

IFLA's International Advocacy Program has promoted awareness of the UN's SDGs among librarians from a variety of libraries, while also increasing the substantive contribution libraries are making towards achieving them. Looking ahead to 2019, IFLA will be particularly focusing on SDGs such as quality education; decent work and economic growth; reduced inequalities; and peace, justice and strong institutions. The lecture also discussed participation and policymaking in the transformation of IFLA. Through the creation of its global vision and draft action plan, IFLA is effectively bringing together the global library community to respond to the trend of increasing globalization.



*IFLA President Gloria Pérez-Salmerón gives a lecture at NCL.*

The audience for the lecture was comprised of staff and students from Library and Information Science departments around the country, as well as librarians from university and public libraries. They all came to take advantage of this rare and valuable opportunity to consult Ms. Pérez-Salmerón on a range of questions, such as how to effectively persuade policymakers to fund library development; how to effectively utilize the influence of libraries on society; and how to select which SDGs to focus on each year. In responding to each question, Ms. Pérez-Salmerón offered

opinions drawn from her own practical experience, a personal touch which also made this lecture a much more meaningful occasion.

Except this lecture, the NCL arranged the schedules for Ms. Pérez-Salmerón to interact with Taiwan's libraries. Ms. Pérez-Salmerón attended the forum on the UN's 2030 SDGs held by Library Association of the Republic of China on January 11. On January 10, Director General Tseng accompanied Ms. Pérez-Salmerón to visit the Main Library of Kaohsiung Public Library, where she gave another lecture, and the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum. In addition, Ms. Pérez-Salmerón also visited the New Taipei City Library, the Beitou Branch Library of Taipei Public Library and National Palace Museum. Ms. Pérez-Salmerón was quite impressed for these abundant and rich interaction and visits, and shared the photos and positive feedbacks about her visit to Taiwan on her personal Facebook. With this event, a successful cultural diplomacy was completed perfectly.



*President Gloria Pérez-Salmerón visits NCL's Rare Books Room.*

### ■ **NCL's "Author to Reader" Exhibit at TiBE: Looking Forward to the Publishing Industry Valuing the Preservation of Historical Artifacts**

The 27th Taipei International Book Exhibition (TiBE) was held from February 12-17, 2019 in the

Exhibition Hall of the Taipei World Trade Center. National Central Library (NCL) took an innovative approach with its booth this year, using the theme “Author to Reader.” On display was views and visages of different eras in Taiwan’s publishing history. On February 12, 2019, NCL held an opening ceremony for its booth. Hongfan Bookstore’s executive publisher Pu-jong Yeh, Yuan-Liou Publishing Co.’s Chairman of the Board Jung-wen Wang, Founder of Erya Publishing and renowned author Ching-hua Ke (aka Yin-di), General Manager of Liberty Stationery Corp. Chen-yu Hou, and Readmoo’s CEO Sophie Pang were all present, and each donated valuable artifacts and documents to NCL. The Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng presented each with a certificate of appreciation to express the gratitude. Locus Publishing Company’s Chairman of the Board Ming-yi Hao and other special guests were also in attendance.



*Director-General Tseng (3rd right) and special guests participate in the opening ceremony.*

The NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated in her remarks that NCL is actively making plans for a Taiwan Publishing Museum of NCL Southern Branch Library that would include a complete collection of the history and artifacts of publishing industry in Taiwan. Therefore, we hope that with the “Author to Reader” exhibition it will warm up the Taiwan Publishing Museum plan and

encourage publishers to participate in this endeavor by donating artifacts and historical documents to NCL, thus working hand-in-hand to provide a complete record of contemporary culture.

The exhibition area was comprised of four main themes: author, publisher, printer, and reader. It showed the various faces of publishing culture, techniques, and ecology that the publishing industry in Taiwan has seen in the last 200 plus years due to the vast fluctuations in culture, language, and political systems. Important artifacts representing each major stage of development were on display. Furthermore, the booth also had an area where visitors could experience movable-type printing. Each day there were different famous quotes from classical works that could be printed and collected.



*A Look at the Exhibit “Author to Reader.”*



*NCL was awarded 2nd place for the “Best Booth Design.”*

During the six days of the exhibition, through voting by visitors and selection by experts, NCL's booth was awarded the 2nd place for the "Best Booth Design." This brought the exhibition to a perfect close.

## Events

### ■ NCL Announces 2018 Taiwan Reading Report at the Ministry of Education

On February 25, 2019, National Central Library (NCL)'s Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng announced the results of the 2018 Annual Taiwan Reading and Public Reading Ability Report at the press conference held at the Ministry of Education.

During 2018, a total of 91.98 million persons entered Taiwan libraries, with 21.67 million of them checking out books. A total of 77.91 million books were checked out, which is a sizable increase over 2017. This shows that efforts by the Ministry of Education and public libraries to promote reading are noticeably paying off. Furthermore, language and literature books were again the genre the public was most interested in reading. Over the course of the year, a total of 38.8 million volumes were checked out, accounting for 49.95% of the total number of books borrowed. Based on the distribution of reading among different age groups, the 35-44 age group was the primary readers of the population, borrowing 20.27 million volumes. This is 26.02% of the total number of books borrowed. As for which genre is most adored by the public, it is none other than language and literature. However, best sellers this last year were no longer limited to martial art novels; for the first time books on travel and history-geography were among the top sellers.

NCL included statistics on each type of library in the report, analyzing the public's reading ability and the competitive power of reading in cities. Reading ability was assessed using the following four metrics: average number of books owned per person, average number of books borrowed per person, average number of visits to a library per person, and the ratio of library card holders. The press conference ended with the Chief Secretary of Education's Nan-hsien Chu issuing awards for the "Most Competitive Reading Power City" and "Outstanding Reading Ability City." Awardees of the Most Competitive Reading Power City included the following cities and counties: Taipei, Kaohsiung, Tainan, Penghu County, Lienchiang County, Hsinchu, Taitung County, and Keelung.



*Director-General Tseng presents a brief report on survey finding.*

### ■ The 2019 International Holocaust Remembrance Day Event Was Held at NCL

The 2019 International Holocaust Remembrance Day was held at the National Central Library (NCL) on January 27, 2019, commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. Organized by the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei (ISECO) and German Institute Taipei in conjunction with the NCL, it was the third time this event had been held at the library. Vice-President Chien-jen Chen attended and made a