

For researchers, the NCL provides assistance through resource collection, publication of news on Chinese studies, publication of academic reports and catalog references, and the holding of academic seminars.

The library also serves publishers through its national book deposit system, management of the ISBN, CIP, ISSN and ISRC systems, publication of news on recent and upcoming publications, and a new publication information download service.

Library services to government organizations include the storage of government publications and facilitation of public access to such materials through online systems and other channels. The library also stores publications of the U.S. government, United Nations, and other international organizations.

In its role of promoting cultural exchange, the NCL provides domestic publications to over 1,200 exchange partners in 120 countries, and in turn receives a large volume of overseas and mainland Chinese publications for public use in Taiwan. Duplicate copies received by the library are donated to domestic and overseas libraries in need, including mainland libraries, and libraries serving the children of overseas Chinese. The NCL also organizes book exhibits in Taiwan and overseas to promote its information systems and new publications. It invites domestic and overseas experts to attend seminars on specialized topics, and supports foreign scholars of Chinese studies to conduct research in Taiwan, among other international exchange activities.

## ■ NCL Chinese Knowledge Portal

The Chinese Knowledge Portal was developed by the NCL as part of the 2003 Library Development Plan and Public Library Improvement Plan to integrate Chinese-language Internet resources in Taiwan and abroad and provide a single interface for searching and browsing such resources. The portal links with the NCL's own database systems as well as the collection catalogues of NBINet cooperative libraries and public libraries, making it easy for users to quickly locate needed information. Users can also

search the joint databases of public libraries, online bookstore and publisher information, and get help in tracking down online resources. Academic information makes up the bulk of resources consolidated under the portal.

The resources collected under the portal include materials from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, mainland China and indeed everywhere else there are Chinese people. In selecting these resources, the aim has been not simply to supply information but to promote knowledge. Thus, although the portal is devoted mainly to catalog resources at present, the site aims to develop as a provider of knowledge in a broader sense.

Distinguishing features of the portal are as follows:

1. Integration: The portal integrates over a hundred domestic databases, including NCL information systems, various library catalog systems, online bookstore and publisher information, and public library joint databases.
2. Personalization: The portal can be personalized by users by saving often used database and setting information. There are also advanced search functions for refining queries.
3. Classification: The portal creates a classified directory of information according to the nature, topic and type of information.
4. Search: The portal provides an integrated search engine for searching data from numerous different sources.
5. Security: The portal can only be used from the NCL and various public libraries and access is restricted by IP control functions.

## ■ Taiwan Family Register Project

### Background

There are over 10,000 family registers in the Taiwan area, accounting for a significant