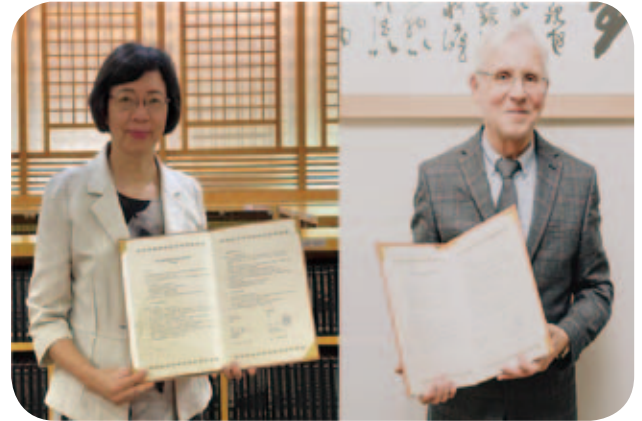




NCL Director-General Tseng holds the signed TRCCS Cooperation Agreement.



NCL Director-General Tseng and the Collège de France Head Administrator Thomas Römer hold the collaboration agreement of the TRCCS project.



Group photo of the four representatives of UZH signing the TRCCS Cooperation Agreement.

■ **NCL Promotes International Scholarly Exchange, Adds One More Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies at Collège de France**

The Director-General of National Central Library, Dr. Shu-hsien Tseng, and the Collège de France Head Administrator Thomas Römer signed a collaboration agreement regarding establishing a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS). Since 2012 when NCL began this project, a total of 37 such memorandums have been signed. Director-General Tseng stated, with the pandemic ravaging countries around the globe, expanding international exchange and collaboration is not an easy task. NCL has continued to proactively overcome these challenges and proceed the expansion of Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies.

The Collège de France is an institution of higher learning and research institute located in Paris, France. It was established in the 16th century. From that time on, it has stuck fast to principles of academic freedom and independence. It has strived for education equality. The lectures and seminars the college holds not only include the most advanced knowledge in various fields, but also are free for everyone to attend. There is no need to register beforehand. Each year it also invites many foreign scholars to give a series of lectures. The online lecture courses are especially popular. These have had a profound effect on the dissemination of knowledge and expanding influence worldwide.

The Collège de France has an Institute of Advanced Chinese Studies, under the Far East Library, which is one of the most top-notch Chinese studies libraries in Europe with over 250,000 volumes of books and 1,300 titles of journals. Included in this collection are many and rare ancient Chinese books. The most unique aspect of their rare books collection is the heavy emphasis on traditional literature. The catalog records for these books have already been given to NCL for inclusion in Union Catalog system. Through working with NCL to set up a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies, in the future the Collège de France will be able to more easily acquire top quality Chinese books and journals published in Taiwan. These will greatly benefit researchers, as well as faculty and students in Paris who are engaged in Chinese literature and cross-cultural research and teaching.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng explained that in 2011, the government began establishing

Taiwan Academies overseas in an effort to promote Chinese culture with Taiwan characteristics to the world. Starting with Taiwan's unique features and advantages, the government implemented its advanced information systems and digital technology to provide Chinese instructional materials and promote traditional characters, Taiwan research, and Chinese studies, and Taiwan's multiculturalism. These aspects were important mediums for Taiwan's culture to interact with the international community. It also became a platform for the international community to come to know Taiwan's overall success in academy and culture. It was because that NCL's Center for Chinese Studies had been involved in acquiring of and providing services for Chinese Studies internationally that it received the approval of the Executive Yuan's Taiwan Academy Promotion Group. It was recommended that the Ministry of Education have NCL join the promotion group for the Taiwan Academies. In the Taiwan Academies located in New York, Los Angeles, and Houston, a Chinese Studies Room was set up as a platform to facilitate exchanges, as well as to show forth research achievements of Taiwan, displaying books in both Taiwan studies and Chinese studies. Each year, a Taiwan Lecture Series in Chinese Studies and an Ancient Documents Exhibition are held in the U.S. wishing to share the significant academic and cultural materials to the world.

Director-General Tseng stated that since down from 2011 there is no new Taiwan Academies been set up overseas, the NCL wished to make effort to continue the government's aim of promoting Chinese culture with Taiwan characteristics to the world, the NCL made use of the foundation it already had in international publication exchange and created a new brand 'Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies' overseas, hoping that this could enable continuous resources sharing among international academy society. The 'Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies' indeed is instrumental for a more active and effective promotion of research outcomes from Taiwan. It also allows for augmented visibility and influence of Taiwan's Chinese studies worldwide, in addition to the joint promotion of Taiwan Academies and the scholarly or professional events related to Chinese studies. Currently, there are 37 'Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies' been set up. Director-General Tseng recalled that in

the past whenever a TRCCS was established, foreign journalists in attendance frequently would ask this question: Does Taiwan intend to compete with China's 'Confucius Institute' by establishing 'Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies?' At present, while more and more Confucius Institutes are closed, in contrast, the NCL has been developing collaborations with more overseas research institutions through signing TRCCS cooperation agreements. Director-General Tseng believes that in addition to the Overseas Community Affairs Council's Taiwan Centers for Mandarin Learning set up overseas, NCL's Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies definitely is another important platform for promotion and sharing of resources for Chinese and sinology researches.



The library the Collège de France displays its collection of ancient Chinese books.

Events

■ Online Video Conference during the Pandemic: A Dialogue between Libraries and Digital Humanities

National Central Library's Center for Chinese Studies maintains close contact with East Asian libraries and Chinese studies institutions around the globe. This year, it was CCS's turn to host the 13th Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources. The last time it was held in Taiwan was ten years ago, in November 2010. At the time, it was the 8th conference. Beginning last year, almost all countries in the world have been deeply impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, it was decided that the conference would be held online, making scholarly sharing and