

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

exchanges possible through video conferencing.

On July 13-14, NCL hosted the 13th Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources online. It spanned a day and a half. The theme for the conference was “A Dialogue between Libraries and Digital Humanities.” NCL Director-General Dr. Shu-hsien Tseng stated that the idea for the conference theme was based on applied research regarding collaboration between libraries and digital humanities as a cross-disciplinary collaboration. When the two parties collaborate, there should be some ‘sparkles’ occur. By showcasing developments in the digital humanities and actual examples from each library or their representative research group, they witness the important good relationship and dialog between libraries and digital humanities researchers. Like the warp and waft, this cross-discipline interaction will bring together knowledge of various disciplines and spurs both sides along to new insights and development.



A group photo of dignitaries attending the opening ceremony.

The Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources gradually came to be based on a cross-strait collaborative exchange among China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan. It is an organization that was designed to focus specifically on collection development and collaborative sharing of library resources in the Chinese world. In the beginning, it was developed as a collaborative endeavor among libraries in the four areas. Since then, it has gradually expanded to include collaboration among East Asian libraries across the globe. It first began in 2000 with the important aim of contacting libraries or information organizations across the globe with Chinese resources in their

collections so that they can be shared. Over the last twenty years, the conference has collaborated through specific projects. After many years in operation, a total of 14 collaborative projects have been undertaken.

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng expressed her warm welcome during the opening ceremony. She welcomed collaborating board members, library and information science experts, and all other persons in attendance to this worldwide conference. Despite the threatening from pandemic and the international restrictions on travel, the digital humanities research and application knowledge exchanges and sharing could still happen without time or space limitation. That is really a wonderful thing!



NCL Director-General Tseng gives her opening remarks.

Invited to participate in the conference were 11 experts in library and information science and digital humanities from England, the US, China, and Taiwan. Their presentations were divided into four main sessions: “Developing Digital Humanities Academic Services in Libraries,” “Creation and Utilization of Digital Humanities Research Platforms in Libraries,” “Innovative Services based on Digital Humanities in Libraries,” and “Academic Foresight Issues.” There were two special lectures and nine papers presented at this video conferencing. The talks were given by Dr. Mia Ridge, who spoke on “Working towards Mutual Benefit: Digital Humanities and the British Library,” and Dr. Alex Gil, a digital scholarship librarian at Columbia University Libraries, spoke on “The Library’s Secret Sharer: Digital Humanities and the Question of Centralization.” In addition,

nine papers were presented on the following topics: “Digital Scholarship Services in the Scene of Unified Digital Library – The Case of Peking University Library,” “Tracing Overseas Footprints of Taiwanese with digital information from Passport Archives during Japanese Colonial Era,” “The Functional Requirement and Designing of a Universal Digital Humanities Platform for Sinology,” “A Context Discovery System of Lidai Bao’an,” “Development and Application of Digital Humanities Research Platform for Biographies of Malaysia Personalities,” “The Construction of Knowledge System in the Digitization of Ancient Documentation–With a Study on the Application of Digital Humanities,” “Data and Digital Curation for the Digital Collaboration Platform of Local Historical Studies,” “The Development and Application of Open Data Services in Classical Chinese Digital Humanities Resources,” and “BIBFRAME Reuse and Extension for Linked Data of Chinese Rare Books in the Context of Digital Humanities.” All of these are important topics in digital humanities and representative innovative findings, as they expound on the experiences and experimental digital humanities at each library. The presenters and attendees had great interaction during the Q&A sessions, spurring each other’s thinking and broaden their horizons beyond geographical barriers.

During the opening session, China’s National Central Library Assistant Director Ying Chen and National Taiwan University Librarian Kuang-hua Chen both spoke. Their remarks echoed what Director-General Tseng had stated, that with the worldwide pandemic going on it was a blessing to be able to have this conference. They also said that during that last twenty years, 14 collaboration-and-sharing projects on various types and different genres of materials were started. These joint projects are valuable and in the future the groups should be able to find more feasible ways in which to collaborate.

