

(2) Application Procedure

- a. A printed READncl application form (available online at: <http://www.read.com.tw/new/2005ILLApplication.doc>) must be filled out and sent to READncl.

Fax to: 886-2-2395-7229, or

Mail to: Ms Tsui-lan Pan

E-mail: sharonpan@tpe.hyweb.com.tw or service@read.com.tw

Address: Industrial Technology Research
Institute of Taiwan, ROC 5F,
No.51, Sec. 2, Chongqing S. Rd.,
Zhongzheng District, Taipei City
100, Taiwan (ROC)

Contact Number: 886-2-2395-8355

- b. Upon the approval of membership, an e-mail with member account, access code, date account is effective, and payment method, will be sent to the applicant.

■ *Online Book Donation Drive for Disadvantaged Kids*

The Ministry of Education (MOE) kicked off an online book drive called "You Buy, I Donate" on June 13, 2005, to collect books for disadvantaged children living in remote areas. The activity aims to narrow the urban-rural reading gap and promote reading interest among young people by encouraging the public to purchase books online from a recommended list for donation. The ministry hopes to collect 50,000 to 100,000 books.

The Department of Elementary Education under the MOE said that the activity is being held in cooperation with online bookseller Books.com,

which has designated a special section on its website (<http://www.books.com.tw/>) for people to purchase discounted books for donation. The MOE will distribute the donated volumes to children living in remote areas. As part of the activity, 50 volunteers, including several well-known local authors and celebrities, will give public readings for kids in remote rural areas. (Chinese text complied from Merit Times Daily News June 14, 2005)

Special Report

■ *Professor Tsuen-hsueh Tsien Honored on His 95th Birthday**

In 2005, Professor Tsuen-hsueh Tsien turned 95 years old. He is a living witness to the history of the Republic of China. He was born in the year before the birth of the republic and grew up during a tumultuous period through warlord rivalry and the Sino-Japanese War. It was not until later in life that he was able to continue his advanced studies in America, earning his master's and doctoral degrees in library science at the University of Chicago in 1952 and 1957, respectively. Prof. Tsien devoted 50-plus years of his life to teaching library science and promoting international cultural exchange, and researching the history of Chinese Books and Printing. His contributions to the library world have earned him international academic distinction, and many of his students have become distinguished figures in the library, educational, and research fields around the world.



Professor Tsuen-hsuin Tsien (Provided Teresa Wang Chang)

In commemoration of Prof. Tsien's 95th birthday, the Library Association of China (LAC) published a special issue of its Bulletin. This condensed English translation from the Chinese text, written by Teresa Wang Chang, former head of the NCL's Bureau of International Exchange, chronicles Prof. Tsien's contributions to the library world, including his promotion of closer publication exchange between Taiwan and the United States.

1. A Century of Sino-U.S. Publication Exchanges

Based on Prof. Tsien's article on First Exchange of Chinese-American Publications in 1869, published in the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, a special book exhibition in celebration of the centenary was held by the NCL on August 12, 1969. U.S. Ambassador Walter P. McCounghy was invited to present a speech at the opening ceremony, Mrs. McCounghy cut the ribbon to open the exhibition. More than 300 VIPs, including government leaders, U.S. diplomats and representatives of the cultural and library worlds,

attended the ceremony. The exhibition was divided into three sections highlighting: (1) Photocopies of the list of food/flower seeds and 933 volumes of books donated by the Chinese Emperor to the U.S. Library of Congress (LC), which was the foundation of its Chinese Collection in 1869, and other related documents (including Prince Kung's letters); (2) Over 100 technology and science-related books donated to the NCL by 14 U.S. universities and the LC; and (3) Publications of the U.S. Federal Government, including official records, congressional records, and specialty publications. The LC also held a commemorative exhibition in the same year. Ambassador Chou Shu-kai on behalf of ROC Government presented to the LC several sets of art books, which were received by LC director L. Quincy Mumford. Both sides considered the book exchange to be a bridge for closer East-West academic exchanges and for promoting mutual understanding and friendship.

2. Dr. Joseph Needham Visits Taiwan

On September 19, 1984, Dr. Joseph Needham was invited to visit the NCL and meet with library director Wang Chen-ku. During his visit to NCL rare collection, Dr. Needham was very interested in Chinese acupuncture and mentioned his books on science. He spoke of Prof. Tsuen-hsuin Tsien's contribution to the "Paper and Printing" section of Dr. Needham's *Science and Civilization in China* series with great respect. Due to Dr. Needham's visit and Tsien's contribution to Dr. Needham's book, the Needham Research Institute and NCL built an exchange relationship later on.

