



Group Photo of the dignitaries attending the opening ceremony for the Multipurpose Performance Hall.



Group Photo of the dignitaries and attendees of the opening ceremony.

■ **NCL and the Ministry of Science and Technology Cohost Symposium on “Rating Humanities and Social Science Journals & the Publicizing of Scholarly Publications” on February 26**

As a way to encourage journal publishers in Taiwan to provide full text access and to increase the dissemination and visibility of scholarly research, National Central Library and the Ministry of Science and Technology’s Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences teamed up to host a symposium on “Rating Humanities and Social Science Journals & the Publicizing of Scholarly Publications” on February 26, 2021.

Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Minn-tsong Lin said during his remarks at the opening ceremony that this symposium was an opportunity for everyone to begin thinking about the issue of publicizing scholarly publications. Through making scholarly resources public, research findings in Taiwan can be better promoted and disseminated. This could be a positive driving force for Taiwan’s scholarly research, and could effectively increase international visibility. Deputy Minister Lin emphasized that the humanities and social sciences research are special in nature and research outcomes

in Chinese are very useful for other researchers. He hoped that through this symposium it is possible to gather suggestions from the publishing industry to help bring about a consensus on how to push forward the idea of making scholarly resources open to the public in the near future.

During NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng’s remarks, she echoed what Deputy Minister Lin said. She explained that the Taiwan Citation Index - Humanities and Social Sciences (TCI-HSS) was co-created by NCL and the Ministry of Science and Technology’s Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. Through creating a database of scholarly works, constructing metadata records for journals, dissertations and books, and their citations, the number of times a journal article, a dissertation, a book, or a book chapter have been cited could be revealed. The TCI-HSS database can then generate so-called “5-year impact factor.” This could serve as objective reference data for the Ministry of Science and Technology in conducting journal ratings, and for the Ministry of Education in doing scholarly evaluations for colleges and universities. NCL is the legal depository for publications in Taiwan and shoulders the responsibility of acquiring, organizing, and preserving publications in Taiwan. The NCL has created several primary databases for different kinds of deposited materials and provide for use. Such endeavors undoubtedly are helpful to strengthen scholarly communications. Furthermore, NCL’s databases are reliable databases constructed by national government agencies. They provide publishers a guarantee of archiving and preservation. This means that whatever changes might happen in the management of private companies, the materials deposited will not be lost or become inaccessible.



NCL Director-General Tseng gives remarks.

Director Ming-sho Ho from the Ministry of Science and Technology's Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences gave a lecture on how to apply for a subsidy for the editing cost of a journal, including qualifications, scopes of subsidies, 2021 subsidies, e-dissemination of scholarly journals, and so forth. Next, the Deputy Director of the Institute Ye-ning Chen and her colleague jointly explained the ratings methodology for journals in the humanities and social sciences, including the ratings schedule, ratings results, recent development history of the ratings methodology, the planned schedule for rating of each discipline, qualifications for application to be included in the rating, rating indicators, and rating board meetings, etc.

NCL's Knowledge Services Division Director Yi-jung Li introduced NCL efforts to encourage journal publishers to grant open access for their publications. She also explained about the goodness of open access policy from publishers, including the effects on journals visibility. Her colleague followed and explained the difference in use rates of journals that had and had not been granted for public access. She introduced that in the search results on the Directory to Taiwan Periodicals database, a journal's 'impact factor' can be displayed. In the Taiwan Periodical Literature database, search results can show how many times a journal has been cited by different kinds of scholarly works. Such data can be used to analyze the effectiveness of increasing knowledge dissemination and a journal's influence, and the 'impact factor' could become higher as a result of granting open access from its publisher.

A forum discussion was conducted after the above presentations. Four scholars were invited to discuss on issues concerning open access. They all have positive support for the idea to promote open access for academic journals. On the other hand, they also understand that publishers are facing a dilemma between providing open access and financial problem. It is understandable that compilation, editorial works, press, etc. are all need monetary support. It was concluded that government agencies and representatives from journal publishing industry

should have a thorough in-depth discussion on how to resolving practical problems as soon as possible so as to realize the very favorable open access of more academic journals.

Representatives from more than 150 public and private journal publishing institutions attended this symposium. Many of them actively participated in the QA session, and have received responses from the forum discussants. This symposium greatly helped the publishers to learn about the NCL Taiwan Periodical Literature Database and the important information and resources this database could provide. In addition, they also have received very informative information regarding how much the primary databases the NCL constructed mean to the preservation and promotion of Taiwan scholarly assets, need not to mention its contribution toward academic researches. The elaboration about new journal rating and subsidy policies by the Ministry of Science and Technology was also important information for journal publishers. It was indeed an inspirational and fruitful symposium for all.



Attendees of the symposium are actively engaged in the discussion.



Ministry of Science and Technology Department of Humanities and Social Science Head Ming-jen Lin and scholars from four different disciplines who are publication editors in their fields engage in a Q&A session.