

■ Taipei and Shanghai Libraries Join Hands to Offer Document Delivery Service

On September 17, 2004, the Taipei Public Library (TPL) and Shanghai Library officially launched a cross-strait service that will enable residents of the two cities to access copies of documents in the two library collections.

At present, the NCL and several university libraries in Taiwan have cooperation ties with overseas libraries, but the TPL is the first local-level public library in Taiwan to establish such relations.

With over nearly 50 million publications in its collection, the Shanghai Library will make copies of 12 types of materials available to Taipei residents, including journal published theses, academic papers, conference proceedings, introductions to copyright standards, technical journals, rare books, family registers, photographs, cadastral maps, contemporary literature, and music documents. Original works will not be provided.

Taipei readers can apply to borrow such documents at the TPL's main branch or any of its 39 branches and 13 reading rooms. Available titles can be searched via three online catalog systems offered by the Shanghai Library. Readers can request up to one-third of the content of any one publication, and are only required to pay a commission fee of NT\$42 per item (NT\$84 for urgent requests), plus copying and air mail costs. The TPL said that since the two sides use the ARIEL system, and will deliver the document copies by fax, scanning, and email, the documents can be received in Taipei within three days of application.

On the Shanghai side, residents of the mainland city will be able to request copies of documents in the TPL collection and keep them for up to one month if the TPL has at least two copies of the book in its collection. The books will be sent by airmail and can be received in Shanghai within one week of request. Since many of the works in the Shanghai Library collection are not available in duplicate copies, the library will not make the original works available to Taipei readers at this time, but will consider such an option depending on the needs of the cooperation program.