

of an independent retrieval system for theses and dissertations and an audiovisual streaming system. These will soon be available online and can reduce the time patrons take to access these items in the library. In addition, outstanding artistic, applied technology, and physical education theses and dissertations are viewable online in their multimedia formats, providing patrons with a more convenient and multifaceted electronic thesis and dissertation service.



Taiwan Consortium of Electronic Theses and Dissertations logo competition winner, Zi-min Li (right), receiving his prize.

With the pandemic ravaging the entire globe this year and borders being closed, it is not a time for library services to stop. Online resources have suddenly become even more important. To help a greater number of graduate students learn, it is hoped that schools will continue doing what they did in the past and fully support and promote the authorization of open access to electronic theses and dissertations. This will improve academic integrity across disciplines and allow the results of higher education to bless even more students and researchers alike.

■ **First National Taiwan Public Library Development Conference Forges a New Vision for Taiwan Public Libraries**

In order to establish an institutionalized and normalized communication platform for public libraries, the Ministry of Education promoted the convening of the National Public Library

Development Conference in 2020. The first such conference was organized by the National Central Library and formally convened on 14 and 15 December at The Great Roots Forestry Spa Resort. Representatives were invited from public libraries of all levels from throughout Taiwan to discuss a new vision for the development of public libraries.



Group photo of Director Yue-li Huang, Department of Lifelong Education, Director-General Tseng and distinguished guests.

In remarks at the opening ceremony, Director Yue-li Huang, Department of Lifelong Education of the Ministry of Education said that the development of Taiwan's domestic public libraries has benefited from relevant subsidy program funds in recent years. Thanks to the efforts of the three national libraries and the public libraries of various counties and cities, she said, libraries are growing in all aspects of their operations; they have all made great progress. In order to provide the public with better library services, the Ministry of Education expects gradually to establish a normalized communication and exchange platform, so that everyone can learn from each other and forge ahead together; the conference therefore provided a development opportunity. At the same time, the National Central Library was thanked for its careful planning to build a high-quality communication platform. The theme of the conference echoed the development direction that public libraries across the country have worked hard to promote in recent years: "cooperation and sharing." "Service Innovation" is the agenda related to the core extension plan. It is hoped that it can

bring new inspiration to everyone involved in library development, and that it can also be effectively applied to various aspects of library development.

The conference invited the Distinguished Professor and Director of the Library of National Taiwan Normal University, Hao-Ren Ke, to give a special lecture on the topic of “The Public Library in the New Era,” looking at development trends among domestic and foreign libraries, and, as a beginning to initiate concrete action, guiding participants in imagining how libraries will look in the new era.

The four main topics for discussion were "resource sharing", "inter-industry alliances", "innovative value" and "service transformation". "Resource Sharing" was hosted by Director Lai-chang Zheng of the National Taiwan Library. The invited speakers were Director Yawen Gong of the Cultural Affairs Department of New Taipei City Government, Director Chien-Ju Chou of the National Central Library's Collection Development and Bibliography Management Division, and Director Hui-Yun Sung of the Graduate Institute of Library & Information Science, National Chung Hsing University. "Inter-industry Alliances" was hosted by Director Chung-Ching Liu of the National Library of Public Information. The invited speakers, who shared their practical operational experience, were Pi-Chun Chen, Director of the Department of Culture and Tourism of Yunlin County Government, Deputy Director General Yu-lan Li of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Nantou County Government, and Director General Jinyi Wu of Hualien County Cultural Affairs Bureau. "Innovative Value" was hosted by NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, and Director Zheng of National Taiwan Library, Director Hsiaoling Chang of Taichung Public Library, and Director Tzu-Heng Chiu of Taipei Medical University library were invited to make introductory remarks and prompt creative thought on the part of participants. "Service Transformation" was hosted by Director Hui-Yun Sung of the Graduate Institute of Library & Information Science, National Chung Hsing University. Director Chung-Ching Liu of the National Library of Public Information, Director

Yu-chen Hung of Tainan Public Library, and Acting Director Yi-Cheng Lin of Kaohsiung Public Library explored how public libraries can push service transformation vigorously forward. Each group topic focused on the exchange of practical library experience. That sharing stimulated creative sparks to improve each library.



Director Huang (fifth from right) and Director-General Tseng (fourth from left) in a commemorative photograph with distinguished guests.

■ Exploring Taiwan's 100 Years of Education: NCL Hosts “Remembering Going to School Interactive Exhibition” Results Presentation

On November 30, National Central Library hosted a presentation of the results from the Remembering Going to School Interactive Exhibition. At the event, teachers and students from Shih Chien University, Taipei Municipal Zhong Zheng Senior High School, Taipei Municipal Chenggong High School, Taipei Municipal Zhongshan Girls High School, and Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School observed teaching demonstrations. Those who are concerned about the development of digital humanities in Taiwan libraries were also in attendance.

“Remember Going to School”! The Four Seasons Symphony of 100 Years of Education Interactive Exhibition was the result of collaborative research by libraries, universities, and high schools. NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated, this exhibition has received the support of the Ministry