

The history of National Central Library will present the important events since its opening in 1933, displaying library collections in early age, for example, the wooden tablet hanging in the special room at old Library, lead type-setting typewriter, and etc. In addition, the exhibition will include audio-visual materials related to NCL history.

The tour of national libraries in the world exhibit will focus on the introduction to national libraries in the world, presenting NCL communications with foreign libraries, and promoting reading programs among all libraries. The history of books exhibit introduces the evolution of books, presenting the development of printing in the eastern and western countries, and the selection of collections at National Central Library, all introduce the classics to the public by way of appealing their interests. Contents of three subject exhibits include the materials both of Chinese and Foreign, from old time and present age, i.e., all inclusive. Date of exhibition starts from April 18 to June 16, 2013.

■ *The NCL 80th Anniversary Logo*

Integrating time immemorial Chinese calligraphy and electronic digitization to visualize “Going Strong Beyond the 80s” symbolism; communicates NCL’s continuous ongoing efforts to preserve the Chinese classics while going into electronic digitization facilitating service to the general public.

The use of the golden color symbolizes to the highest degree the presence of the NCL in the land of Taiwan. It also expresses the solemnity of the 80th anniversary celebration.



NCL 80th Anniversary Logo

■ *Conference on “A New Paradigm for Globalized Knowledge and Library Development”*

On the 18th of April 2013, Thursday, to the 19th, Friday, an international conference will be held on “A New Paradigm for Globalized Knowledge and Library Development.” National library directors from all over the world are invited to participate and give lectures. This is a great opportunity to understand the latest trend of library information from different countries.

It is also a good occasion to share our present library situation and development as well as the NCL’s services and our experience of rare collection innovative use. These will deepen the exchange and communication between scholarly learning and the actual situation.

■ *Eighty years: Time to Celebrate, Reflect, Plan a Future.*

*By Peter E. Sidorko
University Librarian, University of Hong
Kong, Hong Kong*

I am extremely honored to have the opportunity to congratulate the National Central Library, Taiwan, (NCL) on its 80th anniversary. Eighty years of success is a great achievement for any organization and the Library should be well and truly proud of its longevity and its contributions to society at large.

As a major research library, the National Central Library is not merely a repository of research materials. It is, in my opinion, very much a “people’s library” with its open doors welcoming all manner of users, its services providing the necessary support for those users and its outstanding collections that have contributed to Taiwan society and the world at large. The National Central Library has also set very high standards in terms of its use of technology, particularly as a tool for improving access as well as ensuring long term preservation of library resources.

The Library’s preservation and conservation efforts, through manual upkeep as well as microform creation, have ensured the long term

access to many unique treasures for many years now. In more recent years the Library has focused much attention on digitization of its special collections, thus further ensuring long term and convenient access to these resources. In fact, the Library has in many ways set new standards in digitization of rare materials focusing its attention on materials that many libraries digitize such as rare books, theses, local government documents, periodicals and newspapers, but also on lesser digitized items such as rubbings of stone inscriptions in Taiwan, news programmes and genealogies.

The National Central Library has also set its mark in terms of leadership for libraries in Taiwan and the region. It has played host to many international seminars, workshops and conferences that have highlighted the Library's broad areas of expertise and provided much needed training to others seeking such expertise. Perhaps most significant among these is the annual *International Professional Librarian Training: Sinological Resources and Services* seminar that brings together East Asian librarians from all over the world.

One of the keys to future success for research libraries will be their ability to collaborate with other libraries. Dramatically shifting technologies, changing user behaviors and demands coupled with limited and often reducing library budgets mean that such collaborations will be more necessary as time proceeds. The National Central Library, Taiwan, has been cognizant of this need for many years. Its long list of cooperative partnerships with libraries around the world is testament to: 1. the realization that libraries must work together for the common good of their users, but also; 2. the Library's willingness to share its expertise and resources through cooperative projects for the benefit of its partners. The University of Hong Kong Libraries is truly proud to be one of the Library's cooperative partners having signed an exchange agreement on May 13, 2009. Our agreement covers areas of cooperation that include exchange of materials, exchange of experience in

service, personnel and related activities, digitization initiatives, bibliographic database creation and publishing.

Having just completed our centenary celebrations in 2012, the University of Hong Kong Libraries is all too aware of the significance that celebrating such events brings. It is a time to celebrate, a time to pause and reflect on successes, a time to consider our future and it is also a time to start to chart that future to ensure our ongoing success. Reflecting on the achievements of the National Central Library during this 80th anniversary, it is clear to me that their future is well assured as they have built a solid foundation upon which the success of future research libraries will be measured. I once again congratulate the National Central Library on their 80th anniversary and I wish the Library the greatest of successes into the future.

■ ***The future of National Libraries: One perspective from the National Library of Singapore***

*By Ngian Lek Choh
Director, National Library, Singapore*

Congratulations to the National Central Library of Taiwan on your 80th Anniversary!

Thank you for inviting me to contribute to this very special occasion. I have been Director of the National Library of Singapore (NLS) for seven years now, and I feel fortunate to have the chance to see the growth of the library and the rapid changes in the way users use our collections and services. I will use this opportunity to share my learning over the years and my insights on the future of national libraries.

For many years, the National Library of Singapore has not been well-understood by users in Singapore, mainly because Public Libraries in Singapore are very well-developed, and also very convenient and accessible. This means that most of the users in Singapore know what they can get from the public libraries, and comparatively, they are less familiar with the collections and the services of the National Library.