

were played in Taiwanese traditional culture. Aside from the sweetness of the rounded moon cakes and their auspicious pictures pressed on to them, moon cakes symbolizes fulfilment, happiness, and a rich harvest. The activity also introduces traditional weddings and the six ceremonies of marriage. Which allow scholars to experience first-hand in pastry making and understand the uniqueness of traditional Taiwanese marriage. Further understanding in-depth Taiwan's cultural heritage. When the tour ended, scholars came together to wrap their handmade moon cakes while enjoying the tastes of the exquisite Beipu Oriental Beauty Oolong tea from Xinzhu Country and moon cakes; fully enjoying the meaning of getting together.



2024 Foreign Scholar Moon Festival Activity

## NCL Publication

### ■ Accessibility Guidelines for Public Libraries (Second Edition)



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With the rapid development of—and changes in—society, libraries are facing many new challenges.

In response to the diversification of service groups and the rise of various online resources, libraries are facing difficulties in the face of groups with mobility problems, visual impairments, hearing impairments, learning disabilities, dyslexia, gender diversity and others. The needs and characteristics of different groups must be taken into consideration to improve the planning of various services so that the provision of library services is equal and accessible. In order to promote library services effectively and make them consistent with the principles of equality and accessibility, the National Central Library invited Professor Hao-Ren Ke, Distinguished Professor and Dean of the School of Learning Informatics, Graduate Institute of Library & Information Studies at National Taiwan Normal University and Institute of Library and Information Science, to develop the "Public Library Accessibility Guidelines", starting from the development of public libraries' accessibility and accessibility-related declarations and specifications, and, on the basis of the guidelines published by domestic and foreign library and information professional associations, supplemented by reference to relevant academic research papers and Taiwan's obstacle-free design, first drafts of specifications and other content were formulated. Finally, through focus group meetings, the suggestions and practical cases of public libraries on library accessibility issues were summarized in such a way as to lead Taiwan's public libraries towards an understanding of the implications of accessibility. Specifically explanation and description was also made of nine practical accessibility-oriented recommendations and promotion methods for public libraries in strategic planning and management, assistive technology, collection materials, reader services, activities, teaching-related services, information dissemination, information and communication technology, and library architecture.

## Chinese Studies Symposium

### ■ National Central Library Teams with Seoul National University to Host a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies

On September 27, the National Central Library and its Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies

(TRCCS) partner Seoul National University (SNU) jointly organized a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies at the SNU's College of Humanities International Conference Room. The lecture featured Professor Yu Tsai, Distinguished Professor of the Department of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University, who spoke on "New Perspectives, Tools, and Methods in the Study of Chinese Poetry Metrics." The session was chaired by Professor Jung-kyu Park, Director of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Seoul National University. Kuang-chung Liang, Representative of the Taipei Mission in Korea, was also in attendance and delivered a speech.

Professor Tsai is currently a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University. Previously, he was invited to serve as a visiting professor at Kyoto University in Japan and Nanjing University in China, and has also held the position of visiting professor in the Department of East Asian Studies at Charles University in the Czech Republic. Professor Tsai's research areas include Six Dynasties poetics, Tang and Song poetics, poetry on nature, and Chinese metrics. His major publications include *A Study of Gao Bing's Poetics* (NTU Press, 1990), *An Exploration of Tang Poetry* (Liren, 1998), and *The Poetics of Tao Yuanming's Human Realm* (Linking, 2012). His latest work, *A Historical Study of the Development of Tang Dynasty Metrics*, is scheduled for publication in 2024.

This lecture was jointly organized by NCL's Center for Chinese Studies and Professors Lee Chang-sook and Park Jung-kyu, former and current chairs of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Seoul National University. Professor Tsai's presentation aimed to explore the turning points and new directions in the study of Chinese poetry metrics in the digital age.

First, Professor Tsai explained that Chinese poetry is rooted in the unique characteristics of the Chinese language, including its monosyllabic, ideographic nature and tonal system. The study of poetry metrics has long been closely related to linguistics, and in today's digital era, it is crucial to further integrate with information technology.

This collaboration would facilitate the development of new tools to break through the bottlenecks of traditional research and open up new perspectives.

Professor Tsai then outlined three key areas in which new perspectives, tools, and approaches could be developed for the study of poetry metrics. Regarding data, he said research should encompass the entire Chinese character cultural sphere, collecting synchronous poetics data from parallel traditions, and constructing a theoretical framework for the development of poetry metrics. On methodology, he spoke on the need to develop digital tools to connect phonological databases with poetry texts, presenting the poetic norms of various periods on a systematic platform, and cross-referencing existing literature with data analysis to establish reliable classifications. And in speaking about concepts, he argued for a shift from a fixed, singular historical perspective to a dynamic view of development, breaking away from the long-standing reliance on the Ming-Qing tonal charts and the use of corrective methods as the sole standard for poetry metrics. Finally, Professor Tsai introduced the Digital System for Chinese Poetry Metrics Analysis and the Digital System for Chinese Poetry Literature, tools developed by the Department of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University. He shared how these tools have been used to reconstruct research on the development stages of Tang dynasty poetry metrics.



*A view of the lecture*

During the Q&A session at the end of the lecture, attendees actively asked questions, and the

discussion was lively. After the lecture, the audience provided positive feedback on the event, expressing that the session gave them a deeper understanding of the new opportunities and trends in the study of Taiwan's Chinese poetry metrics in today's digital age.



*Distinguished guests pose with the lecturer*

### ■ 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 July and September, 2024, 4 scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On July 18th, 2024, Associate Prof. Weiwei Zhang, Marketing at Hartwick College, USA gave the lecture on “Materiality and the Resilience of Physical Bookstores in the Digital Age.” At the same day, Prof. André Laliberté, Political Studies at the University of Ottawa, USA, gave the lecture on “Religious Milieus and Social Welfare: Early Findings about Long-Term Care in Taiwan.”

On August 14th, 2024, Ph.D. candidate Axelle Mariavale, Chinese Language and Literature at the Institute of Asian Research (IrAsia), Aix-Marseille University, France, gave the lecture on “Exploring Ecofeminism in Taiwan and its Application to Literary Criticism.” At the same day, Ph.D. candidate Catherine Alexandra Sutherland, Social Anthropology at SOAS, University, London, gave the lecture on “Queer/Feminist Community: Researching gender, sexuality, and feminism among Taipei's queer community.”

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ National Central Library Plans to Establish An Impediment-free Reading System to Create A Mobile Library Exclusively for People with Disabilities

In 2012, the National Central Library established an integrated inquiry system for accessible reading resources, providing readers with such functions as “Bibliographic Inquiry”, “Online Reading/Downloading”, “Choice Books”, and “Resource Classroom.” Of these, the “Bibliographic Inquiry” function primarily adopts the joint bibliographic and interlibrary loan service model to integrate the National Central Library and the data of 10 major domestic disability library resource collecting institutions to facilitate readers' use of digital and physical resources between various institutions via a single account.

In response to the high state of development of mobile device supplementary functions (narration, talkback) and changes in the way readers with disabilities obtain information, the National Central Library has developed the Accessible Reading app since 2014, providing a reading interface in accordance with different disabilities and creating a unique platform for people with disabilities.

For hearing-impaired readers, the National Central Library built the Taiwan Sign Language Electronic Picture Book Interactive System in 2023. Based on the picture books of Taiwanese writers, it integrates sign language electronic picture book videos, sign language word demonstrations and exercises, AR interaction and other reading