

National Central Library





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1

2021-2030 Aims, and Strategies

As the National Central Library (NCL) is the only legal depository library in Taiwan, the Library bears a mission to preserve all the deposited books for contemporary and future generations. According to the Library Act in Taiwan, all formally published materials and publications are supposed to be deposited with the NCL. At the same time, the Library Act also entrusts the NCL with the mission of preserving and promoting resources, guiding the development of all other categories of libraries, and promoting information standardization, professional services, and sustainable development.

Strategic Plan 2021-2030

Knowledge, Culture, Learning, Experience, Innovation, Cooperation



- Preservation of the Nation's Heritage, Proceeding Value-added Utilization of Collections
- Digital Engagement of All People, Exercising Instrumental Leadership for Academy
- Renovation of Services, Providing User-Oriented Programs and Services
- Construction of Intelligent Taiwan Information Platform, Taking Leadership in Promoting Sinology Worldwide
- Development of Expert Service Team, Triggering off Significant Progress
- Pursuit of Ever-growing Excellence, Making Endeavors with Great Motivation

1. Promotion of Civic Information Literacy, Enhancing the Nation's Potentialities
2. Facilitating Joint Collection Preservation Collaborations, Conserving Important Cultural Assets
3. Implementation of New Information Technology, Upgrading Services for Academic Communities
4. Developing e-Learning Programs, Transforming knowledge into Competitive Power
5. Incorporation of Innovative Technologies, Transforming Service Models
6. Advancing Service Model Innovations, Delivering Sensational Services
7. Enhancement of the NCL Sinology Information System, Facilitating Scholarly Communication
8. Expanding International Sharing Programs, Broadening Global Reach and Influences.
9. Taking Leadership Role for Taiwan Library and Information Communities, Advancing Service efficacy
10. Extending Services to Publishers, Nourishing Publishing Industries
11. Flexibly Adopting New Strategies and Positive Philosophy, Re-engineering the NCL into an Effective Organization
12. Establishing More Service Bases, Strengthening Service Efficiency



2 Outstanding Facility Space and New Constructions

The NCL offers top-notch storage facilities, cozy and easily accessible reading areas, all-encompassing amenities for meetings, exhibitions, and education, and delivers expert services to meet the diverse information and learning needs of its readers.

» Main Library

(No.20, Zhongshan S. Rd., Zhongzheng District, Taipei City 100201, Taiwan)

The NCL was relocated to Nanhai Road in Taipei, Taiwan in 1954. In 1986 new facilities were built on Zhongshan South Road, with seven floors above ground and two below. It has a total area of 40,000 sq. m. The NCL boasts a complete collection of contemporary publications in Taiwan and is most noted for its many rare and ancient Chinese books, other books and periodicals published in Taiwan, government publications, and dissertations and theses. Since many of the books and periodicals are legal deposits, to preserve publications in Taiwan the NCL does not allow items to be checked out. Since materials can only be accessed in the Library, several reading rooms are provided which offer a variety of services to meet patron needs.

For patron convenience in use of the Library, other amenities include a reading section for new Chinese books, a theses and dissertations section, a reference section, a periodical reading room, a rare books room, a microfiche room, an internet resource section, a government information and law reading room, a Japanese and Korean reading room, the Center for Chinese Studies Reading Room, and the Matteo Ricci and Pacific Studies Reading Room. In addition, the library also has study rooms and newspaper reading rooms, provide about 1,102 seats for reading. Each reading room has newly acquired books and periodicals on open shelves, internet access, and printing services. Patrons can search all Library holdings via the NCL's online catalog. Librarians are also available to provide needed information and guidance.

As a convenience to patrons using the NCL holdings to conduct scholarly research, the Library has 24 small research carrels and two group discussion rooms for individual or group use.



» Open Lab Multimedia Center

(14F, No. 4, Xiushan St., Zhongzheng Dist., Taipei City)

The Open Lab Multimedia Center (Open Lab) was officially launched on November 19, 2022. In addition to providing access to library collections, Open Lab incorporates various technology facilities and innovative service concepts to create a high-quality environment for exploration, learning, experience, interaction, creation, and sharing. It is an interdisciplinary, open laboratory that caters to digital trends and fosters a young and creative atmosphere. Open Lab provides innovative services and equipment, including an “Experience and Exploration” service that offers various digital technology workshops, animation creation, creative workshops, woodworking and laser engraving, and other practical equipment. The “Creative Inspiration” service provides individual/parent-child live rooms, live studios, group practice rooms, music creation studios, and other multimedia facilities. The “Learning & Inspiration” service provides various theme-based books, such as travel, music appreciation, language learning, comic books, and creative books. The “Sharing and Communication” service provides spaces for multiple functions, including meeting rooms, discussion rooms, shared learning areas, and work exhibition areas, totaling 202 seats.

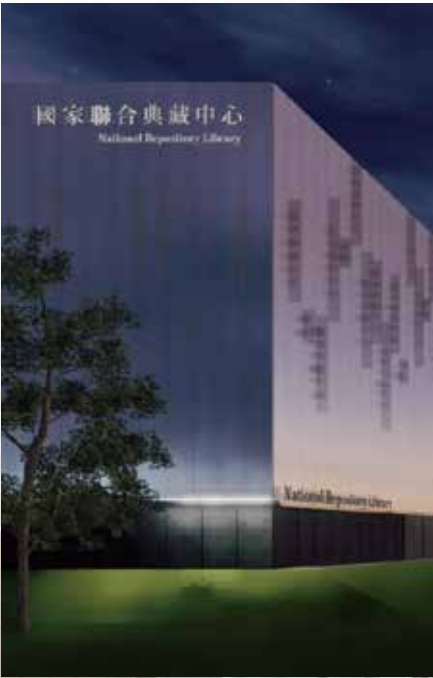


» Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library

Collaborative Center for Librarian Training and Learning - Base for the Development of Library and Information Professionals, Center for Innovation and Incubation for Library Services, Books Conservation and Restoration Lab, Taiwan Resource Center of Children and Youth Literature, National Repository Library, National Digital Resources Preservation Center.

