

5. Multidisciplinary Learning Booklist 2023

ISBN 9789576787447

6. Multicultural Booklist 2023

ISBN 9789576787485

7. English Learning Booklist 2023

ISBN 9789576787508

The Regional Resource Centers house book collections encompassing seven main themes: Scientific and Technological Innovation, Regional Revitalization, LOHAS and Environmental Protection, Humanities and the Arts, Multidisciplinary Learning, Multicultural and English Learning. The National Central Library invites scholars and experts from relevant backgrounds to organize a book selection committee to select the highest quality reading resources in each area. The Regional Resource Centers rely on the lists they produce as the basis for replenishing their collections, which increases the popularity of reading. These seven-theme series booklists are published by the NCL in December 2023.

Chinese Studies Symposium

■ **New Perspectives on Chinese Studies Texts—National Central Library Travels to Latvia, Holding an Academic Conference to Promote International Cooperation**

In order to promote international academic exchange and highlight Taiwan's emphasis on cross-cultural dialogue and research achievements stemming from the global dissemination of Chinese texts, National Central Library worked with the National Library of Latvia to co-organize the "Conference on International Travels of Chinese Text: New Approaches and Global Perspectives of Chinese Textual Culture" international academic conference and themed book exhibition at the Baltic Research Centre for East Asian Studies of the National Library of Latvia from November 10th to 11th, 2023, where NCL also organized a "Taiwan Chinese Studies Lecture Series."

NCL has a deep collaborative partnership with the National Library of Latvia. In 2013, NCL signed an international exchange and cooperation agreement with the library, establishing a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) located within the library.

In 2015, NCL and the National Library of Latvia co-organized the "Imprints of Civilization" ancient documents exhibition. In 2016, National Library of Latvia Director Andris Vilks was invited to Taiwan, where he shared his valuable experience of establishing a new green energy building for the library. In the years since, library employees and the director of the library's research center have been successively invited or offered grants to come to Taiwan to give lectures or conduct Chinese Studies research. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the two libraries continued to organize "Taiwan Chinese Studies Lectures" online, clearly demonstrating the frequent and close cultural exchange between the two countries. During this trip, Director-General Tseng once again led a team of colleagues to visit the National Library of Latvia and co-organize an international conference, continuing to take part in cross-national cultural collaboration and displaying the deep friendship between the two nations as they continue to expand their modes of collaboration.



National Library of Latvia Architecture and Cultural Consultant Dr. Janis Dripe opens the events with a welcome speech.

Director-General Tseng expressed that Taiwan's National Central Library and the National Library of Latvia have long maintained an excellent collaborative relationship through co-organizing conferences, exhibitions, lectures, academic exchange, and book exchanges and she hopes that in the future, the two libraries can partake in even more exchange around the topics of cultural preservation, digital technology, and information transmission, in order to facilitate greater cultural understanding between the people of both countries. Director-General Tseng is sure that this event will not only help the academic community in Europe to gain understanding about the development of research on Confucianism in Taiwan, it will also enable participants to fully experience Taiwan's diverse and rich academic resources and trends in Chinese Studies research.

The title of this conference, “Conference on International Travels of Chinese Text,” originates from the influx of various forms of knowledge from around the world into China over several centuries, which resulted in the emergence of complex new cultural phenomena. Similarly, Chinese culture has also spread throughout the world through a variety of channels. For example, a Song Dynasty emperor once presented the Korean royal family of the Goryeo Dynasty with the “Nine Classics” and the “*Taiping Yulan*” (“Imperial Readings of the Taiping Era”); Jesuit missionary Jean-Francoise Foucquet (1665-1741) brought Chinese books into France; Dunhuang manuscripts scattered across many countries during the 20th century, and so on. These Chinese texts which spread overseas strengthened the momentum of cultural exchange and at the same time deepened scholarly understanding. Furthermore, during periods when China nearly cut off all contact with the outside world, such as during the Cultural Revolution, these circulated texts became the basis for research on Chinese civilization throughout the world. Today, as a vast number of digitization projects are being promoted worldwide, the content of these texts which had been stored in collections scattered across the world are now widely accessible, and can also be returned to their cultural homelands in a virtual manner.



