

public library reader borrowing data was collected and organized for statistical analysis to facilitate an understanding of the annual reading habits and interests of the nation, and actively assist libraries and publishing houses across the country to grasp readers' reading needs.

Chinese Studies Symposium

■ The Center for Chinese Studies Holds Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies Lectures

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) promotes academic exchanges in order to increase interaction between the local and overseas Chinese Studies communities. To this end, the CCS established the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, which every year assists 20 overseas scholars in coming to Taiwan to conduct research for periods of between 1 to 6 months. Besides hosting Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies from time to time at which these scholars can present the fruits of the research, the center also often invites renowned scholars from around the world to visit and deliver lectures. Between January and March, 2023, 4 scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On February 14th, 2023, Dr. Craig A. Smith, Senior Lecturer of Asia Institute, University of Melbourne, Australia, gave the lecture on “Chinese Asianism (1924-1937) before World War II and Japan’s Role within it.” At the same day, Kevin Kind, PhD candidate, Johns Hopkins University, USA, gave the lecture on “Protecting the Muslim Children: Smallpox Epidemics, Chinese Medicine, and Vaccination Colonialism in Late Qing Turpan, 1880-1911.”

On March 29th, 2023, Prof. Alan Baumler, Professor of History, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, USA, gave the lecture on “Aviation to Save the Nation: Importing Technology and Cultivating Talent in Republican China.” At the same day, Prof. An Chansoon, Associate Professor of Department of Chinese Language & Literature, Kyungpook National University, Korea, gave the lecture on “Korea Confucian Toegye Lee-Hwang’s

View on Literature: Mainly In Comparison with Zhu Xi.”

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ Taipei Public Library “Exhibition of Results of Collecting Old Photos” Carves out Taipei’s Eras

Throughout the more than one hundred years since Taipei was founded, it has weathered the Ch’ing Dynasty, the Japanese occupation period, and the Republic of China Period, adding the distinctive humanistic scenery and customs of various eras to Taipei City. Taipei Public Library selected 100 images and held the “Exhibition of Results of Collecting Old Photos” from February 9th to February 23rd, 2023, at the Taipei City Archives: Shuxin Hall. Most of the photos on display were of the daily life of Taipei citizens living in the city limits, and a small number of photos collected by foreign tourists visiting Taipei City for a short stay or sightseeing, truly presenting the human customs or natural landscape of Taipei at the time. The exhibits covered transportation infrastructure, such as various stations and railway streetscapes, so that the public could recall the pre-“undergrounding” evolution of Taiwan Railway stations and railway streetscapes, such as the interesting and appealing Shilin Railway Station and the Renaissance-style Taipei Main Station of yesteryear. Once the most prosperous goods distribution center in Taipei, Dadaocheng Dihua Street, and—before its demolition, Jiancheng Circle Night Market—famous for their endless streams of people and their snacks, as well as commemorative photos of the early exteriors of military dependents’ villages, landmark buildings, weddings and funerals, etc. , conveyed particularly effectively the vicissitudes of life in Taipei City.

The exhibition also provided books related to the development of Taipei City for the public to read on the spot. Their content included historical and cultural assets related to the past development of Taipei City. Old photos and images on books can be used to recall the traces of history engraved on Taipei City, enabling the recollection of the former Taipei City through each photo.

■ “The Power of Script, the Weight of Writing:” The National Library of Public Information Celebrates Its Centennial

Founded in 1923, the National Library of Public Information is a national public library of physical and digital materials collected under one roof, and one of the earliest public libraries in Taiwan. 2023 is the hundredth year since the library was founded, and it also happens to be the first year of the Taipei International Book Fair’s post-pandemic return, during the Spring Festival. With “Fantasy Library: The Power of Script, the Weight of Writing” as its central axis, it created a large, three-dimensional book exhibition space accompanied by displays of digital and physical books.

The National Library of Public Information specially selected the first day of the book fair to invite to the exhibition area primary school students from Kaikuang Elementary School, Gongguan Township, Miaoli County, to celebrate the centennial, inviting them to experience traditional books for themselves after the magnificent transformation of the library. There were physical and digital displays, which can increase the breadth and depth of reading, and render close-to-hand knowledge no longer distant.

Chung-Chin Lai, acting director of the National Library of Public Information, said that the habit of reading continuously changes, and the appearance of the library must also allow the public to advance in both seeking and using books. The rental of e-books overcomes the limitations of distance and enables yet more people to be served. The library’s application of digitization makes seeking and borrowing books more convenient, turning reading into a source of fun and enjoyment.

■ The Chiayi County Public Library Recently Reopened

The Chiayi County Public Library recently reopened with a completely new appearance, offering county residents a top-notch space for relaxation, education, and daily life. Following a 10-month renovation of its reading environment starting in July 2022, the library celebrated its grand reopening on May 28 this year. Distinguished guests, including Chiayi County Magistrate Chang-liang Weng and Bao-yue Yen, Deputy Director-General of the Lifelong Education Department, Ministry of Education, participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to signify the library’s revival, warmly welcoming Chiayi County residents.

“We hope that every reader who opens a book will find the sunshine in their hearts!” Chang-liang Weng introduced the library’s fresh logo design, which symbolizes the desire for readers to fully utilize the library’s resources and expand the value of public libraries in a welcoming atmosphere. The county government aims to promote the public library as a diverse and inclusive learning platform for people of all ages, ultimately enhancing the reading capabilities of the entire community.

Additionally, on the opening day, the library hosted an event to commend outstanding achievements in reading, featuring a variety of activities such as community arts and cultural exhibitions, lively performances by young individuals, and displays showcasing lifelong learning accomplishments from the community university. These diverse events emphasize the library’s role as a hub for lifelong learning and its commitment to serving the community by fostering a culture of reading and continuous education.