



Cultural Heritage,
Knowledge Innovation



National Central Library





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Cultural Heritage, Knowledge Innovation



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1

Visions, Aims, and Strategies

Creating an outstanding, professional, digital, international, diversified, and user-friendly national library.



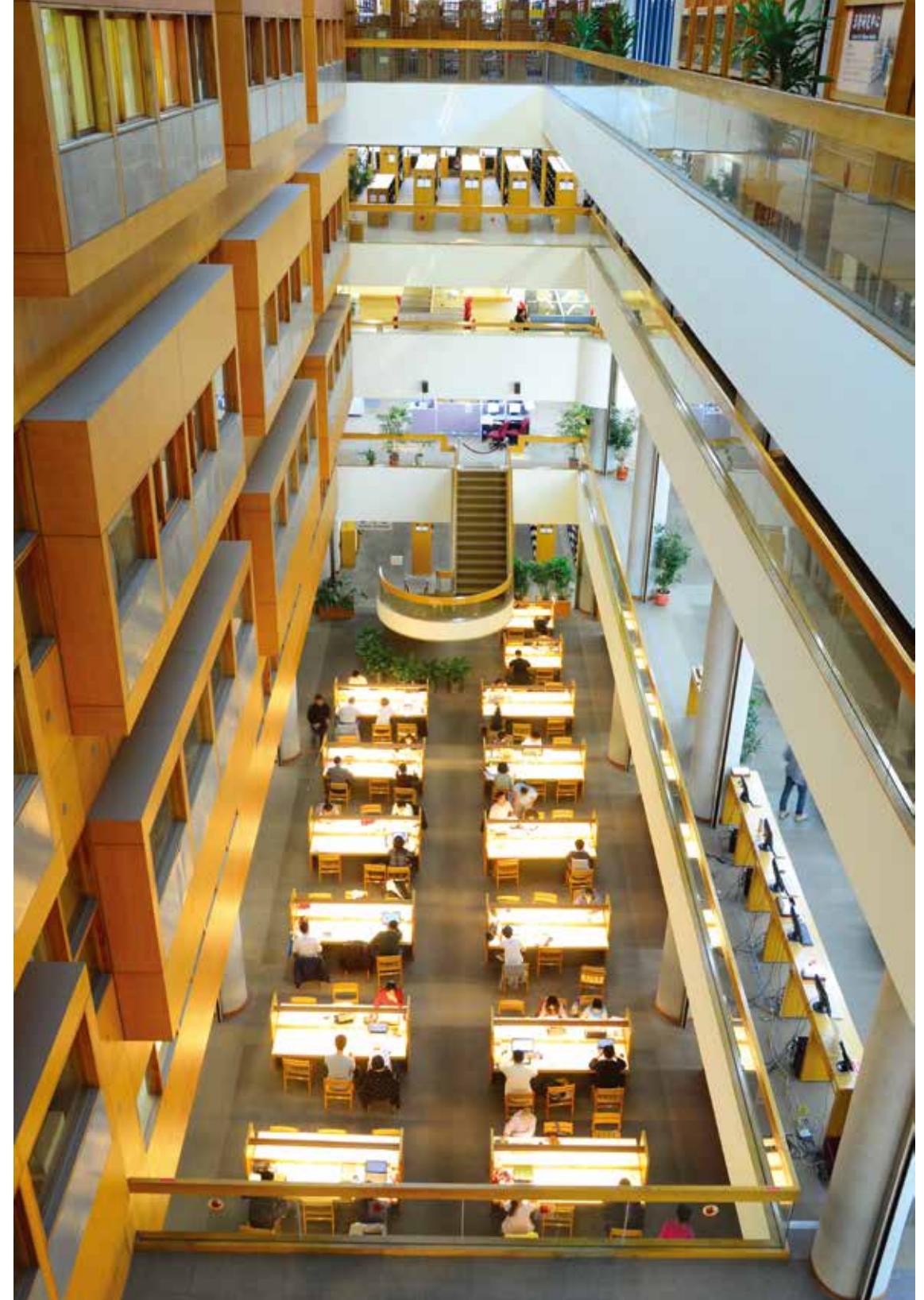
➤ Visions

Creating an outstanding, professional, digital, international, diversified, and user-friendly national library.



➤ Aims

1. Forging the National Central Library (NCL) into an influential force in the development of Taiwan's culture, society, economics, and technology.
2. Strengthening Taiwan's library services and making libraries centers of learning for the public in the age of knowledge economy to enhance national competitiveness.
3. Utilizing abundant resources and collections for Chinese studies and Taiwan studies and engaging in global exchanges and cooperation to make the NCL a top library in the Sinophone world.
4. Promoting a national reading environment, shaping good public reading habits and developing reading comprehension skills.
5. Bring about an increase in social value for libraries and aiding the public in realizing the new functionality and value of libraries in the digital age.
6. Promoting the revival of libraries in Taiwan, helping construct new public libraries, enhancing their collections, and improving the services.



► Strategies

1. Pose policies and development plans for libraries in Taiwan, leading the progress. Work with various types of libraries and university departments of library science and information, as well as professional associations, to formulate development policies for libraries. Every six years propose a vision, policies, and implementation plan, obtain approval and funding from the Legislative Yuan, then carry out the plan step-by-step.
2. Promote a national reading movement; work with publishers, bookstores, the media, schools, government agencies, and civic groups to conduct surveys on public reading comprehension, interests, and habits in cities and counties. Also, hold oral reading competitions, reading festivals, reading classics events to promote reading and enhance reading comprehension so as to make reading a part of everyday life.
3. Strengthen cooperative relationships with other national libraries across the globe. Assist foreign libraries in purchasing and cataloging their Chinese holdings, so as to promote the use of these materials. Facilitate book exchanges and other cooperative endeavors between libraries in Taiwan and those abroad.
4. Standardize professional service criteria and guidelines to be used by all libraries in Taiwan as a model to improve their services.
5. Establish a platform for digital publishing and access; expand digital knowledge services. Create a digital library services space to allow the public to experience e-reading and other future library services.
6. Augment organizational efficiency; increase service quality; create a healthy organizational culture; pursue service innovations; develop professionalism of the personnel; and mold an organizational image. Create a team of excellence and professionalism, reestablish National Central Library's professional leadership role, and create an innovative and progressive image for the National Central Library.
7. Construct a complete library service system; create strategic partnerships with university libraries, public libraries, elementary and secondary school libraries to form a sound and tight network of services. Jointly promote reading and provide professional library services.
8. Establish a national library materials purchasing and processing center to assist libraries in acquiring, purchasing, and processing materials from Southeast Asian nations. The center will also create braille, audio, and digital materials for

the visually impaired. Libraries can then provide better materials for the visually impaired, the disadvantaged, and those from various cultural backgrounds. This will help solve the service gaps between urban and rural areas caused by lacking linguistic and professional personnel.

9. Expand various media holdings and making them more localized, globalized, and diversified. Provide materials, information, and knowledge needed in research development across disciplines and in literary creation, thus increasing the national competitive power.
10. Support the promotion of and the collaboration and research on Chinese studies internationally, thus becoming an important archival, research, and supply center in the Chinese world.
11. Strengthen knowledge services for government agencies and departments, providing a personalized and customizable service model. Also, improve government policy by providing needed information for policy decisions.
12. Help build new national children and youth libraries, science and technology libraries, and art libraries. This will allow librarianship in Taiwan to be divided according to age and interest group, better meeting the needs of various groups. It will also enhance the professionalism of library services.
13. Promote reading certifications for communities and schools (based on the number of books in local libraries, the size of holdings, the reading population, the number of books borrowed and purchased, the number of bookstores, school libraries, and private collections), as well as certifications for outstanding libraries.
14. Promote e-book cloud repositories and create a digital experience space in the library.



2

Outstanding Facility Space

The NCL has a historical mission to preserve all national publications. It has a complete collection of contemporary publications in Taiwan and is most noted for its many rare and ancient Chinese books, books and periodicals published in Taiwan, government publications, and dissertations and theses. There are approximately 1,100 seats in the library and a variety of services to meet patron needs.





