

The classics are timeless, transcending generations and inspiring both specialized and interdisciplinary humanistic exploration. The spirit and ethos of martial arts heroes are now being interpreted through various perspectives as they enter the halls of academia. The National Central Library, committed to preserving and disseminating knowledge and culture, is pleased to see enduring classics like Jin Yong's novels serve as gateways to reading, guiding the public into the vast realm of knowledge. The conference theme of "Dialogue, Reflection, Transcendence" captures the century-long legacy of Jin Yong's novels. Scholars with a profound dedication to "Jin Studies" from around the globe have gathered for this rare "martial arts grand assembly," making this symposium a truly remarkable event.

Finally, Director-General Wang cited a line from *The Demi-Gods and Semi-Devils* (Chapter 10: "Sword Qi Across the Green Smoke"), where the abbot Ben Yin of Tianlong Monastery states, "There is no superiority or inferiority in techniques; the distinction lies in the depth of skill." She emphasized that the pursuit of knowledge, much like martial arts practice, focuses on inner cultivation and the refinement of character. Mastery of reading, she noted, is key to achieving greater intellectual perspective and discernment. Director-General Wang highlighted the far-reaching influence of Jin Yong's martial arts novels on Chinese literature, stating that wherever there are Chinese-speaking communities, there are Jin Yong's novels. This universal recognition has made Jin Yong a shared cultural language for our generation, underscoring his profound impact on the Chinese-speaking world.



A view of participants in the conference

■ Successful Conclusion of 2024 NBINet Collaborating Library Directors Meeting

The 2024 meeting of collaborating library directors in the National Bibliographic Information Network (NBINet) was held on the afternoon of November 15th in the NCL Presentation Room. Meeting chair NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang first introduced the esteemed guests in attendance and thanked the participating directors and other representatives from libraries throughout Taiwan. In her opening remarks, Director-General Wang introduced the new library partners that joined the network in 2024, bringing the total number of collaborating libraries in the network up to 121. Through many years of collaborative efforts among these partners, the collection of books within the network has now surpassed 16,000,000.

Associate Professor Chien-Kang Huang of the National Taiwan University Department of Engineering Science and Ocean Engineering was invited to give a lecture at the meeting in response to the rapid development of generative AI in recent years, its effects on a variety of industries and fields, and the successive release of diverse applications for the technology. His lecture explored modern applications of AI technology in the field of cataloguing, using AI technology to categorize new library books and provide theme-word recommendations, based on his research experience at NTU's Computational Knowledge Laboratory (CK Lab) founded in 2016.

An awards presentation was held after the lecture in order to express gratitude toward collaborating libraries for their contributions to the NBINet collection. Three award categories were presented: 1. the "Golden Quantity Award," presented to a total of 11 libraries with a variety of focuses which were in the top 10% of 2023 book data contributions; 2. the "Golden Heart Award," presented to a total of 36 libraries that uploaded materials to the network every month of 2023; and 3. the "Golden Authority Award" to the three institutions which provided authoritative records on Chinese names. These awards were presented as an encouragement to the library members that have long contributed to the collaborative establishment of the bibliographic network. Another

focus of the meeting was a report on replacement of the NBINet automated system currently underway by NCL, including the results of a questionnaire survey regarding the automated system.



Successful Conclusion of the 2024 NBINet Collaborating Library Directors Meeting

■ NCL, the Taiwan Digital Publishing Alliance, and the Taipei Book Fair Foundation Co-host and International Forum on “Trends and Changes in the Publishing Industry in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan after the Pandemic”

The National Central Library, in collaboration with the Taiwan Digital Publishing Alliance and the Taipei Book Fair Foundation, jointly hosted an international forum on “Trends and Changes in the Publishing Industry in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan after the Pandemic” on October 2, 2024. This forum examined the significant impacts of the global pandemic on the publishing industry and explored trends in digital publishing and reading. Six prominent publishing professionals and experts from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan were invited to share insights, discuss the current state of the international publishing industry, and exchange experiences.



The poster for Trends and Changes in the Publishing Industry in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan after the Pandemic

The event commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Wen-Chen Pong, Chairperson of the Taiwan Digital Publishing Alliance and CEO of Global Views - Commonwealth Publishing Group. Ms. Pong highlighted that the event was made possible through collaboration facilitated by the Taipei Book Fair Foundation, bringing together publishing professionals and experts from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. The forum focused on sharing insights into trends in the international e-book market, analyzing the current state of the industry, and exchanging experiences regarding policy implementation, fostering mutual learning and cooperation.

During the morning session, Mr. Tatsuro Imura, Deputy Director of Kodansha Japan, presented the current growth trends in Japan's e-book market. He generously shared insights into the company's electronic manga publishing workflow and its development journey. This included the shift toward simultaneous print and digital releases, followed by the unification of pricing between print and digital formats, which led to significant sales growth during the pandemic. This strategy ultimately achieved the goal of maximizing profitability across all products. Following this, Mr. Woong-Joon Chae, Senior Researcher at the Korean Publishers Association, provided an overview of the implementation of Korea's fixed book pricing system. He elaborated on the impact and challenges faced by publishers and libraries under this policy. Lastly, Mr. Min-I Ho, Chairman of Locus Publishing, analyzed Korea's experience with the fixed book pricing system. He highlighted its benefits in promoting the development of independent bookstores and fostering fair competition for younger generations in the publishing industry, which in turn creates greater space for innovation.

The afternoon session began with Ms. Junko Kamata, President of Voyager Japan, leading a presentation on the current state of Japan's e-book market. She shared insights into her company's digital publishing production workflows, marketing strategies, and competitive advantages. Following this, Mr. Seung-Kyu Kim, Researcher at the Korean Publishers Association, analyzed the current state of Korea's