

County Cultural Affairs Department Liang-ying Hsieh shared reflections on their visit to the National Library of Finland and the Itäkeskus Branch Library, as well as the discussion on the “Introduction of the work and services in Celia Library.” Section Chief of Cultural Affairs Bureau of Hsinchu County Government Library and Information Section Pei-hsuan Lee discussed what they learned while visiting the Espoo City Library, Iso Omena Library, and Celia Library. Deputy Director of Education Department of Miaoli County Government Hsin-hui Yeh spoke on their experience at the Pasila Library and the discussion on “For Joy and Equality” at the Helsinki City Library.



NCL Director-General Tseng leads the group discussion and exchange of ideas.



Group photo of NCL Director-General Tseng (5th from left in front) and attending committee members, as well as representatives from various counties and cities.

After 12 amazing presentations, the convener of the oversight committee, Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, led the group discussion and exchange of ideas. Lastly, Director-General Tseng presented certificates of completion to the Finland

group members, and a group photo was also taken. This was a perfect ending to the meeting.

■ The Collaborative Digitization of Material Resources on the 100 Years of Education & the Signing Ceremony and Appreciation Meeting for Co-Creating and Sharing of the Taiwan Memory Database Project

National Central Library collaborated with the following 18 schools on the "Collaborative Digitization of Material Resources on the 100 Years of Education & Co-creating and Sharing of the Taiwan Memory Database Project": Taipei Municipal Jianguo High School, National Hu-Wei Senior High School, Taipei Municipal Zhongshan Girls High School, National Tainan First Senior High School, National Tainan Second Senior High School, National Tainan Girls' Senior High School, Taichung Municipal Taichung Girls' Senior High School, Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School, National Pingtung Senior High School, National Pingtung Girls' Senior High School, National Hsinchu Senior High School, National Keelung Girls' Senior High School, Taipei Municipal Chenggong High School, National Tainan Commercial Vocational Senior High School, National Hualien Girls' Senior High School, National Chia-Yi Girls' Senior High School, National Changhua Girls' Senior High School, and National Hsinchu Girls' Senior High School. A MOU signing ceremony and appreciation meeting was held on January 14, 2020 at National Central Library.

At the beginning of the event, the five schools that had collaborated on the project put on display digitized versions of old books they had in their collections that were published before 1949. In addition, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and K-12 Education Administration Director-General Peng Fu-yuan both spoke; Director-General Tseng expressed her thanks for the schools that joined in the collaborative effort. She also mentioned that NCL had acquired

and archived a very sizable corpus of historical materials in Taiwan, including Taiwan postcards from the Japanese occupation, old pictures from around the island, old books, gazetteers, old contracts, genealogies, stele rubbings, and more. To properly preserve the memory of Taiwan history, and in conjunction with the development of digitization technology, NCL has created the Taiwan Memory database and the Taiwan e-Book database. Through these databases, materials on Taiwan's last 100 years of history can be well preserved. The saying "It takes 10 years for trees to mature, and 100 years to educate people" implies that education is a hundred-year plan of a nation and that talented people are the basis of a country. In Taiwan, there are more than 80 schools that are over 100 years old. Each of these schools has valuable historical data and materials on education which faithfully record the development and achievements of 100 Years of Education. Because of this, National Central Library desires to work with these schools, especially in terms of the history of education in Taiwan and memories of school life, to acquire as many books, school pictures, and Japanese-occupation yearbooks as possible before 1949. Then create a database that includes both actual and virtual resources, providing an even wider use online, and thus becoming a knowledge map to understanding both ancient and modern Taiwan.

Director-General Peng expressed thanks to NCL and each high school that helped with the digitization. Through the model of creating and sharing together, these precious resources related to the history of education can be preserved in NCL's database system. In the future, both persons in education and the general public can browse these materials in the database. It will be the same as traveling through a time tunnel and viewing the development of education in Taiwan. What an amazing thing! It is hoped that in the future, more materials regarding the 100 Years of Education can be added to the corpus.

As for the archived materials that were collaboratively digitized, NCL will provide each school the option to donate the materials or to deposit them with NCL. Either way, they can be well preserved in NCL's Southern Branch in the National Union Archive Center. Subsequently, a retrieval service will be provided and furthermore collaboration can be done with NCL to use these digitized resources in curating and teaching. During the event, Dr. Ching-ju Cheng from the Knowledge Services division spoke with attendees regarding the following databases related to this collaborative project: the Taiwan Memory, Taiwan e-Book, and Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts system.



NCL Director-General Tseng gives remarks.



Group photo of K-12 Education Administration Director-General Peng (center), Director-General Tseng (3rd from left) and several high school principals.

This collaborative project between NCL and high schools with more than 100 years of history is a beginning effort to preserve historical

educational materials. The project will continue to expand to include elementary schools with more than 100 years of history and actively acquire through collaboration with various schools their old books, old pictures, and yearbooks to digitize. This way, even more valuable materials can be preserved and disseminated along with the library's current holdings.

■ **Gusting Winds Lecture Series: “Desire and Empire: Sima Xiangru’s Writing of All-under-Heaven”**

In an effort to promote cultural arts and encourage the public to read classical literature, on January 18, 2020, National Central Library and the Trend Education Foundation held the second lecture in Gusting Winds Lecture Series: “Trend Literature Theater: The Fantastical Han Dynasty”. The event was hosted by the Executive Director of Trend Education Foundation Jenny Chen; invited to lecture was Academia Sinica Academician and National Taiwan University Chair Professor Yu-yu Cheng, who spoke on “Desire and Empire: Sima Xiangru’s Writing of All-under-Heaven.”

Dr. Cheng’s research expertise is in classical Chinese literature, especially that of Han rhapsodies. The lecture began with an introduction to the Han dynasty and Han rhapsodies. The Han dynasty is the longest dynasty in Chinese history. During the apex of Emperor Wu’s reign, how to maintain unity in the dynasty was one of the emperor’s most critical issues. In Han rhapsody, the most important poet was Sima Xiangru. His two representative works, “Rhapsody on Zixu” and “Rhapsody on the Supreme Park,” not only describe through flowery words and many melodic sounds the possessions of a ruler but more so the desires of a ruler. That, it can be said, is almost without limit—such as the exhaustive nature of his writings.

Dr. Cheng gave a guided reading of selected passages from the two rhapsodies, showing through Sima Xiangru’s wordsmithing

a reflection of Emperor Wu’s desires, as well as creating a special dimension through text. Describing through lively words the empire or imaginative world that transcends time and space, he proclaims the formation of a supremely magnificent world never before known. It could also be said that through the text he created or constructed an eternal Han empire, embodying Emperor Wu’s bottomless desire to “possess All-under-Heaven” on his throne.

This lecture was the last event before Chinese New Year and attracted nearly 320 people. Dr. Cheng’s amazing presentation was a knowledge-filled afternoon feast. Bringing the wonderful lecture to a close was a Q&A session followed by Mrs. Chen’s summary remarks. NCL looks forward to future events of this nature with the Trend Education Foundation.



Academia Sinica Academician and Chair Professor Dr. Yu-yu Cheng speaks on “Desire and Empire: Sima Xiangru’s Writing of All-under-Heaven.”

■ **How Book History Can Enhance the Understanding of Texts: Examples from Early Modern Europe**

On January 14, 2020, National Central Library invited Harvard University Professor Dr. Ann Blair to speak at NCL on “How book history can enhance the understanding of texts: examples from early modern Europe.” Dr. Blair shared in her lecture the history of artifact research and textual transmission of knowledge. Through writing and dissemination, they form culture. Such queries as “Who wrote these texts?” and