The construction project of the “Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library” began on August 1st, 2022, and is scheduled to be completed in December 2025. The library includes the following units: Collaborative Center for Librarian Training and Learning - Base for the Development of Library and Information Professionals, Center for Innovation and Incubation for Library Services, Books Conservation and Restoration Lab, Taiwan Resource Center of Children and Youth Literature, National Repository Library, Museum of Taiwan Publishing Industry, National Digital Resources Preservation Center, providing services for different ages and groups, as well as a diversified innovative service space, and equipped with an intelligent Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS).

The National Repository Library has a designed capacity of over 13 million items, and will provide preservation for various types of academic and cultural-related historical material and heritages in Taiwan, including books, periodicals, audiovisual materials, digital objects, and Taiwanese publishing industry heritages, making it the best place for storing massive and valuable book collections for domestic libraries, collectors, and sinologists.





3

Important and Unique Collections

The NCL's collections can be divided into important historical works and modern publications. The former includes those from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, and are in the form of written manuscripts, block prints, annotated versions by famous scholars, hand-written copies, Han dynasty wood strips, and bronze and stone rubbings. The latter includes important modern publications on Chinese studies, both published domestically and internationally, theses and dissertations, hand-written manuscripts, and digital audiovisual materials.

》Rare books in Chinese and Western languages

The NCL’s special collections are mainly comprised of rare books from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, in particular the abundant Ming anthologies, as well as other thread-bound books, stone and bronze rubbings. These national cultural assets are also important resources for scholarly research and have received much attention from scholars around the world. At present, the library, in all, has more than 12,900 sets (ca.135,000 volumes) of rare books, including Dunhuang scrolls, Song, Jin, Yuan, and Ming books, hand copies, manuscripts, and annotated versions. Several of these ancient books are especially rare. Books designated as National treasures according to stipulations in the Cultural Asset Preservation Law number 40 titles (303 volumes), with important relics numbering 249 titles (2,875 volumes). A Rare Books and Special Collections database (<http://rbook2.ncl.edu.tw/>) was created that now contains over 7.25 million images and metadata available to the public. Aside from the books already in the library's collection, bibliophiles have deposited 42 types of valuable ancient Western books totaling 49 volumes.



》International resources on Chinese studies

Chinese studies materials have been actively collected by the NCL’s Center for Chinese studies since 1981. Materials acquired include Chinese and foreign publications, extant ancient Chinese books found overseas, microfilm of Dunhuang scrolls, dissertations on Chinese studies from American and European universities, academic publications on Chinese literature, history, or philosophy published in China, and e-resources.



》Significant publications of Taiwan

The NCL is the legal depository for all national publications according to Article 15 of the Library Act. The NCL actively acquires books, periodicals, and digital publications in Taiwan across various genres and topics. The most important of these are interdisciplinary academic journals and university journals.

》Collection of theses and dissertations in Taiwan

According to the Degree Conferral Act, the NCL is the sole library in Taiwan with the legal authority to store theses and dissertations produced in the country. With the objective of supporting academic research, the NCL has established the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan, which operates under the guidance of the Ministry of Education. This platform offers additional knowledge-based services for theses and dissertations, including full-text downloads for authorized users and public access for online research.



》Publications of international organizations

The NCL continues to acquire important books and other materials (print and digital) in

Chinese, primarily on the humanities and social science disciplines, from Taiwan and abroad. They focus on disciplinary development, match social and economic development, and also discuss important international issues. They are extremely beneficial to academic research.

In terms of foreign language books, acquisitions focus on important topics such as globalization, climate change, environmental change, regional integration, new immigrants, aging, culture and creativity, as well as those works published by international organizations such as the OECD, UN, UNESCO, WB, WTO, and WHO.

» Local historical materials in Taiwan

The NCL collects various local documents and archives, gathering and preserving rich local historical materials in Taiwan. Local documents are the most precious historical records related to society and national history, which



can be searched and viewed through the “Taiwan Local Document Image Database” on the NCL’s “Taiwan Memory” website. Over the years, the library has received many donations of valuable local historical materials from various social figures, public and private organizations, including old books and documents related to literature and history, publications before and after the Second Sino-Japanese War, broadcasting recordings and vinyl records, letters, scripts, musical scores, poems, essays, paintings, etc. The collection includes diverse types of



data and rich contents. Please refer to the website of “Taiwan Local Documents Image Database” <https://twinfo.ncl.edu.tw/local>

》Digital Media Resources

In addition to digitizing its own audio-visual materials, NCL worked with TV and radio stations to digitize and preserve historically significant audio-visual materials. The Digital Audio Visual Archive System (DAVA) website lists 14 different topics: TV News, Drama Program, Broadcasting Program, Repertoire, Biography, Documentary Film, Sounds & Voices, Human Concern, Literary Art, Around the World, Healthy Living, Financial Management, Public Service Videos, and Activities & Lecture. The files are accessible either onsite in NCL or over the Internet, depending on the access rights granted. Please refer to the website of “Digital Audio Visual Archive System:” <http://dava.ncl.edu.tw>





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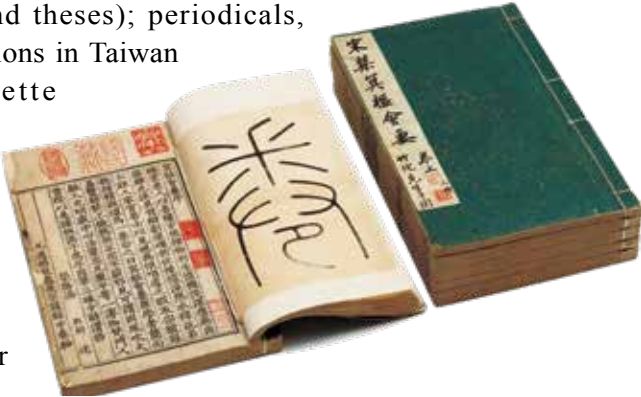
Development of Digital Services

The NCL utilizes information technology to create various e-resources, and providing the public with more complete and replete digital resource services.

