

Principal Chih-yuan Chen stated that Taipei First Girls' High School, with its 120-year history, holds a wealth of memories left by past faculty and students, which are invaluable assets to the school's heritage. He expressed hope that today's ceremony would serve as a foundation for continued collaboration between the two parties. Looking ahead, as the school moves toward its 150th and even 200th anniversaries, efforts to preserve its historical records will remain steadfast and well-executed.

Following the signing ceremony, the NCL team visited Taipei First Girls High School's historical archives room to review the school's historical images and documents slated for digitization. The results of this collaboration will gradually be made available for browsing on NCL's Taiwan Memory system. Through this partnership, not only will the system's collection of yearbooks and campus images be further enriched, but it will also contribute to documenting key chapters in the history of education in Taiwan.



*Viewing the historical documents scheduled for digitization*



*The signed agreements between NCL and Taipei First Girls High School*

## ■ Southern Collections: NCL Signs Digitization Collaboration Agreement with Pingtung City Chung Cheng Elementary School

The “Digitization of Century-Old Educational Documents and Taiwan Memory Collaboration Project” was initiated by National Central Library in order to preserve documents and images from Taiwan's education history. On November 5th, 2024, the Pingtung City Chung Cheng Elementary School became the newest partner to join the program.

The history of Pingtung City Chung Cheng Elementary School can be traced back to the A-kâu Public School, founded in 1899 under Japanese rule. Not only was it the first public school in the region upon its founding, it has now also become the first in the region to collaborate with NCL on this initiative. NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang visited the school on the morning of November 5th, signing a digitization collaborative agreement with Principle Chia-cheng Hsu. Chung Cheng Elementary School has devoted significant efforts to this collaboration. Not only did they implement lessons on school history and teacher training to cultivate teachers' and students' awareness of and sense of connection to school's history, they also invited students and parent representatives to take part in the signing ceremony. At the ceremony's closing, all esteemed guests, students, and teachers signed their names on the event's signature board, symbolizing a new page in the 100+ year history of the school.



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After the commencement of the signing ceremony, Director-General Wang was led on a tour by Principle Hsu of cultural relics from the school's history that will be digitized through the initiative. The current collaboration includes over 30 articles of various types, including photographs, albums, school history documents, graduation certificates, as well as old books. These relics depict former students receiving agricultural training in pineapple fields, visiting a Paiwan indigenous village, and more. At the end of the day's events, Director-General Wang made sure to pay a visit to the school library. The library was rebuilt in recent years, incorporating structures from the demolished historical school building into its new design. Different spaces in the library were designed around the theme of "The Past, The Present, and The Future," creating a library space of abundant design creativity despite its small size.

This collaboration with Pingtung City's Chung Cheng Elementary School is not only an expansion of the regional coverage of NCL's digitization collaboration initiatives, it also symbolizes NCL's continued efforts and achievements in the collection and digitization of historical documents. Moving into the future, this collaboration will serve as the foundation for the development of a "Memories of Pingtung" collection, as well as the continued expansion of collaborative partners in the Pingtung region.

## Events

### ■ **Trials in the Martial World, A Century of Jin Yong: Dialogue, Reflection, Transcendence**

On October 30, 2024, the Chinese Culture Metaverse Center of National Chengchi University, Yuan-Liou Publishing Company, and the National Central Library's Center for Chinese Studies jointly hosted the three-day international academic conference on "Trials in the Martial World, A Century of Jin Yong: Dialogue, Reflection, Transcendence." The opening ceremony was held at the National Central Library. The conference brought together Jin Yong

scholars, translators, and literary figures from around the world to exchange perspectives and research findings on Jin Yong's novels and their intertextual interpretations across various media. Through the presentation of papers and roundtable discussions, participants explored the multifaceted value of Jin Yong's works and their transregional dissemination. Key topics included the socio-cultural realities reflected in the evolution of martial arts narratives across the pre-Jin Yong, Jin Yong, and post-Jin Yong periods, and how Jin Yong's legacy has inspired young writers in the digital age. These writers have drawn upon and transformed Jin Yong's influence to create contemporary works in genres such as *xuanhuan* (mystical fantasy), *qihuan* (fantasy), and *xiuzhen* (immortal cultivation), highlighting the enduring and ever-evolving significance of Jin Yong's literary contributions.

In her remarks at the opening ceremony, NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang reflected, "Time flies, and the once-spirited youths who dreamed of wielding swords and commanding the world inspired by Jin Yong's martial arts novels have now entered middle age. Yet, that chivalrous spirit and lofty ambition remain deeply ingrained in our hearts, transforming into resilience and a steadfast sense of honor that continue to guide us through the challenges and choices of real life."



*Director-General Wang during her remarks*