

## **Initiating a Public Culture Network in Taiwan: Next Step for Taiwan Digital Archives Expansion Project, TELDAP**

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The acknowledgement of cultural diversity and recognition of the interaction of cultures throughout history has already become a world trend, as is evident by the declarations initiated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) such as the “UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity” and the “Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.” In recent years, increasing efforts have been made to preserve the historical, cultural and biological diversity of Taiwan. The frequent changes in political power over the past 400 years have left the island with a diverse cultural heritage. The terrain, climate and ecological environment of Taiwan have endowed the island with a biodiversity unique in the world. Through the establishment and expansion of the “digital archives”, we are now able to preserve digitally these rich historical, cultural and biological features of Taiwan. The internet has already emerged as a main “social media”, spurring advancements in technology and transforming people’s ideas and lifestyles. Advancements in internet technology have provided us with more opportunities to develop better digital preservation strategies.

Through the website “Cyber Island Exhibition”, we have now started collecting folk archives. These digital archives are not merely intended to be an “official monologue” by its creators. Instead, using the internet as a “social media”, we hope that the expansion of the “digital archives” will generate a dialogue in which society can participate. With this engagement by the public, we hope to transform “Cyber Island” into a digital platform which presents Taiwan’s diversity to the world.