》Digitized material and collections

At the same time, the NCL’s continued efforts in digitizing books and publications in Taiwan and expanding digitized holdings has led to the establishment of a national digital center that will proactively seek collaboration with libraries and archives in Taiwan and other countries. By the end of December 2022, more than 60 types of databases have been established. Digitizing important scholarly resources in Taiwan studies, creating a digital platform for reading, and providing the public with more complete and replete digital resource services are its aims.

There are over 72 million digitized images in the NCL collections, including: special collections (rare books, stone and bronze rubbings, ancient legal contracts, and genealogies); manuscripts of famous persons, books and materials published in Taiwan (pre-1949 books, local gazetteers, and local publications, dissertations and theses); periodicals, newspapers and government publications in Taiwan (National Central Library Gazette Online, Government Statistics, government publications); images (images from 19th century Taiwan, Taiwan postcards from the Japanese-occupation period, yearbooks from the Japanese-occupation period, patriotic lotteries, art posters), and over 500,000 audio-visual materials.



» Information system and digital services

NCL has developed various important databases, such as the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan, NBINet Union Catalog, NCL Taiwan Periodical Literature, Taiwan Citation Index – Humanities and Social Sciences, Taiwan Memory, ISBN Agency in Taiwan, National Central Library Online Catalog, Synergy of Metadata Resources in Taiwan (SMRT), Rare Books and Special Collections Resources database, Taiwan eBook, Taiwan Web Archive System, Digital Audio Visual Archive System, etc. Over the years, the annual information service user count has exceeded 4 billion and in 2022, it exceeded 530 million.

» Digital humanities services

The NCL participates in digital preservation projects, digitizing its valuable collections and accumulating rich and distinctive digital resources. In recent years, the NCL has collaborated with universities, colleges, and research institutions to design digital humanities research platforms and systems. Please refer to the website of “Taiwan Memory” <https://tm.ncl.edu.tw/>

The NCL has a rich collection of Taiwanese historical documents and materials. To properly preserve Taiwan’s historical memory in accordance with digital development, NCL established the “Taiwan Memory” system. By establishing the system, NCL has created a digital collection of the historical documents of Taiwan enabling it to analyze and establish interpretative information of the digital materials and thereby fulfill the purpose of sharing and using library resources. In addition, NCL plans to strengthen its coordination with local governmental institutions and private cultural and historical organizations to promote reading and researching in Taiwan and abroad through the easy accessibility of the internet. The “Taiwan Memory” system updated its structure in 2016. Presently it has collected more than 267,000 items and more than 2.78 million pages of images, while its digital resources continue to grow.

Universal Type Digital Humanities Research Platform on Chinese Ancient Books
<https://ming.ncl.edu.tw/>

Text of the database is based on the special collection of Ming Dynasty in NCL. NCL digitized those Chinese rare books, combined with various kinds of digital analyzing tools developed by Social Sciences Information Center of



National Chengchi University, and constructed a platform not only meets digital humanities studies users' requirements for research but also provides content analysis of Chinese rare books. This platform provides digital analyzing tools such as matched text, refine user's results, Automatic Text Annotation System (ATAS), Information visualization, Statistical Analysis, Social Network Analysis (SNA), etc.

E-Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies

<https://ccsnews.ncl.edu.tw/>

From 2006, the Center for Chinese Studies of NCL began to publish the E-Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies in order to present academic news in a timely fashion. This publication is sent out to subscribers via email every month. Contents include latest information about conferences, seminars, lectures, personnel change and publication information about Chinese Studies around the world. Though the integration of GIS and GPS features, the service provides tens of thousands of academic information in time and space axis.



Users can use computer or cellphone to look for academic activities, scholars or research institutes in specific location or set it to look for these information in the immediate area around.

» Digital mobile learning services

The NCL currently offers a variety of digital courses. Readers can access the NCL's "E-LEARNING CAMPUS" digital courses (<https://cu.ncl.edu.tw>) or connect to the NCL's "MDAVA" platform (<http://mdava.ncl.edu.tw>) for online study anytime. They can also download the "NCLibTV Goes to Your Home" app for a diverse online reading experience. In addition, the NCL's digital learning materials ordered by the library are also available for people to access on their computers or mobile devices, enabling them to engage in learning through the system.





5

Innovative Knowledge Services

The NCL has expanded its services to patrons who visit the library, offering increased availability and scope of e-reading materials, knowledge support reference services, subscriptions to information on new books, enriched access to digitized resources, and established a year-round knowledge resource service for people worldwide to more easily appreciate the achievements and wisdom of Taiwan's civilization.

》 Different ways to experience digital reading

To promote digital reading and in conjunction with the “E-Publication Platform System,” the NCL has established a “digital reading experience area” on the third floor periodical room, providing digital reading services such as e-book browsing and borrowing, e-magazines, and e-newspapers. On the fourth floor, the “Special Collection Resources Digital Experience Area” has been set up in the hallway, offering VR interactive experiences of ancient books, celebrity manuscripts, and literary works, showcasing a rich digital collection and developing a fun and educational digital reading mode.

