

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	Wuhan Library	21
3	Shandong Library	246
4	Library of Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica	10443
5	Library of Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica	777
6	Academia Sinica Institute of History & Philology, Fu-Yen Wen Library	4380
7	Chinese Culture University Library	118
8	National Library of China	122007
9	Faculty of Theology Library	154
10	Northeast Library, University of Denmark	117

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 ceremony

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

New Library Facilities, and Promoting Early Literacy and Reading for Infants and Young Children through Library Programs.

Sub-topic 1: Heritage and Innovation of Classical Thought and Traditional Culture

Dongrong Xie, Director of the Yongle Encyclopedia Research Center at the National Library of China, provided an overview of recent efforts in the heritage and revitalization of the Yongle Encyclopedia. Lin Liling and Chen Siyu, Assistant Editors at the National Central Library, discussed a retrospective and prospective view of NCL's overseas exhibitions. Chen Li, Deputy Director of Nanjing Library, shared insights into the practice and reflections on ancient texts services and reading promotion in public libraries.

Sub-topic 2: Exploration of AI Applications in Libraries

Professor Chi-ming Chen, a Distinguished Professor at National Chengchi University's Department of Library, Information, and Archival Studies, delivered a presentation on the interactive applications of AI virtual tour guides in metaverse-based digital curation. Jie Ni, Director of the Information Technology Department at Nanjing Library, shared the practical experiences of AI technology applications in the library. Ye Jie, Director of Suzhou Library, explored the implementation of Suzhou's Digital Library of Ancient Books.

Sub-topic 3: Professional Competency Development for Librarians in the AI Era

Hao Li, Director of the Research and Exchange Department at Nanjing Library, presented on the transformation and reshaping of professional competencies for librarians in the AI era. Ming-chu Huang, Director of the National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University Library, examined how academic librarians can leverage their existing expertise to actively participate in the transformation of academic libraries during the AI era.

Sub-topic 4: Practical Discussions on New Library Facility Management

Kun Chu, Director of Reader Services at Shanghai

Library, Chao-hui Shih, Director of Taoyuan Public Library, and Hui-hsuan Chang, Section Chief at the Pingtung County Government's Cultural Affairs Department, shared their experiences in managing their respective libraries.

Sub-topic 5: Promoting Early Literacy and Reading for Infants and Young Children

Ru Zeng, Director of Reader Services at Nanjing Library, discussed Nanjing Library's initiatives to promote early reading services. Hui-jyun Sung, Director of National Chung Hsing University Library, conducted a qualitative systematic literature review to explore the practice of public libraries in fostering early literacy. National Central Library Director-General Han-ching Wang delivered a speech titled "Libraries Without Borders: The Arrival of the Knowledge Big Bang," providing profound insights into the evolving role of libraries. Nanjing Library Director Jun Chen presented "Candles and Chinese Civilization," emphasizing libraries' contributions to cultural heritage and enlightenment. In addition to participating in the main forum, the Chinese delegation visited the special exhibition "Aesthetic Affinity with Plants: The Botanical Life of the Ancients" at the National Central Library. They expressed high praise for NCL's abundant collection of ancient works, innovative exhibition themes, creative exhibition design, immersive atmosphere, and interactive experiences.



The delegation from Mainland China viewing the special exhibition Aesthetic Affinity with Plants: The Botanical Life of the Ancients

On October 23, participants attended a sub-forum and site visit at the National Library of Public Information. The sub-forum, themed "Applications of AI in Public Libraries," featured presentations by Hong Qian, Director of Changzhou Library, on the use and expression of cultural symbols in public libraries during the AI era, and Chiong-hui Hsu, Section Chief at the National Library of Public Information, introduced Taiwan's first generative AI-powered virtual librarian, Xiaoshu. Xiaoshu provides consultation, book recommendations, and chat services. Following the sub-forum, attendees participated in a site visit to explore the National Library of Public Information's achievements in digitalization. The visit offered opportunities for sharing experiences, fostering mutual learning, and exchanging best practices.



The delegation from Mainland China touring the National Library of Public Information

On the morning of October 24, participants visited the Taoyuan City Library Main Branch to learn about the library that attracted the highest foot traffic in Taiwan last year. The visit provided insights into the library's planning, operations, architectural features, and floor layout. In the afternoon, attendees toured the Multimedia Innovation Center at NCL. The visit highlighted the center's unique collections and various digital and creative spaces. Participants were particularly impressed by how the center creates an open, interdisciplinary, youthful, and innovative environment, leading public libraries toward a new and diversified service model.

On the morning of October 25, participants visited the National Palace Museum. In addition to viewing three exhibitions—Boundless Connections: Ancient

Maps of Roads and Transportation, The Arrival of the Princess: Traces of Princesses in Qing Dynasty Documents, and National Treasures in Focus—they also admired renowned artifacts such as the Jadeite Cabbage, the Meat-shaped Stone, and the Mao Gong Ding (Mao's Tripod).



The delegation from Mainland China touring the National Palace Museum

■ **“A Shared Sky: The World of Chinese Texts and Cultural Exchange” NCL Organizes Ancient Text Exhibition in Malaysia’s UTAR**

On November 27th, 2024 National Central Library and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) held the opening ceremony of their jointly organized exhibition of ancient texts and documents at the UTAR Kampar Campus, entitled “A Shared Sky: The World of Chinese Texts and Cultural Exchange” held from November 27th, 2024 to January 6th 2025.

NCL Deputy Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng expressed that books and reading are a common language throughout the world. In recent years, NCL has worked to promote collaborative international exhibitions with prominent libraries around the world in the hopes of sharing invaluable cultural heritage and also to promote awareness of NCL’s collection throughout the world. Deputy Director-General Weng hopes that the joint curation of this exhibition with UTAR will be the start of new cultural exchanges between the two institutions. He also expressed gratitude and regards on behalf of NCL Director-General Han-ching Wang, emphasizing the value she places on this collaboration.