

NCL News and Activities

READncl Enters Third Year

In February 1998, the NCL overcame countless obstacles to launch the READncl service, providing online access to full-text resources, from periodicals and government reports to literary and historical works. After two years of steady growth, the service now comprises over 7.5 million pages of text, including 3.7 million pages of periodical indexes.

In order to improve remote reader services, the NCL introduced several new measures this year, including: 1) suspension of the annual access fee; 2) introduction of a one-year time limit on pre-paid service fees; 3) release of upgraded browser software; 4) expansion of the annual fee system for institutional users; 5) introduction of more annual payment plans (ranging from NT\$10,000-NT\$50,000) to accommodate smaller organizations; and 6) enhancement of training and promotional activities around Taiwan.

In addition, the library holds regular meetings to discuss additional measures for improving the READncl service. In order to broaden READncl's reach, the library is also negotiating with Sina, a leading Chinese-language web portal, to include direct READncl on their website.

In order to integrate the fee assessment system developed by National Chiao Tung University Library, the NCL and CTU Library met recently to discuss ways to resolve issues regarding the integration of systems used by individual libraries for assessing photocopy and document shipping fees for inter-library services

READncl still confronts many challenges ahead. One of the most pressing topics is the establishment of a domestic copyright intermediary team to resolve copyright issues that currently limit the delivery of documents over the Internet

(Chinese text by Mr. Chien-kuo Chuang. 莊健國)