

The establishment of a Taiwan Center for Chinese Studies not only helps expand scholarly exchange and promote Taiwan-flavored Chinese studies but also is an important window internationally through which people can see the amazing books published in Taiwan and the abundant e-resources on Chinese studies. In this manner, the Centers are a place to show forth the achievements of Taiwan promoting Chinese studies.

### ■ National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng Is Invited to Germany to Present a Paper and to Tour the Cologne Public Library, a Model Library of Service

In an effort to deepen ties with Taiwan and Chinese studies institutes in Europe, National Central Library Director-General Tseng Shu-hsien was invited to Germany to present a paper at the conference “Sinology–Chinese/China Studies–Guoxue: Their Interrelation, Methodologies, and Impact” on October 21, 2019. The conference cohosted by the Monumenta Serica Institute, Sankt Augustin and the Monumenta Serica Sinological Research Center. Later that afternoon, the group toured one of best public libraries in the world—the Cologne Public Library.

The conference was held at Siegburg, which is located in between the two large cities of Cologne and Bonn. The 15 scholars who presented came primarily from Taiwan, the U.S., Germany, Hong Kong, and China. Director-General Tseng was invited to speak on “Exploration of the Establishment of the Research Platform for Digital Humanities and Its Services—Taking the ‘Universal Type Digital Humanities Research Platform on Chinese Ancient Books’ Established by the NCL as an Example.” In her paper she gave an overview of recent developments in the digital humanities in Taiwan, as well as the creation of related research tools. Furthermore, she provided deep-level analysis of the relationship between libraries

and the digital humanities, discussing libraries’ role in research on the digital humanities, as well as an overview of efforts to promote the digital humanities by national libraries across the globe. She went into specific detail about the Universal Type Digital Humanities Research Platform on Ancient Chinese Books (<http://ming.ncl.edu.tw>) that was cocreated by NCL and National Chengchi University. She also gave an accounting of how NCL in recent years has actively explored the role of ancient books in the digital age and the achievements in innovative digital application of ancient books. Director-General Tseng’s presentation resonated with many in attendance. Scholars from Germany, Beijing, and Sweden all were eager to share their thoughts, complementing and affirming NCL’s efforts in creating digital humanities and sharing their achievements. There was a good deal of energy in the room during her presentation.



*NCL Director-General Tseng presents her paper.*

After the meeting, Director-General Tseng and those with her went with the head of Monumenta Serica Sinological Research Center Dr. Wojciech Rybka, S.V.D. to tour the central library of the Cologne Public Library which was nearby. The head librarian Hannelore Vogt extended them a very warm welcome. In 2013, her library was the first to offer Makerspace, providing devices and the technical know-how. This effectively flipped the way libraries provided services, attracting patrons to come to the library to read, experiment, discuss, explore, create, and share. Dr. Vogt, who has

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