During the last part of the meeting, NCL Director-General Tseng moderated a discussion and gave a closing remarks. During her closing remarks, she expressed her appreciation and said that this conference was a successful one. She stated that nonetheless of the spreading pandemic in the world, this video conference could bring together so many outstanding experts online, having them sharing

their admirable achievement and knowledge and facilitate learning. Although it was not possible to meet in person, the passion was palpable through the computer monitor. The earnest way research findings were shared, the interaction with those in attendance, and the desire to gain new knowledge was all very moving. The conference was an amazing success due to the involvement of everyone in attendance and their participation. Director-General Tseng pointed out that the number of online attendees over the last two days was much higher than previous years when on-site conferences were held. On-site conference would not necessarily bring that many people together. This video conference has eliminated the constraint from nations boarder, having people from various places in China, England, America, Hong Kong, and Macau attend.



Director-General Tseng moderates the general discussion and gives the closing remarks.

Director-General Tseng concluded with her wishes that in the future, collaborating libraries would find more in-depth and innovative modes of collaboration so that this can continue to bring about important exchange of experiences and knowledge, and make important contributions to the Chinese speaking world, as well as help libraries fully exercise the value of librarianship so as to nourish humankind’s civilization.

This conference is not only helpful in deepening the scholarly exchange between Taiwan and the rest of the world, but it also puts on display the research findings and new trends in digital humanities in library and information science fields from Taiwan, China, and the West. For the conference proceeding, videos,

presentations, and an outline of the conference, please visit the following link: <https://ccdsr.ncl.edu.tw/zh/>



A group photo of attendees.

■ 2021 NBINet Cooperative Cataloging Symposium Held on September 23

National Central Library invited information institutions throughout Taiwan to join its cooperative cataloging event with the purpose to promote joining the countrywide initiative. It had created the National Bibliographic Information Network (NBINet). As of the end of August 2021, there was a total of 109 collaborating libraries joined this organization. NBINet's Union Catalog records number is now counted more than 15 million. In an effort to enhance the professional capability of librarians who are constructing the bibliographic records, each year NCL plans and hosts a NBINet Cooperative Cataloging Symposium. The events for the 2021 symposium were held on September 23 at the International Conference Hall in NCL. In accommodate with the current trends of cataloging practice in library and information communities in the world, the training content was primarily centered on a new development trend: linked data.

Invited to this symposium were professional and experienced instructors from academia and industry, with a variety of classes being offered back-to-back. In the morning, the classes offered were "From Rules of Description and Data Format to LD Framework and Structure: Exploring LD Type Data Organization." This was divided into two parts: Part I was "Current LD Development in the Library and Information Science Field." It was taught by Dr. Ya-ning Chen from the Department of Information and Library Science at

Tamkang University. He talked about environmental changes in the organization of information and linked data development in libraries, as well as explaining new terms, such as RDF, RDA Registry, BIBFRAME, and FRBRer. These were then explained using actual examples. Part II was "LD Implementation Application in the Library and Information Science Field." It was taught by FlySheet's Information and Knowledge Chief, Mr. Dar-Maw Wen. He clearly explained the ways linked data shows up in MARC21, BIBFRAME, and in catalogs.

That afternoon, Dr. Shu-Jiun Chen from the Institute of History and Philology at Academia Sinica spoke on "Using Linked Data in the Humanities." She shared how the linked data on the Semantic Web could be used in libraries, archives, and museums. She also provided many examples from Taiwan and other countries. The last class was on "Current Trends in Information Organization" and was taught by Shu-ping Yang, the manager of OCLC's Taipei office. She talked about changes in library collections management, the meaning and management of metadata, linked data, etc. Because of the cutting-edge information in the courses and the highly qualified nature of the instructors, many people attended the symposium despite the pandemic. There were as many as 103 attendees came from 61 libraries of all types and sizes. NCL will continue to investigate the needs of collaborating libraries regarding collaborating training in the future so as to plan courses content for NBINet Cooperative Cataloging Symposium that would well meet their needs. Hopefully this endeavor will upgrade the overall quality of the NBINet Union Catalog.



Members from participating libraries attend the 2021 NBINet Cooperative Cataloging Symposium.