》 Knowledge-based reference services

The NCL provides readers with diverse channels for reference and consultation services, including professional librarians who can answer questions, assist in finding relevant information, and guide readers to the appropriate sources. These channels include email, written correspondence, verbal communication, telephone, and fax, as well as the “NCL Academic Knowledge Services” on the library's website, which provides online consultation services to readers. In response to the pandemic and the post-pandemic era, the “Knowledge Express Services and Online Reference Expert Service” has been launched, allowing readers to receive reference and consultation services more quickly and in real-time, without having to visit the library. Readers can obtain answers to their questions and even access information from the comfort of their own homes.

Knowledge Express Services

<http://109read.ncl.edu.tw/knowledgeexpress/index.html>

Online Reference Expert Service

<http://109read.ncl.edu.tw/express/index.html>

》 Trends Report issued regularly

Based on the bibliographic data of the International Standard Book Number



(ISBN) and Cataloging in Publication (CIP) applications submitted by domestic publishers or individuals to NCL’s ISBN/CIP Center, the NCL annually compiles and analyzes the total number of new books published in Taiwan (including e-books), their subject categories, common classifications, languages of translated books, and their countries/regions of origin. This report provides an overview of Taiwan's latest book publishing trends and status.

Report on Research Trends in Dissertations and Theses from Taiwan Universities

The report aims to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the three major academic databases held by the NCL, including the National Digital Library of These and Dissertations in Taiwan, the Taiwan Citation Index - Humanities and Social Sciences, and the NCL Taiwan Periodical Literature. By using usage records and other relevant data, the report presents the academic dissemination process of various types of academic literature such as theses, journals, and books through citation. It also analyzes the authorization, public access, and usage of theses from various universities. In addition, it examines the current research trends and citation patterns by analyzing the keywords used in dissertations and theses, as well as in frequently cited journal articles. The report aims to showcase the latest academic research trends, the academic influence





of universities, and the relationship between academia and society, thereby highlighting the academic impact of the NCL.

》Integrating Cross-Agency Services and Resources

NCL has established 4 Public Library Regional Resource Centers to balance the development of regional resources and create the “one-card access to all libraries nationwide” service. It operates NBInet to integrate the bibliographic data of all national libraries and establish a national bibliographic sharing resource. There are a total of 117 cooperating units. The NCL websites “Government Gazette” and the “Government Statistical Information” integrate central and local government gazettes and statistical resources, providing a convenient government information platform. It is the only information system in Taiwan that collects historical government gazettes and statistics from both central and local government agencies. In addition, National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan (<https://etds.ncl.edu.tw>) Cloud service has been established, with 144 participating universities in Taiwan and 112 of them being core universities using the library's system.





6

Promotion of Chinese Studies

In 1981, the Ministry of Education instructed the National Central Library to establish the “Chinese Studies Information and Service Center” (renamed the “Center for Chinese Studies, CCS” in 1987) with the responsibility of promoting Chinese studies in Taiwan and abroad. Efforts over the last thirty years have led to much success. It has established a firm foundation for research in the humanities in Taiwan. Internationally, it has also created an image of excellent Taiwanese scholarship.

» Supporting foreign scholar research in Taiwan

In 1989, the CCS implemented a grant for foreign scholars to conduct research on Chinese studies in Taiwan. Starting in 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also commissioned it to handle the Taiwan Fellowship, which provides funding for foreign scholars researching Taiwan or Chinese studies to come to Taiwan for one month to one year. The CCS assists them with gathering information, as well as other living and research needs. The scholars also have opportunities to interact with Taiwanese scholars by attending conferences and cultural activities. Such activities leave a deep and lasting impression of Taiwan. In October 2011, the CCS Scholars Worldwide was established, which connects foreign grant recipients over the years to encourage continued exchange between Taiwan and international academia.

» Holding various academic activities

Through bringing together scholars and experts in sinology to discuss specific issues or novel interdisciplinary topics and co-hosting international conferences, the NCL is able to stimulate sinological institutions in Taiwan and extend the influence of research achievements overseas. Each year in conjunction with the fellowships, visiting scholars are invited to participate in approximately 20 Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies, including 3-4 research presentations by scholars receiving the Taiwan Fellowship, and 2-3 sessions of

the Global Friends of Chinese Studies Lecture for those who previously received the fellowships. Starting in 2022, the NCL holds the “Young Scholars Workshop” to assist young scholars in the field of international Sinology to understand the necessity of conducting research in Taiwan and to become acquainted with academic resources in Taiwan.

» Setting up resource centers in overseas

In order to promote the academic achievements of Taiwan's Chinese studies, our library has signed formal cooperation agreements with important academic institutions overseas to establish the “Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies” (TRCCS), providing books, audio-visual materials, and electronic resources published in Taiwan to facilitate access for overseas researchers in Chinese studies, promoting international exchange and research sharing. Currently, we have signed contracts with well-known university libraries or research institutions in 28 countries including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Latvia, France, Belgium, Australia, Japan, Russia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Poland, Denmark, Korea, Thailand, Italy, Israel, Slovenia, Mongolia, Switzerland, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary, and Argentina, establishing a total of 45 resource centers to promote long-term cooperation and exchange.

