

Management, and Knowledge Services divisions exchanged information about “Rare book and manuscript conservation,” “Web-Archiving and Digital Preservation,” “Digital Service (online research support and other services),” and “Plan/Service being planned using AI tools.” The session concluded with discussions about manuscript authorization procedures and web archiving technologies. Besides the lecture and discussions, Chief Librarian Alford also toured the Rare Books Room and the OPEN LAB.

## ■ A Journey Through Time in the World of Plants: “Literature and Botany ‘Equally Blended’—The Plant-Inspired Life of the Ancients” Special Exhibit

In order to promote reading and guide members of the public in getting to know the fascinating ancient texts in National Central Library’s rich collection, NCL held a special themed exhibit of ancient texts entitled “Literature and Botany ‘Equally Blended’—The Plant-Inspired Life of the Ancients” from September 10th through October 23rd in the Art and Culture Center’s first floor exhibition room. The special exhibit offered a rare opportunity for members of the public to come face to face with original documents brought out of the archives.



Exhibit Visuals

NCL has always worked to make connections with members of the public, playing a part in their journey to seek an ideal life. This year, NCL planned the “Literature and Botany ‘Equally Blended’—The Plant-Inspired Life of the Ancients” special exhibit of ancient texts to be held in September at the start of the autumn season, selecting 20 ancient texts relating to peonies, Chinese crabapple, chrysanthemum, osmanthus, and maple trees. In Confucius’s *The Analects*, it says “Where the solid qualities are in excess of accomplishments, we have rusticity; where the accomplishments are in excess of the solid qualities, we have the manners of a clerk. When the accomplishments and solid qualities are equally blended, we then have the man of virtue.” Taking this line from *The Analects* as inspiration for its name, this exhibit looks at plants through the lens of text reading, so that we can learn about the various impacts, both big and small, that plants had on ancient life. The stories of these plants can help the public learn about how ancient people found balance among different ways of thinking and sought out their own ideal lifestyles.



One of the works on display in the exhibit: “*Hai Tang Pu*”



NCL employees introducing the exhibit to visitors

The “Literature and Botany ‘Equally Blended’—The Plant-Inspired Life of the Ancients” special exhibit of original ancient texts is not only an opportunity to glance upon history through these works, going on a literary tour of ancient views and interpretations of the plants in their environments; the exhibit also serves to encourage visitors to write, draw, and paint their own botanical imagery. With five plant species and two creative techniques, visitors take a journey to initiate new possibilities for time-transcending dialogue. Visitors to the exhibit are invited to make connections with each other and to collectively create new botanical imagery for our modern age. NCL also worked with NGO Society of the Wilderness for this exhibit, promoting a “National Central Library Botanical Garden” plant identification competition, so that participants can not only learn about plants within the pages and the scent of old books, but also continue to show attention and care for the plants and ecology that surround them in their daily lives. This exhibit is not only about reading ancient stories about plants, but also about building new botanical imagery for our current times.

NCL Director General Han-ching Wang expressed that as a core institution for national documents and archives, NCL’s collection includes many ancient texts with strong connections to our lives; the works exhibited in this special exhibit cross a wide variety of genres, including botanical dictionaries such as “*Wen Xuan*,” “*Quan Fang Bei Zu*,” and “*Bencao Gangmu*,” as well as works from the “tales of the strange” genre including “*Miscellaneous Morsels from Youyang*” and “*Miscellaneous Records of the Western Capital*,” all works that can be said to be abundant both in their beauty and substance. The exhibition allows visitors a comprehensive view of ancient people’s perspectives on plants. We hope that through diverse exhibit features, situational designs, and interactive games, we can create and strengthen exhibit legibility, bringing NCL closer to its vision of serving as a diverse and integrated knowledge hub for the enjoyment and benefit of all.



Group photo at the opening ceremony of the “Literature and Botany ‘Equally Blended’—The Plant-Inspired Life of the Ancients” special exhibit

## Events

### ■ A New Milestone in General Education in Taiwan—The *Broad Vision in General Education* Lecture and Book Launch Event

On July 18th, the National Central Library, in collaboration with the IGER Project and Dayeh University, hosted the *Broad Vision in General Education* lecture and book launch event in NCL’s briefing room. The IGER (Improvement of General Education in Universities) project, supported by the Ministry of Education, focuses on the development of university general education in Taiwan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dr. Tsai-Yen Li, President of National Chengchi University and the lead coordinator of the IGER project, stated that the publication of the *Broad Vision in General Education* series marks a significant milestone in the development of general education in Taiwan. He emphasized that the series is not only a comprehensive reflection of the achievements in Taiwan’s general education but also an important contribution to the body of literature on general education in Taiwan. It will serve as a valuable reference for both domestic and international academic communities and become a key platform for knowledge exchange in the field of general education.

*Broad Vision in General Education* compiles the achievements and developments of general education in Taiwan over the years, while also promoting the exchange and integration of interdisciplinary