The NCL was relocated to Nanhai Road in Taipei, Taiwan in 1954. In 1986 new facilities were built on Zhongshan South Road, with seven floors above ground and two below. It has a total area of 40,000 sq. m. The NCL boasts a complete collection of contemporary publications in Taiwan and is most noted for its many rare and ancient Chinese books, other books and periodicals published in Taiwan, government publications, and dissertations and theses. Since many of the books and periodicals are legal deposits, to preserve publications in Taiwan the NCL does not allow items to be checked out. Since materials can only be accessed in the Library, several reading rooms are provided which offer a variety of services to meet patron needs.

For patron convenience in use of the Library, other amenities include a reading section for new Chinese books, a theses and dissertations section, a reference section, a periodical reading room, a rare books room, a microfiche room, an internet resource section, a government information and law reading room, a Japanese and Korean reading room, the Center for Chinese Studies Reading Room, and the Matteo Ricci and Pacific Studies Reading Room. In addition, the library also has study rooms and newspaper reading rooms, providing about 1,100 seats for reading. Each reading room has newly acquired books and periodicals on open shelves, internet access, and printing services. Patrons can search all Library holdings via the NCL's online catalog. Librarians are also available to provide needed information and guidance.

As a convenience to patrons using the NCL holdings to conduct scholarly research, the Library has 32 small research carrels and two group discussion rooms for individual or group use.

The NCL also has an Arts and Audiovisual Center, providing books on art, audiovisual materials, and reference services. The Center also has a gallery for creative activities and exhibitions. It often collaborates with scholars and artistic groups to hold various conferences and exhibitions. The Comic House boasts a collection of classic comics from Taiwan and abroad that are rich in both archival and research values, providing the public with a more variegated learning and research environment.



3

Important and Unique Collections



The NCL's collections can be divided into important historical works and modern publications. The former includes those from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, and are in the form of written manuscripts, block prints, annotated versions by famous scholars, hand-written copies, Han dynasty wood strips, and bronze and stone rubbings. The latter includes important modern publications on Chinese studies, both published domestically and internationally, and hand-written manuscripts. These collections make the NCL an important resource center for researching Taiwan's politics, economy, society, as well as academic and technological developments.

➤ Chinese rare books

The NCL's special collections are mainly comprised of rare books from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, in particular the abundant Ming anthologies, as well as other thread-bound books, stone and bronze rubbings. These national cultural assets are also important resources for scholarly research and have received much attention from scholars around the world. At present, the Library, in all, has more than 12,900 sets (ca.135,000 volumes) of rare books, including Dunhuang scrolls, Song, Jin, Yuan, and Ming books, hand copies, manuscripts, and annotated versions. Several of these ancient books are especially rare. Books designated as National treasures according to stipulations in the Cultural Asset Preservation Law number 40 titles (303 volumes), with important relics numbering 249 titles (2,875 volumes). A Rare Books and Special Collections database (<http://rbook2.ncl.edu.tw/>) was created that now contains over 8.38 million images and metadata available to the public.



➤ International resources on Chinese studies

Chinese Studies materials have been actively collected by the NCL's Center for Chinese Studies since 1981. Materials acquired include Chinese and foreign publications, extant ancient Chinese books found overseas, microfilm of Dunhuang scrolls, dissertations on sinology from American and European universities, and academic publications on Chinese literature, history, or philosophy published in China. The NCL's e-resources for Chinese studies are quite replete, including subscriptions to major databases and e-books from Taiwan and abroad. Starting in 2004, the Library began subscribing to theses and dissertations on Chinese studies from North America through the Digital Dissertation Consortium (DDC). Patrons can use ProQuest Dissertations and Theses (PQDT) to access the full text of these works.



➤ Important donations from individuals and groups

Donations from a wide variety of sources form one important channel to acquire books and periodicals to expand NCL's holdings. The NCL has been the recipient of many donations of rare collections. Over the years the NCL has amassed a sizable collection of rare items, including old books on literature and history, publications from pre- and post-WWII eras, broadcast recordings, vinyl records, manuscripts, letters, play scripts, musical scores, etc. In recent years, a plethora of books, journals and other donations have come in from diplomats, scholars, lawyers, musicians, and various public and private institutions, numbering over 10,000 items.

➤ Important publications from Taiwan and abroad

The NCL continues to acquire important books and other materials (print and digital) in Chinese, primarily on the humanities and social science disciplines, from Taiwan and abroad. They focus on disciplinary development, match social and economic development, and also discuss important international issues. They are extremely beneficial to academic research.

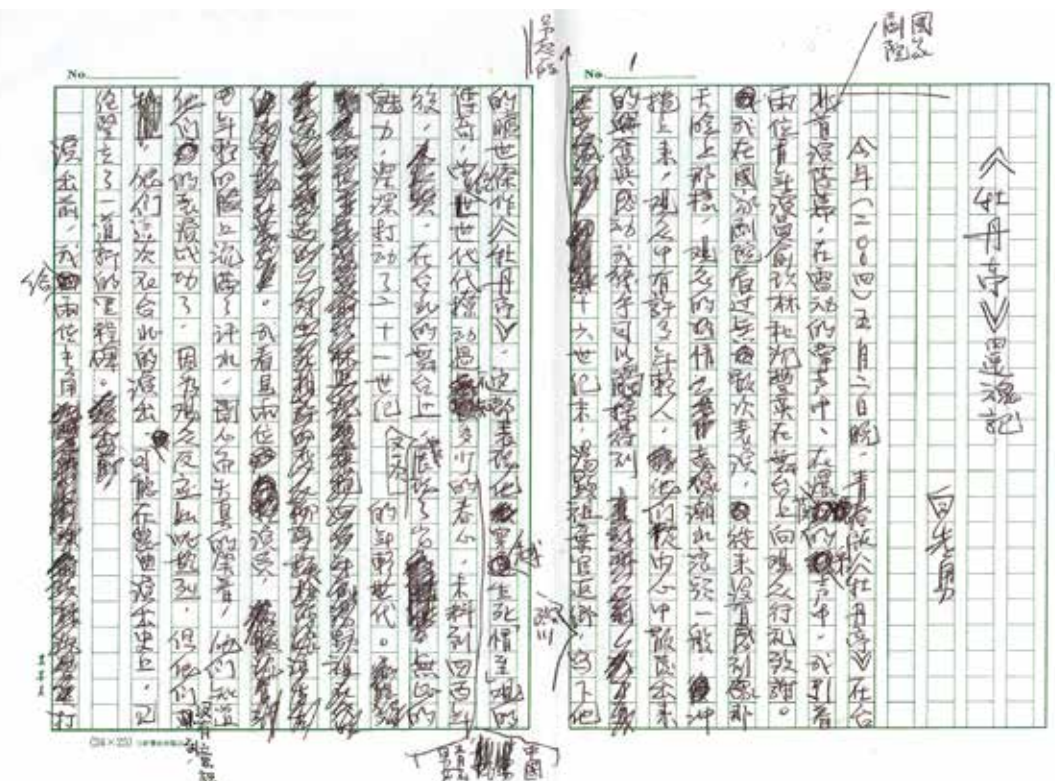
In terms of foreign language books, acquisitions focus on important topics such as globalization, climate change, environmental change, regional integration, new immigrants, aging, culture and creativity, as well as those works published by international organizations such as the OECD, UN, UNESCO, WB, WTO, and WHO. The Library also strives to collect all publications and foreign language materials in the field of library and information science put out by the American Library Association (ALA).



➤ Manuscript collection of contemporary celebrities

The preservation of manuscripts is a way to pass on cultural heritage and thus is very important. Manuscripts of historical writers are a critical part of the NCL's collection. As such, collecting manuscripts is one of its most important tasks. In recent years, manuscripts have been collected by 350 well-known authors, including Pai Hsien-yung, Ya Hsien, Luo Fu, Yu Kwang-chung, Lin Liang, Liang Dan-feng, Chung Ting-wen, Wang Wen-hsing, Ssu-ma Chung-yuan, Chang Mo, Liao Ching-hsiu, Xiao Xiao, Lin Huan-chang, Kuo Ssu-fen, Ma Wei-yi, Lin Wen-yi, Luo Men, Lei Hsiang, Yip Wai-lim, Chung Chao-cheng, Hua Yan, Chi Kang, Liu Ta-jen, Liu Mu-sha, Chen Chien-wu, Yang Ching-chu, Yang Kui, Du-Pan Fang-ge.