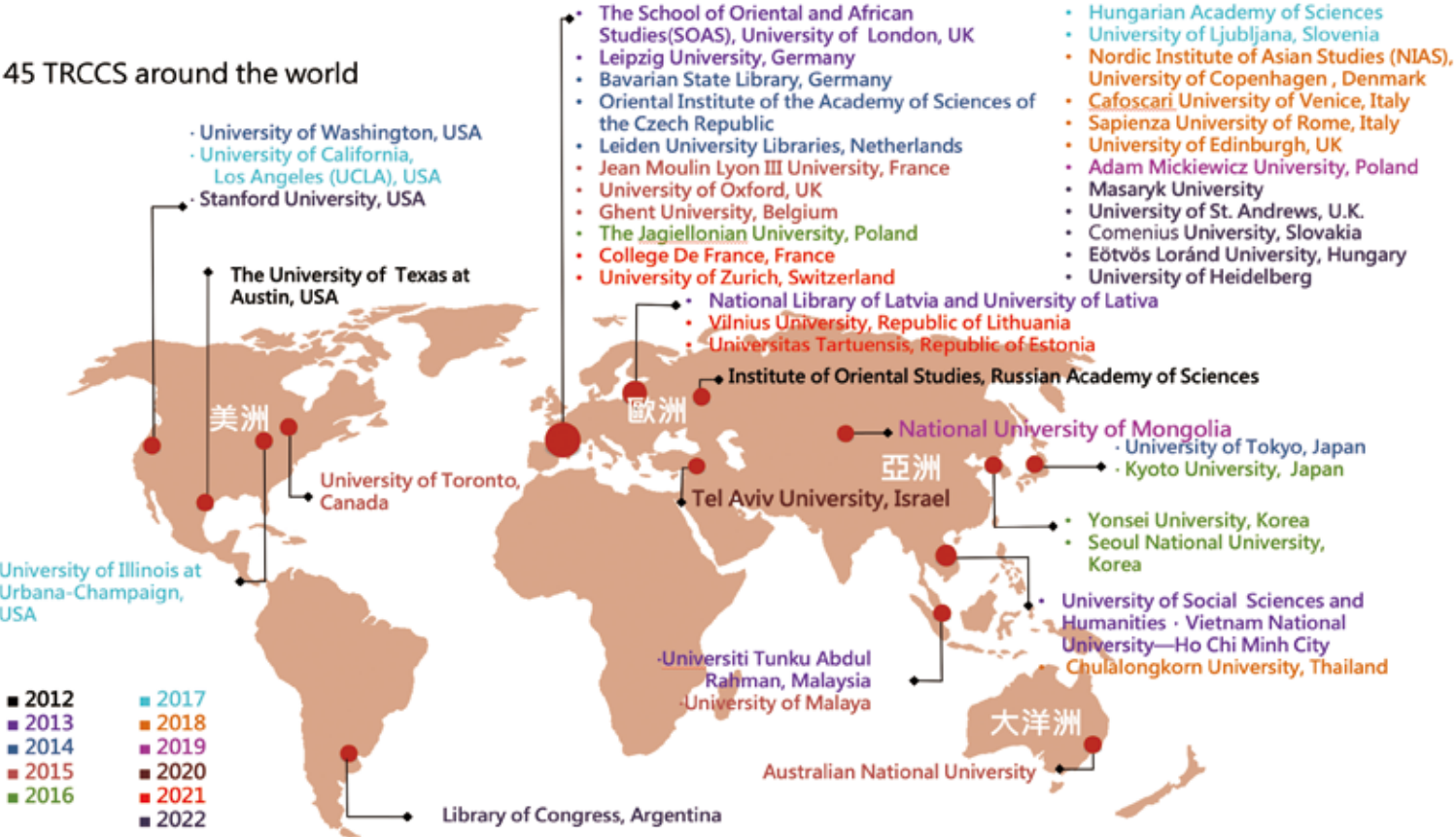


» Expanding international scholarly exchanges

The NCL also participates in international meetings and book exhibitions, such as the Association for Asian Studies and the European Association for Chinese Studies, to promote Taiwan’s research achievements and publications. This allows the NCL to strengthen ties with important international Chinese studies institutions. The NCL also holds Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies each year at various TRCCSs, inviting prominent scholars worldwide to deliver speeches. In addition, it puts on touring exhibitions regarding classical works. Such efforts are a way to proactively introduce the world to great publications and new findings in research, thus exhibiting Taiwan’s cultural depth.

» Publishing works on Chinese studies

The CCS publishes *Chinese Studies*, a quarterly international journal that focuses on research on Chinese literature, history, and philosophy. It has



been awarded the National Science Council's "Journal of Excellence Award" on several occasions. The quarterly *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* primarily reports on research trends in Taiwan and abroad. Over one hundred universities around the world regularly provide updated information. To increase the timeliness of the scholarly information, the *E-Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* is published monthly. The Center also publishes bibliographies, indices, and other reference works on sinological topics.

» Providing resources and services on Chinese studies

The Materials Room at the CCS contains a large number of exquisite and well-preserved works. Since its opening it has been much valued among scholars. It provides many resources and services to aid local and foreign scholars, as well as the general public, in researching topics in Chinese studies. These resources and services include books and journals available for borrowing, reference services, personalized information services for foreign scholars, search guides for Chinese studies databases, and theme-based book fairs. The NCL and the Taipei Ricci Institute collaborated in 2010 to create the Matteo Ricci & Pacific Studies Reading Room, which primarily contains materials in Chinese, English, and French. Materials focus on studies on Matteo Ricci, East-West cultural exchanges, the Jesuits, comparative religion, international Chinese studies, linguistics, and philosophy. Starting from 2021, an area has been set up here to showcase donated books by international Sinologists.





