

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ NCL and the British Library Sign an MOU to Share Resources

The National Central Library and the British Library held an MOU Online Signing Ceremony on the afternoon of January 13, 2022 (the morning of the 13th London time). It was signed by NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and the British Library Chief Executive Roly Keating. The British Library Chief Librarian Liz Jolly and others participated via video conferencing. The British Office in Taipei Representative John Dennis, Taipei Representative Office in the United Kingdom Kelly Hsieh were also invited to attend and celebrate this new milestone in the cultural exchange and collaboration between England and Taiwan.



British Office Taipei Representative John Dennis and British Council Ralph Rogers personally went to NCL to attend the video conference signing ceremony.

The British Library is the national library of England and is one of the largest libraries in the world, with a replete and variegated collection. It has over 200 million items spanning more than 400 languages. Each year their collection increases by 3 million items, including books, magazines, manuscripts, maps, musical scores, newspapers, patents, stamps, illustrations, audio files, etc. World-renowned, it has been lauded as the world's dream library. Its *Dunhuang* Collection is particularly something that garners worldwide attention.

The British Library Chief Executive Keating extended a warm welcome to those in attendance and stated that signing this memorandum has important significance to both libraries, and he is filled with great anticipation in embarking on this new collaborative

endeavor. NCL Director-General Tseng stated that it is an honor being able to sign a relatively comprehensive collaborative agreement with the famed library. She explained that NCL collaborated with the British Library in 2013 and 2015, and the great collaboration experiences are encouraging for both parties to extend the collaboration by this MOU. The terms of this three-year agreement including digitizing Chinese holdings in the British Library, collaborating on research, jointly hosting an exhibition, forum, or workshop. As for deepening the scholarly exchange between the two libraries, activities may include doing joint research, sharing research resources, and building a platform for scholarly research between the two countries. This project is mutual beneficial for both parties.



National Central Library Director-General Tseng and the British Library Chief Executive Keating take a photo together holding their copies of the MOU.

Representative Kelly Hsieh said during the video conference that he was honored to witness the birth of a new collaborative partnership between Taiwan and England. It is hoped that through both libraries signing this MOU, it can strengthen relationships with the international scholarly communities and upgrade Taiwan's visibility. The British representative to Taiwan, Mr. John Dennis mentioned how much he admires NCL's rich collection of ancient Chinese books. He can't wait to see the results of this collaboration between the two libraries. He believes that NCL and the British Library can have an amazing collaborative experience and is happy to see NCL sidestep the restrictions brought on by the pandemic and through web services sign an MOU with Great Britain, thus deepening and solidifying the great collaborative relationship and scholarly exchange between the two libraries.

As the pandemic spreads, even though physical events and interactions have been restricted, this ceremony to sign the MOU was done via video conferencing technology. This signing will functionate

as building a new bridge, taking Taiwan's scholarly research achievements to the world. It will also play an instrumental role in the platform of the scholarly exchange between Taiwan and England. It is believed that additional opportunities for collaboration will be built on the foundation of this MOU.



The British Library Head of Collections and Curation Xerxes Mazda, Head of Asian and African Collections Luisa Mengoni, Head of International Marcie Hopkins, International Engagement Manager Eleanor Cooper, Curator of Chinese Collection Emma Harrison were all present online to witness and celebrate the collaboration between the two libraries.

■ Internationally Renowned Sinologist Hao Chang Donates Book Collection to National Central Library

At 9 am on February 2022 Taiwan time (5 pm on Feb. 8 in the US), National Central Library and the San Francisco TECO held a synchronized online donation ceremony for Academician Hao Chang. Director-General Ming-Chi Scott Lai represented NCL in presenting a plaque of appreciation to him. Academician Chang's family were also in attendance in San Francisco.



National Central Library presents a plaque of appreciation.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated, NCL has strived for many years to acquire the collections, materials, letters, and manuscripts of scholars to add to NCL collections and to benefit scholarly researches. New developments in scholarship are a sign of a