

guided attendees on an immersive journey to explore the traditions and culture of this enchanting nation. Meanwhile, the Embassy of Saint Lucia spotlighted the literary works of local authors, using interactive activities to immerse participants in the captivating charm of the Caribbean islands.

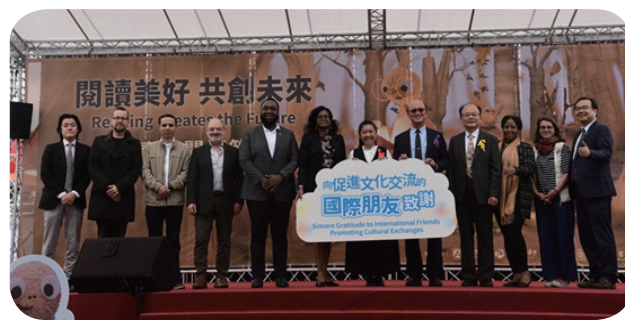
The French Office in Taipei hosted a bilingual French-Chinese reading session, inviting attendees to explore the enchanting world of French children's literature. The Czech Economic and Cultural Office presented a magical experience with the theme "Czech Christmas Wonderland," where participants enjoyed traditional Christmas carols, decorated Czech Christmas cookies, and immersed themselves in festive literary scenes. The EU Centre showcased the latest publications on European issues while highlighting the European Union's history and culture. Additionally, the Goethe-Institut Taipei German Cultural Center commemorated the 100th anniversary of Franz Kafka's passing by exhibiting his classic works.

The Mexican Trade Services, Documentation, and Cultural Office showcased handmade crafts related to the Day of the Dead. The Polish Office in Taipei introduced contemporary Polish literary works. The Saudi Arabian Trade Office invited a professional Arabic storyteller to share Saudi children's books and taught participants Arabic greetings and classic songs, allowing them to experience the unique charm of Arabic culture firsthand.

The Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association offered an interactive experience with picture books and traditional toys, providing attendees with a deeper understanding of Japanese cultural traditions. The International Picture Book Center of Kaohsiung Public Library presented the "Picture Book Talent Development Program," which is dedicated to promoting Taiwanese picture books on the global stage, helping more people discover the unique culture of Taiwanese picture books. Overall, the event not only fostered cultural and literary exchanges between countries but also provided an opportunity for participants to explore, learn, and create connections between Taiwan and the world.

"The World Symphony of Reading Enjoyment" exhibition area featured a variety of engaging

interactive activities, allowing both children and adults to explore the cultures of different countries. In addition to a wealth of reading materials, the area also included a coloring zone, where visitors could enjoy a therapeutic time of coloring and shared reading with their families.



NCL with foreign dignitaries at the "The World Symphony of Reading Enjoyment" event

■ The National Central Library Participates in the 15th Conference on Collaborative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources

From November 27 to 28, 2024, the 15th Conference on Collaborative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources was held online. The conference was organized by the Council for the Conference on Collaborative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources, hosted by the Hong Kong Public Libraries, and co-organized by the Hong Kong Library Association and the Joint University Librarians Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Themed "Reaching Back to Move Forward – Exploration, Innovation, and Vision," the conference focused on document preservation and digital innovation. Experts and scholars from libraries and archives in Singapore, Taiwan, Macau, Hong Kong, and Mainland China gathered to discuss cultural heritage preservation and experiences in document restoration. The National Central Library (NCL) participated in the conference with representatives attending online, including Deputy-Director of the Center for Chinese Studies Dr. Wende Huang, Editor of the Rare Books and Special Collections Division Dr. Hui-Ju Chuang, and Conservator Ms. Li-Ling Lin.



Visual Theme of the conference

The Conference on Collaborative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources originated in 2000 as a collaborative platform initiated by scholars from libraries on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Its purpose is to connect libraries and information institutions worldwide that house Chinese resources, fostering the collaborative development and sharing of these resources. To date, the conference has been held 14 times in various locations, including Beijing, Taiwan, Macau, Nanjing, Hong Kong, Dunhuang, and Lanzhou. Participants have represented regions and countries such as Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. Since 2006, the conference has been held biennially.

