

children's poetry, as well as methods of reading education illustrated with case studies. The book fair displayed children's books recommended by the Ministry of Education and Government Information Office. The events sought to deepen and broaden reading activities through by listening, telling, reading, writing and performing stories, and thereby foster children's ability for creative thinking and self-expression.

■ *Hakka Library Opens*

Taiwan's first Hakka themed library opened in Taipei's Da-an District. The library has over 5,000 Hakka-related books, academic papers and periodicals and has become a magnet for Hakka people to link up and read up about their roots. The centrally located library also serves as an excellent place for non-Hakka people to learn more about Hakka culture. (Chinese text excerpted from ETtoday, June 21, 2006)

■ *Reading Room Opens at East District Office in Taichung*

The East District Office of Taichung City officially opened a reading room to expand services to district residents. Occupying the second floor of the District Office building, the reading room took half a year to plan and was completed at the end of June 2006. The reading needs of cultural district residents were originally served by a community library that has also hosted numerous cultural and art activities since opening in 1990. However, the library was situated at the southern

end of the district, making it difficult to reach for those in the east and north. The new centrally located reading room puts the joy of books within easier reach of all the district residents.

■ *Sunflower Library Opens*

The Sunflower Community Library opened in Pingtung County, providing a weekend haven for children to read, surf the internet and play. Spearheaded by a married couple working for the Pingtung County Government, the library brings together community resources and took three years to achieve. Open every Saturday and Sunday, the library extends a helping hand to single parents, with volunteer moms providing babysitting service on a rotational basis. (Chinese text excerpted from ETtoday, May 3, 2006)

Seminars

■ *"2006 OCLC and Library Dialogue" Conference*

Sponsor: National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) Library, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) Library, OCLC
Date: June 6, 2006 (North Session), June 8, 2006 (South Session)
Place: NTNU Library (North), NSYSU (South)

■ *Seminar on "New Trends in Digital Information Services"*

Sponsor: National Cheng Kung University Library

Date: June 23, 2006

Place: National Cheng Kung University Library

■ *EBSCO Seminar on "Future Trends of Digital Information Services in Asia"*

Sponsor: EBSCO, EBSCO (Taiwan)

Date: June 29, 2006

Place: Sheraton Taipei Hotel (morning); National Taiwan University Main Library (Afternoon)

■ *2006 Seminar on Added Value Technology for Digital Archives*

Sponsor: Digital Cultural Content Association, Applications and Services Division of the National Digital Archives Program

Supported by: Graduate Institute of Networking and Multimedia at National Taiwan University Axis 3D Technology, Natural Data

Date: June 30, 2006

Place: Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering, National Taiwan University

■ *International Seminar on the Development of Digital Libraries*

Sponsor: Department of Library and Information Science, National Taiwan University

Supported by: American Society for Information Science and Technology (Taipei Chapter)

Date: August 10-11, 2006

Place: National Taiwan University Library

Exhibitions

■ *Exhibition of Taiwan Folk Agreements in the NCL Collection*

The National Central Library (NCL) collection contains over 2,400 private exchange agreements dating from between 1836 to 1951. A total of 79 such agreements were put on display as part of a special exhibition, including documents recording the sale of persons and houses and the adoption of son-in-laws. The majority of the agreements date back to the Japanese occupation era, and the second largest number are from the Qing period. The documents offer a glimpse at the evolution of Taiwanese society between the mid 19th century and the mid 20th century, particularly with regards to gender relations.

Marriage agreements account for the majority of the documents, including agreements formed by parents seeking sons-in-law for their natural-born or adopted daughters (the first adoption of a son-in-law), seeking sons-in-law as second husbands (due to the death of the first husband or remarriage after divorce), parents seeking a husband for their widowed daughter-in-law, or grandparents seeking a husband for their granddaughter or niece. Agreements in the adoption category include adoption of persons with the same family name, adoption of sons with a different family names, and adoption of girls along with the seeking of a husband to pass on the family name, and even for the raising of a mother's minor children to adulthood after remarriage and subsequent return

to one's birth home. Agreements covering the sale of persons include the sale of girls as slaves, the adoption of daughters, the sale of a son for adoption by another family, and even the sale of a wife for betrothal money. Other documents include notifications seeking runaway adopted daughters, and documents for the relinquishment of inheritance rights to prevent conflicts resulting from the marriage of a servant later registered as an adopted daughter.



Agreement specifying terms for the marriage of a daughter (signed in 1891)



A marriage agreement signed in 1835

These types of folk agreements differ from general land contracts in their simplicity and because most were written on red or yellow cloth or paper, as opposed to the plain white paper used almost exclusively for land contracts.

These private exchange agreements serve as a record of daily life, society and customs in Taiwan in earlier times seen from the vantage of the common people, painting a portrait of the patriarchal society of those times. As such, they provide an important resource for the study of early society in Taiwan.

The exhibition was held from July 4, 2006 to February 28, 2007 at the National Central Library's Rare Books Room.

■ Ninth East Asian Poetry Book Fair Comes to Taichung

On May 31, 2006, the Taichung City Cultural Affairs Bureau hosted the Ninth East Asian Poetry Book Fair and inaugurated an e-book activity. The fair, hosted by Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea on a rotational basis, brought together poets of the three countries for poetry book exchanges. The event featured the manuscripts of 78 poets along with the signature, photograph and introduction of the author. The event was coordinated with the "Creating a World of Reading in Taichung: 24-hour Reading in Taichung" invitation for e-book contributions—one of the events organized for the 2006 City Reading series of activities. The public enthusiastically participated in the event, contributing works of poetry and painting for display in digital format and offering a new

reading experience. During the opening ceremony for the e-book event, Taichung Mayor Huang Kuo-jung was joined by poets from Japan and Korea in breaking an ice sculpture in the shape of a book, symbolizing the breaking of traditional concepts about reading. The poetry book display during the Ninth East Asian Poetry Book Fair also toured National Taichung First Senior High School, National Chung Hsing University, National Taichung Library, and Tunghai University. A symposium on modern poetry was also held in conjunction with the display at the hosting campuses.

The First East Asian Poetry Book Fair was held in Seoul, Korea. Now in its ninth year, the event is a major occasion in Taiwan's literary circles. (Chinese text adapted from The Epoch Times 2006/6/01)



The opening ceremony of the Ninth East Asian Poetry Book Fair and e-book activity (Photo provided by Taichung City Cultural Affairs Bureau)

CCS News and Activities

■ CCS Seminars

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) invited Finnish doctoral candidate Jyrki Kallio of the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Helsinki, to present a lecture on *Guwen Guanzhi*, the early Qing anthology of Chinese prose, on June 7, 2006. Held in conjunction with an academic symposium hosted by the NCL, the lecture was presided by Prof. Fang Yu of the Department of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University.

Mr. Kallio offered an in-depth analysis of the context in which *Guwen Guanzhi* was produced and compared it with other anthologies published at that time. He also speculated on the intention and thinking of the authors based on their exclusions of certain works from the Jin, Liao, Yuan and Qing periods.

Mr. Kallio has also published a Finnish translation of *Guwen Guanzhi*. (Chinese text by Kao Te-er)



Mr. Jyrki Kallio (second from left, front row) and symposium participants (Photo by Caesar Tsai)