

been to Taiwan on several occasions and who has spoken at NCL, not only gave a guided tour of the library facilities and services but also exchanged ideas with Director-General Tseng on readers services, administrative mechanism, Mint library science innovative service branding, and reading promotion. All of these will be important reference points for Taiwan libraries to benchmark in the future.



*Hannelore Vogt, head of the Cologne Public Library gives a guided tour.*

### ■ NCL Hosts International Conference on Taiwanese Philosophy and the Preservation of the Confucian Tradition and Book Exhibition in Slovenia

To promote exchanges in international scholarship and to show Taiwan's contribution to the world regarding researching Confucianism and philosophy, National Central Library and Slovenia's University of Ljubljana cohosted the conference Taiwanese Philosophy and the Preservation of the Confucian Tradition on October 17-18, 2019. The keynote speaker of the conference was Dr. Huang Kuan-min from the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy at Academia Sinica, who expounded on Neo-Confucian philosophy. NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng led a group of scholars and library staff from NCL to Slovenia for the conference. This conference not only stood as a witness of the importance European scholars place on studies on Confucianism and philosophy

in Taiwan, but also marked the first time Taiwan hosted a large-scale academic conference in the Balkans, making it very significant indeed.

Both parties believe that in looking back on the developments of modern scholarship, it is clear the development of philosophic thought in Taiwan preserved traditional Chinese culture, especially that of the contributions of Confucianism. Also, the development of Taiwan's unique and innovative philosophic methods and system deeply influenced theoretical speech in the entire East Asian region. However, this has not seen much traction in Europe or the U.S. Because of this, invited to the conference were important scholars in the West and in East Asia, including the Dr. Bart Dessein from Ghent University and director of the European Association for Chinese Studies. In all, over 23 scholars presented at the conference, discussing the thought of Taiwan philosophers.



*NCL Director-General Tseng speaks during the Conference.*

In recent years, Ljubljana University (LU) has developed its East Asian Chinese studies, regional studies, and Taiwan studies. Furthermore, it has delved deeply into important global issues in the research being conducted there. Because of this, NCL collaborated with LU in 2017 to establish a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) there. Then in 2018, NCL invited Dr. Li Hsien-chung from National Taiwan University to present a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies at LU. Given this close collaboration and the fact that in 2019 Ljubljana

University celebrated its centennial anniversary, Director-General Tseng worked with Dr. Jana Rošker from LU's Department of Asian Cultures, East Asia Resource Library (EARL) Director Zlatko Sabic to plan and hold this conference in 2019.

In addition to the academic conference, both parties planned a book expo to match the theme of the conference. The expo was set up right outside the conference area and had on display 108 titles (109 volumes) of books in Taiwan that correlated with the conference theme, introducing the research findings of Taiwan scholars in these related disciplines. On the first day of the conference, the books were donated to EARL's head librarian Zlatko Šabič during the opening ceremony. In the future, the holdings of the university's library can continue to be expanded. After the conference ended, the book expo was moved to the EARL on October 21 for a more public exhibition.

These events mark the first time that Taiwan academics held an event in the Balkans, making it of great significance. Attendees came from Slovenia, Taiwan, Vietnam, China, the U.S., Belgium, Bosnia, and Croatia. It is NCL's desire that in addition to aiding scholars in Europe better understand the development of Confucian studies in Taiwan, that through discussion in the conference and the book expo that those in attendance can fully experience Taiwan's rich and diverse humanism.



*A group photo of the dignitaries at the conference.*

## Events

### ■ 2019 International Workshop: Development and Application of Digital Humanities Creates a New Milestone for Digital Humanities Application

From October 28 to November 1, 2019 National Central Library (NCL) held a five-day International Workshop for Professional Librarians: Development and Application of Digital Humanities in its International Conference Hall.



*NCL Director-General Tseng gives the opening remarks at the 2019 International Workshop.*

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng spoke at the beginning of the workshop, stating that since 2009, every two years NCL has put on an International Workshop for Professional Librarians as a way to increase interaction with East Asian libraries and Sinological institutions throughout the world. This has proven to not only deepen academic exchange between Taiwan and the rest of the world but also to put on display the research achievements of and new trends in the library and information science discipline in Taiwan. For this workshop, twelve important scholars in humanities related fields from Taiwan and abroad were invited to present. Those from abroad came from Kyoto University, the University of Washington, College of William & Mary, and the Czech Academy of Sciences; those from Taiwan are from Academia Sinica, National Taiwan University, National Cheng-chi