

Library Services Behind the Scenes in Thailand

by Ms. Yoshimi Horiuchi, Bookworm Foundation, Thailand

Introduction (by Benjamin Scheffler, IFLA SC C&YA): The Bookworm Foundation is a NGO, non-profit and non-religious organisation which provides mobile library services to children and adults both with and without disabilities in rural areas of Thailand. The organisation was founded in 2010 by Ms. Yoshimi Horiuchi.

Though we don't have activities for children at the moment, Rang Mai Library is open as usual. We make sure that no more than two staff are in the library at the same time, and the rest work at home.

Actually, people are borrowing our books more than ever. Nok, our librarian, makes sure that we have books from all genre for all generations, she uses her home office days to wrap-up new books in film, and repair damaged books.

The Bookworm Corner Project, our little bookshelves scattered around Phrao District, is partially operating. More than half of the bookshelves are cleared because schools are closed, and nobody gathers around at community temples, and so on. But 6 out of 16 bookshelves are filled, and Ann, our outreach staff, makes sure to disinfect all books before delivery and after the return. This, in fact, is a lot of work though it may not be visible to anyone!

Our home visit program for elderly and people with disabilities is still going on. In fact, we thought of stopping the project during Corona time, because most of our beneficiaries are very vulnerable due to poor health. But to our delight, we received requests from them to continue the project, so we decided to deliver books under the condition that Ann does not interact with our members and their family to minimize the risk of infection. She goes and delivers the books twice a month at their doorstep.

Bookworm Foundation, 169 M. 6, T. Wiang, Phrao, Chiang Mai 50190 Thailand

Website: <http://www.alwaysreadingcaravan.org/php/index.php>