of Education, the Cultural Bureau, and the public at large. Through the card system for New Taipei City and the platform for parents, teachers, and students, it provides access to over 400,000 e-books. This vast array of books is available to elementary students and residents of New Taipei City.

■ A Great Weapon in Pandemic Prevention and Reading: Hualien City Library 3D Prints Face Shields

In 2019, Hualien City Library established a Makerspace equipped with a 3D printer, a badge machine, a mug heat press machine, and more. It has steadily been adding many Maker classes, which have been very popular. Because 2020 saw the onslaught of the coronavirus, many materials needed to make protective items are in shortage. So, one of the library staff, Ko-wen Hoh, found information online on how to make one's own face shield. He also discovered a large amount of information on 3D printing of face shields on the group Open Source COVID-19 Medical Supplies, including open access files on masks and information exchange. Hoh worked with information specialists Yi-ling Tsai to print a face mask from transparent plastic using an FDM 3D printer. They selected a suitable style that would be easy to mass produce. In so doing, the library's abilities in pandemic prevention just got an upgrade. In addition, Hualien City Library also produced a UVC sanitizer box with just a little capital, but providing a greater prevention.

■ The Main Library in Pingtung Gets a Facelift after 30 Years

The location of the main branch of Pingtung County Library used to be the Pingtung County Cultural Bureau office. This building was renovated two years ago. Pingtung County Magistrate Men-an Pan announced that library under renovation will be finished this summer. Giving new life to an old building, the new library will have a vaulted main hall with 500 seats for reading instead of the previous 150. The five floors will have newly designed children, youth, and senior citizens intergenerational reading areas. Many multicultural and Pingtung literature areas are planned as well. It will also have a 200-seat auditorium.

The renovated building will feature large-paned windows combined with many trees around its perimeter. The natural light lends itself to reading. A snack bar area is also planned, along with a performance arts area and space for exhibits. The landscaping will have lights at night to beautify the environment. The county library also installed an RFID system so that patrons can check out their own books. There will also be a 24-hour book return machine made available so that one will never need to wait. The public is

encouraged to use the newly revamped Pingtung County Public Library Search System, that utilizes responsive web design(RWD). It provides simple categorization so that users can quickly browse results. Renovations to the county library will cost NT\$300 million. Total floor space was 7,385 sq. m.; after renovations it will be 10,509 sq. m., which is an increase of 3,124 sq. m. Library holdings will increase from 220,000 to 400,000 volumes.



NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Publisher: Shu-hsien Tseng
National Central Library
Republic of China (Taiwan)

English Editor: Trever McKay

Editors: Yun-feng Poh, Shiou-ian Hsu

First Issue: April 1969

This newsletter is published quarterly.

It is now available on the National Central Library website at:
https://enwww.ncl.edu.tw/periodicallist_14.html



GPN 2005800011