

foundations, and their practical experience. The aim of the program was to enrich the professional knowledge of librarians, and thereby effectively enhance their libraries' services. The second and third sessions of the program were held in Hsinchu (from May 27 to June 4, 2018) and Hualien (from June 23 to July 1, 2018) respectively for the convenience of librarians working in those regions, enabling them to benefit from the program without having to travel too far.



Director-General Tseng (3rd right in the front row) poses with course participants.

■ The NCL Holds the Appreciation Ceremony for International Publication Exchange Donor Institutions

For many years, the National Central Library (NCL) has been tasked with the responsibility for international publication exchange on behalf of government. Every year, the Library gathers together publications produced by government institutes and selectively purchased high-quality books and periodicals, from which corresponding exchange institutions of each country can select to add to their collections. This has substantial long-term benefits for promoting Taiwan's academic research and the global visibility of its society and culture. Through this international exchange of books and periodicals, the NCL also obtains the governmental publications of other countries, greatly enriching the library's own collection, which provides

Taiwan's scholars with valuable research materials and expands the horizons of Taiwan's citizens.

To thank those government institutes whose book donations over the years have greatly contributed to these international exchanges, on May 29, 2018, the NCL held an Appreciation Ceremony for International Publication Exchange Donor Institutions and Introduction to the Inquiry System. Besides showing appreciation to government institutes for donating their books, this event also publicized the Donor Institutions' Inquiry System put in place by the Library, which enables institutions to track the books and periodicals they have donated to their final destinations.



Director-General Tseng (4th right) poses with the delegates of donor institutions.

■ Old and Rare Editions of Western Classics Deposit in the NCL

On April 13, 2018, a bibliophile, Cheng Ding Tang deposited 40 rare editions of its Western language book collection in the National Central Library (NCL). Many of these are extremely valuable first editions, including an 1843 edition of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, a 1762 edition of *Du contrat social ou Principes du droit politique* (The Social Contract) by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and a 1637 edition of *Discours de la méthode* (Discourse on the Method) by René Descartes.



The deposited books include Shakespeare's *Second Folio*.

There are more than 4,400 volumes NCL's Western language collection that are more than a century old. In future the Library will scan these books and put them online, so that readers can conveniently browse them or use them for research.

■ Audio Materials of Cardinal Tien Young Writers Club Courses Donated to the NCL

On May 24, 2018, the National Central Library (NCL) held a donation ceremony for 1,661 volumes of audio tapes on the Cardinal Tien Young Writers Club courses. Director-General Tseng stated in her remarks that she was grateful the Cardinal Tien Cultural Foundation was willing to donate such rare audio tapes to the NCL. The Cardinal Tien Young Writers Club has had the courses for over 40 years. These audio tapes are the records of the courses hosted by the authors, including some well-known authors such as Jiang Xun, Fu Pei-jung, Bai Ling, and Luo Yi-jun. These audio tapes have been cataloged in March by the NCL.

In addition to creating catalog records for these tapes so as to preserve them as rare cultural assets, the NCL has plans to reformat them as digital audio files that can be provided to the public. It is hoped that doing so can promote the development of literary writing in Taiwan and bring about an atmosphere thick with literature.



President Lu Da-cheng (left) presents Director-General Tseng with a donation of tapes.

■ The NCL and Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology Co-hosted the 10th Outstanding Theses and Dissertations Presentation and Competition

The National Central Library (NCL) and the Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology (STUST) co-hosted the 10th Outstanding Theses and Dissertations Presentation and Competition. This is the tenth consecutive year of the event, which was held on May 18th in STUST's library. The purpose of the event is to encourage the open access of outstanding theses, dissertations, and also scholarly papers, as well as an increase in production of outstanding research in this regard in Taiwan.

The event also promotes the idea of open access for these theses and dissertations, so that there will be less plagiarism and thus increase international visibility of research achievements in Taiwan. There were 24 master's and doctoral students from a variety of disciplines and schools presenting their research in 2018. These theses and dissertations will be authorized for inclusion in the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan database. Currently, this database has over one million records, with over 440,000 full-text theses and dissertations—making it one of the most