

Abstract

Family records are not only a historical resource for later generations to understand the lives before them, but also an essential way to trace back their origins. Investigating family histories is becoming more and more common nowadays. Family records, closely related to family histories, are playing a crucial role when structuring family histories. At present, the development of Taiwanese family histories is put emphasis on. Tracing back one's family histories will be much easier and more efficient if family records are complete. Complete family records include genuinely reflecting a family's history records and also providing a resource of past lives to pass on to later generations.

This research aims at understanding the management of family records. Two methods are adopted, 'individual research' and 'in-depth interview. Six institutes are studied, including, 1. Institute of Taiwan History, AcademiaSinica, 2. Taiwan Historica, 3. Taipei City Archives, 4. National Taiwan Library, 5. National Taiwan Museum, 6. Institute of Yilan County History. By investigating the collection in the six institutes, an idea of how family records are assorted in Taiwan will be obtained. The results also show different viewpoints that each institute holds when managing family records.

The conclusion made according to the results of actual interviews is as following: 1. Each institute holds a different view on defining 'family records'. 2. The collections in the six institutes are mainly old English and family trees. 3. Overlaps frequently occur between institutes. 4. The adopted methods are not the same. 5. Family records are mostly used for the purpose of academic researches. 6. Family records are collected with diverse values.

In response to the results of this research, suggestions are stated as follows:

1. Set up regulations to manage family records as soon as possible. 2. Make clear the definition and the scope of family records. 3. Manage family records with the methods of either centralization or decentralization. 4. Create national wide catalogues. 5. Raise people's awareness of family records. 6. Establish characteristics galleries where store family records. 7. Encourage public libraries to include collections of local cultural document and service.

【Keywords】 family records ; archive ; genealogy ; family history