There are many types of work in the manuscript collections, including over 30 thousand volumes of poetry, prose, plays, commentaries, novels, sketches, water color paintings, oil paintings, calligraphy, traditional Chinese painting, and comics. The NCL has also created the Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts Database (<http://manu.ncl.edu.tw/>) to provide first-hand sources to those researching modern or contemporary scholarship, contemporary literature and art history.



4

Preservation of National Materials



Just as with national libraries in other countries, the NCL has the historic responsibility to preserve all national publications. This is what sets the NCL apart from other libraries in Taiwan. Ensuring the proper preservation, compiling a complete catalog and acquiring a copy of all publications in Taiwan are equally important tasks.

➤ Legal deposit of national materials

The NCL is the legal depository for all national publications according to Article 15 of the Library Law. The NCL actively acquires books, periodicals, and digital publications in Taiwan across various genres and topics. This is done to give accurate representation to the contemporary cultural, economic, and technological developments of Taiwan. These are not only available to contemporary patrons and researchers, but also become valuable documents for future generations.

To increase and diversify the NCL's holdings, it focuses on the acquisition of alternative types of publications, such as audiovisual materials or e-books in response to new publication trends, in addition to continuing to acquire new books and periodicals. As a way to make searching for materials more convenient, the NCL utilizes computer and communication technology to create various e-resources, including catalog systems, catalog index systems, subject-specific full-text image system, digital audiovisual service system, and e-papers. These include Chinese books and journals, periodical articles, theses and dissertations, official gazette, government publications, rare books, data on literary authors, digital audiovisual materials, etc. These can be searched for and used by patrons. The NCL focuses not only on the archival of physical books and other materials, but also collects outstanding websites that have representative and cultural-historical significance. This furthers NCL's mission to preserve resources and assist in academic research.



➤ Pre-publication ISBN issuance

The NCL is the authorized ISBN issuing agency in Taiwan, assigning ISBNs to all publications and managing ISRCs and CIP in the country. By doing so, the NCL helps to establish a catalog of national cultural assets, to bring about a standardization for publications in Taiwan that meets international standards, to increase the circulation speed of new publication information. The ISBN/CIP records in digital format are provided public to download and use through The ISBN Agency in Taiwan (ISBNnet)(<http://isbn.ncl.edu.tw/>) and the Open Government Data platform(<https://data.gov.tw/>). It can simplify acquisition procedures for libraries, to shorten the cataloging process and the time it takes new for books to reach library shelves, and to save manpower and resources. The NCL publishes the *Taiwan Publishing and Reading*, which highlight new publications and reading related information in Taiwan. It is hoped that the publication will be able to help publishers, libraries, and patrons easily keep abreast of new information and development trends of related fields. In addition, this can cultivate the interesting of reading and augment the energy of publishing and reading in Taiwan.

➤ National Bibliographic Information Network

The National Bibliographic Information Network (NBINet) Union Catalog (<http://nbinet.ncl.edu.tw/>) provides cooperating libraries to have cooperative cataloging. In addition, it also provides access for all libraries via the web to do copy cataloging. Users can also search and download various formats of information for free. The NBINet contains over 13 million records from National Central Library and 95 cooperating organizations (as of May 2018), as well as the ISBN Center catalog, the collection in the CCS, retrospective transcription of printed catalog for books published from 1911 to 1949, and the Taiwan Academic E-book Consortium. The system is equipped with a cross-system search function that conforms to the Z39.50 protocol, linking search engines with other databases of the same protocol.

➤ Legal deposit of theses and dissertations

According to the Degree Conferral Law, The NCL is the only library in Taiwan legally designated to archive theses and dissertations produced in Taiwan. As the NCL has a responsibility to assist academic research, under the direction of the Ministry of Education it created the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan. This system provides value-added knowledge services for theses and dissertations, such as full-text downloads (for those so authorized) and online research access for the public.

Since it first went online in June 2010, the system has attracted the attention and praise of users worldwide. It has also joined the international NDLTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations) as an institutional member, to further promote the internationalization of Taiwan's graduate-level research databases. The system's slogan is "A Free Database for Theses and Dissertations." Apart from its bibliometric and citation analysis functions, stronger academic research support, policy support, knowledge value and knowledge management services already in place, it also assists academic research by providing needed data analysis. The aim is to make it into a virtual expert system for theses and dissertations. Currently, this free public resource is available to all researchers throughout the country and the world.

➤ Complete collections of journals and magazines

The NCL archives deposited books, as well as journals and magazines covering a complete scope of topics published in Taiwan. The most important of these are interdisciplinary academic journals and university journals. These publications represent an accumulated record of collective intellectual capital that has been produced because of teaching and research. Research in literature, history, philosophy, culture, education, law, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, agriculture, medicine, or management can be found and used by using NCL's Index to Taiwan Periodical Literature System (<http://readopac.ncl.edu.tw/>).

➤ Complete preservation of government publications

According to the Library Law and Regulations Governing Government Publications, the National Central Library is the designated institution for depositing government publications. With the important responsibility to preserve publications in Taiwan, all books, serial publications, e-publications, and non-book materials from government agencies should all be deposited at the NCL.

Government publications show the effects of government administration, societal changes, cultural heritage, and an overview of national development. They are publicized government information. The content of these publications is both rich and varied, which makes up for any lack of commercial publications. The NCL not only preserves these, but also makes them available for browsing and for reference services. Of these, the National Central Library Gazette Online (<http://gaz.ncl.edu.tw/>) and Government Statistics (<http://stat.ncl.edu.tw/>) are quite important. NCL has established these two databases and populated them with digitized copies of government publications, thus making government data more open and more easily preserved.



5

Development of Digital Services

National Central Library has completed many projects to digitize its holdings. The aim of these projects is to both preserve and make these materials more useful. Through digitization, not only can these numerous and valuable materials be preserved long term, the end products can also be provided to scholars and those interested in cultural assets via search and browsing functions in databases. This will increase service value for those engaged in research and cultural creation. At the same time, the NCL's continued efforts in digitizing books and publications in Taiwan and expanding digitized holdings has led to the establishment of a national digital center that will proactively seek collaboration with libraries and archives in Taiwan. Digitizing important scholarly resources in Taiwan studies, creating a digital platform for reading, and providing the public with more complete and replete digital resource services are its aims.



➤ Information systems and digital services

The NCL's homepage (<http://www.ncl.edu.tw>) provides digital resource services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Patrons can access all the different systems for bibliographies, indices, government documents, special research, ancient books, and full-text images. As information technology continues to develop, the NCL is aiming at integrating different systems to offer patrons more convenient and personalized searching experience. The following is a list of important and unique systems included:

National Central Library <http://www.ncl.edu.tw>

NCL Online Catalog <http://aleweb.ncl.edu.tw>

Synergy of Metadata Resources in Taiwan (SMRT) <http://metadata.ncl.edu.tw>

ISBNnet http://isbn.ncl.edu.tw/NCL_ISBNNet/

NBINet <http://nbinet.ncl.edu.tw/>

National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan <http://ndltd.ncl.edu.tw/>

Index to Taiwan Periodical Literature System <http://readopac.ncl.edu.tw>

Taiwan Citation Index- Humanities and Sciences <http://tci.ncl.edu.tw/>

E-publication Platform System (EPS) <http://ebook.ncl.edu.tw/webpac/>

eBook ATM System <http://atm.ncl.edu.tw>

Taiwan eBooks <http://taiwanebook.ncl.edu.tw>

Web Archive Taiwan <http://webarchive.ncl.edu.tw/nclwa98Front/>

National Central Library Gazette Online <http://gaz.ncl.edu.tw/>



Government Statistics <http://stat.ncl.edu.tw/>

Taiwan Memory <http://tm.ncl.edu.tw>

Digital Audio Visual Archive System <http://dava.ncl.edu.tw>

Rare Books & Special Collections <http://rbook2.ncl.edu.tw>

Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts <http://manu.ncl.edu.tw>

Union Catalog of Rare Books <http://rbook2.ncl.edu.tw/Search/Index/2>

Digital Images of Rare Books <http://rbook2.ncl.edu.tw/Search/Index/1>

Center for Chinese Studies <http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/>

