

## Conference report for TMLA 2019: Changhua, Taiwan 5-6 September 2019



**Tzu-heng Chiu**

President, TMLA

Professor & Director, Taipei Medical University Library, Taipei, Taiwan

[tzchiu@tmu.edu.tw](mailto:tzchiu@tmu.edu.tw)

This year the Taiwan Medical Library Association (TMLA) annual conference was held in Changhua, Taiwan. This conference is held in rotation by major medical libraries in northern, central, and southern Taiwan. This year, the library of Changhua Christian Hospital in central Taiwan, which is affiliated with one of the 19 medical centers, was in charge of organizing this event. The 2019 TMLA annual conference incorporated the 41th Medical Library Personnel Seminar and attracted the participation of more than 90 delegates from 66 medical and hospital libraries in Taiwan as well as 26 suppliers of book and information-related products. In addition, three representatives from the Medical Library Branch, Library Society of China as well as scholars from libraries in the Southern Medical University, China and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen attended this conference.

The opening ceremony of the conference was held in the Changhua Christian Hospital International Education and Training Center in the morning of September 5, where the TMLA President Tzu-Heng Chiu gave a welcome remark and thanked related personnel for their effort in organizing the conference. Chin-San Liu, the vice superintendent of the Changhua Christian Hospital, served as the local representative to welcome all attendees. This year's conference included five keynote speeches, eight practical reports by library delegates, six information sharing sessions by suppliers, and one Ovid-Flysheet breakfast session. The conference also comprised several social events, namely a gala dinner, tea breaks, and a library visit and exhibitions. In order to encourage interactions between suppliers and attendees, a stamp collection card was designed, which allowed attendees to receive a stamp for every exhibition they have visited. A NT\$200 convenience store gift card could be exchanged using 10 stamps, and a lottery ticket could be exchanged using 15 stamps. Many attendees enjoyed this activity.

The five keynote speeches provided rich content. Specifically, one physician and one pharmacist were invited to share their thoughts on the role of libraries in medical education and pharmacy intern practice. This allowed attendees to understand how medical librarians can collaborate with other hospital units and provide education. Chi-Shiou Lin, the Dean of the Department and Graduate Institute of Library and Information Science in National Taiwan University, gave a speech on how to help medical researchers avoid predatory journals. Foster Zhang, the University librarian of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, discussed how libraries have become community hubs in the university campus and library space arrangement and services that should be conducted in response to this change. Hui-Man Nui, an editor from the National Central Library, gave a speech on the effect of Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) and Resource Description and Access (RDA) on information services provided by libraries.

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Another highlight of the conference was the poster session held by the TMLA Education Committee, which was first held in the previous year's conference. In this event, scholars and experts are invited to select 10 of the research abstracts submitted to this conference. The authors of the selected abstracts then create posters that are showcased during the conference. On the conference day, three professional judges are invited to select the top three posters, and conference attendees are invited to vote for the most popular poster. The first-place winner of this event can choose to submit the abstract of poster to the 2020 Medical Library Association (MLA) or European Association for Health Information and Library (EAHIL) conference. If the poster is accepted in one of the conferences and the first author of the poster participates in it, he can receive a grant from the TMLA and International Federation for Information Integration (IFII), which helps cover the round-trip plane fare and conference registration fee. The first-place winner in 2019 was Chi-Ju Chiu from the Knowledge Service Division of the Taipei Medical University Library, who serves as the first author of the poster entitled "Medical Library Consortium Service Satisfaction Survey: Using the Taipei Medical University Library Consortium as an example." The popularity award winner was Chin-Wen Chou from Kun-Yen Medical Library of National Cheng Kung University Library, who serves as the first author of the poster titled "Medical reference librarians as research partners of international graduate students in the systematic review process: a case study of Kun-Yen Medical Library, NCKU".

The closing ceremony was held at 4:00 pm on September 6. During the ceremony, five TMLA executive directors and attendees engaged in comprehensive discussion and exchanged their opinions on the TMLA professional certification examination for medical librarians and the new launched digital learning platform. Subsequently, President Chiu hosted the stamp collection lottery draw and issued the certificates and awards to the winners of the poster session. Finally, she announced that next year's conference will be held by the Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital Library. This drew a perfect conclusion for the 2-day TMLA conference.

### **Future TMLA annual meetings – dates for your diary:**

Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 20-21 August 2020.