



*A group photo of event participants*

## ■ A Celebration of World Book Day: National Central Library and National Development Council Launch Bilingual Book Donation, Showcasing the Vision of the Southern Branch

Reading is not only a measure of personal competitiveness but also a vital indicator of a nation's cultural soft power. The National Central Library has long been dedicated to fostering a culture of reading, encouraging citizens to cultivate good reading habits, deepening cultural literacy, and thereby building a knowledge-based society. To promote the beauty of reading and to echo the global celebration of World Book and Copyright Day on April 23, 2025, the National Central Library and the National Development Council jointly hosted the event “Sharing the Joy of Reading through Book Giving.”

This initiative also aligns with the government's Bilingual 2030 policy, which seeks to strengthen bilingual learning environments at the pre-high school levels and cultivate English communication skills among the younger generation. At the same time, it represents an important step in realizing the vision of the National Central Library's Southern Branch to deepen reading literacy.



*Second-grade students from Tainan Municipal Beiqu Park Elementary School together with volunteer storytelling mothers*

The event centers on two main components: regional book donations and a nationwide online platform for sharing reading reflections. Under the theme “Sharing the Joy of Reading through Book Giving,” the National Central Library, in collaboration with the National Development Council, donated Chinese and English picture books to 60 elementary and junior high schools across Yunlin, Chiayi, Tainan, and Kaohsiung. Each school received high-quality picture books that combine language learning with elements of local culture, thereby enriching bilingual reading resources and enhancing students' English reading proficiency. Schools were encouraged to organize shared-reading activities and upload their outcomes to the event's official website (<https://guide.ncl.edu.tw/event/2025worldbookday/>), where the results are available for nationwide exchange and learning.

The online reading reflection activity made use of the NCL to Your Home platform, offering 320 digital picture books to encourage students nationwide to take the initiative in reading and writing reflections. The aim is to cultivate consistent reading habits, integrate reading into daily life, and thereby raise overall literacy across society. This year's activity drew participation from more than 7,000 students, who engaged in online reading and submitted reflections—demonstrating both the vitality of students' reading and their enthusiasm for creative expression, while also highlighting the powerful effectiveness of digital reading resources in promoting literacy.

The book donation ceremony was held on May 27 at the Hsu Shih Music Library of the Tainan Public Library. The event featured a special performance by second-grade students from Tainan Municipal Beiqu Park Elementary School together with volunteer “storytelling mothers,” who presented a lively bilingual storytelling session in both Chinese and English, adding a touch of childlike charm and heartfelt emotion to the occasion.

National Central Library Director-General Han-Ching Wang stated that the Library is currently constructing its Southern Branch and National Repository Library in Sinying, Tainan. In the future, this facility will serve as a modern library that brings together national reading resources, providing academic support, lifelong reading services, and diverse cultural programs. The National Repository Library will also function as a key repository for documents and digital resources, supporting the transmission and innovation of knowledge throughout Taiwan. Notably, 80% of the campus will be preserved as green space, balancing ecological conservation with educational functions and embodying a vision of sustainability.



Director-General Wang introducing the event

Director-General Wang emphasized that this collaboration with the National Development Council to donate books is not only a concrete step in expanding reading promotion services, but also symbolizes a new starting point for the National Central Library in extending the power of knowledge. It is an initiative that will allow the seeds of reading to take root across the nation, enriching Taiwan's cultural foundation and strengthening its international competitiveness.



A photo of distinguished guests at the 2025 World Book Day "Sharing the Joy of Reading through Book Giving" event

## ■ 2025 IO Talk Online Forum, Co-organized by the National Central Library and the Library Association of the Republic of China, Concludes Successfully

To promote the sharing of information organization knowledge with common principles among library professionals, the National Central Library and the Library Association of the Republic of China held the IO Talk Online Forum on June 11 and June 25. Library professionals and the general public interested in information organization were invited to participate in the online forum to learn and share new knowledge.

The June 11<sup>th</sup> session, themed "Research Data and Metadata," was presented by Dr. Yingheng Liu, a researcher at the Chemnitz University of

Technology in Germany. The lecture explored the key roles of research data and metadata in knowledge organizations. First, he discussed the definition; "what data is," emphasizing that data is constructed through specific contexts and research processes, and its boundaries and reuse strategies need to be carefully considered. The briefing pointed out that the quality of subject metadata in current research materials is inconsistent and lacks sufficient contextual information, making data search and reuse difficult. This was followed by three empirical case studies, including the "discovery" of Australian research data catalogues and the positioning of meta-data roles, the elicitation of data exploration contexts, clinical trials and health-related data. Finally, three reflections were proposed: how to capture and utilize key contextual information, how post-data and repositories can balance disciplinary characteristics and cross-disciplinary interoperability, and how to design user-centered data exploration systems based on user behavior.

The June 25<sup>th</sup> session was themed "Artificial Intelligence and Metadata," and the speaker was Dr. Liu Yingheng. The speech focused on the application and future development of artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of metadata, and the content came from the results of the 2024 Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) cross-national survey questionnaire. The content incorporated four major aspects: metadata tasks and artificial intelligence applications, potential benefits of implementing artificial intelligence, challenges and concerns, future impacts and characteristics of respondents. Participants generally recognized the potential and benefits of AI, including improving the richness and discoverability of metadata, reducing manual work, and facilitating the connection of metadata. Many respondents, however, also said that the main challenges lie in the need for professional training, ensuring transparency of AI in the decision-making process, resource issues, and how to integrate expertise. Concerns about AI bias, data quality, and the impact on professional roles. Quantitative structural equation model (SEM) analysis shows that "benefits" can effectively drive the application of AI, "challenges" promote skill development, and "confidence" is an important driving force for AI adoption. The study recommends that information organization professionals should have basic AI knowledge, programming and data analysis skills, data evaluation capabilities and ethical literacy to ensure the accuracy and sustainability of AI applications.

The final Q&A session of the two forums was chaired by Ya-ning Ch'en, Chairman of the Technical Services Committee of the Library Association of the Republic of China. The event was successfully completed with the enthusiastic participation of library colleagues. It is hoped that this event will