Knowledge-based Reference System <http://ref.ncl.edu.tw/>

E-learning Campus <http://cu.ncl.edu.tw/>

Themes in Reading Education Extension Project <http://ereading.ncl.edu.tw>

➤ Digitized materials

There are over 60 million digitized images in the NCL collections, including: special collections (rare books, stone and bronze rubbings, ancient legal contracts, and genealogies); manuscripts of famous persons, books and materials published in Taiwan (pre-1949 books, local gazetteers, and local publications, dissertations and theses); periodicals, newspapers and government publications in Taiwan (National Central Library Gazette Online, Government Statistics, government publications); images (images from 19th century Taiwan, Taiwan postcards from the Japanese-occupation period, yearbooks from the Japanese-occupation period, patriotic lotteries, art posters), and over 500,000 audio-visual materials.



➤ Collaboration on digitizing resources

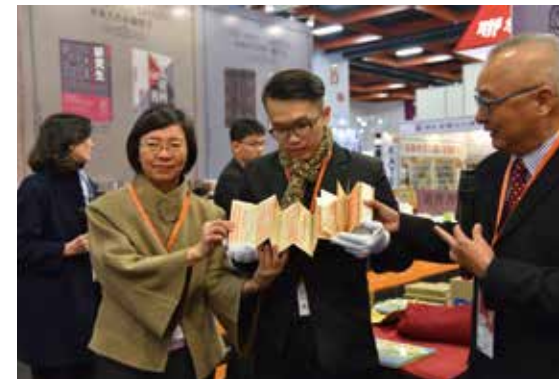
Due to its responsibility to preserve books and materials in Taiwan and disseminate research, the NCL has not only strived to digitize its own holdings, but has also actively sought out collaboration with other libraries and archival institutions in Taiwan to digitize their holdings. This helps bring together materials produced during the period 1911-1949 from various libraries, along with authorized publications from government agencies to reduce duplications in the digitization process and allow for a sharing of the databases. Also, a digital platform has been created for browsing, with all items listed with open access. These important resources for Taiwan studies thus can be available to patrons worldwide. This not only promotes overseas research on Taiwan, but also assists academic diplomacy and makes research done in Taiwan more visible.



➤ Value-added uses for ancient books

To give equal attention to preservation and accessibility, the NCL places high importance on the cataloging and dissemination of rare Chinese books. It desires to make these works of greater use, so in addition to working with publishers to produce replicas of ancient books (including a replica of *Forms of Metals, Minerals, Insects and Plants* with The World Book Co., LTD, a replica of *The Annotated Poetry of Su Dongpo* with Locus Publishing Company, a replica of *Ancient Hand-copied Versions of Qing Poetry and Prose Anthologies* with Xinwenfeng Publishers, and *A Compilation of Rare Books from Zihai: Taiwan* with the Taiwan Commercial Press), it also displays these works through physical exhibitions, online exhibitions, and e-book publication. The Library also piggybacks on the Taiwan Lectures in Chinese Studies series in the U.S. and Europe to hold theme-based exhibitions as a means to promote its holdings overseas. Such efforts show the important position Taiwan holds in the greater Chinese cultural world and also the value and content of the NCL's holdings.

The NCL also uses images of its digitized special collections to produce commercial items. For example, a replica of *The Diamond Sutra* which was printed in 1341 in red and black ink, decorative glass plates with the image of plum blossoms from *A Manual of Calligraphy and Painting from the Ten Bamboo Studio*, teacups with pictures of fruits also from *A Manual of Calligraphy and Painting from the Ten Bamboo Studio*, themed document folders from *Romance of the Western Chamber and Su Dongpo*, a tote bag with pictures of flowers and plants from *Forms of Metals, Minerals, Insects and Plants*, and a cypress pencil holder with orchids painted by Pan Shi-cheng. These commercial items help the public enjoy culture and allow ancient works to sidestep limitations in showing forth the exquisite beauty of culture.



➤ Production of online educational courses

The NCL desires to utilize digitized works and develop new types of digital learning videos. To that end, in 2014 it began developing 23 courses with the help of experts. These courses, such as Baodao-Manbo and Innovative Education and Promotion of E-resources on Ancient Books, make use of the NCL's abundant holdings and teach how to make use of different types of information and educational use of ancient books and classics. In addition, information technology has been used to enliven old videos that are archived in the Library, which were then integrated with video courses on Tang and Song poetry made with images from ancient books.



➤ Establishment of the national digital center

To accelerate the digitization of publications and materials in Taiwan, as well as their long-term preservation, in 2015 a digital center was established to act as a national center for all things digital. It is centered on formulating policies for the preservation of digital resources and executing digitization projects. Through cooperative agreements or outreach services, it systematically digitizes the holdings in libraries and archival institutions throughout Taiwan. These e-resources are then made available on the Taiwan eBook platform to increase their accessibility. This platform has become an important e-resource for Taiwan and Chinese studies worldwide.



6

Innovative Knowledge Services

In the wake of the rapid development of the internet, the NCL has offered additional services to patrons. It has expanded the availability and scope of e-reading, provided knowledge support reference services, subscribed to information on new books, enriched the scope of the NCL's digitized resources, and established a year-round knowledge resource service to allow people worldwide to more easily enjoy the achievements and wisdom of Taiwan's civilization.



➤ Different ways to experience digital reading

In an attempt to promote e-reading and to make use of the E-Publication Platform System, the E-book ATM System, and the QRead app that the NCL created, a digital reading experience area was set up in the Library's periodical reading room. This provides online browsing and borrowing of e-books, e-magazines, and e-newspapers; shows forth the numerous digital holdings at the NCL; and helps patrons develop a fun and interactive e-reading model with which to cultivate diverse reading tastes.

➤ Knowledge-based Reference System

The NCL's Knowledge-based Reference System provides a variety of media for inquiries. Patrons can submit their requests through the online services, emails, mails, by person, by phone, or by fax. Professional NCL staff either answers these requests or assists with finding needed information. Patrons can also use interlibrary loan (both domestic and international) to obtain full-text materials from other libraries.

Knowledge support and reference services have also created a series of classes on information literacy, including Making Use of Library Resources (for the general public), Workshop on Finding Materials (for civil servants), etc. In addition, as a way to increase the quality of the NCL's reference services, an optimized NCL Academic Knowledge Services Web will be launched on the foundation of the Knowledge-based Reference System.



➤ Daily notification of publication information

As a way to assist the public in understanding more information about new publications, the NCL has started a "Daily Publication Preview" service that automatically sends email notifications to patrons based on pre-selected topics. The emails preview new publications and contain links to the NCL's online catalog, NBINet, and several online bookstores in Taiwan.

➤ Synergy of Metadata Resources in Taiwan

Synergy of Metadata Resources in Taiwan (SMRT) (<http://metadata.ncl.edu.tw/>) synthesizes the NCL resources and provides single-portal search access to users across the globe. This system contains the largest integrated catalog and the most complete types of information available in Taiwan, including over 50 catalog resources (such as NBINet union catalog, dissertations and theses, and journals). The resources include over 17 million bibliographic records and over 700,000 personal or institutional names authority records connected with published books. While supporting library authority control service, it also allows users to search the names, backgrounds, and institutional changes of individuals or groups related to the works.

In addition to catalog searches, the system utilizes subject words and keywords from the books, as well as word analysis and frequency, to recommend search terms, visualized related terms, and other in-depth search functions. It also provides 12 export formats, such as Excel, MARC, and RefWorks, to cater to the average user as well as library professionals. Users simply select the format they would like to use, which increases the convenience of repeated use of resources.

