

■ Dr. Klaus Werner, Head of the Philological Library at the Free University of Berlin in Germany, Talked Online on “From a Place of Learning to a Co-working Space”

On the afternoon of May 14, 2021, National Central Library and the Goethe-Institute Taipei co-hosted an international lecture online by an expert in library and information science, Dr. Klaus Ulrich Werner, Head of the Philological Library at the Free University of Berlin in Germany. The topic of his presentation was “From Place of Learning to a Co-working Space.” The lecture was the first international lecture by the head of a library that NCL has put on this year. Inviting librarians from renowned libraries throughout the world to share their successful experiences is one of the NCL’s important events. The aim is to bring in advanced ideas and experiences in library and information science from overseas to benefit Taiwan’s librarians, as well as give them an opportunity to interact with colleagues from overseas.

Director-General Tseng stated that NCL was very honored to have this chance to work with the Goethe-Institute Taipei. Despite challenges from the pandemic, NCL is still actively promoting scholarly exchange in international library and information science. This would not be stopped because of the global pandemic. This time, an online meeting platform was used, and a six-hour time difference between Taiwan and Germany has been taken into consideration in scheduling the activity time, to allow librarians in Taiwan the opportunity to hear Dr. Werner talk about the needs for and actual utilization of “co-working space” in German libraries.

NCL Director-General Tseng mentioned in her remarks that about six years ago in the National Central Library Bulletin, she published an article “Libraries in the Transition Era: New Vision, New Space, New Services and New Experience,” wherein she explored issues such as: How should the library and information science world respond to new ideas of a flipped world, flipped education, and flipped learning? Are libraries in Taiwan keeping up with such trends? In facing ever changes of the information age, do librarians also feel and sense this

change? Can they accommodate with these trends? Are they willing to accept change? These are very important issues. In recent years, the typical image of library as a place for learning has significantly changed. Various types of libraries—including national libraries, art libraries, and even public libraries—are now thinking to innovate new spaces to meet the different needs of various patron types. In addition to the traditional “quiet learning spaces” and discussion areas, in recent years libraries have begun to provide professional classrooms to some work groups, have held “actual workshops” and “co-working spaces,” and provided multipurpose rooms.



NCL Director-General Tseng gives opening remarks.

During his lecture, Dr. Werner shared penetrating insights as he explored the following three issues: 1. The uniqueness of libraries functioning as places of learning; 2. Differences between libraries and business-type shared workspace; 3. Unique spaces allowing patrons to have their own innovative creation independently in libraries. Even more noteworthy, in an effort to attract young patrons, libraries in Germany will have as their goal “very cool” in designing and creating new space. Designing co-working space needs to be done flexibly in order to achieve the “coolness” factor. He also mentioned that librarians have implemented mobile service management and have become media educators for patrons.



As Dr. Werner speaks, Günter Whittome translates.

There were more than sixty colleagues from the library and information science and education fields participated in this online lecture. During the final Q&A session, Dr. Werner gave detailed answers to questions from the Department of Architecture, Tung-hai University and Ming-chuan University Library. It was a perfect ending to this online lecture.

■ National Central Library and Netherlands Office Taipei Held 2021 “Dutch Online Children’s Film Festival”

The National Central Library and Netherlands Office Taipei, Taiwan, Public Television Service and the Dutch School Taipei, decided to jointly hold the 2021 “Dutch Online Children’s Film Festival” in 10 days between June 11 to June 20, which was started sometime before the Dragon Boat Festival. The purpose of this event is to give children an opportunity to learn about important things through fun activity while classes were suspended.

NCL Director-General Tseng firstly thanked Representative Guido Tielman of the Netherlands Office Taipei for following up, during the difficult period of the pandemic, on the great reading pageant that was the December 2020 Taiwan Reading Festival, under the joint effort of the different countries’ offices in Taiwan with the NCL which included Netherlands, the “World Reading Symphony” reading promotion activities had been successfully carried out, and this “Dutch Online Children’s Film Festival” is another collaboration by two parties. It is indeed a meaningful, free online activity.

The Netherlands Office Taipei invested in an agreement with AV-Jet to allow 100 IPs from different families watching the selected four movies simultaneously online. It was believed that parents and their children could enjoy wonderful moment and learn together watching the inspirational movies. The four films were “Fidgety Bram,” “Chubby Drums,” “Romy’s Salon,” and “Dolfje Weerwolfe.”

Director-General Tseng pointed out that, according to United Nations report, Dutch children are ranked happiest in the world, enjoying the highest scores for quality of life, health and happiness. The Dutch government and private sector have made many great films for children. Their contents are of great creativities, and some are to introduce technological breakthroughs. Their efforts also include adopting all types of media and presentation forms. The great diversity of topics covered are also very impressive.

In addition to the online screenings, the National Central Library also held an online writing activity “Write about What You Learnt and Win a Lottery Prize”, welcoming adults and children to submit compositions about what they have learned from the films. Also, in order to allow domestic and foreign readers to expand their international reading horizons and gain a deep understanding of the meaning of the four films, the National Central Library invited well-known writer on parent-child education Dr. Wei-wen Li, to serve as the reading guide ambassador of this film festival and write film reviews. Dr. Li is the author of books such as “Life Education from Films.” We believe that, through the direction of teachers with multiple wide perspectives, such as experts with international outlooks on nature conservation and parent-child relations etc., whether adults or children, when watching these selected videos, they will definitely appreciate the deep connotations and reflections of the films. We believe that, in watching these four films, readers of all ages would have pleasure of cozy, steady reading during their stay at home.