

was contacted by Chung-hsin Chen, the assistant to the Vice-Chair of the Foundation on Asia-Pacific Peace Studies about this possibility. Former Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng initiated contact with Dr. Hsu and stated that NCL would be honored to archive his collection. That December, Dr. Hsu consented to donate his personal collection of books and materials to NCL.

In March 2024, NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang attended the Association for Asian Studies' annual conference in Seattle. On March 15, she traveled to Chicago to thank Dr. Hsu personally for donating his personal collection and to assure him that NCL will take good care of these books and make them available to younger scholars in Taiwan. During their discussion, mention was made of part of an essay that Dr. Hsu had once written: "If you face south, your hometown is in the south. But don't wish to return there because you carry your hometown on your shoulders. You take it with you in your wanderings. Head north. What is in the north? You don't know. Ask the wind. The wind doesn't know either. But if you go there, you'll know." This passage brought back strong memories of nostalgia for Tainan. A close reading of his prose reveals a motif of the importance of one's hometown. His writings often reveal a longing for his hometown of Tainan. His literary style is laced with poetic and romantic sentiments that are easy to feel, evoking emotions in those who read it to remember their own hometown.

This book donation took place on February 1, 2024. The books in his home were packaged up thanks to assistance from the Education Division Head Hsu-hua Chu and his staff from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago. The books arrived in Taiwan at the end of March. This collection of books will be housed in the new Southern Branch of the National Central Library & National Repository Library in Tainan, his very hometown. That his vast collection can continue to be available in his hometown is a tale fit for the history books!



NCL Director-General Wang personally visited Dr. Hsu in Chicago



Dr. Hsu's house is filled with books, all of which were donated to NCL

■ NCL and the Chao-Tian Temple in Beigang Sign MOU: Results Will Be on Display in June in the US

On March 8, the Chao-Tian Temple in Beigang and NCL formally signed an agreement to collaborate on digitizing and archiving documents. Both parties officially started working on their shared goal of establishing digital archives.



The National Central Library and the Chao-Tian Temple signed an MOU on digital collaboration

Director-General Han-Ching Wang stated during her remarks that signing this agreement with the Chao-Tian Temple is a continuation of the long-term efforts that took place under the previous Director-General in regard to digital archives. NCL will finish the digitization and upload the results to its Taiwan Memory site for all to enjoy. In June of this year (2024), these will also be on display in the poster session of the American Library Association's annual meeting. Thus, the whole world will know about this collaboration to add more digital archives to Taiwan Memory. Director-General Wang also invited Chao-Tian Temple's chairman of the board, Mr. Tsai, and his group to get together with NCL to present the initial results of the digitization efforts once they are ready.

During the signing ceremony, in addition to the agreement with the Chao-Tian Temple, another agreement was signed with Mr. Jen-chi Chi, who has spent many years collecting documents and artifacts. Mr. Chi was invited to show and explain several representative artifacts after the signing ceremony, such as several books of scripture that have been passed down from the Qing dynasty, a post-war pledge requested from the police administration stating that both Chao-Tian Temple and the police would maintain proper conduct during the temple's Matsu pilgrimage, and even a railroad travel map from the Japanese-occupation period. The only temple for the entire island indicated on the map was the Chao-Tian Temple in the Beigang district, signifying the important influence that this temple and district has had on the Taiwanese belief in Matzu.



Mr. Chi from the Chao-Tian Temple explained some rare artifacts to dignitaries in attendance

By formally signing this agreement, both parties will begin the work of digitizing the rare documents held at the Chao-Tian Temple. The digital versions will be uploaded to NCL's Taiwan Memory platform, making them accessible to researchers and the general public alike. In the future, both parties will continue to promote various collaborations so that religious culture and research can be supported.



A group photo after the ceremony

■ 2024 “Taiwan Francophonie Month, Mini Festival of Films from French-Speaking Countries” Debuts at National Central Library on March 6th

For three days from March 6th to 8th, 2024, National Central Library came together with Alliance Française Taiwan, the French Office in Taipei, the Trade Office of Swiss Industries, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office, Taipei, Belgian Office, Taipei to jointly organize a series of events for the “Mini Festival of Films from French-Speaking Countries” during the March 2024 “Taiwan Francophonie Month,” in the hopes that members of Taiwan’s public can gain a deeper understanding of French-language culture through the film festival.

Every year in March, Taiwan Francophonie Month brings together consular institutions and embassies of French speaking countries based in Taiwan to collaborate in organizing events that showcase the cultures of French speaking countries throughout the world to the Taiwan public. As the whole world celebrates International Francophonie Day, Taiwan Francophonie Month invites French speakers in Taiwan to come together to experience a