

After the post-lecture discussion, host Wen-cheng Tseng gave a moving speech about how baseball is a sport full of disappointment, pain, and injury, yet at the same time it brings us so much hope and constantly leaves us waiting with bated breath for the next moment of hope it may bring. It is precisely this conflict that makes us love the game! Attendees at this lecture and discussion with three important figures in the world of Taiwan's baseball were certainly treated to a rich and illuminating afternoon. The day's events concluded with interactions between the authors and readers at a book signing.



*A group photo of speakers and attendees*

## ■ NCL Collaborates with National Chiayi University, Creates New Milestone in Digital Preservation

The National Central Library continues to promote its “Centennial Education Resources Digitization and Taiwan Memory System Co-development and Sharing Project” as a way to preserve Taiwan's educational history through documents and visual materials. The scope of collaboration has now been expanded to include universities as well as primary and secondary schools. On February 27, 2025, Director-General Ching-han Wang signed a digitization cooperation agreement with National Chiayi University, making it NCL's first new partner institution of the year.



*The signed collaboration agreement*

National Chiayi University (NCYU), originally established in 1919 as the Chiayi Agricultural and Forestry School under the Governor-General of Taiwan, has stood for over a century on the fertile plains of southern Taiwan. Over the years, it has played a vital role in cultivating agricultural talent for the nation. In 1931, NCYU's baseball team broke the long-standing belief that champions could not come from south of the Chuoshui River by winning the national championship. The team went on to compete in Japan's prestigious National University Baseball Championship—commonly known as Koshien—and advanced all the way to the finals, ultimately coming in second place. This remarkable journey, brought vividly to life in the widely acclaimed 2014 film KANO, has since become one of the most enduring collective memories in Taiwan's sports history.

In his remarks, NCYU President Han-chien Lin emphasized that the core value of digitization lies in preservation and sharing. Through collaboration with the National Central Library, not only can precious documents be properly preserved and widely utilized, but such efforts also foster meaningful academic and cultural exchange on a global scale under the principle of sustainable heritage transmission. He expressed hope for continued cooperation with the National Central Library and other partners in the future, working together to contribute to the preservation of cultural assets and the advancement of scholarship.

In her remarks, Director-General Wang expressed her gratitude to President Lin, Secretary-General Tsang-chi Hsia, and Library Director Tu-liang Lin of NCYU, as well as other colleagues, for their support for and dedication to this collaborative project. She noted that, in addition to digitizing valuable historical materials related to the university's history—such as striking photographs from KANO and graduation yearbooks—the collaboration also includes the digital preservation of rare pre-1949 publications housed in the NCYU Library. These materials encompass a rich collection of Japanese-language texts as well as rare publications issued behind enemy lines during the Second Sino-Japanese War. Among the highlights is *Flora of East Asia*, published in 1935 by Japanese botanist Takenoshin Nakai. One chapter of this work documents Taiwan's geography and plant landscape, offering an important window into how the botanical community of the time understood the island.

At the signing ceremony, National Chiayi University had several graduation albums from the 1930s to showcase the remarkable achievements of the KANO era to the distinguished guests in attendance. The National Central Library will also disseminate the results of its digitization efforts through platforms such as Taiwan Memory and the Taiwan eBook database, thereby highlighting the significance of sustainable preservation through digital archiving. Looking ahead, NCL will continue to collaborate with National Chiayi University to carry out broader digitization projects involving historical documents and visual materials related to the university's history.



*A group photo of dignitaries from NCL and National Chiayi University during this new milestone*

## ■ 2024 "Plan to Build a Collaborative and Shared Public Library System" and "Reading Lesson Plan for Public Library Regional Resource Centre" Result Sharing Session

In order to improve the operation and management of public libraries in various counties and cities and strengthen the professional capabilities of librarians, showcase the specific results of the implementation of plans in various counties and cities, and exchange ideas to improve the effectiveness of service dissemination and implementation, the National Central Library held the 2024 "Building a Cooperative and Shared Public Library System Plan" and "Public Library Regional Resource Center Reading Lesson Plan" results sharing meeting on January 20, 2025. Public library colleagues across the country gathered at the National Central Library to listen to and share each other's implementation results.

The sharing session began with a speech by Deputy Director-General Pao Yueh Yan of the Ministry of Education. She thanked the National Central Library for playing a very important role in building the cooperative sharing plan and, in addition to organizing the regional counseling committee, visiting the libraries of various counties and cities every year to gain understanding and give specific suggestions. Through activities like this interactive sharing session where the results are published, everyone can understand the advantages to other counties and cities of promoting the plan, which can be used as a reference for self-improvement. It is an occasion to review the implementation results of various county and city governments. The Ministry of Education uses the public construction plan to enable county and city governments to gain assistance as regards the establishment of books, quality management, and the establishment of theme libraries. As to the future, the 2025-2028 Public Library Establishment of Technological Operations and Innovative Service Environment Implementation Plan that the Ministry of Education has won is currently open to applicants, and county and city partners are invited to apply. The Ministry of Education established a library resource

system with the assistance of three libraries (the National Central Library, the National Taiwan Library, and the National Library of Public Information), and also thanked the advisory committee members of the cooperative sharing program for assisting county and city governments in establishing library systems.

National Central Library Director-General Han-Ching Wang pointed out that the cooperative sharing plan had been promoted from 2017 to 2024. With the strong support of the ministry, the excellent leadership of former National Central Library Director-General Tseng, and the joint promotion of a coaching team of 33 teachers and conveners, public libraries have established very good administrative management, reading promotion, reading services, collection development, etc. Although this plan will end in 2025, this end is just a beginning. It is believed that these established systems will continue to be revised progressively in the future, and then develop with the continuous efforts of various libraries.

Afterwards, the conveners (Committee Member Chen Chao-chen, Committee Member Ch'iu Tzu-heng, Committee Member Ts'ao Ts'ui-ying, Director Han-Ching Wang, Director Lu Pao-kuei, Director Chen Li-chun, Committee Member Lin K'uan-yu, Committee Member K'e Hao-jen) of the 2021 library groups (Taipei City, Taoyuan City, Nantou County, Changhua County, Chiayi County, Chiayi City, Penghu and Lienchiang counties) introduced the implementation results of each county and city, and then each county and city library (Director Hung Shih-ch'ang of Taipei City Library, Director Shih Chao-hui of Taoyuan City Library, Section Chief Hsu Yu-fang of Nantou County Government Cultural Bureau, Section Chief Chou Hui-chen of Changhua County Government Cultural Bureau, Section Chief Su Chin-chiao of the Lifelong Learning Section of the Education Department of Chiayi County Government, Section Chief Wang Yung-shen of the Cultural Bureau of Chiayi City Government, Section Chief Hsia Shang-li of the Library and Information Section of the Cultural Bureau of Penghu County Government, and Section Chief Ch'en Shou-yan of the Cultural Department of Lienchiang County Government) took the stage and delivered a report on four years of implementation results.



*Public library partners attending the event listen attentively to the presentations on stage*