➤ Taiwan Citation Index – Humanities and Social Sciences

The Taiwan Citation Index – Humanities and Social Sciences (TCI-HSS) (<http://tci.ncl.edu.tw/>) primarily contains Chinese academic journals from 18 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau going back to 2000. Dissertations and monographs from Taiwan are being added as well, with source and citation analysis information. The database boasts many functions, such as source search, citation search, browse search, authoritative inquiry, and statistics. Statistics provided are based on international bibliometric indicators, such as number of citations, impact factor, citing and cited half-life, etc. It also incorporates statistical data developed by academic groups, such as the longitudinal citation scale, to show long-term development trends.

➤ Mobile app services

The development of mobile web pages for current databases and of mobile apps makes it more convenient for mobile device users to access the NCL services and e-resources no matter where they are. Mobile offerings currently include i-Book Finder, a mobile version of library catalog search, a mobile version of TCI-HSS, a mobile version of the Digital Audiovisual Archive System, a mobile version of the E-Publication Platform System, an app for the E-publication Platform System, and the QRead app.

➤ Trends report issued regularly



Each year the NCL issues a Report on Surveys of Reading Habits by the Taiwanese Public, a Report on Taiwan Publication Trends, and a Report on Research Trends in Dissertations and Theses from Taiwan Universities. These reports provide concrete data and future research trends for libraries, publishers, universities, and the public. Each year the total number of books borrowed in public libraries is calculated and used to understand reading volume and interests for each age group. From this data a Top 10 list of the most popular books is generated. It is hoped that the yearly Report on Surveys of Reading Habits by the Taiwanese Public can be used as a reference by publishers in setting their plans for publication and sales, as well as a basis for libraries to determine new acquisitions and to promote reading. Statistical analysis of the number, genre, and common classification of new books published in Taiwan (including e-books), as well as the original language and country of translated works, is conducted using ISBN and CIP data from applications to the NCL's ISBN Center by publishers and individuals. This is used to generate the Report on Taiwan Publication Trends, showing new changes and trends in books published in Taiwan.

Theses and dissertations are important academic literature. As such, the NCL analyses the data from its National Digital Library of These and Dissertations in Taiwan to issue the Report on Research Trends in Dissertations and Theses from Taiwan Universities. This report shows new research trends in dissertations and theses, as well as the academic influence of universities and colleges.



7

Promotion of Chinese Studies



The importance of Chinese culture and sinological research led the central government to commission the NCL to set up a “Chinese Studies Information and Service Center” (in 1987 its name was changed to the Center for Chinese Studies) with the responsibility of promoting Chinese studies in Taiwan and abroad. Efforts over the last thirty years have led to much success. It has established a firm foundation for research in the humanities in Taiwan. Internationally, it has also created an image of excellent Taiwanese scholarship.

» Supporting foreign scholar research in Taiwan

In 1989, the CCS implemented a grant for foreign scholars to conduct research on Chinese studies in Taiwan. Starting in 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also commissioned it to handle the Taiwan Fellowship, which provides funding for foreign scholars researching Taiwan or Chinese studies to come to Taiwan for three months to one year. The CCS assists them with gathering information, as well as other living and research needs. The scholars also have opportunities to interact with Taiwanese scholars by attending conferences and cultural activities. Such activities leave a deep and lasting impression of Taiwan. In October 2011, the CCS Scholars Worldwide was established, which connects foreign grant recipients over the years to encourage continued exchange between Taiwan and international academia.

» Holding various academic activities



Through bringing together scholars and experts in sinology to discuss specific issues or novel interdisciplinary topics and co-hosting international conferences, the NCL is able to stimulate sinological institutions in Taiwan and extend the influence of research achievements overseas.

Each year in conjunction with the fellowships, visiting scholars are invited to participate in approximately 20 Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies, including 3-4 research presentations by scholars receiving the Taiwan Fellowship, and 2-3 sessions of the Global Friends of Chinese Studies Lecture for those who previously received the fellowships.



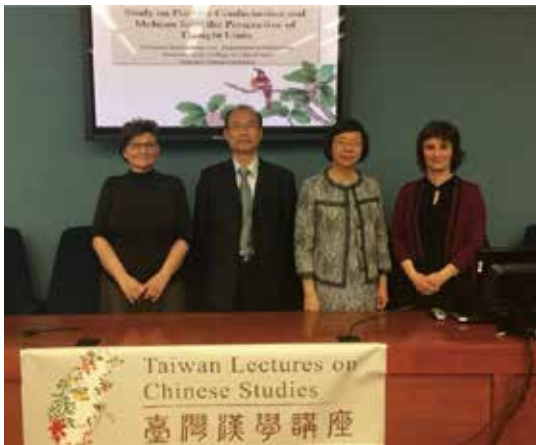
» Establishing Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies

As a way to strengthen the cooperation with sinological institutes throughout the world, to promote national and international exchange in Chinese studies, and to disseminate Taiwan's achievements in Chinese studies research, the NCL has built on the foundation of exchanging publications and Chinese studies research by establishing Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) overseas and populating them with books, journals, audiovisual materials and e-resources from Taiwan. As of June 2018, a total of 27 TRCCSs have been established in well-known research institutions and university libraries in the U.S.A., Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Belgium, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Czech, Slovenia, Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, Japan, Korea, Russia, Malaysia, and Vietnam. This project to promote Chinese studies abroad by setting up resource centers globally makes it much more convenient for sinologists abroad to obtain research materials. It also results in more international interaction and opportunities to share research. In so doing, it received the 2015 ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects.



» Expanding overseas scholarly exchange

The NCL also participates in international meetings and book exhibitions, such as the Association for Asian Studies and the European Association for Chinese Studies, to promote Taiwan's research achievements and publications. This allows the NCL to strengthen ties with important international Chinese studies institutions. The NCL also holds 6-8 sessions of Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies each year at various TRCCSs, inviting prominent scholars worldwide to present. In addition, it puts on touring exhibitions regarding classical works. Such efforts are a way to proactively introduce the world to great publications and new findings in research, thus exhibiting Taiwan's cultural depth and soft power. This will allow overseas Chinese studies researchers to understand the resources available in Taiwan through books, journals, the internet, and other events.



» Publishing works on Chinese studies



The CCS publishes *Chinese Studies*, a quarterly international journal that focuses on research on Chinese literature, history, and philosophy. It has been awarded the Ministry of Science and Technology's "Journal of Excellence Award" on several occasions. The quarterly *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* primarily reports on research trends in Taiwan and abroad. Over one hundred universities around the world regularly provide updated information. To increase the timeliness of the scholarly information, the *E-Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* is published monthly. The Center also publishes bibliographies, indices, and other reference works on sinological topics.

» Providing resources and services on Chinese studies



The Materials Room at the CCS contains a large number of exquisite and well-preserved works. Since its opening it has been much valued among scholars. It provides many resources and services to aid local and foreign scholars, as well as the general public, in researching topics in Chinese studies. These resources and services include books and journals available for borrowing, reference services, personalized information services for foreign scholars, search guides for Chinese studies databases, and theme-based book fairs.

The NCL and the Taipei Ricci Institute collaborated in 2010 to create the Matteo Ricci & Pacific Studies Reading Room, which primarily contains materials in Chinese, English, and French. Materials focus on studies on Matteo Ricci, East-West cultural exchanges, the Jesuits, comparative religion, international Chinese studies, linguistics, and philosophy.

8

Strengthening International Exchange

The NCL represents the Republic of China in working with foreign libraries and research institutions and in promoting exchange with international library organizations. Such efforts include publication exchanges, document delivery services, co-creation of e-resources, and the exchange of library information. In addition, the NCL attends international meetings, book exhibitions, and professional library activities to learn and share professional knowledge and experience.



➤ International exchange of publications

The NCL has represented the Taiwan government in establishing publication exchanges with foreign libraries, information centers, and academic research institutions. Currently, the exchanges occur with over eighty countries and six hundred organizations, including national libraries, public libraries, university libraries, special libraries, and academic research institutions. In order to promote Chinese culture and raise the visibility of Taiwan publications, the NCL has executed the book donation projects for the important libraries which have signed cooperative agreements with the NCL, and the foreign schools for Chinese people. It also often come with the the cultural diplomacy needs of the Taiwan representative offices abroad.

