

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