

NCL Publications

■ 2020 Annual Report on Reading Atmosphere and Reading Engagement in Taiwan



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This is the 2020 Annual Report on Reading Atmosphere and Reading Engagement in Taiwan. It is compiled by the National Central Library, under the direction of the Ministry of Education. This report compiles all borrowing records from public libraries in 2020 and provides statistical analysis to understand the annual reading habits and interests of the public. This report could efficiently help libraries and publishers across the island learn about what readers' needs are.

■ 2020 Report on the Publishing Conditions and Trends in Taiwan



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This report covers publications in Taiwan from January to December 2020 by publishers (including general publishers, government institutions, groups, and individuals). Information is gathered from

applications for ISBNs and CIPs to NCL's ISRC Center. It provides statistical analysis on the amount, types, and common topics of new books (including e-books), and the country and language of translated works published in Taiwan. This shows the newest condition and trends of publishing in Taiwan.

CCS News and Activities

■ Exploring Beauty of Taiwan, NCL Invites Visiting Foreign Scholars to Visit the Beautiful Cherry Blossoms in Hsinchu during Chinese New Year

To help visiting foreign scholars to experience the festive atmosphere during Chinese New Year in Taiwan and to see the beauty of the island, National Central Library arranged for an excursion on February 25, 2021—the day before the Lantern Festival—for the 2021 recipients of National Central Library's Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies as well as Fulbright scholars that are currently at NCL. The aim was to enable them to experience Taiwan's natural beauty and culture.

National Central Library has long been engaged in international exchange. Since taking over the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies in 1989, and for the last 11 years being responsible for the Taiwan Fellowship offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to-date over 1,500 scholars have come from more than 48 countries around the world. Due to the uncertain conditions caused by the pandemic this year, such international exchange has not been easy. It was even more difficult to have scholars come from overseas. Because of this, this group of scholars who will be in Taiwan for only a few months are not only witnesses of Taiwan's ability to stop the pandemic locally but also voices to the international community on the cultural beauty of Taiwan.

For this excursion, arrangements were made for six grant recipients and scholars from Singapore, the US, and Russia to visit the Cingcyuan Scenic Area in Hsinchu and experience the amazing atmosphere

there. They visited the remote countryside and got to experience the unified atmosphere that is there during New Years, visit the home of the famed author Sanmao, and the historical figure Peter H.L. Chang. Lunch was eaten at the surreal farm in Wufeng Township. The scholars were at an elevation of 1,200 m (3,900 ft) walking along the mountain trail and enjoying the dreamlike pink cherry blossoms. Strolling amongst the many tall trees, ohs and ahs were a frequent sound. Passing over the bright red Cingcuan Suspension Bridge No. 1, they arrived at Sanmao's old residence, as well as the wood home of Peter H.L. Chang. The group could not help but to reminisce on what had happened in the past. At the end of the excursion, the scholars all expressed their appreciation to NCL for the pleasant and rewarding trip.



The visiting scholars take a group photo in front of the main door of National Central Library before departing.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ **New Main Tainan Public Library Officially Opened on January 1, 2021**

The new Main Tainan Public Library held an opening ceremony on January 2. It offers the first ever 24-hour checkout and return system. It also has a City Kitchen and Coffee which brings together food, drink, and reading at the public library. In this way the library is promoting food culture.

It has special spaces for different age groups, making it a public space where education,

entertainment, business, and innovative industries can develop. Its sizeable spaces for different purposes include space for e-learning, co-working, cooking classroom, and a computer classroom. There is also the Tainan Memorial Exhibition, which has on display the stories and works of more than two hundred famous artists, authors, and others from the Tainan area. The library also has a children's experimental theater and an international conference hall.

Some unique features of the new main library include the largest 24-hour checkout and return area, which can hold up to 2,400 volumes. With no time restrictions on checking out or returning books, using the library is even more convenient. It also boasts the first City Kitchen and Coffee, which brings together food, drink, and reading to promote food culture. There is also a co-working space, providing tools for leather carving, sewing, and videography in an effort to encourage the trend of maker culture.

In addition, the main library also has a Tainan Memorial Exhibition, showcasing the lives and contributions of 203 persons of prestige. With regard to public library space aesthetics, the library provides a children's reading garden where they can get close to nature. In the e-learning area, the library provides software for illustrating, editing audio video, and writing. The public can use these to teach themselves digital skills. An independent bookstore has also been invited to set up shop in the library, bringing together books, coffee, and a literature salon.

■ **Pandemic Exhibition at Providence University's Luking Library Displays 700+ Custom Face Masks**

COVID-19 changed life on this planet. It also accelerated the digitization of resources and their use! From March 28 to April 12, Providence University's Luking Library held an "Pandemic Outbreak Book Collection: Reading to Fight COVID-19 Book and Face Mask Exhibition." On display were the books, e-books, and e-magazines