7 Strengthening International Exchanges

The NCL serves as the representative of the Republic of China in collaborating with foreign libraries and research institutions, as well as promoting exchange with international library organizations. This involves various initiatives such as exchanging publications, providing document delivery services, co-creating electronic resources, and sharing library-related information. The NCL also participates in international meetings, book exhibitions, and other professional library activities to gain and impart professional knowledge and experience. Moreover, the NCL works together with foreign embassies and representative offices in Taiwan to plan cultural and educational events.

» **International exchange and donation of publications**

The NCL has established publication exchange relationships with overseas libraries, the TRCCS and academic research institutions over the years. Currently, there are more than 80 countries and regions with over 600 exchange units maintaining interactions, covering national libraries, public libraries, university libraries, specialized libraries, and academic research institutions worldwide. In order to increase the visibility of Taiwan's publications, NCL provides book donations to library partners who have signed cooperation agreements. In addition, NCL has also collaborated with foreign public libraries and national libraries to establish Taiwan Corner, providing foreign readers with various channels to understand Taiwan's diverse publications and expand Taiwan's visibility in the international community.

» **Participation in international professional activities**

The NCL takes an active role in expanding its knowledge of global trends and developments in culture and education by engaging with international organizations focused on library science and Chinese studies. Staff members attend meetings hosted by these organizations, which provide valuable opportunities to share experiences with other foreign libraries and showcase Taiwan's publication accomplishments at international book exhibitions and professional library organization events. These efforts aim to establish

cooperative projects and exchanges that can enhance Taiwan's global standing in librarianship. The NCL is an active participant in various professional organizations such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), American Library Association (ALA), American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC), and European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS).

» **Collaboration on digitizing ancient Chinese books**

Preserving rare and ancient Chinese books is crucial for safeguarding our cultural heritage, facilitating research, and preserving civilization. The NCL leverages its expertise and experience to assist foreign libraries in digitizing their collections of original Chinese rare books that have been taken abroad. By engaging in cooperative projects with these institutions, the NCL can help safeguard these significant works while obtaining the rights to use the digitized materials.

Collaborating institutions in this



effort include the University of Washington Libraries, the East Asian Library at the University of California, Berkeley, the Princeton University Library, the Stanford University Libraries, the University of Toronto Libraries, the University of British Columbia Library, the National Library of France, the Kyushu University Library in Japan, and the British Library. As a result of this collaboration, over 3.16 million pages of invaluable ancient books have been digitized.

» Sharing catalog information on Chinese rare books

To facilitate the shared development and use of Chinese ancient documents, the National Central Library (NCL) has established the “Rare Books & Special Collections Database” based on the Union Catalog of Ancient Chinese Books in the Taiwan Region, and has further collaborated with libraries in Mainland China, Asia, Oceania, and Europe that have a significant



collection of ancient books. Currently, the database has accumulated over 840,000 entries of ancient Chinese book titles, and NCL continues to expand partnerships with libraries worldwide to share Chinese ancient book resources.

» Sharing and disseminating rare Chinese books

The NCL is dedicated to advancing international projects that foster the exchange of rare Chinese books. As part of this effort, the NCL signed a cooperation agreement with the British Library to participate in the International Dunhuang Project (IDP). Through this collaboration, the NCL uploaded 141 titles (152 volumes) of Dunhuang manuscript images, metadata, and abstracts. This initiative will not only benefit scholars worldwide who conduct research on these manuscripts but will also make some of the NCL’s exceptional collections available on a global platform.



» Exchange of library and information science academic specialty

The NCL actively engages in a range of international activities, including hosting conferences, receiving foreign visitors, inviting international experts and scholars to give speeches and seminars, organizing librarian training courses, and sending staff abroad for research and training. These events serve to deepen Taiwan's understanding of the global library and information field, increase the NCL's international visibility, and foster cooperation and exchange with overseas libraries.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact from 2020 to 2022, the NCL invited experts and scholars from various countries in Europe and America to deliver online lectures, which were well-received. Additionally, since 2014, the NCL and the Nanjing Library in mainland China have alternated in holding the “Xuan-lan Forum,” promoting the reading and research of Chinese ancient and contemporary literature. The NCL leads colleagues from public libraries across Taiwan in participating in these forums and conducting in-depth discussions on topics such as promoting reading in public libraries, cultural industry innovation, and educational promotion, fostering exchanges between public libraries on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.





8 Guiding Professional Development

The NCL is designated by law as the library in Taiwan responsible for researching, promoting, and guiding the development of all libraries nationwide. Thus, the NCL's duty and responsibility is to improve the quality of library development, to strengthen library services, and to increase research efforts on librarianship throughout Taiwan.

》Generating a blueprint for professional development

In 2011, the NCL edited the *National Plan for the Policies and Strategies to Develop and Promote Libraries*, which outlines 7 major aims, 46 strategies, and 108 concrete measures that will aid the field of library and information science in planning and directing library development. The plan can also be used by various levels of government institutions and libraries in formulating future policies and promotional projects. The NCL will continue to promote a close working relationship with libraries throughout the country, methodically bringing to reality the following ideals: establish a firm foundation for library operations, improve professionalism and job proficiency, promote reading nationwide, enrich the physical and electronic holdings of all libraries, formulate development policies for digital resources nationwide, ensure the possibility of archiving and convenient use of e-resources, and expand the exchange of international information and cooperation with other libraries.

