

Fourth Symposium on Cross-strait Information Exchange

In 1996, the Interlibrary Cooperation Association (ILCA), Cross-strait Information Exchange Committee, and Chinese Society for Scientific and Technical Information (CSSTI) signed a “Memorandum on Cross-strait Technology Information Exchange.” The memorandum called for the holding of symposiums on the each side of the Taiwan Strait during alternate years to discuss development of the cross-strait information environment. It also mandated other related activities, such as exchanges of periodicals and full-text reproductions of technology periodicals.

This year, 77 experts and scholars met in Beijing on May 28 to 29 for the Fourth Symposium on Cross-strait Information Exchange under the theme, “Virtual Libraries: Joint Development and Sharing of Technology Information.” Taiwan was represented at the meeting by members of the ILCA. NCL R&D Department head Ms. Wu Ying-mei (吳英美) also joined the 10-person delegation, which was headed by Prof. Margaret C. Fung (張鼎鍾) of the Examination Yuan.

The symposium proceedings encompassed 70 papers addressing recent efforts in developing a database for cross-strait resource building and sharing. However, due to time constraints, only 14 papers were announced at the meeting, including six from the Taiwan side and eight from the mainland participants. The mainland scholars showed particular interest in the progress of interlibrary cooperation in the Taiwan area.

After the symposium, Mr. Liu Zhaodong (劉昭東), president of the CSSTI, suggested that the two sides advance to more concrete exchanges. He also expressed hope that the Taiwan delegation would hold a workshop to share with the ILCA the thoughts of their mainland counterparts.

During a seminar on the afternoon of May 26, the mainland side raised the following four proposals:

1. Starting from the next symposium, reduce the scope of discussion topics and focus on certain practical issues. For example, it was suggested that “Industrial Information Management and Exchange” be considered as the theme of the next symposium.
2. Expanding exchange visits by experts from the two sides to promote substantive interactions through such channels as practical training, personnel exchanges, and lectures.
3. Cooperative compilation of glossaries of library and information science terminology.
4. Joint establishment of an effective document delivery channel, particularly to facilitate access to “gray documents.”

In addition to attending the symposium, the delegation toured major research institutes and libraries to learn about their operations and exchange experience. The mainland side also presented a plan for cooperative personnel training and standards setting.

(Chinese text by Wu Ying-mei.吳英美)