

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ Reading Should Not Be Paused! Kinmen's First 24-Hour Book Kiosk Set up at Jinsha Station

Kinmen County Public Library has experienced an increase in the actual number of books borrowing year over year. The frequency of books borrowing has also increased. In an effort to make reading services even more convenient, in December 2021 Kinmen County government held a news conference announcing an end to the restriction on number of books that can be borrowed, as well as the installation of a 24-hour self-service automated book kiosk where patrons can borrow and return books. This first-of-its-kind kiosk is now in operation.

Kinmen County Magistrate Cheng-wu Yang stated that, in an effort to promote the idea that reading should not be paused, the county is providing reading services in a novel way to make reading more convenient, and has extended library service hours, besides, has also broadened its service scope. This will allow the public to conveniently access library resources. Therefore, a 24-hour fully automated book kiosk was installed in the outer corridor on the first floor of the Jinsha Station. The book kiosk can hold up to 400 books, which could be checked out by using the local county library card, any public library card, one's government ID card, or the mobile library card with the Kinmen County Library app.

Books in the book kiosk are centered on topics such as children raising, recipes, medicine and health, as well as books for children and youth. This will allow patrons to access to the books without being constrained by operation hours of the physical library. People can borrow or return books at any time in any day, thus can better enjoy reading. The book kiosk has a 360° display case so users can see which books they might like to borrow, then enter the slot number of the book. Borrowing a book is just easy and quick!

■ Creating a Reading City! Hsinchu City's Largest Library, the Longshan Branch, Opened in December 2021

Hsinchu City's largest branch library opened for use on December 1, 2021. Located in the Longshan

office building on the 2nd to 4th floors, the branch library has great number of children's books and a parent-children reading area, as well as new books and a magazine displaying area on the 2nd floor; on the 3rd floor is the audiovisual reading area, a study room, and a discussion area; on the 4th floor is the general open shelves area. The entire library's shelving space can hold nearly 60,000 books and it provides reading materials for each age group. In the staff area, there is a smart book management system, an automatic book lending machine, and a management system allowing sit and search—all of which make reading services much more efficient. The total floor area of this branch library counted as many as 21,000 square feet. Through clear lines and see-through and smooth wooden shelves design, and green décor on the ceilings, the branch library is an aesthetically pleasant reading forest. Hsinchu's mayor stated, the budget Hsinchu City spends on purchasing books and the number of books purchased doubles every two years. The budget jumped from NT\$ 7.9 million to 15 million. The number of books purchased also increased from 20,000 to 50,000, including audiovisual materials, e-books, databases, etc. The city is earnest in its desire to create a reading city.

The officer of Cultural Affairs Bureau stated that starting in 2019 Hsinchu City was acknowledged by the National Central Library as Overall Reading Comprehension Outstanding Performance City in the past three consecutive years. It also continues to be the reigning champion of the most number of volumes borrowed by the public in a non-special municipality in the Annual Report on Reading Conditions and Public Reading Engagement in Taiwan. It is recognized as the city that with people love to read the most in Taiwan. After Mr. Chih-chien Lin became mayor of Hsinchu, he not only added to the library vast volumes, established the branch library in Hsinchu, but also actively planned to upgrade library facilities, patiently and well managed to slowly establishing a library information park in General Village, besides, created a study room in Hsimen. He is also enthusiastically setting up necessary library facilities, for example, at the main library, has set up a children's exploration library, and has set up a Hakka-themed library in Guantung, as well as an international exhibition and speech center. All such endeavors are for fulfilling the goal of encouraging reading for all ages.



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



9 770034 501002

GPN2005800011