➤ Participation in international professional activities



As a way to augment understanding of international trends and activities in culture and education, the NCL actively participates in international organizations for library and information science and Chinese studies. Library staff attends the meetings of these organizations. International books exhibitions (or those of professional library organizations) are important events to display Taiwan's publication achievements and to share experiences with other foreign libraries, with the goal of entering into cooperative projects and exchanges and thus increase the international standing of Taiwan's librarianship.

Professional organizations that the NCL actively participates in include the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), American Library Association (ALA), Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC), and European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS).

➤ Collaboration on digitizing ancient Chinese books

As rare and ancient Chinese books are an important world legacy, their preservation has important implications in cultural heritage, research, and civilization. The NCL provides its expertise and experience to help foreign libraries digitize their holdings of original copies of Chinese rare books that have made their way overseas. These cooperative projects allow the NCL to help preserve these important works while acquiring the rights to use the digitized materials.

The cooperating institutions include the U.S. Library of Congress, the University of Washington Library, UC Berkeley Library, University of Toronto Library, University of British Columbia in Canada, and Bibliothèque nationale de France. Over 4,000 titles (2.93 million images) of important rare Chinese books have been digitized. These cooperative projects are highly beneficial for researchers in Taiwan with limited resources, as well as for promoting Taiwan's influence in Chinese studies worldwide.



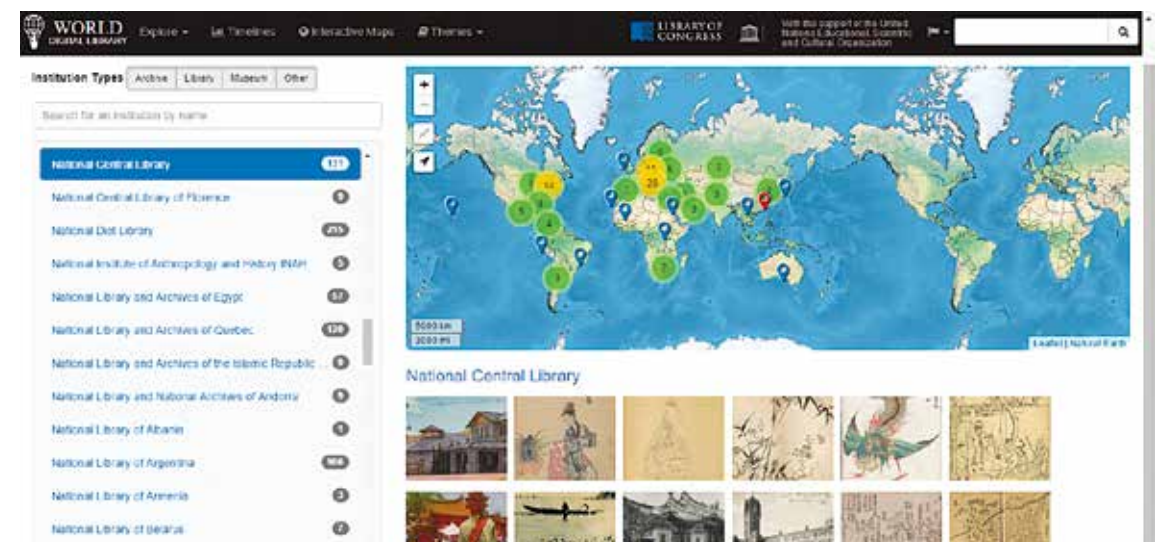
➤ Sharing catalog information on rare Chinese books

In 1998, the NCL created the Union Catalog of Ancient Chinese Books in Taiwan. Later, this was expanded and changed to the Rare Books & Special Collections Database. In May 2013, the Rare Books and Special Collections Database was renamed the Union Catalog of Rare Books Database (<http://rbook2.ncl.edu.tw/Search/Index/2>) as the library actively sought cooperating partners from around the globe.

From 2012 to the present, over 30 institutions have worked with the NCL, including Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, and the Leipzig University Library in Germany, University of Toronto Library in Canada, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon, Collège de France, and Jean Moulin University Lyon 3 in France, the Yale University Library, the Kyoto University Research Centre for the Cultural Sciences, the Lu Hsün Library at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the Vatican Library, the University of Malaya Library, the Australian National University Library, Oxford University, the British Library, the University of Leuven in Belgium, the Royal Library of Belgium, and the Faculty of Oriental Studies University of Warsaw in Poland. Currently, over 80 cooperating libraries are working together to expand the union catalog. Over 730,000 records have been created.

➤ Sharing and disseminating rare Chinese books

The NCL actively promotes international projects that result in the sharing of rare Chinese books. Such projects include providing selected postcards from the Japanese-occupation period and images of ancient works (numbering several hundred) to the Global Memory Net, and participating in the World Digital Library (WDL) project by periodically uploading abstracts and metadata on ancient Chinese books. Furthermore, the NCL has also signed a collaborative agreement with the British Library to participate in the International Dunhuang Project (IDP), wherein the NCL uploaded 141 titles (152 volumes) of Dunhuang manuscript images, metadata, and abstracts. These will not only benefit scholars around the world who research these manuscripts, but will also allow some of the NCL's unique collections to be available on an international platform. Through internet dissemination, these works not only show the importance of Chinese culture internationally, they also help libraries in Taiwan understand new concepts and methods from overseas.



➤ Dissemination of Chinese catalogs around the globe

If Taiwan catalog records want to expand and extend their use, the NCL firmly believes that they must be disseminated through all possible channels in cyberspace. Thus, in 2004 it began the work of converting MARC to XML. In 2011 it began using MARC 21 for cataloging. This made Chinese catalog records more easily transmittable on the internet and allowed the NCL's catalog to connect with the world, increasing ease in sharing and exchanging.

Additionally, in 2006 the NCL's Chinese catalog began to be uploaded to OCLC. From 2013 to 2015, the NCL was the second top content provider for three years in a row. These contributions provide the world with Chinese catalog records and increase international visibility of Chinese publications, which also makes research done in Taiwan more readily accessible internationally.

➤ Exchange of library and information science academic specialty



As a way to augment international exchange and interaction, the NCL invites internationally renowned and influential experts and scholars to Taiwan. Such visits and lectures, along with conferences, visits of library personnel abroad, professional development courses, and cross-strait academic exchanges and cooperative projects, have increased the NCL's connection with foreign libraries and understanding of foreign scholars. This, in turn, makes the NCL more visible internationally and results in more cooperative exchange opportunities.

In an effort to help libraries in Taiwan keep up with the most updated developments and conditions in major libraries in the U.S. and Europe, in recent years the NCL has invited experts from various countries to come and give talks.

➤ Promotion of cross-strait cooperation and exchange



In 1999, the NCL co-hosted a Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources with the National Library of China, the National Science Library at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Peking University Library, the Hong Kong Central Library, and the University of Macau Library to promote a cross-strait co-creation/sharing of Chinese resources. This now extends to Chinese libraries and Chinese archives worldwide. To date, a total of 14 projects have been completed spanning across many disciplines, including a union catalog of rare books, rubbings, prints, genealogies, images, name authority, institutional repository, musical materials, local materials, and a digital library. Of these, the Union Catalog of Rare Books is a collection of catalogs from over thirty libraries in Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, and Macau. The directors from the NCL, the National Library of China, China Academic Library & Information System, the Hong Kong University Library, the University of Macau Library, the delegates of public libraries organized the Cooperative Committee for Chinese Name Authority (CCCNA) to work together in promoting cataloging standards and authority control exchange in the region, as well as in Chinese libraries throughout the world.

