

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ National Central Library and Belgium's KADOC, KU Leuven Sign Agreement of Cooperation on the Union Catalog of Rare Books Database

On December 18th, 2024, National Central Library and top-ranking Belgian University KU Leuven's KADOC Documentation and Research Centre on Religion, Culture and Society signed a cooperation agreement for the Union Catalog of Rare Books Database, a collaboration that was reached thanks to efforts by Ambassador Roy Chun Lee of the Taipei Representative Office in the European Union and Belgium and Director Nicole Yen-Yi Lee.



National Central Library and Belgium's KADOC, KU Leuven Sign Agreement of Cooperation on the Union Catalog of Rare Books Database

In 2000, NCL established the Union Catalog of Rare Books Database in order to strengthen international collaboration and promote joint establishment and sharing of rare book resources. As of 2024, the program has established collaborations with 94 institutions and continues to work to expand its collection to the benefit of researchers around the world. Researchers can use this database not only to learn about the distribution of ancient Chinese texts around the world, they can also use its system to interpret database materials, comparing and analyzing different versions of the same ancient texts for a more thorough grasp of research materials.

KADOC-KU Leuven is an interdisciplinary academic research institution whose

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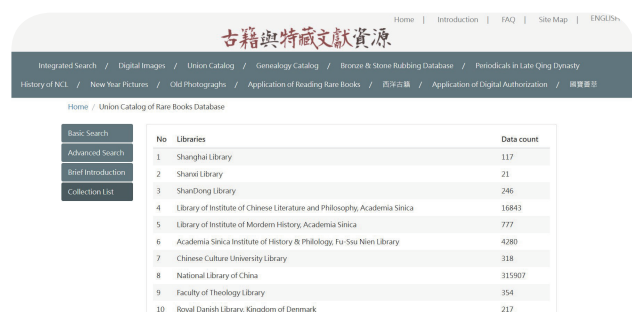
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research focus encompasses the multifaceted and interconnected topics of religion, culture, and society. Not only does KADOC-KU Leuven focus on the analysis of historical and classical documents, they also work to integrate modern social, political, and cultural topics. Their academic achievements and international collaborative efforts have established their role as an important academic platform within the fields of religion and cultural research. The KADOC-KU Leuven archives include a large collection of ancient texts, documents, academic works, and religious classics from around the world, a collection which holds great importance within historical and cultural research as well as providing precious materials for a variety of scholarly activities, workshops, and research projects.

This cooperation marks the first step in a collaborative relationship between NCL and KADOC-KU Leuven. Both institutions look forward to the many collaborative possibilities that lie ahead upon the establishment of this partnership.



No	Libraries	Data count
1	Shanghai Library	117
2	Shanxi Library	21
3	Shandong Library	246
4	Library of Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica	16843
5	Library of Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica	777
6	Academia Sinica Institute of History & Philology, Fu-Ssu Nien Library	4280
7	Chinese Culture University Library	318
8	National Library of China	315907
9	Faculty of Theology Library	354
10	Royal Danish Library, Kingdom of Denmark	217

Union Catalog of Rare Books Database

■ The 11th Xuanlan Forum Returns to an In-Person Meeting in Taiwan

After a five-year hiatus, the 11th Xuanguan Forum, jointly organized by the National Central Library (NCL) and Nanjing Library in China was held on October 22, 2024, in NCL's International Conference Hall. The theme of this year's forum was "Inheritance and Innovation: Empowered by AI." The opening ceremony was presided over by NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang, with congratulatory remarks delivered by Director-General Wang, Nanjing Library Director Jun Chen, Library Association of the Republic of China President Haoren Ke, and Chinese

Association of Library and Information Science Education President Tzu-heng Chiu. The event drew over 100 representatives and professionals from the library and information science fields in both Mainland China and Taiwan, marking a significant gathering for cross-strait academic exchange.



Director-General Wang during the opening ceremonie

The Xuanlan Forum was jointly initiated in 2014 by the National Central Library and Nanjing Library, with the two institutions taking turns to host the event annually. Each forum invites directors of various levels and types of libraries, as well as renowned experts and scholars from both sides, generating significant social impact and establishing a strong brand presence. This year, NCL served as the host, continuing to strengthen the camaraderie and achievements of past exchanges between the two institutions. Through this year's forum, NCL aimed to explore the heritage and innovation of library services in the AI era, promote academic and practical research exchange, deepen cooperative relationships within the library community, and enhance the influence of libraries domestically and internationally. The forum sought to guide and drive academic progress while advancing the field of library science.

The event was comprised of three key components: the main forum, sub-forums, and cultural visits. The main forum, held on October 22, featured presentations by 15 experts and scholars from Taiwan and Mainland China. Discussions were organized into five sub-topics: The Heritage and Innovation of Classical Thought and Traditional Culture, Applications of AI in Libraries, Cultivating Professional Competencies of Librarians in the AI Era, Practical Discussions on the Management of