

49th Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies. Its expansion of worldwide collaboration is truly astonishing! This was done on June 24, 2024. The National Central Library Director-General Han-ching Wang and University of Pittsburgh Librarian Kornelia Tancheva signed the MOU to formally start off the collaborative relationship.

The world-renowned University of Pittsburgh was established in 1787. Its library holdings number over 4 million. It also has an East Asian Languages and Literatures Department and an Asian Studies Center, providing curriculum in Taiwan studies and Chinese studies and research. NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang, University of Pittsburgh Librarian Kornelia Tancheva, and UP's East Asian Head Runxiao Zhu have supported this collaborative effort. Both institutions are focused on long-term and mutually beneficial collaboration. NCL committed to open a large number of digital resources to the resource center, and the University of Pittsburgh worked with NCL to cohost lectures, joint exhibitions, and other events. Through this project, the faculty and students at the University of Pittsburgh will be able to interact broadly with those in and contribute to the fields of Taiwan studies and Chinese studies.



Director-General Han-ching Wang and PU Librarian Kornelia Tancheva unveiling the TRCCS plaque

During the signing ceremony, Director-General Wang emphasized that Taiwan is the hub for Taiwan studies and Chinese studies, a statement that drew agreement from those in attendance. She presented the library with a replica of a national treasure over 800 years old—*Annotated Anthology of Mr. Su Dongpo's Poems* (in 21 volumes), and a replica of the *Diamond*

Sutra to enrich their holdings and to highlight the historic nature of this new collaborative relationship between the two institutions. The MOU was signed and the signage unveiling was completed amidst an air of ardent excitement about future collaborative prospects.



Representatives from both institutions at the opening of the TRCCS

■ NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang Was Invited to Speak at Auburn University

On June 25, 2024, NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang was invited to speak at Auburn University in the US by its librarian, Dr. Shali Zhang. She spoke on developments at and features of NCL, including Taiwan Memory, NCLibTV, OPEN LAB, and NCL's Southern Branch of the National Central Library & National Repository Library, as well as education promotion strategies and future plans. The two librarians also took advantage of this opportunity to discuss the preservation and digitization of ancient Chinese books. They both hope to increase their opportunities for collaboration in the future.



Director-General Han-ching Wang speaking at Auburn University

Auburn University was established in 1856 and is a public, research-oriented institution of higher

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