

8. Interactive section: Held a “NCL Answers *Your Questions*” event using traditional bamboo strips for divination. In the container were 15 strips on “reading recipes”; NCL souvenirs were also given away, adding to the excitement of the event.



Attendees look through replicas of books in NCL's collection.

Salon style lectures in conjunction with the exhibition

NCL hosted two lectures in the exhibition salon area. The first was held on June 2 by Hung-hsu Liang from NCL's knowledge services division. He spoke on “What You Don't Know about National Central Library.” He interacted with the audience in a light and engaging manner, answering all their questions and explaining NCL's orientation, its rare collections and abundant resources, its services, its reading promotion, etc. The second was held on June 5 in the salon area of the French pavilion. The lecture was given by Li-ling Lin, a restoration specialist in NCL's Special Collections Division. She talked about restoring ancient books and demonstrated common ways to fix books. It was a rare display of technical knowledge.

During the expo, visitors of all ages from all over Taiwan and the world visited NCL's booth. They took time to read and observe everything on display. NCL's booth especially elicited a surprised reaction from those ardent book exhibition fans because they could read and see information from the very first TiBE. It was believed that NCL's booth “NCL—Your Pilot: Reading Anytime, Anywhere” at the 2022 TiBE was able to help many people from Taiwan and abroad better understand the services available at NCL. These include both ancient and modern reading resources, reading promotion and resource dissemination both in Taiwan and abroad, and services for young and old patrons alike. NCL combined both physical and digital displays to show

rare items so that people would know of the important national cultural and scholarly collections and resources, and NCL's efforts in reading promotion, wishing that this exhibition could pique people's interest in library resources and inspire them to use them in lifelong learning. This will benefit all people in increasing knowledge power. It was sure that the exhibition has given people new knowledge, the surprise of new insights, and the warm feeling of nostalgia.

■ Sinologist Qinghao Chen Donates His Collection of Books, Including Folk Song Lyrics, to National Central Library

National Central Library received a donation from Sinologist Chen Qinghao's Spring Radiance Studio of books and journals on *Minnan* opera librettos and Chinese studies. This collection of works has been stored at National Cheng Gung University's Chinese department for research projects. NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng reached out to Professor Qinghao Chen, who lives in Paris, and he agreed to donate these materials to NCL. The books were sent to NCL on April 11 and will greatly benefit the public.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated, development in scholarship is depended on the leadership and the guidance of elite professionals. Professors are steeped in their disciplines and research, which needs support of plenty of related books and materials. These collections are like spring rain, they can benefit all of academia as well as nurture the next generation of scholars. NCL's collections, from its inception, has been much enriched by generous donations from public and private organizations, as well as individual collectors. Their abundant and varied books and other materials are a special boon to NCL's collections. The donated works allow for a long-term preservation of cultural assets. They also augment the development of scholarship. International acclaimed Sinologist Qinghao Chen has long been engaged in the research of Chinese culture. In the 1980s when he was in Taiwan, he edited *Zhongguo minjian gushi quanji* (The Complete Collection of Chinese Folk Tales), *Yuenan Hanwen xiaoshuo congkan* (Chinese Novel Series in Vietnam), *Riben Hanwen xiaoshuo congkang* (Chinese Novel Series in Japan), *Siwuxie huibao* (Righteous Thinking Series)—all of which deeply influenced scholarship.

Apart from 631 volumes of *Minnan* opera librettos, this donation is comprised of more than 3,000 books and journals. Content ranges from books on Chinese literature and foreign Chinese studies, as well as many types of journals and materials from China and Taiwan. In addition, in the future Professor Chen is also willing to donate his collection of around one hundred *Teochew* folk song librettos stored at his residence in Paris to NCL for archival. Director-General Tseng stated that NCL will find a perfect place in its conservation room for these works. The Library will make complete catalog records for these materials so that they will be searchable on the library's website. Furthermore, in the near future, the Library will digitize all librettos, well organize them so as to ensure long-term preservation of the physical copies and make the digitized images available for access. NCL believes that these materials will be valuable and beneficial for those researching *Minnan* culture.



Minnan opera librettos have been in circulation for a hundred years; Sinologist Qinghao Chen donates them all to the NCL.



Prof. Chen donates many books on Chinese in other languages.

■ NCL Strives to Expand TRCCS Sites Worldwide

NCL sets up its 41st Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) in the European Union member state Slovakia. This was done by creating a collaborative relationship with the country's famed house of learning, the top University in the country, Comenius University (CU). Endeavors in discussion about this collaborations took about six months. During the time, assistance was given by Hung-Wei Yen, the head of the technology division at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Prague. Thanks to his help that the discussion between both parties went smooth and resulted in this meaningful collaboration.



NCL's Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, Director Shu-fen Hung and international cooperation coordinator Leo Lin, International Cooperation Division, strive to expand TRCCS sites worldwide.

The Comenius University library system includes 13 libraries scattered across the campus and even off-campus. These are all under the governance of the Academic Library Centre. The TRCCS was established in CU's Faculty of Art Library because the Department of East Asian Studies is part of that faculty. In 1988, the East Asian Studies department added Chinese studies. It is the only university in the country that offers both undergraduate and master's programs in Chinese studies. The department started the international periodical *Studia Orientalia Slovaca* in 2002. After 2010, this periodical began publishing two issues and including cross-discipline articles on East Asian studies.

In responding to the teaching and research needs of Chinese studies, the library's holdings have Chinese