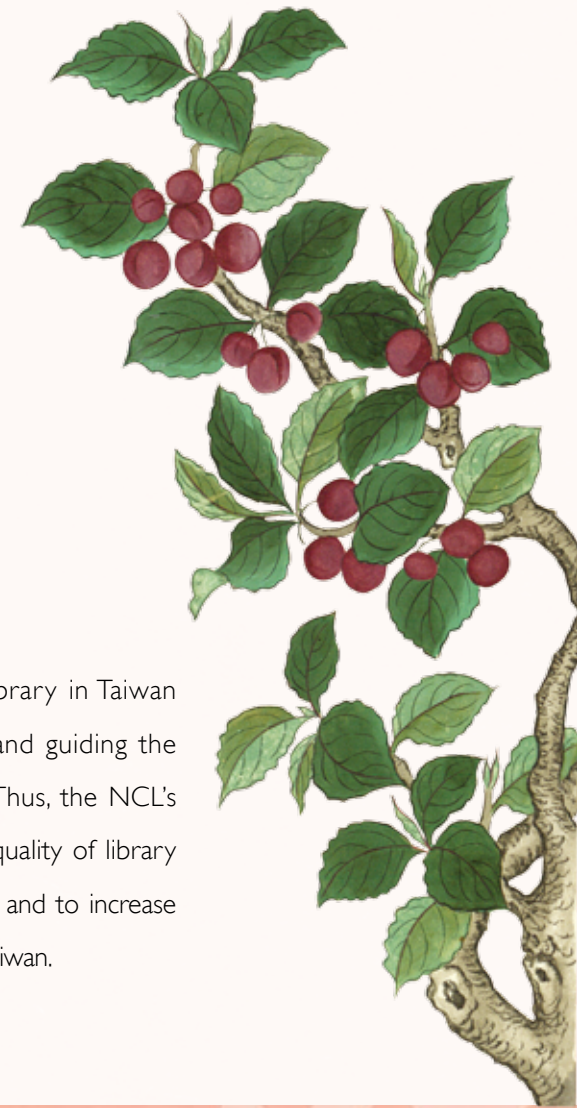
In addition, the NCL, the National Library of China, and Nanjing Library have taken turn organizing the Xuanlan Forum since 2014, which is an attempt to promote reading in the Chinese-speaking areas. The NCL led public libraries from across the island to participate. In the forum, public libraries from across Taiwan shared important experiences of promoting reading in Taiwan in recent years. In-depth discussions on innovative developments in cultural property and the promotion of education also took place, resulting in a great exchange of ideas between public libraries on either side of the Taiwan Strait.



9

Guiding Professional Development

The NCL is designated by law as the library in Taiwan responsible for researching, promoting, and guiding the development of all libraries nationwide. Thus, the NCL's duty and responsibility is to improve the quality of library development, to strengthen library services, and to increase research efforts on librarianship throughout Taiwan.



➤ Generating a blueprint for professional development

In 2011, the NCL generated the National Plan for the Policies and Strategies to Develop and Promote Libraries, which outlines 7 major aims, 46 strategies, and 108 concrete measures that will aid the field of library and information science in planning and directing library development. The plan can also be used by various levels of government institutions and libraries in formulating future policies and promotional projects. The NCL will continue to promote a close working relationship with libraries throughout the country, methodically bringing to reality the following ideals: establish a firm foundation for library operations, improve professionalism and job proficiency, promote reading nationwide, enrich the physical and electronic holdings of all libraries, formulate development policies for digital resources nationwide, ensure the possibility of archiving and convenient use of e-resources, and expand the exchange of international information and cooperation with other libraries.

➤ Developing professional proficiency standards

As the quality of library staff is currently the most important issue affecting librarianship in Taiwan, the NCL has begun a project to develop professional proficiency standards for librarians since 2013. Each year it publishes standards for public libraries, university libraries, high school and vocational school libraries, elementary and junior high school libraries, etc. It is hoped that the detailed standards outlined and related training courses can help librarians become more proficient, have more experience, increase work ethic, and thus allow libraries to reach their full potential in this information age. This will ensure that libraries will continue far into the future.

➤ Developing standards for information organization

Per Article 6 of the Library Law, “The classifying, cataloging, archiving and retrieval of books, as well as other such specifications, can be established by the NCL or other professional corporations or group as designated by the central governing body.” Thus, the NCL has the authority to formulate and stipulate organizational standards for the processing of books and other materials. The NCL has, over the years, continued to revise its cataloging methods, Chinese subject headings, MARC, digital library norms and other such standards. In recent years it has compiled and published the *MARC 21 Handbook of Bibliographic Records in Chinese* (revised edition), *Handbook of MARC 21 Format for Authority Data in Chinese*, *A Draft Handbook of RDA in Chinese*, and *Chinese Classification Scheme 2007* (revised edition). These are provided to librarians and catalogers for reference.

➤ Sharing cataloging technology and standards

The NCL created the Cataloging Central website to provide cataloging related news and reports, standards and norms, courses and discussions, and websites. This will increase the knowhow of library staff responsible for cataloging, resolve doubts and questions about actual cataloging practices, and build a bridge of comradery for those working at libraries. In addition to the website, the NCL has begun issuing a Cataloging Central E-paper that reports on monthly updates, answers to questions regarding cataloging techniques, and offers news on new technology and services by automatically sending it out to subscribers. In this way, subscribers are always up-to-date with the newest technical standards and developments in Taiwan and abroad, keep abreast of news and trends in technical services globally, improve their professional knowhow, and exchange thoughts and ideas with other library professionals.

➤ Improving professional acumen in library and information science



In an effort to further improve the professional acumen of library staff throughout Taiwan and to raise the quality of administrative management, the NCL has held seminars on these topics and demonstration activities of libraries with outstanding efficiency. The NCL has also expanded the cultivation of librarians to increase professional acumen of libraries and achieve the aim of development policies for libraries in Taiwan. Collaborating organizations for the activities above include university libraries, the Library Association of the Republic of China, and departments and graduate institutes of universities related to the library and information science.

The NCL has also created a digital learning platform called E-learning Campus. Each year online courses are designed and produced, and other selective government authorized courses are made available to civil servants for their learning hours certification. This has become a convenient medium for on-the-job learning for civil servants, as well as a quality internet environment for continuing education for the general public.



➤ Commending outstanding library personnel

To commend local officials' support for library construction and to award local library personnel's contributions to librarianship and reading promotion, the Ministry of Education introduced an Outstanding Contribution to Libraries Award in 2012 and set up an award committee. The NCL was given the task to select awardees every two years based on the guidelines outlined by the committee in the categories of local officials, library management, and library staff. Awards are then publicly granted to those selected.



➤ Promoting the assessment of public libraries

As a way to comprehensively understand current conditions and issues in public library development, the NCL has introduced the library assessment. This encourages public libraries to make plans and run their operations in a way that fits with current trends. It also gives attention to the importance of service quality and cultivating a good work ethics in librarians. The NCL began in 2013 to invite scholars and experts familiar with library operations to form a committee that formulated assessment standards and that evaluates public libraries every two years. To ensure that the assessment process is done in a careful and meticulous manner, there are several steps to follow, including an orientation meeting to explain the assessment standards for all libraries, initial assessments by region, recommendations for outstanding libraries, a reassessment and observational visit, a reexamination of the lists of finalists, and the selection of one library as the Library of the Year. Other award categories include Innovative Services, Architecture and Space, Excellence and Progress, Reading Promotion, Digital Services, and Community Involvement. Assessment results are reviewed and announced by the Ministry of Education in a public award ceremony.

➤ Assisting ailing public libraries



Starting in 2013, the NCL began to offer extra help to ailing public libraries as identified in the results of the biennial assessments. The NCL would ask the county and city agencies to assist in improvements, as well as hold on the job training courses specific to the type of library in need of help. At the same time, the NCL has also invited scholars and library personnel with work experience to form a public library guidance group. Groups are sent to ailing libraries to observe and discuss, reviewing executive plans and providing concrete suggestions. This augments the effectiveness of the improvement plan.

➤ Establishing Regional Resource Centers

To help public libraries integrate resources, increase their social influences, and raise residents' competitiveness, the NCL, with the support from the Ministry of Education, set up four Regional Resource Centers in the northern, central, southern, and eastern regions of Taiwan and eight Area Resource Centers. The acquisition of facilities and resources for these centers was undertaken while regional programs for reading were held. With the establishment of these centers and the implementation of the resource-sharing mechanisms of interlibrary loan and library collection tours, the collections of individual libraries can be integrated in marketing and promotional efforts to strengthen the influence of public libraries on society.

