

education. Its student body numbers over 30,000 and its library boasts a collection of 3.2 million books, 2.6 million government documents, 2.5 microfiche, and over 148,000 maps and 35,000 current periodicals (Auburn University Library's website, June 2024). During her speech at the AU library, Director-General Wang discussed the Taiwan Memory database NCL created, which includes old postcards, photos of various places, books, gazetteers, contracts, and stela rubbings from the Japanese occupation period. The aim is to make historical materials in Taiwan more accessible both locally and overseas. In addition, Director-General Wang talked about NCLibTV, which allows patrons to use digital TV and the library's app to enter a virtual smart library and access library resources and services. NCL also has an OPEN LAB it created which provides a base for technological use and innovative experiments. All of these were well received by attendees.

After the speech, attendees were eager to speak and interact with Director-General Wang. Then she toured Auburn University's main library, other department libraries and special collections, as well as the Taiwan Center of Chinese Language and Culture and departments engaged in technology research. In this first collaboration, there were many happy memories created and a window was opened for more collaborations in the future.



*Auburn University Provost and Vice President Vini Nathan (middle), Director-General Han-ching Wang (right), and Auburn University Librarian Shali Zhang*

## ■ NCL Participates in the Poster Session and Other Events at the 2024 ALA Annual Conference

From June 27 to July 2, the National Central Library sent two staff members to attend the American Library Association's (ALA) annual conference in San Diego. NCL had two of its posters accepted to the poster session, one on Taiwan Memory and one on its Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts database, displaying NCL's efforts and achievements in collecting and digitizing materials and adding value to them.

The ALA conference is a major event in the library science world, as well as an important international venue at which NCL has been cultivating relationships for many years. This year's conference had several thousand visitors from the US and around the world, including librarians, educators, authors, publishers, and professionals. There were over 200 sessions of presentations and discussion meetings, with over 500 libraries and publishers participating in the exhibition. NCL had two posters accepted this year: "Taiwan Memory, Memory of Taiwan: A Collaborative Resource for Taiwanese Historical Texts and Images in the NCL Taiwan Memory System" and "Penning Stories: Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts Collection at National Central Library." Many visitors stopped by during the session to understand more about these two posters, enabling NCL to achieve its purpose in international marketing as well as provide more innovation and new ideas in future library developments through the displays and interactions.



*Assistant Editor Po-yue Wu explained NCL's poster on its Taiwan Memory database*



*Assistant Editor Joyce Chen explained NCL's poster on its Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts database*

The National Central Library, the National Taiwan University Library, the National Library of Public Information, and the libraries from National Chengchi University, National Taiwan Normal University, National Chung Hsing University, and National Cheng Kung University all participated in the many events held in this year's conference. They also toured the San Diego Central Library and the Geisel Library at the University of California San Diego as a group. This gave them a much deeper understanding of service policies and operational developments at public libraries and research libraries in the US. The insights gained will provide ideas for further development of services back home.



*A group photo of the delegation to this year's ALA annual conference*

## ■ Signing Ceremony for Digital Collaboration Agreement between National Central Library and National Cheng Kung University

National Central Library recognizes that many domestic libraries and archival units have

preserved publications from before 1949 which record information about Taiwan's history, culture, humanities and geography, art and literature, society, politics, economics from that time. These records are highly valuable for academic research and serve as an excellent resource for Taiwan Studies research. However, because Taiwan's hot and humid climate is not conducive to book preservation and many library and archival spaces lack proper humidity and temperature controls, this has led to paper acidification of old books, often making them impossible to open and read without causing damage; or, when damage has already occurred, such books have been disposed of. To fulfill the missions of preserving culture and promoting academic research, these materials are being digitally archived to reduce the damage that comes from physical use. By making these materials available on the internet for use by readers and researchers both domestically and abroad, the preservation lifespan of the physical books can also be extended.

To this aim, in 2015 NCL initiated its "Collaborative Digitization Project for Taiwan Documents," hoping thereby to digitally preserve and make available for use publications from before the year 1949, while at the same time establishing the "Taiwan eBook" database and "Taiwan Memory Database" systems with the goal of providing open access to these materials. These efforts allow libraries and archival units throughout Taiwan to be able to provide relevant publications to readers throughout the world through digitization. Collaborating universities include: National Taiwan University, National Taiwan Normal University, National Chengchi University, National Taipei University of Education and National Taipei University of Technology.

In a continuation of this project, the first university to collaborate on digitization of book archives this year is National Cheng Kung University, where NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang teaches. The university was founded as the "Taiwan Governor General Office Tainan Technical College" in 1931 during the Japanese Colonial Period and Director-General Wang is deeply acquainted with the valuable historical texts and archives from the Japanese Colonial Period that have been meticulously