Three hundred and seven editions of Lion Art in 25 years and seven months. Over 400 books in 50 years of Lion Art Books Co. Ltd. One book after another, one article after another, writing page after page of the history of Taiwanese art. This persistence represents Lion Art's deepest protection and respect for Taiwanese art. At the invitation of the National Central Library, Lion Art has donated all monthly magazines, books, and Chinese and foreign works in the reference room that have been published over the years, as well as Hsien-wen Li's *Twenty Portraits of Senior Artists*, which will continue to influence countless young lives, enable the story of Taiwan's art to be generated sustainably, and pass on knowledge from one generation to the next for all eternity.

■ 2024 National Public Library Development Conference Handbook

Published in June 2024
ISBN 9789576787591

The Ministry of Education promoted the eight-year "Growing Reading's Roots and Transforming Space: Library Innovative Service Development Plan" from 2009. During this period, in November 2011, the National Central Library was commissioned to formulate the "National Library Development Policy and Promotion Strategy." A development framework of seven visions, seven goals, 22 classification goals, 46 strategies and 108 specific measures was constructed to guide the development direction of Taiwan's public libraries for the subsequent 10 years. In 2017 and 2018, funds continued to be injected into key projects such as the creation of a reading environment and ambience, the establishment of regional reading resources, and the promotion of diverse reading cultures, and were implemented in the National Central

Library, the National Taiwan Library and the National Library of Public Information, as well as in various municipalities and counties. Thanks to the efforts of public libraries, concrete results were achieved in deepening collections, improving service capabilities, renovating space and service facilities, and improving reading culture. In terms of improving the library administrative system, the "Building a Cooperative and Shared Public Library System" plan has been implemented since 2019. In the six years between 2019 and 2024, on the premise that local public libraries have different administrative affiliations, it provided guidance to municipal, county and city public libraries in creating an effectively coordinated management organization system to enhance the international competitiveness of Taiwan's public libraries. During this period, policy formulation and implementation provided better support to Taiwan's public libraries in overcoming various challenges and offering better service quality, and were expected to establish an institutional and regular communication platform. The first National Public Library Development Conference was held in 2020. On the one hand, it can regularly display the specific results of the operation and development of each library, facilitate mutual learning and advancement and joint discussion of constructive solutions to unique and common problems, and also promote inter-library cooperation and opportunities for networking. On the other hand, it can be used as a policy communication channel, for matters such as gathering opinions from multiple parties to build consensus in the policy formulation stage, fully disseminating information to improve implementation effectiveness during that same stage, and, in the policy review stage, serving as the basis for the next stage of policy development. The 2024 National Public Library Development Conference was hosted by the National Central Library and held in Tainan from June 13 to 14.

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 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.