

committee researched the requirements and came to a consensus. It formulated initial project plans and conducted a needs assessment, creating a website (<https://sbncp.ncl.edu.tw/tw/>) to provide information to the public and to solicit public input. It also sent personnel to libraries in Japan and the US to collect information related to archiving books, keeping data, and past digital preservation experiences. Finally, it held public hearings, forums, and information meetings to hear local input and to pool together insights.

On March 15, 2018, NCL accepted a bid from Transcend Engineering Consultants Co., Ltd. to function as Project and Construction Management (PCM).

### ■ **Three National Libraries Jointly Participate in the 2018 Taipei International Book Exhibition**

The 26th Taipei International Book Exhibition took place on February 6-11, 2018 at Taipei World Trade Center exhibition halls. This year the National Central Library (NCL) once again invited the National Taiwan Library and National Library of Public Information to put together a joint exhibit. The theme chosen for 2018 was “A Fantastic Voyage in the Sea of Books.” The opening ceremony for the exhibit was held on February 6. Chief Secretary Dr. Nan-shyan Chu represented the Ministry of Education (MOE), while Taipei Book Fair Foundation (TBFF) Chairman Cheng-ming Chao, Israel Economic and Cultural Office Representative Asher Yarden, and several distinguished guests were invited to attend and give speeches.

In her speech, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng highlighted the fact that a partnership exists between libraries and publishers. When readers use

libraries more, they fall in love with reading; and the more they cultivate reading habits, the more often they buy books. MOE Chief Secretary Chu encouraged the audience to enthusiastically attend Taipei’s book exhibitions, buy more books there, and read more, while delivering his remarks. TBFF Chairman Chao highly praised the highly distinctive design of this year’s exhibition booth, saying it was like a big ship had sailed onto the exhibition floor.

2018’s joint exhibit utilized reproductions of books and historical materials, as well as photographs of cultural artifacts, housed in the three libraries. The display showed the variety of ways to read, from traditional paper publications to modern digital technology.



*Distinguished guests of the opening ceremony take photos in front of the book exhibition booth.*

### ■ **A Reprint of National Treasure Diamond Sutra at NCL Makes Its Debut at Taipei International Book Exhibition**

A Reprint of National Treasure Diamond Sutra at NCL was published by Linking Publishing, and made its debut at 2018 Taipei International Book Exhibition (TiBE), which immediately became the highlight of Linking Publishing’s opening party at the TiBE’s opening day, February 6. The Library’s copy of the Diamond Sutra is a dual-color, one-juan volume printed in the 1341 (Yuan dynasty) by the

Zifu Monastery on Zhongxing Road. It's the earliest existing dual-colored sutra, which has important meaning in philology, bibliography, and history of printing.

NCL authorized Linking Publishing to publish the Diamond Sutra(Sanskrit: VajracchedikāPrajñāpāramitāSūtra). It was published in two sizes: the original size and a smaller one. The book was published in full color, with an exquisite cover and a traditional silk case. The book was completely sold out during its internet presale promotion period in the end of 2017. It is now undergoing a second printing.

Linking Publishing Director Tsai-chue Lin gave his special thanks to the NCL for offering such a publication opportunity to benefit wide public who are interested in Buddhism and classics, as well as imposing great assistance to publishers. He also emphasizes that libraries are good friends of publishing industry, and appreciates NCL's efforts on ancient books reprinting, classics reading, and reading promotion of general public. Director-General Tseng thanks Linking Publishing for using its specialty in publishing and marketing to create a new look for publishing reprints of ancient books.



Director Tsai-chue Lin(right) presents a reprint of Diamond Sutra to Director-General Tseng.

## Events

### ■ NCL Announces 2017 Reading Survey Findings in Taiwan

A press conference was held at the Ministry of Education on March 2, 2018, to announce the results of the 2017 Book Survey and the opening of community information centers. NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng explained the results of the survey. In 2017, there were 86.22 million visits to Taiwan's public libraries. Of these, 20.5 million visits resulted in borrowings, with a total of 74.93 million books borrowed, an increase on the figures for 2016. The most popular category of books was language and literature, of which 36.74 million volumes were borrowed, or 49.03% of the total number of books borrowed during the year. Most readers fell into the 35-44 age bracket, and were responsible for borrowing 21.33 million books, or 28.47% of the annual total.



A press conference of "2017 Reading Survey Findings in Taiwan" is held in the Ministry of Education.

The NCL conducted an analysis of borrowing in the last three years at Taiwan's libraries. Residents of Sanwang Township in Miaoli County were the most prolific readers, borrowing on average 14.07 volumes. In second place came Guishan Township in Hsinchu County with 7.17 volumes,