

## NCL Publication

### ■ Taiwan's Reading Landscape in 2024 and Annual Report on the Nation's Reading Power



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Since 2011, the National Central Library has published a report on "Taiwan's Reading Landscape" every year under the guidance of the Ministry of Education. In 2025, it will continue to understand the reading ability and reading interests of the Taiwanese people through the 2024 statistics on public library service utilization and resource utilization. It will also compile an annual book borrowing ranking based on readers' book borrowing records, so that libraries and publishers can understand readers' reading preferences and use them as a reference for library reading promotion, collection procurement, and for publishers to formulate publishing directions.

The National Central Library collected library service data submitted by two national public libraries and 22 county and city public libraries nationwide until the end of December 2024 to analyze the reading power of the Taiwanese people in terms of "total number of visitors", "total number of persons borrowing books", "total number of books borrowed", "total number of e-books borrowed", "total number of cards issued" and "number of times website resources are used"; and analyzed the reading volume and reading interests of different age groups and genders from the de-identified readers' book borrowing records; and then, on the basis of the book classification numbers assigned to the books by the library, screened and counted the number of times books were borrowed, compiled book borrowing rankings for general categories, philosophy, religion, natural sciences, applied sciences, social sciences, history and geography, language and literature, and

art, and separately classified martial arts novels, comic books, books for infants and toddlers aged 0-5, books for schoolchildren aged 6-11, and e-books, to present the reading preferences of the public.

Reading proficiency is measured using "collection development," "collection utilization," "visits," "percentage of cardholders," "investment," and "website usage" as indicators. The weighted standard scores of each reading proficiency level are calculated on the basis of the total collections, total number of borrowed books, total number of visits, total number of library card applications, total investment, and total instances of website usage. The reading proficiency performance in relation to each item is observed separately by municipalities, counties, cities and towns. The sources of statistical data, statistical items, calculation periods and calculation methods are listed at the end of the book for your reference.

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ National Taiwan Library and NTU Launch AI-Powered Reading Companions to Enhance Senior Engagement

The National Taiwan Library has partnered with National Taiwan University to launch AI reading companions for senior citizens, addressing social isolation through personalized, interactive library experiences.

Library Director Tsui-ying Tsao and NTU's Digital Humanities Research Center signed the collaboration agreement on March 26, 2025. The initiative uses AI and social robotics to support elderly patrons who often face limited social interaction.

Voice-interactive robotic assistants provide tailored reading recommendations while engaging seniors in natural conversations. These AI companions simulate human warmth, offering both information and emotional connection.

"Many older adults live alone with few opportunities for meaningful interaction," said Director Tsao. "These robotic companions recreate the comforting presence of loved ones, restoring joy and connection to their everyday lives."

The project transforms libraries into age-inclusive community hubs, encouraging seniors to engage with intelligent systems that promote cognitive stimulation and social participation. This collaboration demonstrates how academic research and public service can address Taiwan's aging population challenges through thoughtful innovation.