

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 21st 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

knowledge. Edited by Professor Linda Sung from Dayeh University, the work is divided into four volumes based on the types of universities. It covers the general education outcomes of 37 universities, including national research universities, national universities, private universities, and universities of science and technology. The book presents the development history, philosophies, current status, distinctive achievements, and transformative essence of general education in these institutions. It provides invaluable reference material for the academic community and fosters collaborative learning and mutual growth in the field of general education.



The publication of Broad Vision in General Education in four volumes

On the day of the event, in addition to the hosts—NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang and President Wen-chang Fang of Dayeh University—several distinguished guests were present, including Examination Yuan Minister Jong-Tsun Huang and former Minister of Education Wei-ling Chiang, who witnessed Taiwan's general education reach a new milestone. Minister Huang emphasized the importance of character development before professional expertise, underscoring the transformative power of general education in shaping well-rounded individuals. Former Minister Chiang expressed the view that a good university must have strong general education, noting that in today's higher education landscape, where universities aim to cultivate talent with diverse intelligences, general education plays an especially crucial role. NCL Director-General Wang extended her gratitude to the universities for their long-term efforts in advancing general education and for promoting innovation in Taiwan's general education system.



A group photo at the lecture and book launch

The event was comprised of three lectures, where multiple speakers shared their insights on general education, emphasizing its importance in fostering holistic education and developing professional competencies. The event concluded successfully with a lively and engaging dialogue between the speakers and respondents, offering valuable exchanges of ideas and perspectives.

■ National Central Library Takes Youth Scholars on a Journey of Art and Learning: The 2024 CCS Workshop for International Youth

Beginning in 2022, National Central Library established the CCS Workshop for International Youth with the goal of increasing awareness among international students of the diverse topics within the field of Taiwan's Chinese Studies research and deepening international academic exchange. Since the start of the program, over 50 international youths from 18 countries have participated in the Seminar. The 2024 Seminar was held from July 4th to 5th under the theme of "Cultural Arts," arranging a rich curriculum of classes held both within and outside of the NCL facilities. The program attracted 70 international student applicants from around the world and accepted 18 participants from 13 countries including Mexico, Ukraine, Hungary, Germany, India, the Philippines, Vietnam, and more.



Group photo of participating international youths