

Cooperative Development for Reference Database in Taiwan

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Due to continuous budget cutting and rising cost of reference database, it has become a general concern for university libraries in Taiwan to develop a strategy to acquire as many databases as possible in a cost-effective way. The cooperative approach is considered as a possible solution. The purpose of this study is to make proposals for this issue. Firstly, it surveys reference database collection of university libraries in Taiwan; secondly, it analyzes and explores university libraries' needs and opinions regarding ways of cooperation. The result of the questionnaire survey and interview shows that university libraries spend a significant amount of money on the subscription of reference databases. It also reveals a high percentage of duplication among libraries. All university libraries express the willingness to participate cooperative program. To form regional center is considered by most libraries as an appropriate strategy to achieve the goal.