This year's conference featured Ms. Chen Ying, Deputy Director of the National Library of China, as the keynote speaker, delivering a lecture titled "New Developments in Collaborative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources in the Era of Digital Intelligence." Over the course of two days, three themed sessions were organized, covering: "Reflections, Reinterpretations, and Innovations in Document Digitization"; "Technological Empowerment: New Interpretations of Document Preservation and Revitalization" and "Dialogue, Protection, and Utilization of Cultural Relics and Documents." A total of 14 presentations were delivered, showcasing professional experiences and insights in the field of library and information science.

NCL's representatives at this conference included Deputy Director Wen-Te Hwang, who served as the moderator for the third session on Dialogue, Protection, and Utilization of Cultural Relics and Documents. Editor Hui-Ju Chuang from the Rare Books and Special Collections Division and Conservator Li-Ling

Lin also delivered in-depth reports during this session on "The Collection, Organization, Publication, and Digitization of Historical Library Documents" and "The Application of the Special Collections Restoration Database in the Management of Physical Objects in Special Collections," respectively. Following the presentations, online attendees engaged in discussions on topics such as the evolving role of libraries in the new era, the preservation and restoration of documents and cultural relics, the organization and promotion of institutional archives, and the integration of knowledge management and AI into the cataloging of ancient texts. Participants unanimously agreed that the interdisciplinary dialogues fostered by this conference significantly enhanced the exchange of experiences in document preservation across Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau. These discussions provided valuable insights for institutions to plan the protection and innovative applications of cultural assets, aligning with the conference's theme, "Reaching Back to Move Forward." By bridging tradition and innovation, the conference opened new avenues for the preservation and advancement of cultural heritage.



Dr. Hui-Ju Chuang delivered a presentation titled "The Collection, Organization, Publication, and Digitization of Historical Library Documents"



Conservator Li-Ling Lin presented a report titled "The Application of the Special Collections Restoration Database in the Management of Physical Objects in Special Collections"

Through the interdisciplinary dialogues facilitated by this conference, the exchange of experiences in the field of document preservation among Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau has been significantly enhanced. This collaboration offers positive contributions to the future direction of cultural asset protection and innovative applications, aligning with the conference's core theme, "Reaching Back to Move Forward." By balancing tradition and innovation, the event paved the way for groundbreaking advancements in cultural heritage preservation. For details regarding the conference, including the presented topics and participant information, please refer to the following webpage: <https://www.hkpl.gov.hk/tc/extension-activities/ccdscr2024/Conference-booklet.html>



A group photo of attendees

■ A Signing Ceremony Held between the National Central Library and National Ilan University to Collaborate on Digitizing Historical Books

On October 8, 2024, the National Central Library and National Ilan University signed a collaboration agreement on the "Digitization of Historical Books and Archival Materials." Witnessed by faculty and students of Ilan University, this marked the first step in their partnership, aimed at promoting the digital preservation and dissemination of historical documents and books related to agricultural and forestry in Taiwan. This not only ensures the sustainable preservation of these national cultural assets but also highlights the critical role of digital technology in the preservation and transmission of historical records.



Director-General Wang and Rector Chen posing for a photo after signing the agreement

Many libraries and archival institutions in Taiwan preserve publications from before 1949, which document various aspects of Taiwan's history, culture, geography, arts, literature, society, politics, and economy. These materials hold immense value for academic research and serve as vital resources for studying Taiwan. However, over time, these documents face the risk of deterioration due to the fragility of paper. To address this issue, the National Central Library has leveraged digitization technology to ensure the sustainable preservation of these significant cultural resources. This initiative also enables broader access by allowing individuals to easily browse and study these resources online, gaining valuable knowledge. To ensure the preservation and access to these pre-1949 publications, NCL has established open-access databases such as the Taiwan e-Book Library and the Taiwan Memory System. Moving forward, the library plans to integrate and optimize the functions of these two systems, providing scholars and interested readers with a more user-friendly and accessible interface to explore the intellectual legacy of Taiwan's previous generations.

Director-General Wang stated that building on previous collaborations with universities such as National Taiwan University, National Taiwan Normal University, National Chengchi University, National Taipei University of Education, and National Taipei University of Technology on the digitization of historical books, there is great anticipation this year for expanded partnerships with more universities that have cultivated higher education in Taiwan for over a century. National Ilan University, set to celebrate its centennial in 2026 as the 17th century-old university in Taiwan, was originally established as