

■ Accessibility Guidelines for Public Libraries



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Libraries have long followed basic principles in providing services to meet the needs of readers with reduced mobility or partial disabilities. With rapid developments and changes in society, however, libraries are facing many new challenges. In response to the diversification of service groups and the rise of various online service resources, libraries—in facing groups with limited mobility, visually impaired and hearing-impaired readers, readers with dyslexia, gender diversity and other groups, and even in the provision of online resources—must take into consideration the needs and characteristics of different groups to improve the planning of various services and make the provision of library services equal and accessible.

Chinese Studies Symposium

■ Interviews with International Sinologist Film Festival and Forum: Top Sinologists All in One Place

In 2021 and 2022, National Sun Yat-sen University's College of Liberal Arts and the National Central Library cohosted a benchmark project from the Ministry of Education called "The Global Sinology Forum at NSYSU," which was a series of events under "Interviews with International Sinologists." On September 8, 2023, a film festival was held in the National Central Library's international meeting hall, showing the amazing results of this two-year project. A total of 22 highly influential sinologists and scholars in the humanities were invited to respond to the changing environment and the shock of the pandemic

for the project. Specifically, they were asked to be interviewed with video and audio recording to discuss the quintessence of their cross-disciplinary research. Content included the development of their thoughts, research career, publications, views on Chinese studies, experience researching locally and overseas, and even their experiences living in a different culture. The results of this project represent something that transcends time and space, as well as generations!

What was amazing was so many heavy hitters in the Chinese studies world were all together at the National Central Library discussing "An Age of Crisis and the Response of Chinese Studies." They were all pondering how the Chinese studies community gains a footing in the modern age and how the trend of cross-culturalism can open a new path forward in the future.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng said in her opening remarks: since NCL's Center for Chinese Studies was founded in 1981, apart from the standard publications of Chinese Studies and Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies, as well as purchasing and acquiring Chinese studies materials from Taiwan and abroad, it has also expended no little effort in creating a scholarly exchange service platform and promoting "grants for foreign scholars to conduct research on Chinese studies in Taiwan." During the showing of the film, there were several professors present (including Ann Heylen, Masayuki Sato, Kai Marchal, and Olga Gorodetskaya) who were recipients of this research grant, as was Jana Rošker from the University of Ljubljana who came to Taiwan specifically to attend the viewing. This shows that for the last 40 years the Center for Chinese Studies has not only done much for traditional Chinese studies but has also facilitated exchange with international sinologists. The Center also extends a sincere welcome to its old friends when they come back to the National Central Library to reminisce.

Dean Shi-San Lai stated in his remarks that working on this benchmark project by the Ministry of Education is focused on making a recorded interview of the following: "local heavyweight scholars in Taiwan," "outstanding sinologist that have put down roots in Taiwan and have made important contributions," and "foreign sinologist who live overseas but have a close relationship with Taiwan."

In regard to the project, the personality traits, the quality of the people, and the cultural quality accumulated from scholarship in the humanities are the longest lasting soft and hard power. Compared to Chinese studies in mainland China, the “both local and international intercultural Chinese studies” developed in Taiwan is an important and self-evident bridge that steadies cross-strait interaction, as well as a critical asset in allowing Taiwan to step out and become the new Athens of Chinese culture. It is possible that it is also a means of safeguarding Taiwan’s subjectivity and is a life asset worth continually reevaluating and updating. The completion of this stage of the project owes our gratitude to those scholars who were interviewed and who did the interviews. I would like to thank everyone for leaving this scholarly record of “the past perhaps isn’t just smoke” on behalf of intercultural and international Chinese studies.

The first video played was the interview of researcher Fabian Heubel. Then, those present shared their thoughts on “An Age of Crisis and the Response of Chinese Studies” based on their own research field. Some looked at it from the angle of Daoist philosophy and European Chinese studies, Neo-Confucianism gradually being ignored and thus bringing about dialog on an intercultural crisis, and the cross-strait orientation’s effect on Chinese studies in the future. Lastly, NSYSU Center for the Humanities Director Mark McConaghy discussed his thoughts on symbiosis: whether it is the mutual support of each other’s research fields, or a cross-disciplinary approach, or cross-cultural collaboration—all are going in the direction of a future symbiosis for Chinese studies.



Scholars visiting the streets and alleys of Dadaocheng stories.

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ Smart Energy-Saving Library Appears in Taichung Shangfeng Library Upgrades to Net-zero Demonstration Site

In order to promote Taichung’s energy transformation and develop a smart, energy-saving life, Taichung City Government has joined hands with the Shangfeng library to build the country’s first smart, energy-saving library to combine “energy saving, energy storage, and energy creation.” Taichung City Government Economic Development Bureau September 19, 2023 held the “Energy Saving and Sustainability in Taichung, Smart Grid Takes Advantage of Maple Energy-Saving Results Press Conference.”

The Shangfeng library, representatives of the electricity-saving consultancy industry, and businesses involved in public welfare electricity-saving were invited to collaborate in starting to use the demonstration site and announcing the outstanding results of the 2022-2023 electricity-saving consultancy plan. The total annual energy savings generated by the plan are as high as five million kilowatt-hours, equivalent to annual electricity for more than 1,300 households and carbon emissions reductions of up to 2,400 metric tons per year.

The Shangfeng library is the first municipal library to adopt the theme of environmental education. It has won recognition with the domestic Yuan-Ye Award, the 2019 National Excellence in Construction Award for Best Planning and Design—Excellence Award and the 2023 US Muse Design Awards—Silver Award.

■ Linkou Children’s Library Open for Business from August 16

Lee Ko-Yung Memorial Library Linkou started construction in August 2020 to create New Taipei’s first exclusive reading space for children. The main building has two floors, with four themed children’s reading areas, a dynamic reading space on the first floor, and a sunken learning base as a story and parent-child interaction space connected to the outdoor sunlit reading room, allowing reading