

discuss about new possibilities of resources sharing, etc. More specifically, PNC was initiated 29 years ago aiming to promote well utilization of the Internet, and the exchange and dissemination of information among countries on the Pacific rim through advanced Internet technology. Other objectives include promotion of standards for interinstitutional information exchange and agreement on the sharing of information and resources through edge-cutting information technology and skillful applications, in further, the application and exchange of e-book information technology, such as online teaching, interlibrary loan, archival collections, and the digitization of important collections held by museums and libraries.

The PNC 2022 Conference was held at the University of Arizona in the U.S. The theme of the conference this year was “The Digital World in an Age of Uncertainty: Humanizing Technology for Wellness, Resilience, and Creativity,” expected to centered on how to face challenges in this age of uncertainty, and the development prospects of more humanized digital technology. At this conference, while experts and scholars were from around the world, met both on-site and online, topics of presentations and discussion were far beyond the scope of previous years, extended to cover more issues such as ecological environmental issue, animal protection issue, etc.

Each year National Central Library is invited to organize the session on digital libraries. This year, the NCL entitled session as “Innovation and Application: A Step Forward.” It was held on September 17. Professor Yuen-Hsien Tseng of the Graduate Institute of Library and Information Studies from National Taiwan Normal University was invited to be the moderator. The following three scholars were invited to present at this session:

- (1) NTNU Professor Yuan-hsien Tseng presented on “Similarities Check for Digital Archives in Practice”
- (2) NCL International Cooperation Director Dr. Shu-fen Hung presented on “Reinforcement of a Citation Index Database: On the Case of Taiwan Citation Index—Humanities and Social Sciences (TCI-HSS)”
- (3) Mr. Akihiro Kameda from the National Museum of Japanese History, independent researcher Mr. Kosei Mino, and Professor Sigeo Sugimoto from the University of Tsukuba co-authored a research

on “Trial for Collecting, Sharing and Preserving Digital Research Assets in Asia.” Their research was presented by Mr. Akihiro Kameda.

In addition, NCL’s poster “Turn TV on and the NCLibTV Service Is Delivered to Your Home: NCL’s OTT TV Smart Library Service” was selected for the 2022 PNC Poster Exhibition. Digital Knowledge System Division Director Li-chun Chen attended the PNC annual conference and shared NCL’s experience with attendees.



*Li-Chun Chen, Director of NCL's Digital Knowledge System Division, shared NCL's experience at the poster session.*

### ■ “Materialism showed in the Dream of the Red Chamber (*Honglou Meng*)”: A Special Exhibition of Rare Books on *Honglou Meng*

National Central Library has a large collection of ancient books on Dream of the Red Chamber (*Honglou Meng*) and on Redology. In an effort to promote reading and to invite the general public to read and rethink about this great classical literary work, from September 20 to October 2, NCL held an exhibition entitled “Materialism showed in the Dream of the Red Chamber (*Honglou Meng*)”: A Special Exhibition of Rare Books on *Honglou Meng*” in the Library’s exhibition hall on the first floor. This exhibition gave these ancient rare books a chance to get out from the storage boxes and cabinets, and to be seen by people again. It was indeed a spectacular exhibition.

Since 2020, the pandemic has ravaged the human society. It well bears the title of the worst catastrophe the world has known in this century. For both individuals and societies, people have been internally and externally shaken and left on tenterhooks. As is well known, the role of libraries in the progress of society is one of unshakable existence. Therefore, when the pandemic spread and caused lock down in countries, libraries were expected to continue to facilitate research, teaching, and learning. Indeed, NCL has not been stopped by the pandemic, but rather has continued to use both on-site and online options to retain various reading promotion events, genuinely wishes to positively calm down people, and to help them finding their own sense of inner peace.

NCL selected September, that wonderful time when fall is in the air, to hold the exhibition “Materialism showed in the Dream of the Red Chamber (*Honglou Meng*)”: A Special Exhibition of Rare Books on *Honglou Meng*.” There were about 50 rare books in NCL’s collection that are on Dream of the Red Chamber (*Honglou Meng*) or that deal with Redology selected. They were divided into five main categories: characters in the novel, medicine, food and feasts, plants used as metaphors for emotions, and tools and implements. The aim was to create a shortcut for the public to engage in reading by helping them become familiar with different aspects of the novel to guide the study of this story. In addition to being able to appreciate Cao Xueqin’s material aesthetics that he spent much time crafting in the novel and rekindling a feeling for this classic, NCL wanted to help the public to become more literate and to nourish their mind and heart.



*Dignitaries at the ribbon cutting for the exhibition “Materialism showed in the Dream of the Red Chamber (*Honglou Meng*)”: A Special Exhibition of Rare Books on *Honglou Meng*.”*

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated, as one of the important repository for printed material, NCL has in its collection many ancient books on the Dream of the Red Chamber (*Honglou Meng*) and on Redology. This exhibition dovetails with our fall reading lecture on Dream of the Red Chamber (*Honglou Meng*) and highlights various people or things in the novel. On display are more than 50 rare books and items from NCL’s collection. These are of different genres, various writing styles, and represent variegated content, making them very much worth a look. In addition, the design of the exhibition space was aimed to produce a specific atmosphere by replicating Cao Xueqin’s “big showcase” of a land of immortals. So that while visitors were admiring the elegant ancient books, they could also have the feeling of wandering about gentrified courtyard of an aristocratic and literary family. Also, in conjunction with the five main themes of the exhibition and the fall season, a Lantern Festival riddle game and a bookmark making station were on hand so that visitors could experience and better understand abundance of wisdom found in the daily life described in this great classic work. Visitors could then have a sense of the magnificent spectacle and age that is in this book, as well as the insights and feelings it can awaken us from so long ago.



*During an exhibition tour.*

## ■ The 2022 Taiwan Public Library Benchmark Study Group Pays a Study Visit to Norway and Sweden Famed Libraries

In order to enhance the services of libraries, the Ministry of Education takes a policy to expand the horizons of domestic public library service authorities and practitioners, and to increase understanding of the development of international libraries. The Ministry