Dr. Lois Mai Chan Speaks on Metadata at NCL

To help local librarians handle the growing volume and various types of information resources, the NCL invited Dr. Lois Mai Chan (麥麟屏) of the School of Library and Information Science at University of Kentucky to speak on the topic of "Information Organizations and Metadata" on November 21, 2002.

Prof. Mai currently teaches courses at the University of Kentucky on "Information Storage and Retrieval" and "Knowledge Organizations" and is an expert in the areas of subject headings, queries, classification cataloging, metadata, knowledge organizations, and website browsing knowledge classification and subject searches. Her extensive experience and expertise has made her a popular speaker on these topics.

The NCL lecture was opened by a speech from library deputy director Mr. Sung Chien-cheng (宋建成). Prof. Mai followed with a speech introducing and comparing the AACR/MARC21, the Dublin Core, TEI, EAD, VRA, CSDGM/FGDC, CIMI, GILS and ONIX metadata systems, and describing the subject words and classification charts of each system.

Prof. Mai emphasized that it is not necessary to use every factor of each type of metadata, and that the decision on whether or not to use a qualifier for a particular factor should be based on actual circumstances. She noted that the AACR/MARC21 and Dublin Core are currently among the most widely used metadata systems.

Other issues discussed were: 1) the distinction among lists of controlled vocabulary, subject headings, thesauruses and keywords; 2) types of relations among words in controlled vocabularies and how to properly compile them; 3) control "free-floating subdivisions" not included in controlled vocabularies; 4) procedures when using lists of controlled vocabularies to conduct subject cataloging; and 5) an introduction to reference books popular among U.S. libraries on "subject terms."