

ALA Annual Conference

The American Library Association (ALA) held its 121st annual conference from June 13 to 19 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Taiwan delegation to the meeting included Ms. Hsu Ching-fen (許靜芬) of the NCL's NBINet Center, Prof. Huang Shih-hsiung (黃世雄) of Tamkang University, director Lin Wen-jui (林文睿) and Mr. Shao Ching-ming (邵經明) of the Library Association of China (LAC), Ms. Wang Hui-juan (王慧娟), Ms. Lin Hsiu-mei (林秀眉), and Ms. Tu Chin-yen (杜金燕).

This year's conference was divided into seminars and a book exhibition. Seminar topics ranged from library administration and management, children and adolescents, collection management and e-libraries to reader services, librarian training and general discussions. More than 1,700 sessions were held during the seven-day conference. The exhibition consisted mainly of displays by publishers and information organizations as well as a poster display. Nearly 800 exhibitors occupied over 4,000 booths at the show. With support from the LAC, Feng Chia University Library was the only participant from Taiwan at the poster exhibition. Its popular display included posters of the library's construction and information talent training program.

Seminars attended by the NCL's Ms. Hsu were: "Year of the Horse: Next Phase in Pinyin Conversion," at which library representatives explained progress in Hanyu Pinyin conversion work and resolution methods for other problems encountered; "What's the Next Wave of Technology," which looked at the impact of new technologies on library operations; and "Cultivating the Human Movement in a Digital Age," which discussed the trend towards fewer face-to-face interactions as digital exchange methods become more common.

(Chinese text by Hsu Ching-fen. 許靜芬)