

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 April and June, 2024, 3 scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On May 22th, 2024, Dr. Jason Lim, Senior Lecturer in Asian History at Wollongong in Australia gave the lecture on “Taiwan’s perspectives of political developments in Singapore, 1955-1965.”

On June 12th, 2024, Prof. Philip Clart, Professor of Chinese Culture and History at Leipzig University, Germany, gave the lecture on “Chinese books in Leipzig, past & present: an end-user’s perspective.” At the same day, Dr. Leon Kunz, affiliated with the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin, USA, gave the lecture on “Lessons in Civil Disobedience from the Sunflower and Umbrella Movements.”

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ 2024 Joint Conference of University Librarians of College and University Libraries in Taiwan

The annual university library event “2024 National Joint Conference of University Librarians” was held from May 9 to 10 at National Cheng Kung University Library.

2024 coincides with Tainan 400. After more than 20 years, National Cheng Kung University Library has once again hosted this important conference. This year’s theme was “Knowledge as Light, Reconstructing Knowledge: The Library in Generative Mode”. More than 120 librarians and representatives from universities and colleges across the country participated in the meeting, sharing business execution results, difficulties and innovative services and exploring the library industry, new trends, challenges and solutions.

The joint meeting is hosted in turns by the libraries of various universities and colleges every year. National Cheng Kung University Library hosted it in 2002, more than 20 years ago. National Cheng Kung University Library prides itself on diversifying knowledge, disseminating and innovating across domains, and its distinctive developments in recent years include: The One Book, One World Theme Concept Book Exhibition, reality games, the National Cheng Kung University Books One City mobile library course, and Reading for Love: recording audio-books to provide courses for the visually impaired, teacher personalization, and academic research capabilities analysis services for departments and research centers, etc. It hopes to become one of Taiwan’s important academic resource centers.

■ National Library of Public Information Plans to Create Taiwan’s First AI Smart Librarian

The National Library of Public Information and the Tunghai University Software Engineering and Technology Center team have jointly designed and developed the country’s first AI smart librarian, using smart technology and ChatGPT’s generative AI to apply it to a virtual smart library generated in the image of a real librarian. With the addition of real-person voice synthesis technology, the library not only provides reader consultation and library book recommendation services, but also allows people to chat like friends with AI smart librarians, improving the diversity of the public’s reading experiences in the library. The National Library of Public Information’s AI smart librarian is named “Xiaoshu”, which means it is familiar with books. Generally, predictive voice customer service systems mainly interact through keystrokes and cannot generate answers on their own, but AI smart librarian “Xiaoshu’s” accuracy in understanding sentences and generating responses has been improved. After internal testing and training, it officially became the new life-force of the National Library of Public Information’s AI smart librarians at the end of 2023, assisting with front-line reader services. In the future, training and optimization will continue to make AI smart librarian “Xiaoshu” a powerful player serving the National Library of Public Information’s readers.