

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initiatives, it also symbolizes NCL's continued efforts and achievements in the collection and digitization of historical documents.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

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