

## **NBINet Center Visits Member Libraries**

The NBINet joint cataloging system currently comprises 70 libraries in the Taiwan area, including the NCL and university, public and special libraries, and had over 4.15 million catalog records as of June 2002. With the exception of periodic training workshops, liaison between the various NBINet members has been largely limited to telephone, fax and e-mail correspondences. Only on rare occasions can staff of the coordinating NBINet Center visit network members to understand their operations and offer suggestions on improvement. However, with budgetary support from the Ministry of Education, the center was able to arrange visits to several of the cooperating libraries from April this year.

Issues explored during the visits included data transfer scheduling problems, data conversion, cataloging procedures and linkage with NBINet, principles for arranging bibliographic material, willingness to contribute to online cooperative cataloging, use of the GUICat interface and other topics.

The center also received positive feedback from the member libraries. They reported an 80% to 90% success rate on record access through the system, and most were satisfied with the software environment. Most of the libraries using the INNOPAC system were already using the GUICat graphical interface for acquisition and cataloging processes. A majority of the members using other systems adopted the Z39.50 interface to conduct cross-platform searches and download records from the NBINet into their cataloging module. Several libraries offered suggestions on overcoming problems with GUICat use and system configuration. They also noted problems with certain system functions, which have dampened willingness to make the fullest use of NBINet. The center agreed to

discuss solution methods with the system developer.

In order to expand the content of NBINet, the center urged cooperating libraries to take more initiative in contributing cataloging records to the central database. It also agreed to follow up on suggestions by the member libraries to include the PerioGuide: Chinese Periodicals Directory and Dissertation and Thesis Abstract System in the NBINet system.

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