3. Seminar on authentication and Preservation of Ancient Books

On August 11 to 12, 1984, the Library Association of China hosted the Seminar on Authentication and Preservation of Ancient Books. Prof. Tsuen-hsueh Tsien presented two keynote addresses during seminar sessions, one on “Ancient Book Collections in Europe and the U.S.” and another on “Movable Type Printing of Early China.” The first address introduced European and U.S. collections, the sources and development of Sinological research, the characteristics and importance of such collections, Chinese rare books in such collections, current status of North American Libraries, and the significance of ancient and rare books in Western collections. The second address looked at the importance, characteristics, origins and dissemination of movable type printing in China, the development of such printing technology in the Ming and Ching periods, and research into issues concerning movable type printing. Both presentations were highly productive for the scholars attending the conference.

4. Devoted administrator of Far Eastern Library of the University of Chicago

In 1985, Taiwan’s five representatives at the 104th annual Conference of the American Library Association in Chicago—Dr. Chiang Fu-tsung, Prof. Lan Chien-chang (Fujen Catholic University), Prof. Lee Te-chu (National Taiwan University), Mr. Sung Chien-cheng (NCL), and Ms. Teresa Wang Chang (NCL)—visited the Far Eastern Library of the University of Chicago. Although

Prof. Tsien had already retired from the University, he accompanied the visitors on a tour of the library with introduction to the library collection.

The Far Eastern Library was established in 1936, and it currently has a collection of over 600,000 volumes. Prof. Tsien played an invaluable role during his several-decade tenure in building the library collection, the rare Chinese book collection of which is considered to be the best outside of the Far East.

In April 2005, the US-China Policy Foundation granted Prof. Tsien a lifelong achievement award for his distinguished contributions to Chinese culture studies and promotion of culture exchange between China and the U.S.

Prof. Tsien has remained active in retired life. He is still conducting research writing. His memoir of his life in the U.S. and the re-revised edition of “*Chung-mei Shu-yuan*” will soon be published. His classic book *Written on Bamboo and Silk* in English has been translated into Chinese, Japanese,



Professor Tsuen-hsueh Tsien, third from left and Teresa Wang Chang, second from right (Provided Teresa Wang Chang)

Korean and other languages. We are grateful that we can continue to share his knowledge and expertise.

- The full Chinese Text of this article is written by Teresa Wang Chang and published in *The Bulletin of the Library Association of China*, No. 74, June 2005; pages 9-11.
- Chinese Text was condensed by Ms. Katie Su, Head of the Bureau of International Exchange and Ms. Shiow-Man Liao, Exchange Librarian, NCL Newsletter executive editor
- English translation by Mr. Kristian Kildall, NCL Newsletter English editor.

Events

■ “Public Library Joint Database” Education, Training and Promotion

Since 2004, readers in Taiwan have enjoyed free access to over 30 database systems through the government-backed “Public Library Joint Database” program. In order to increase utilization of this resource, the NCL commissioned the Interlibrary Cooperation Association to organize courses for teachers and librarians on using the system. Between February 2004 and April 2005, the association arranged 50 such courses across Taiwan. A total of 1,624 people attended the courses, including 43 elementary school teachers, 225 middle and high school teachers, 934 librarians, and 27 others. Covering 13 subject areas, the 38 databases included in the system to date were selected from over 100 Chinese and foreign language databases at the NCL according to their suitability for public library needs. (Chinese text by Chung Hsueh-chen)

■ American Corner Opens at National Taichung Library

National Taichung Library (NTL) inaugurated the American Corner in Taichung on May 7 at the library’s Reference Room. The facility, the first of its kind to be established by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), represents the beginning of a new service model for public libraries in Taiwan.

According to statistics compiled by the Ministry of Education, 14,054 Taiwanese students applied for U.S. visas in 2004, representing 45% of all U.S. visa applications processed in Taiwan; and in 2003, nearly 480,000 Taiwanese citizens visited the U.S., according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These figures underscore the pressing demand in Taiwan for information on U.S. education and culture. The American Corner helps to meet this need by providing convenient access



Chen Chi-nan, Minister of Council for Cultural Affairs (center), Douglas H. Paal of the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, Taipei Office (right), and Taichung Mayor Jason Hu at the grand opening ceremony. (Photo by National Taichung Library)