Director-General Tseng makes a speech at the international “Conference on International Travels of Chinese Text.”

The conference invited Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies collaborative partners from 10 countries in Europe, as well as Professor Chu Ping-tzu of Taiwan’s National Tsing Hua University and Professor Shu Wei-ping of Taiwan’s Tamkang University to present at the conference. In addition, renowned Chinese Studies scholar Professor Hilde De Weerdts of Belgium’s Catholic University of Leuven was invited to present a keynote speech entitled, “The

Global Travels of Sinitic Political Advice Literature.” During her speech, Professor Weerdts presented how she utilizes a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective along with digital humanities research methods to study the text of the “*Zhenguan Zhengyao*” in order to develop new perspectives on the study of Chinese political history. In total, the two-day conference arranged presentations by 15 scholars who presented and exchanged ideas on the four main themes of “Chinese Text between Physical and Digital Forms,” “Transmission, Translation, and Audiences,” “Of Texts and Identity,” and “Chinese Collections Throughout History.” For more details on the topics of the conference, please reference the conference website: <https://isp.ncl.edu.tw/conf-text>.



Group photo of conference attendees.

In addition, NCL organized a themed book exhibition in conjunction with the conference, located outside of the conference venue, showcasing 120 titles, 126 volumes of recent academic publications from Taiwan related to the themes of the conference. After the event, these books were donated to the National Library of Latvia to enrich their resources for Chinese Studies research.



NCL’s selection of books on the conference themes displayed outside the conference venue.

■ 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 October and December, 2023, 1 scholar gave his presentation. The topic and speaker for this session is as follows:

On December 20th, 2023, Prof. Ying Jia Tan, Associate Professor of History, Wesleyan University in Connecticut, USA, gave the lecture on “Taiwan as the Vantage Point for East Asian Energy History.”

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ Greater Hsinchu Reading Festival Invites Book Lovers of All Ages to Share in the Joy of Reading

From November 1st to December 17th, 2023, Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City co-organized the “Color My World Reading Festival” for the first time, holding nearly one hundred lectures and reading promotion activities in 22 public libraries throughout the greater Hsinchu region.

Ever since Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City libraries initiated their one-card-for-all service in 2020, people residing in the greater Hsinchu region have enjoyed access to a catalogue of over two million book resources and an electronic platform, allowing for stronger connections between those living in the county and city and allowing for constant growth of reading volume. In order to continue to provide a quality reading environment and resources, this year the Hsinchu City Government has continued to refine their many

library services, serving the public with a new level of professionalism at every branch. The Longshan Branch library also plans to revitalize their library spaces by adding collection and reading spaces, lecture halls, and rehearsal rooms.

The “Color My World Reading Festival” events co-organized by Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City integrated a total of 22 public libraries and book stores, holding nearly one hundred events including themed book exhibitions, parent-child reading events, youth lectures, theater performances, storytelling events, and a mobile library, inviting readers in Hsinchu County and Hsinchu City to uncover the treasures of knowledge together and bring color to their lives through reading.

■ National Library of Public Information Promotes Event “Reading the Unique Stories of Clothing,” Transcending Time and Memory through the Stories of Clothes

In 2023, coinciding with the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the National Library of Public Information and in correspondence with the theme of the reading festival, NLPI sought one hundred entries for items of clothing that evoke memories or nostalgic stories. These stories and memories create interpersonal emotional connections and this exhibit showcases such emotional exchanges.

In recent years, the National Library of Public Information has constantly made innovations in the promotion of reading, crossing disciplines and industries to provide members of the public with opportunities to bring reading into their lives through diverse promotional means. In this event, the National Library of Public Information presents clothing as a vehicle for stories and memories, naming the event “Reading the Unique Stories of Clothing” and taking clothing as the starting point for making connections between the past, the present, and the future. Beginning on October 31st, 2023, the National Library of Public Information has hosted this themed exhibition in its Arts and Culture Exhibition Hall, displaying clothing rich with stories as well as an exhibit on librarian uniforms.