National Central Library

Spotlights

■ **NCL Participates in the 2024 Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC) Annual Conference, Organizes "Leading Digital Innovation–Digital Libraries Session," and Visits the National Library of Korea**

The 2024 Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC) Annual Conference was held from August 29 to 31 at Korea University in Seoul. This year's conference theme, "Green, Flow, and Signal: Reconnecting Fragmented Communities in the Age of Digital Transformation," focused on the interaction between emerging technologies and socio-cultural dynamics in the era of digital transformation. Through the perspectives of scholars and experts from various fields, the conference explored the impact, changes, and future prospects resulting from the integration of these two forces.

The conference featured three keynote speeches, 26 sessions, and 9 workshops, with over 120 thematic presentations in total. National Central Library (NCL) Director-General Han-ching Wang was invited to serve as the moderator for the first keynote speech. The keynote speaker, Professor Sang-Hyup Kim, Director-General of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), also serves as a visiting professor at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and co-chair of the Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth Committee. Professor Kim has long been dedicated to advancing sustainable environmental policies in Korea, coordinating the development

NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang moderating the keynote address

and implementation of the country's green growth strategies both domestically and internationally. In his presentation, titled "Climate Crisis and the Green Big Bang," Professor Kim emphasized the importance of innovation and sustainable practices for achieving long-term sustainability. He also discussed how the integration of green energy and AI technologies can help create an efficient, rapidly operating low-carbon ecosystem.

In addition, the National Central Library organized a session on digital libraries titled "Leading the Digital Revolution: East Asian Libraries' Innovative Approaches to Cultural Heritage and Research." This session explored how the national and university libraries of Taiwan and South Korea are leading the development of digital humanities and promoting the preservation and research of cultural heritage. The digital libraries session was held on August 29 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Korea Standard Time and was chaired by NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang. Four speakers were invited to present on the following topics:

Director-General Wang posing with the four presenters after the session

1. Chao-lin Liu, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Computer Science at National Chengchi University, presented on "Cultivating a National Industry of Digital Humanities: A Strategic Perspective." He emphasized the importance of integrating technology with cultural preservation and supported the incorporation of digital humanities into education. He also suggested that national cultural preservation institutions engage in international collaborations on the digitization of special collections to promote the development of digital humanities and cultural exchange.

2. Librarian Soyoung Park in the Digital Initiatives Division at National Library of Korea presented on "National Knowledge and Cultural Heritage Digital Services Strategy at the National Library of Korea." She introduced the National Library of Korea's digital projects and shared how the library is using OCR and AI-OCR technologies to enhance the accessibility of its resources.

3. Jinsook Jeong, Curator of Digitization and Public Services of the Archives at the SNU Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies, presented on "Experience of Digitalization and Future Planning of Kyujanggak Archives." She shared and showcased the digitization efforts and future plans for the Kyujanggak Archives, many of which contain national treasures and UNESCO World Heritage materials.

4. Minwoo Lee, Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Andong National University, presented on "Distant Reading of the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty." He discussed his digital humanities research using digital technology to analyze the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty, offering new insights into this important historical text.

During the trip to South Korea for the conference, the National Central Library also arranged a visit to the National Library of Korea. The visit provided an opportunity to learn about the services offered by the library, as well as to explore the interactive technology exhibitions that integrate virtual and physical elements. Additionally, Director-General Han-Ching Wang and Professor Heesop Kim, Chief Executive of the National Library of Korea, exchanged experiences and knowledge on topics such as library organizational structure, Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies, Taiwan Corner, information retrieval systems, AI-OCR technologies, and more. They also explored potential future collaborations.

The PNC conference aims to promote the exchange and circulation of information among countries in the Pacific Rim through advanced network technologies. This year's PNC conference attracted 188 professors, scholars, and professionals from 12 countries, who gathered to share and discuss

the latest technologies and applications in fields such as digital humanities, AI technology, online teaching, library and information science, archival collections, and collection digitization. NCL had two poster presentations selected for the 2024 PNC conference. The first, from the librarianship development division, was titled "Enhancing the Learnability and Analyticity of Online Learning: Adopting the xAPI Standard in NCL e-Campus." The second, from the collection development and bibliography management division, was titled "Click Less, Collect More: Programming a Web Crawler with AI for Organizing Book Lists." These posters were presented and explained at the PNC conference by Director-General Han-Ching Wang, along with assistant editor Wei-hsiang Hung from the development division and Yu-hsuan Kuo the collection division, who shared NCL's experiences with attendees.

NCL Director-General Wang and assistant editor Wei-hsiang Hung at the poster display

NCL Director-General Wang and staff member Yu-hsuan Kuo at the poster display

■ Signing Ceremony for Collaboration Between the National Library and the Library of National Chung Hsing University to Digitization of Rare Books

On September 9th, NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang and National Chung Hsing University Library Director Hui-yun Sung jointly signed a cooperation agreement called the "Digitization of Rare Books and Archival Materials." The signing ceremony was witnessed by staff from both institutions, marking the official launch of their collaboration. This partnership is expected to play a significant role in the digital preservation of Taiwan's agricultural literature and archival resources.

Director-General Wang and Director Sung signing the MOU

NCL Director-General Wang stated that many libraries and archival institutions in Taiwan house publications from before 1949 and have documents of significant academic value for Taiwanese studies. However, due to the region's high temperature and humidity, these materials are not easily preserved. Many library spaces lack effective temperature and humidity control, which accelerates the acidification of paper in older books, causing them to deteriorate quickly with frequent handling. In order to fulfill the mission of preserving cultural heritage and promoting scholarly research, the National Central Library aims to archive these materials through digitization, thereby reducing the risk of damage from use. Additionally, NCL has developed databases such as the Taiwan eBook database and Taiwan Memory, which are open for public access online, providing both domestic and international