Each resource center's holdings are assessed in terms of book quality and general readability. As such, an expert-lead book selection system was created to select core holdings and develop unique holdings in each resource center. The holdings of each regional resource center are primarily focused on the themes of culture innovation, multiculturalism, knowledge, and youth.



10

Promoting Reading



Promoting reading in Taiwan, urging the public to develop good reading habits, and cultivating strong reading skills are the aims that National Central Library has been working toward. Its exquisite and various reading activities across the country have created a brand image of quality reading. Through many strategic alliances and reading promotion events, the NCL has already become an important base for reading. Furthermore, it is pushing toward its goal of becoming a critical library in the Sinophone world by promoting and encouraging studies of Sinology and the Chinese classics.

➤ Promoting nation-wide reading activities



The NCL generates a vision and plans various activities related to reading. It encourages the public to establish reading habits and interests, to deepen cultural attainments, to expand one's horizons and thinking, and to cultivate positive, forward-looking values. Reading promotion brings together the strength of many sectors of society, including various libraries, government agencies, publishers, bookstores, and news media throughout the country. The aim is to find common consensus, hold lectures, create various events, obtain public support, and to establish a good image via word of mouth. The NCL encourages the public to enjoy Chinese and foreign classical works through many different events, such as Contemporary Chinese Fiction Month, Salute to the Literary Master, Spring Poetry Reading Festival, World Book Day Parade, Great Reads Literature and Arts Festival, Literature Drama Theatre, New Release in Great Books and New Books, and Representative Annual Publications in Taiwan. These help improve public reading habits and tastes, and form an inviting social atmosphere for reading the classics.



➤ Surveying public reading habits



The creation of public reading habits and the cultivation of reading interests in Taiwan are both the foundation of molding national soft power and establishing reading competitiveness. For some time now the reading atmosphere in Taiwan lacked objective and credible reporting, making it impossible to get a general understanding of public library use and reading.

Since 2012, each year the NCL has worked with public libraries throughout the nation to analyze over 600 million data showing the public use of library services and books checked out. A report is then issued on public reading trends in Taiwan. This report not only attracts the interest of many media outlets that desire to report on what the reading situation looks like in Taiwan, provides libraries with a reference list with which to hold reading promotion activities, but also provides publishers with data for future books planning and editing.

➤ Organizing quarterly lectures on reading

In 2012, the NCL began holding a series of lectures on a seasonal basis. Well-known authors, university professors, and researchers from Academia Sinica and universities have been invited to give talks. These lectures have been met with much enthusiasm from library patrons, as well as attracting many colleges and academies, civil groups, and reading groups to become co-hosts. Such a warm response indicates that the general public supports the aim of these events and agrees that these lectures will bring about a large boost in public reading interest.

The quarterly lectures are divided thematically by seasons: spring deals with poetry, summer with Taiwan literature, fall with ancient classics, and winter with Western classics. Through these events year round, the message of reading is continually presented to the public and hopefully creating a positive impact on their reading behaviors.



➤ Creation of an excellent reading brand for Taiwan

In 2013, the first Taiwan Reading Festival was held. Now each year from November to December reading festivities are held around Taiwan. The carnival-like events are held with the collaboration of over 300 publishers, bookstores, cultural and educational foundations, and various libraries and schools. The NCL is responsible for the central planning of the events and bringing together a concerted effort. The public is encouraged to follow the golden triangle of reading: “Borrow good books, read good books, and give out good books.” This creates an image of quality for local Taiwanese publishers, as well as effectively increases the number of books borrowed in the 500 plus public libraries by 7% annually. In 2017, the number of volumes borrowed was 74.93 million. All age groups can develop habits of buying good books from bookstores or online websites. This will benefit incredibly the growth of the cultural and creative industries.



➤ Promotion of community reading certification

Communities are the foundation of social construction. This is especially true of creating a society that actively reads. In an effort to keep a pulse on the reading population, borrowing and purchasing conditions, bookstore construction rates, the quality of school libraries and private collections, the NCL has created a website for personal, family, neighborhood, town, and large community reading certifications. It tracks 22 indicators of actual reading situations in these units. The public is invited to access the webpage and fill in the questionnaire so that personal and family reading conditions can be better understood. This will provide data to form a reading map for communities throughout Taiwan, which can then be used as a reference for public libraries to promote reading.

➤ Gathering social resources

In addition to bringing together libraries, government agencies, schools, publishers, cultural and educational foundations, and broadcast media in holding reading activities, the NCL also has partnered with publishers to hold lectures by authors, reading forums, book exhibits, and events related to the Taiwan Reading Festival. The NCL's efforts to bring together social resources and promote reading throughout the island, as well as helping in getting the word out and supporting collaborating partners, effectively expands the advertisement of reading events so that the events can be even more beneficial.



11

Future Prospects



National libraries throughout the world are, with the developing knowledge economy, actively expanding their holdings, increasing space, and improving service efficiency, thus giving full play to their role as a gatherer of national knowledge and culture. The NCL is also working towards building a branch library as well as leading libraries throughout Taiwan in creating a world class smart library.

It has been over thirty years since the NCL moved from the Nanhai Academy to its present location. The modern design of its facilities and interior layout has not only guided libraries in Taiwan into a new century, they also still influence the construction of new libraries. However, the NCL's current space, reading services for various groups, digital technology, technology facilities, digital media studios, children and youth literature research and services, digital humanities research, international exchanges in Chinese studies, promotion exhibitions of local publications, and art and literature space and services are all facing critical challenges now.

To achieve its vision and enable the NCL to better meet the needs of patrons in the south of Taiwan, mitigate the critical space issue in many types of libraries, preserve national cultural assets in the form of books and digital resources, the new "Southern Branch of the NCL and National Repository Library Construction Project" will go from 2018-2021. The Southern Branch of NCL will be located in Tainan and include functioning as a professional development base for books and information, a library service innovation center, a book and materials preservation and restoration center, and a local children's and youth literature and history center. In addition, special services are provided for readers from different age and ethnic groups. The National Repository Library will include automated archives, a combined repository, and a digital resource preservation center. This will enable the most efficient use of archive space to improve service effectiveness. It will also seek to acquire and preserve valuable digital resources. In this way, the NCL will continue its leading role in Taiwan and to create a national archive, to provide outstanding services, to mold an exemplary national reading environment, and to unite interested parties from across sectors, as well as global partners in library and information science and Chinese studies to give a concerted effort in creating a fusion of humanities, popular science, reading and life science and technology—indeed, to create a world-class smart library.





National Central Library

Cultural Heritage, Knowledge Innovation

Publisher	Tseng Shu-hsien
Edited by	National Central Library No. 20 Zongshan South Rd., Taipei, Taiwan, 10001, Republic of China Tel: +886-2-23619132 Fax: +886-2-23820747 E-mail: reader@ncl.edu.tw Website: http://www.ncl.edu.tw Copyright 2016 National Central Library All Rights Reserved
Edition	Second Edition, August 2018
ISBN	978-957-678-651-8
GPN	1010701218
Price	NT\$150
Design and Print	UShow Design No. 502-7, Yuanshan Road, Zhonghe District, New Taipei City, Taiwan Tel: +886-2- 8228-6918
Distributor	Government Publications Bookstore http://www.govbooks.com.tw 1F, No. 209, Sung Chiang Rd., Taipei, Taiwan Tel: +886-2-2518-0207 ext. 28 WUNAN BOOK Inc. http://www.wunanbooks.com.tw No. 6, Zhongshan Rd., Taichung, Taiwan Tel: +886-4-22260330 ext. 20, 21

- Images of the cover and content pages selected from the NCL's Chinese rare book, *Jin shi kun chong cao mu zhuang* (Forms of metals, minerals, insects, and plants), illustrated by Wen Chu, 1617-1620, original manuscript with color illustrations (Repository No: 06921)