》Developing professional proficiency standards

Since the year 2013, a series of proposals for the development of professional competencies and guidelines have been completed and published, including *Proposal for the Development of Professional Competencies for Public Library Staff in Taiwan*(2013), *Multicultural Service Guidelines for Public Libraries in Taiwan*(2014), *Proposal for the Development of*

Professional Competency Indicators for High School and Vocational School Librarians in Taiwan(2014), *Proposal for the Development of Professional Competency Indicators for Junior High School Librarians in Taiwan*(2015), *Proposal for the Development of Professional Competency Indicators for Elementary School Librarians in Taiwan*(2015), *Proposal for the Development of Professional Competency Indicators for University Library Staff in Taiwan*(2016), *Service Guidelines for Elderly Readers in Taiwan's Libraries*(2019), *Guidelines for Building and Services of Library Makerspaces*(2020), *Guidelines for Computational Thinking and Innovative Services in Libraries*(2020), and *Service Guidelines for Bibliotherapy in Libraries*(2022), with the aim of improving the quality of library service personnel through the development of professional service guidelines.

》Developing standards for information

Per Article 6 of the Library Act, thus, due to this reason, NCL has continuously revised Chinese information organization standards over the years, including classification systems, subject headings, the Chinese Cataloging Rules handbook, and the MARC format. We have taken on the important responsibility of promoting and providing education and training nationwide, while also establishing the “Cataloging Corner” website to provide standards, training courses, problem-solving, and news updates related to cataloging. This



helps to solve difficult issues in cataloging practice and improve the professional knowledge of cataloging personnel.

We have also successively developed various systems, such as the Standards for Chinese Subject Cataloging System, MARC Format Conversion System, MARC21 Pinyin Conversion System, and RDA Elements Converting System, to assist domestic libraries in implementing information organization and aligning with international operations according to official standards. Additionally, we provide Chinese Cataloging Rules for linked data to adapt to the trend of linked data and move toward the new era of the Semantic Web.

» **Contributing to the global Chinese bibliographic records**

The NCL has long collaborated with the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) and Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) to provide global copy cataloging services for Taiwanese Chinese bibliographic records and authoritative data. Since 1999, the accumulated amount of Chinese bibliographic records uploaded has exceeded 510,000, and in 2019, NCL ranked first in the world for the number of Chinese bibliographic records uploaded to OCLC for three consecutive years. Since 2015, NCL has uploaded approximately 110,000 Chinese authoritative records to VIAF. NCL continuously exchanges high-quality bibliographic records and authoritative data with the international community to enhance the international visibility of

Taiwanese writers and publications.

» **Enhancing library and information science professional competence**

In order to enhance the professional knowledge and information literacy of librarians across the country, the NCL collaborates with domestic institutions in the field of library and information science (LIS), as well as the Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan), to organize various professional seminars, thematic workshops, invite domestic and foreign scholars and experts to give lectures, visit and learn from benchmark libraries of various types, organize public library training and certification courses, and conduct basic and advanced management training courses for public libraries with local governments. They also hold workshops on public library operations, management, and innovation to improve the professional service capabilities of library staff. Additionally, the NCL has established the “NCL E-LEARNING CAMPUS” digital learning platform and created online courses to provide certification for public employees' learning hours.

» **Assisting in the management of the public library system**

The NCL has initiated a six-year program called “Building a Cooperative and Shared Public Library System” with the goal of promoting and supporting the development of all county and city public libraries. This program aims to



enhance the competitiveness of public library services by establishing a network of main and branch libraries, improving operational management and reader service efficiency, sharing various service resources, and enhancing service quality. The NCL is dedicated to establishing a sound operational system for public libraries and developing a good service management system. To provide guidance and support to public libraries, the NCL has designed specialized in-service training courses and formed a “Public Library Guidance Group” composed of scholars and experts. The group conducts on-site guidance and discussions at county and city public libraries, reviews action plans and implementation plans, and provides specific recommendations and improvement strategies to enhance service efficiency.

» Establishment of Public Library Regional Resource Centers

In order to enhance the quality of collections, promote sharing of collections and encourage reading, the NCL has obtained funding from the Ministry of Education to establish four Public Library Regional Resource Centers and eight divisional Public Library Regional Resource Centers throughout the country. The book selection mechanism for the resource centers is based on the recommendations of experts, and the themes are developed based on national policies, global trends, and social needs. So far, NCL has established theme collections in Public Library Regional Resource Centers, such as “cultural creativity”, “multiculturalism”, “knowledge”, “youth”, “humanities and arts”,



“healthy and sustainable living,” “technology and innovation,” “diverse learning,” and “local revitalization,” To make it easier for people across the country to use these resources, innovative services such as “one-card access to all libraries nationwide” and “convenient store book borrowing and returning” have been launched to promote a reading culture and strengthen the impact of public libraries on society.”

» Commending outstanding library personnel

In order to acknowledge the significance of the national library industry and motivate exceptional performance among library management and related personnel throughout the country, the Ministry of Education created the “Implementation Guidelines for the Ministry of Education Library Industry Contribution Award” on September 16, 2020. This guideline was revised and reissued on September 28, 2022. The award recognizes various types of libraries specified in Article 4, Paragraph 2 of the Library Act and offers five major awards, including the “Model Library Award,” “Outstanding Library Staff Award,” “Outstanding Library Supervisor Award,” “Local Chief Executive Award,” and “Special Contribution Award,” to commend individuals and groups for their remarkable contributions to library management and development. The NCL has been entrusted by the Ministry of Education to oversee the evaluation and granting of the awards.





9 Promoting Reading

Promoting reading in Taiwan, urging the public to develop good reading habits, and cultivating strong reading skills are the aims that the NCL has been working toward. Its exquisite and various reading activities across the country have created a brand image of quality reading. Through many strategic alliances and reading promotion events, the NCL has already become an important base for reading.

