

institutions are also invited to request a VR installation CD via written letter so that it can be promoted in many other ways. Please refer to Impression Sun VR 360-degree video: <https://reurl.cc/20IOev>.



NCL VR is awarded the Best XR Cultural Art Application Award at the 1st XR Golden Awards.



During the ceremony, awards are handed out using augmented reality scenes; Director of the Special Collections Division, NCL Ms. Lu represents NCL in receiving the award.



The key vision of the Impression Sun VR.

Events

■ Crossing over the Pandemic Fence: National Central Library Works with Other Institutions to Donate Books to Harvard University and Brown University in Scholarly Exchange

National Central Library, Academia Sinica, and National Taiwan University Press collectively donated more than 700 books and audio-visual materials at the end of April 2020. These were outstanding publications on research in the humanities and social sciences from Taiwan and were donated to important scholarly institutions in the U.S.: the Harvard–Yenching Library, the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, and Brown University Library’s East Asian Collection. Due to the disruption caused by COVID-19, the annual meeting for the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), which has been held consecutively for 70 years, and related exhibitions were canceled this year. The annual meeting would have been held from March 19-22, 2020 in Boston.

National Central Library and two other participating institutions, in addition to the collaboration of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, contacted Harvard and the other institutions before the annual meeting to propose the donation—ensuring that the books which had already arrived in the U.S. would continue to make contributions to scholarly research. The donation that NCL planned on displaying included 349 volumes in the humanities and social science fields on Taiwan studies and Chinese studies published in the last three years; if the donations from the other institutions are added in, it comes to a total of 700 books and audio-visual materials. A special effort was made to contact these institutions before the annual meeting, so that scholarly exchange would not stop just because of the pandemic. Even though most schools in Massachusetts and Rhode Island are under lockdown, and the people of Massachusetts are under stay-at-home orders

until May 4, the first donation arrived at Harvard soon.

The receiving institution, the Harvard–Yenching Library, is an important repository of Chinese studies books in North America. It was established in 1928 and has over 4,000 ancient books that date back to the Qing dynasty. It is second only to the Library of Congress out of all of North America. The well-known Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies is a major platform for international scholarly exchange and for the development of outstanding researchers in modern and contemporary East Asian history. Brown University’s East Asian Library currently has nearly 200,000 books in East Asian languages, with 840 volumes in its Chinese special collections.



A picture of some donated books.

We believe that these important Chinese books, which reflect modern scholarly trends in Taiwan and which will be added to the collections of these institutions in the Eastern United States, will enable the international Chinese studies community to better understand the achievements of Chinese studies and current publications in Taiwan.

Link of the booklist of National Central Library’s intended exhibit at the 2020 AAS annual meeting: <https://reurl.cc/oLr0Ev>.

■ **“Relax into the Arts” Broadcasts Five Lectures**

In an effort to encourage continued support

for artistic performances during the pandemic and to provide the public with an innovative literary reading experience, National Central Library and the Trend Foundation built a live broadcasting website called “Relax into the Arts.” They also presented to the public the opera series “Luhao Explains Traditional Operas.” Each opera was planned and explained by Jenny Chen, Executive Director of Trend Education Foundation, and renowned traditional opera teacher Luhao Chu.

The “Luhao Explains Traditional Operas” series was held at 2 pm each Saturday in May and was broadcasted live. With the pandemic still raging, it was a way for the public to watch traditional operas and enjoy innovative literature reading experiences at home. The first three sessions were only held online due to pandemic prevention measures in place. The last two sessions, however, saw the pandemic abating. This opened the door for an audience to attend, provided they recorded their names before attending. These last two performances were also broadcast online for those who wanted to enjoy the lectures and performances safely on their computers or cell phones. After the performance, a video recording was made available for free on National Central Library’s Digital Audio Visual Archive system (DAVA) and Trend’s audiovisual platform and internet streaming site.

The first session of “Luhao Explains and Acts in Traditional Operas” was held on May 2 at National Central Library’s Cultural Arts Center Auditorium. It was also broadcasted live. Luhao Chu, known for his role in “Monkey King”, was invited to be the general director of the operas and to explain what was going on. Mr. Chu is experienced in Peking opera, Taiwan regional opera, Henan opera, TV dramas, and stage plays. Each opera was performed by traditional opera actors from the young generation, imbuing the performances with a strong sense of passing on tradition. The most classic and representative operas were handpicked to be performed for the audiences.