

Improved ISBN.Net Debuts

In 1997, the NCL ISBN Center began providing online bibliographic searches of new ROC publications through its ISBN.Net. In 1998, it added a bibliographic download function, which is currently used by 81 subscribing organizations. This February, the center launched the latest version of ISBN.Net, giving readers access to enhanced new functions.

The new edition of the service includes the following sections: Guide to ISBN.Net, Introductions to New Books, Bibliographic Database, Publishers' Net, Reader Message Board, and Downloads. Readers can also conduct full-text searches of the website and the New Books: Recent and Forthcoming Publications in Taiwan, ROC. The revamped site has meant more work for the ISBN Center staff in such areas as scanning in book cover images, preparing book indexes and synopses, and writing author bio-sketches, book reviews and other information. Moreover, to prevent copyright complications, publisher logos and retail outlet maps are included on the web pages.

The site also provides statistical charts on the growth and content of the ISBN.Net database. In the new book section, readers can browse for information on publications listed in the three most recent issues of New Books by classification, publisher, month, and recommended types of reader. Users can offer their views in the "Comments" section, and convenient batch downloading is provided in the download area.

(Chinese text by Ms. Ya-ling Su. 蘇雅玲)