

The NBINet Librarian Consortium Meeting was held in the afternoon. In addition to a brief report on operations at the NBINet, this year's meeting also discussed such issues as changing venues for future meetings, touring and visiting foreign bibliographic centers, etc. Another main purpose for this meeting was to re-elect the policy committee. With the assistance of those in attendance, the eighth policy committee was selected.

■ The 4th Xuanlan Forum Has a New Look

Starting in 2012, the NCL and the Nanjing Library determined to host a Xuanlan (玄覽) Forum each year. 2017 was the fourth year, with the forum being hosted by the NCL on Oct. 17. The theme for this year was "Library Plus: Knowledge Flow and Space Creation." A total of thirteen scholars and experts from the Nanjing Library, the National Library of China, and from Taiwan were invited to speak on five issues under the following two broad topics: "Library Plus: Removing Wall and the New Face of Libraries, Cross-industry Collaboration and New Services Routes" and "Knowledge Plus: Bringing New Life to Ancient Books and Knowledge Restructuring, Digital Humanities and Knowledge Sharing, Cloud Learning and the New Face of Reading."



A group photo of experts and scholars from China and Taiwan at the 4th Xuanlan Forum.

In addition, Prof. Jieh Hsiang was invited to speak on "Research on Encyclopedias from the Perspective of Digital Humanities." Meetings on the second day of the forum were held at Southern Taiwan University (南臺) of Science and Technology, where an open discussion was held on "Libraries and the Development of Creative Works."

■ Dr. Ismail Abdullahi Speaks on "The Role of Librarians in the 21st Century"

The National Central Library (NCL), the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), and the Library Association of the Republic of China cohosted a lecture on Dec. 20 on the topic "The Role of Librarians in the 21st Century." Dr. Ismail Abdullahi, who at the invitation of the AIT made time in his schedule to come, shared his research insights. The NCL asked Prof. Mei-mei Wu from National Taiwan Normal University's Graduate Institute of Library and Information Studies to act as discussant.



Participants take photos with Dr. Ismail Abdullahi (4th left) after the speech.

In Dr. Abdullahi's lecture, he shared ALA's (American Library Association) recent experience in establishing a strong cooperative library network, as well as how young people's online interaction are

challenging libraries and the needs for librarians. From there he explored what skills librarians needed in this new age to respond to changes and how they can act in a role of spreading freedom of speech in a democratic society.

■ A Trip of Exchanges and Learning: A Public Library Delegation from Taiwan Goes to Singapore

The Ministry of Education allocated special funds to form a “Taiwan Public Library Learning Delegation to Singapore.” This took place on Dec. 4-6, 2017 at Singapore’s National Library Board (NLB).

Staff at the NLB introduced their reading promotion activities and digitization services. The Taiwan delegation toured the national library and other public libraries in Singapore. Director-General Tseng gave a lecture on recent progress in librarianship in Taiwan, the Taiwan Ministry of Education’s policies and subsidies, reading promotion efforts, and innovative services. Representatives from Taiwan’s municipalities and counties also gave excellent presentations on innovative services in their libraries.



The delegation at the Jurong Regional Library.

In addition to attending workshops, the delegation also visited Jurong Regional Library, Tampines Regional Library, the Library of Esplanade, the Library of Orchard, and Singapore Management University Library etc.

■ 2017 Pacific Neighborhood Consortium

The Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC) 2017 Annual Conference and Joint Meetings was held on Nov. 7-9 at National Cheng Kung University (成功), Taiwan. The theme for the conference was the Data Informed Society.

On Nov. 8, the National Central Library (NCL) hosted a session at the conference on the theme “Digital Libraries: The Intersection of Humanity and Technology.” Three scholars delivered papers at the session, which was moderated by NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng. They are Prof. Ko-chiu Wu from Department and Graduate Institute of Library and Information Science, National Taipei University of Technology. Dr. Klaus Ceynowa from the Bavarian State Library, Germany, and Dr. Chiung-min Tsai from Research Center for Digital Humanities National Taiwan University.



Director-General Tseng (2nd, right) with the invited speakers (left to right: Prof. Wu, Dr. Ceynowa, and Dr. Tsai).