

Dr. Ku graduated from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University in Chicago. He served as the head of the Legislative Yuan Information and R&D Service Development plan from 1985 to 1989, founded the Computer Processing Center and Law Information Center at the Legislative Yuan, and completed a full-text searchable Chinese-language law database and database on the history and evolution of law in Taiwan's Law History, for which efforts he earned a government award of excellence. In 1990, he was honored with an outstanding contribution award from the Chinese American Librarians Association, and in 1998, he was presented with a similar award from APLAP. Dr. Ku served as the fifth and sixth term president of the ROC Information Technology Management Association, the second and third term president of the APLAP, standing committee member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions under UNESCO, an information consultant to the advisor on information at the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection under the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and a long-term advisor to the National Central Library.

■ Taiwan Libraries Promote World Book Day

In 1995, UNESCO designated April 23 as World Book and Copyright Day, aiming to encourage the development of reading, publishing, and knowledge. The organization has urged schools, libraries, publishers and other non-profit organizations in member countries to arrange various activities on this day to stimulate interest in reading and respect for copyrights. In Taiwan, public libraries and reading clubs responded enthusiastically to the call this year by holding activities across the island. Below is a summary of some of these events:



Sponsor	Location	Date	Description
Taipei Public Library	Da-an Forest Park (Taipei)	April 23	The Sound of Books in April: Marathon style readings of well-known works, read by scholars, authors, artists, school principles, and other cultural figures to attract public interest in reading
Taipei County Library	Public library in Taipei County	April 23~ May 1	Family Reading Week: Family reading courses, celebrity readings, storytelling, poetry readings, book fair, essay-writing contest, and film showings
National Taichung Library	National Taichung Library	April 23~ May 1	2005 Family Reading Week: Storytelling, family reading, concerts, and book fair.
Yilan County Cultural Affairs Bureau	Yilan County Cultural Affairs Bureau	April 23	Kids took part in costume making and acting out the parts of stories selected by the sponsor.
Nantou County Government Cultural Bureau	Nantou County Government Cultural Bureau	April 22	Book donation drive, press conference for library relocation, and country-theme horse-cart book tour. The book donation drive encouraged participation by individuals, companies, publishers, and library associations. People were encouraged to donate money and volunteer time to help enhance library resources and services.

Sponsor	Location	Date	Description
Hong's Foundation for Education & Culture, TPHP Reading Clubs	Foundation	April 22 & 28, May 6	Lectures on various topics related to reading and self learning.

■ Taipei Public Library Launches Online Reference Service

In order to improve the efficiency of reference services, the Taipei Public Library introduced its online "Live ReferService". After downloading the necessary software, users can submit questions to librarians or make text queries via the service and get instant responses. Users with webcams and microphones can also make voice inquiries. Library personnel may reply by text, video, or voice. They can also provide links to needed materials.

The TPL expects the new system to provide more accurate responses to public inquiries than was possible with traditional reference services since reference librarians will be able to directly access and send online precise information from the reference database, rather than relying on verbal or general written replies. From their computer screens, users can instantly determine if the right material has been located, enabling faster and more accurate service.

Live ReferService can be accessed at:

<http://www.tpml.edu.tw/chinese/service/reference/reference.htm>. Service hours are Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday and Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

■ Nantou County Organizes Book Tour to Promote Reading

The Nantou County Cultural Bureau doubled the number of books provided on loan under a book tour program launched last year with support from National Taichung Library. A total of 200 cases of books, or about 8,000 volumes, are now made available to students and the general