In order to popularize the habit of reading and encourage residents in Taiwan to share and reuse book resources, the National Taichung Library (NTL) integrated the Book Exchange Activity once held locally by public libraries at different time and places into a big festival called National Book Exchange Day that takes place simultaneously in public libraries nationwide.

All books in good shape without violating copyright are exchangeable. During the book receiving time, people bring their used books to a designated place for getting a Book Exchange Card. All received books would be well arranged and assorted by libraries for the festival. Everyone with a Book Exchange Card can attend the activity to exchange up to 10 books.

This festival has been very successful and gained its reputation since 2004, resulting in a noticeable development in many aspects:
1. Participant libraries: from 268 to 303.
2. Volumes of books for exchange nation-wide: from about 270,000 to 510,000.
3. Exchanged books: from 180,000 to 398,000.
4. Participants: from about 79,000 to 167,000.

In 2005, the amount of participants exceeded 100,000. When the activity was over, the NTL donated the rest of books to some county public libraries in remote region and especially to Chopin’s Corner Foundation in Houston, U.S.A. to help fund Chopin’s Corner Library (about 40,000 volumes).

The National Book Exchange Day will be going on for the 8th year in 2008. This activity held annually during summer vacation has become an indispensable festival through which all public libraries aim to promote reading activity on the island. Such a festival also meets residents’ needs of searching for treasure from books and sharing knowledge resources.

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Sharing and Reusing Book Resources:
The Book Exchange Day
Activity of Public Libraries in Taiwan

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