》Promoting nationwide reading activities

The NCL champions the vision of reading and encourages diverse reading activities to foster a reading habit and interest for all citizens. It proactively launches various reading promotions and cultural and artistic activities to enrich the cultural attainment of the public, expand their perspectives, and cultivate positive values. The library collaborates with various resources and entities to promote reading through cross-sector integration, including inviting national libraries and educational institutions to jointly host a series of lecture activities and working with publishers to organize “high-quality and new book releases.” Furthermore, the NCL marks World Book Day each year and holds a variety of events such as the Taiwan Reading Festival in December, which is highly acclaimed by the public and contributes to enlivening the reading atmosphere in society. These initiatives enhance the reading literacy and refine the reading preferences of the general public.

》Surveying public reading habits

Since 2012, the NCL has been collaborating with public libraries to analyze statistics on the use of library services and book borrowing by the general public. The results are published in the *Annual Report on Taiwan's Reading Habits and National Reading Literacy*, which presents the reading habits and culture of Taiwanese society. By examining various indicators of public library

service resources and observing the overall reading performance of different cities in Taiwan, the NCL aims to expand the influence of reading culture. The report provides objective and credible data to help libraries and publishers better understand readers' preferences, improve library services, and encourage the publication of high-quality books. The report has also attracted media attention and serves as an important guide for libraries' reading promotion activities and publishers' book planning and editing. In addition, starting in 2022, the NCL began publishing the *Annual Report on School Library Reading Trends and Literacy Analysis*, which reveals the reading interests and literacy performance of campus readers. The release of the report is hoped to increase attention to the operation and construction of school libraries in all sectors.

》Organizing quarterly lectures on reading

Since 2012, the NCL has been organizing a series of seasonal lectures featuring prominent authors, university professors, and researchers from Academia Sinica and universities. The lectures are held quarterly, each focused on a specific theme corresponding to the season: poetry in spring, literary and historical works in summer, ancient classics in fall, and Western classics or works on management in winter. These events aim to continually promote the message of reading to the public and foster positive changes in their reading habits throughout the year.



» Creation of an excellent reading brand for Taiwan

The first Taiwan Reading Festival was held in 2013 and has since become an annual event held from November to December throughout the country. More than 300 publishers, bookstores, cultural and educational foundations, as well as various libraries and schools, collaborate to organize these festive events. The NCL takes charge of the central planning and coordination, encouraging the public to follow the golden triangle of reading: “Borrow good books, read good books, and give out good books.” The festival has gained international recognition, as the NCL won the International Library Innovation Service Award from the American Library Association (ALA) in 2020 for its Taiwan Reading Festival theme. In 2022, the festival will highlight five aspects: “the addition of a two-day event,” “focusing on international exchange and observation,” “incorporating important national policies,” “embracing diverse issues on the largest scale yet,” and “valuing adaptive learning knowledge.” The festival will also integrate the STEAM education trend with the new curriculum, including bilingual education, multiculturalism, indigenous languages, food and agriculture education, and other issues. International library professionals have been invited to Taiwan to share their experiences in promoting reading.





10 Future Prospects

The NCL is committed to the collection, acquisition, organization, preservation, and utilization of literature and cultural artifacts, as well as responding to societal changes, adapting to the knowledge-based economy and technological developments, and keeping up with the trends in library and information services. NCL continually proposes new reading promotion services, hoping to become an important base and driver for the values of knowledge, culture, learning, experience, innovation, and collaboration. NCL will safeguard its past achievements, continue to innovate, pursue progress, and actively build itself as a benchmark for effort.

To address the issues of space constraints in various types of libraries and to enhance service quality, the NCL aims to create a library that can rival world-class libraries, and help the local academic community and library staff understand the development trends of the international library and information field. By attracting more people to approach and use the library, NCL hopes to enhance Taiwan's soft power in knowledge. To achieve this, NCL will undertake the image reconstruction and space optimization of the Main library to reshape it as a cultural and academic hub, showcasing a new image of the national library. At the same time, NCL will actively promote the “Southern Branch of the National Central Library and National Repository Library” project to create a new base with high-quality resource content and innovative services, aiming to achieve the following specific goals.

1. Base for the Development of Library and Information Professionals: Utilizing the NCL Southern Branch base and collaborating with university departments related with library and information science, digital media, information technology, publishing, and museums, the NCL will research international trends in library and information services, identify appropriate measures for Taiwan, and promote them in libraries nationwide to keep up with the times.
2. Center for Innovation and Incubation for Library Services: Combining various professions, we will develop innovative public and university library reader services and environmental facilities for people of all ages to meet their needs and growth, demonstrate the value of libraries in the age of the internet, and transform library service methods.
3. Taiwan Resource Center of Children and Youth Literature: Collaborating with southern universities in education, children's literature, youth literature, early childhood education, art education, and publishing design, we are committed to collecting Taiwanese children's and youth literature works and introducing children's literature works from various countries around the world to promote the creation of Taiwanese children's and youth literature.
4. Books Conservation and Restoration Lab: Create an internationally standardized environment for the preservation of cultural assets, digitize valuable documents, establish a center for the maintenance of ancient books, set up an exhibition hall for rare books and manuscripts, showcase diverse added value achievements, and become a new cultural landmark.

5. National Repository Library: Jointly collect and manage rare and valuable books and periodicals, utilize advanced storage systems for retrieval and use, properly and completely preserve national publications and academic resources in a customized collection environment.
6. Museum of Taiwan Publishing Industry: Centered on publishing companies and individuals, collect and preserve artifacts, marketing materials, operational files, e-books, and printing equipment from various periods in Taiwan's history of book and periodical publishing, preserving the historical trajectory of the contemporary publishing industry.
7. Digital Resources Preservation Center: Continuously accelerate the digitization of books and documents, establish digital service standards, build a national digital resource platform, preserve important digital objects from our library and other domestic libraries, government agencies, schools, and publishing units, innovate digital service models and provide mobile services.





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