

digital research, the decline of a core foundation in scholarly talent in Chinese studies, a lack of research in humanities research and educational funding, weak influence from professional scholarly groups, disparity between professionals' education and actual job duties, the international status of Taiwan's Chinese studies, too much focus on same research topics in disciplines, the break off of long-term exchanges between associations, a lack of ability for doing cross-disciplinary research, and even the problem of commercialization and open access to scholarly resources.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng also pointed out that for many years, NCL has stood firmly in its belief that scholarship is public property. Consequently, in addition to digitizing ancient books and opened the associated databases for use, over the last ten years NCL has been promoting useful high-quality resources through 'Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies.' Through the 37 Centers in collaborating libraries overseas, as well as a few hundreds of exchange partners in eighty countries, it has been making endeavors to promote Taiwan's Chinese studies and Taiwan scholars' research outcomes to countries in the world. On the other hand, the NCL has been providing partner institutions with its primary databases, in addition, subscribing good-quality and important commercial databases and provided for use. The Library also expanded the service scope and exercising a foreign scholars grant program to effectively facilitate researches and exchanges for foreign scholars.

Through the researches and reminders presented in the forum, it is believed that all attendees and the librarians are inspired in some way, and have learned about important issues that deserve more attention. The library communities, the academia circles, and the government are expected to have the passion and commitment for working together firmly for a promising future of Taiwan Sinology researches.



A group photo of important guests and scholars at the closing ceremony.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ Providence University Luking Library's Summer Creative Online Reading Camp Acclaimed for Integrating SDGs

Providence University Luking Library and Literacy Center for Creative Writing and Course Development co-organize a summer reading camp. Because of the impact of the epidemic, this year it was changed to online activity, and complied with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with themes in use of water resources and land and sea environmental problems. Courses such as reading, writing, acting and creative work allowed elementary students to apply knowledge to their daily life, do their best for the earth, become a habitual reader, be inspired of creativity and critical thinking, besides, learn about expressive skills. The students all said they are much benefited from the camp.

This is the seventh year that this Providence University Summer Reading Camp are held, and it was planned as an overnight activity, allowing children from remote villages to attend. With innovative and diversified approaches for children to learn, combined with hands on and field trip experiences, the activity was positively valued and has won support from elementary school teachers, students and parents.

Providence University Luking Library and Literacy Center for Creative Writing and Course Development Director Ming-rou Chen said that this year's theme "2021 Visitors (*lai-ke*) Water Summer

Creative Reading Camp” adopted the homophonic “Like water.” The teachers and students in mentoring all tried to exercise their expertise to guide children to learn about water resources and environmental sustainability and other topics in reading and creation courses, and, through the reading activities, they were much inspired in imagination and interest!

The Providence team shared the abundant resources of the Luking Library with lively and diversified course. The well-known children literature writer Lin Shi Ren was invited to share his picture books, wishing to trigger the students’ imaginations with practical exercises. To enhance learning efficiency, Providence University students also adapted stories from picture books and recorded them as audio-books, making reading activity more fun and more friendly for children. Stories concerning water resources were chosen from publications in other countries in the world to use in the activities. The utmost goal is to advance the children’s environmental education and international outlook in one hand, and to cultivate team spirit and spoken articulacy on the other.

■ Find a Job While Borrowing Books! Taichung City Government Provides Employment Services in Conjunction with Libraries

According to statistics from the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Taichung City Government, in 2020, the total number of citizen borrowers from the city’s libraries reached 3.87 million, among whom young people with good financial status and aged 35 to 44 had the highest borrowing rate. To expand services to more citizens, the Labor Affairs Bureau of Taichung City and the Cultural Affairs Bureau libraries work together to provide employment and referral service information when citizens borrow books.

In order to make it easier for citizens to obtain employment service information, Taichung City Government is actively cooperating with the Cultural Affairs Bureau’s Taichung Public Library and 45 branch libraries to provide employment newsletters, job-seeker registration forms and other information in each district branch library. Job-seekers with employment needs fill out the job-seeker registration

form, and with the library’s assistance, are immediately referred to employment services staff. The establishment of such a robust employment service network can facilitate communication and bridge job seekers and employers.

Taichung City Employment Services Office stated that in order to make it easier for the public to obtain employment service information, from this year they have initiated the job-seeking service program “Local Neighborhood Employment Pillars,” a program that provides job information and referral services at neighborhood offices, community development associations, colleges and universities, etc. Taichung Public Library actively involved in the related service, tremendously helps women, retired middle-aged people or seniors, and new graduates to find jobs. Whoever goes to the library to borrow books or study will be benefited more because they are more likely to obtain and make use of employment service information.

■ Hualien Public Library and E-Book Platform Work Hand in Hand: More than 10,000 Books Can Be Borrowed Online

Hualien Public Library is cooperating with the iRead eBooks platform. Since September 8, the platform has been launched online, available for the publics to utilize. Holders of Reader’s Card for public libraries in Hualien County can borrow up to five volumes using their card. The loan period is 14 days.

Cultural Affairs Bureau of Hualien announced that in the iRead eBooks platform, the topics cover 17 categories, including business and management, financial literature, novels, design, art and life illustrations and texts, comics, popular science, humanities, social sciences, parent-child, children’s books, languages, computers, etc. There are hundreds of e-books available for each category. In addition, there are nearly 4,000 reference books for exams, which are very helpful to candidates for exams in all categories. There are more than 28,000 e-books. They are indeed a treasure trove for acquiring knowledge.

Cultural Affairs Bureau, Hualien emphasized that citizens who have not yet applied for a Reading

Card can use the online verification service. Once their application has been approved, their Reading Card would allow them to access to all public libraries in the county. No further physical card is necessary. Users can borrow printed books in person with his/ her Taiwan Citizen's ID card or health insurance card.

■ Lending Not Only Books, but Also Musical Instruments! 26 Types of Musical Instrument Available for Loan from the Hsu Shih Music Library

From Tainan City's Hsu Shih Music Library you can borrow not only books but also musical instruments! At the library, the 26 types of musical instrument are available for the public to borrow for free. Citizens can practice in the museum, or borrowed and used at home.

The 26 instruments that can be borrowed include electric pianos, electric guitars, electric basses, bongos, cajóns, congas, pandeiros, violas, violins, ukuleles, mandolins, sand bells, triangle musical instrument, etc. Yu-chen Hung, director of Tainan Public Library, expressed the hope that music beginning learners might need to try and explore more before becoming stuck with a definite kind of musical instrument. They are welcome to use the library resources.

Since its opening in 2018, Hsu Shih Music Library has not only provided books loaning services, but also organized diversified activities as lectures on music, workshops, film viewing, and paintings exhibitions, etc. This free musical instrument borrowing service is a brand-new service from this year. The library also urged people to donate second-hand or unused musical instruments that are still in good condition so as to enhance the musical instruments collection.



National Central Library Newsletter

Publisher: Shu-hsien Tseng
National Central Library
Republic of China (Taiwan)

English Editors: Trever McKay, Mark Rawson

Editors: Shu-fen Hung, Shiou-ian Hsu

First Issue: April 1969

This newsletter is published quarterly.

It is now available on the National Central Library website at:

https://enwww.ncl.edu.tw/periodicallist_14.html



ISSN 0034-5016



GPN2005800011