

One was invalid, which brought the total to 501. Survey results are explained as follows:

1. Degree of overall satisfaction towards preventative measures in the study room:

Those who were “Extremely satisfied” accounted for 64.9%; those “Satisfied” 27.9%; “Neutral” 5.9%; “Not satisfied” 1%; “Extremely unsatisfied” was only 0.3%. From this we can see that most patrons approve and support NCL’s preventative measures in the study room, as 92.8% of the respondents were satisfied.

2. Views on some libraries in Taiwan closing or stopping services during the pandemic:

“Neutral” was the top pick with 41.5%; “Do not support” was at 37.7%; “Support” 20%; and only 0.8% not giving a response. Those who did not support closing down libraries stated: “study room is needed,” “preventative measures are good, so there is no need to close down,” and “we should avoid creating inconveniences in life, education, and society.” Those who were in favor stated “the study room is needed, but given the extenuating circumstances if the room is closed, it is understandable” and “government policies can be followed if needed in preventing the pandemic.”

3. Views on availability and services of the study room during the pandemic:

A total of 81% of respondents hoped that NCL would “increase preventative measures but still remain open for the same hours and have the same number of seats in the study room.” 13.6% hoped that “the library would remain open for the same hours, but reduce the number of seats in the study room”; only 1.6% stated they wanted “to keep the library open, shorten hours but keep the same number of seats in the study room”; and just 1.4% hoped that “the library would remain open, but that hours would be shortened and seating in study room lessened.” From this it is apparent that patrons have a strong need to use the study room, that thus hope that the library can stay open by using necessary preventative measures.

In this survey, patrons provided many suggestions and ideas about preventing the spread of COVID-19. In addition, there was a general hope that the library would continue providing services. Future developments in the pandemic and patrons’ needs may require a change in preventative measures and services.

■ **World Book Day! We’re Reading at Home!**

National Central Library has long been involved in national reading promotions to increase the population that actively reads and help more people develop the habit of reading. The ultimate aim is to deepen cultural literacy and create a knowledge society. To promote the good that comes from reading and to be involved in a grand reading occasion worldwide—World Book Day, NCL extended a special invitation to renowned author Chinlun Lee to design four reading bookmarks and posters for World Book Day 2020. This is the first time that NCL has worked with a large group of online bookstores to promote reading, such as Eslite Bookstore, Taaze, San Min Book Co., Cite Publishing Group Ltd. Kingstone Book, Tsutaya Bookstore, Wunan Books, Linking Publishing, and Kimy Store. Together we are promoting the “We’re at Home Reading: Free Bookmark with Purchase” reading event which encourages the public to enjoy leisurely reading time at home while their new bookmark finds a home in the book they are reading. In addition, it is hoped that this event will increase public interest in buying books in order to help the book market recover somewhat from the overall market drop caused by pandemic, or even regain its former prosperity.

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that developing critical thinking through reading is an important national soft power. Reading promotion takes a concerted effort from both the government and the people. NCL’s purpose in asking online bookstores and libraries

throughout Taiwan to participate in this event is to increase the marketing channels and promotional effects through a joint effort in promotion and support. This will allow the general public to experience the joys of reading and develop reading habits in their daily lives. The posters and bookmarks that Ms. Lee designed will be shipped to libraries across the island, so that a reading ambiance can permeate each locale and that the public can follow protocol by not going out as much and staying home to read instead.



On World Book Day, we are at home reading.



A poster for We're at Home Reading.

As the pandemic continues to ravage across the globe, “quarantine” and “social distancing” have become everyday words, causing no small anxiety in people. During this time, Director-General Tseng encouraged the public to stay at home and read while waiting for the pandemic to subside. In this way, not only can people let go of their worries and infuse themselves with the energy of knowledge, they can also effectively reduce the unease and stress of facing this stark pandemic. To help the public feel again the wonderful feelings of a tranquil life, NCL used “We’re at Home Reading” as the central design idea for the bookmarks to portray the enchanting experience of reading and to encourage the public to stay at home and read more. Pleasantly meandering through the beautiful world of books and words, letting reading accompany people in the gentlest manner through the highs and lows of life—this is reading at its best.

To help more people experience the wonder of reading and to enable them during the pandemic to be able to purchase books they like on online bookstores so they can begin a reading journey at home, NCL sought out many well-known online bookstores to collaborate in this project. A united response to this yearly reading event was created with the promotion “We’re at Home Reading: Free Bookmark with Online Purchase.”

■ **Summer Reading: Bringing together Millennial Authors—Images of New-Gen Authors**

In recent years, the summer reading lectures that National Central Library has put on regarding Taiwan studies have been well received. From May 23 to July 11, 2020, NCL and the sponsor Lam Research Corp. hosted six lectures on “Bringing together Millennial Authors—Images of a New Generation of Authors.” Issues discussed ranged from ethnic groups, society, history, to literature.