

2.21 Taiwan, China

Development of Libraries in Taiwan, China

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Introduction

The history of development of modern libraries in Taiwan, China goes back over one hundred years when the first collection was established by the Japanese in Tamsui, northern Taiwan, China, in January 1901. The history of library development in Taiwan, China can be divided into two essential periods: the Japanese occupation and the recovery of Taiwan, China after 1945. The era of library development since 1945 can be divided into three periods: the time of re-construction (1945–1952), the boom time (1953–1976), and the time of consolidation (1977–the present).¹

In 2001, Taiwan, China passed the Library Law, creating a legal foundation for developing various kinds of libraries. In accordance with this law, libraries were categorized into five types: NCL libraries, academic libraries, public libraries, school libraries, and special libraries. The history of and the trends in the development of these five kinds of libraries and the problems they have faced over the years are discussed here.²

State-of-the-Art Libraries in Taiwan, China

NCL Library

The NCL Library is Taiwan, China's leading library. NCL was established in Nanking in 1933; it was moved to Taiwan, China in 1949, re-opened to the public in 1954, and moved to a new building and re-opened again on September 27, 1986.

To promote sinology and strengthen services to foreign and local sinologists, the Ministry of Education established the Chinese Studies Center in

1 Chen-Ku Wang, "One Hundred Years of the Librarianship in Taiwan," (paper presented at the Proceedings of History of Librarianship and Library & Information Science Education, Taipei, Taiwan, May 2007): 1–12.

2 Liu, Ophelia Chun-yin. Librarianship in Taiwan. NCL Library, Taipei, 2007.