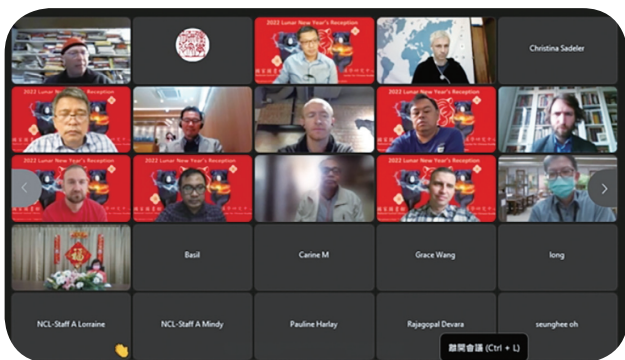


2022 on-line reception was held by Chinese Center for Studies (CCS) for the first time, therefore, as the host, we prepared “Lucky Words for the Year of Tiger” in both Chinese and English to wish everybody lots of luck and presented our sincerity with tiger-shaped props. In return, scholar from Japan sang a song, “Gōngxǐ Fācái”, in Mandarin; scholar from Philippine read and introduced a Spanish poem to us! Another two scholars came after to share their personal extraordinary experience in Taiwan’s daily life while they’ve been living here for more than two years.

The Taiwanese song “Liúlàng dào Dànshuǐ”, is also called “Odyssey”, was led by CCS to teach visiting scholars the chorus part to show how much we cherish every opportunity when we get together!



NCL Director-General Tseng gives opening remarks.



Screen Shot of participants in this on-line Lunar New Year Reception.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ National Taiwan Library Updates its Accessible Reading Resources System Creating a Library Friendly to All

In order to provide better accessibility for using library resources, in 2022 National Taiwan Library

upgraded its “Accessible Reading Resources Integrated Search System,” so that users with all kinds of physical disabilities, including those visually impaired, can enjoy reading. The library is grateful to the businesses for their sponsor in the “Collaborative Program of Authorization on Behalf of the Public Good,” contributing to the sustainable development of collection resources.

For the purpose to encourage use of nearby resources and to ensure equal opportunity in access of information, National Taiwan Library (NTL) has long been devoted to services for the visually impaired. In 2011, the Ministry of Education designated the library as a special library that should provide services for the visually impaired users, and in the following year, the NTL established the “Integrated Search System of Electronic Resources for the Visually Impaired.” Through collecting, purchasing and republishing of content as well as interdisciplinary collaboration with experts and organizations, this system is now possible to help fulfilling the Library’s mission.

National Taiwan Library has explained that in facing of rapidly changing technology, the library is constantly upgrading and improving accessible digital mediums. Beginning this year, the system has been upgraded as the “Accessible Reading Resources Integrated Search System,” to meet the needs of users with different disabilities. This system has made National Taiwan Library a forerunner in Taiwan in terms of providing accessible resources for users with different disabilities. By using braille, audio recordings, digitalization, image descriptions, added sign language, and other digitalization methods of adapted content, readers with visual impairments, learning disabilities, deafness or other cognition problems can have access to reading materials and thereby enjoy the fundamental human right of acquiring knowledge.

■ Trial Operation of the Smart Spaces Management System: Chiayi City Culture Bureau Library Online Seat Reservations

Starting on February 18th, The Chiayi City Government’s Culture Bureau began a one-month trial operation of the smart space management system in order to improve the efficiency of use of the library’s general reading room. It is the first public library in

the Yunlin and Chiayi region to introduce a smart space management system for library reading spaces. It provides seat reservations via computer or phone and allows users to select seats so that users can know about available seats and do reservation therefore can enjoy convenience in finding for seat.

The Culture Bureau stated that during weekends and Entrance Examination seasons, there are large numbers of students who study in the library and seats in the two general reading rooms are mostly occupied, with some people leaving things to hold their places. The smart space management system automatically frees seats that have been occupied by a reader for over 60 minutes so that the next reader can register to use the seat. Readers can also use computers or smartphones to see the number of free seats in the reading room in real time and if all seats are occupied, the system also offers waiting list registration.

■ The Pingtung County Library Promotes Smart Reading: Personalized Book Lists

To further enhance book borrowing services after providing county-wide book returns, cross-

branch reservations and pick-up, in March of this year, the Pingtung County Library Main Branch began offering smart reading recommendation services, creating personalized reading lists based on reader preferences for even more convenient and diverse selection of reading materials.

The Cultural Affairs Department of the Pingtung County Government stated that since the opening of the main branch library over a year ago, they have been continuing to enhance their collection by adding more new books to satisfy the needs of readers of all ages. Last year, they added 60,000 new books to their collection and their current collection has over 400,000 books. According to 2021 Pingtung public library statistics data, readers between 25 and 55 make up 50% of all readers. In consideration to help busy readers save time in selecting books, this library is the first library in the country that offers the smart reading recommendation services. The system utilizes big data technology to analyze readers' age and borrowing records, recommending books according to readers' preference and providing reading lists of books well borrowed by readers of similar preference profiles, thereby expanding users' reading horizons.



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