

NCL broadens our cultural horizons, allowing us to transcend the boundaries of time and space and rediscover the enduring value of the classics.

NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang also noted that the academic field of animal cultural history has been flourishing in recent years. Many of NCL's treasured classical texts include valuable records of how animals were observed and imagined in ancient times. One remarkable example is NCL's crown jewel—Illustrated Descriptions of Metals, Insects, Plants, and Trees—a richly illustrated natural history masterpiece created over 400 years ago by prominent Ming dynasty female writer Wen Shu, who spent three years completing the work. This exquisite text is regarded as a world-class compendium of flora and fauna. To help readers engage more deeply with these classical works and transform historical knowledge into modern understanding, NCL has planned a series of activities centered on the theme of exploring animals in the classics. This theme also resonates with the TiBE 2025's overarching concept of "Follow Your Fancy in Reading." The exhibition is organized around four major sections: "Browsing Treasures: A Selection of Animal Images in NCL's Ancient Book Collection," an AR experience titled "Capturing Ancient Mythical Beasts from Legendary Realms," an audiovisual showcase "Ancient Sounds of the Past," in addition to various educational themes and interactive games that promise an enriching experience. Notably, to extend the learning beyond the physical exhibition space, NCL launched the initiative "An Animal Library at Home." Through this program, readers can continue their exploration at home via NCL's digital OTT TV platform <https://nclibtv.ncl.edu.tw/>, which features a selection of 100 animal-themed picture e-books. This initiative ensures that the themes of the exhibition continue to inspire and educate within everyday family life.



*A shot of the ribbon cutting ceremony*

In addition, NCL invited internationally renowned paper sculptor Mr. Hsin-Fu Hung to speak on "The Possibilities of Paper: What Paper Wants to Share" on February 7 during the Starlight Night at the Blue Salon.



*The main visual image of the exhibition*

## ■ NCL Shared Research from Taiwan with the US and Deepened International Exchange

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS) held its 2025 annual conference from March 13 to 16 in Columbus, Ohio. The National Central Library, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, and the National Taiwan University Press jointly participated in the conference book exhibition, showcasing nearly 500 publications from Taiwan and thereby promoting the achievements of Taiwanese academic research to an international audience. On the morning of March 15 (local time), The Ohio State University held a book donation ceremony at the William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library. At the event, Director Louis Yen-Feng Lei of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago officially presented the collection of books exhibited at the conference to the university on behalf of Taiwan. The donation was received by Professor Musa Wakhungu Olaka, Associate Director for Special Collections and Area Studies, and Professor Guoqing Li, Chinese Studies Librarian. The ceremony was also attended by Section Chiefs Hsu-Hua Chu and Yu-Ching Shu of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, who helped arrange the donation.



*NCL shared research from Taiwan with the US and deepened international exchange*

NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang noted that in recent years, there has been a growing international demand for academic research from Taiwan. In response, the National Central Library has not only continued acquiring print publications to support 50 global partner institutions—including the Harvard-Yenching Library—through the establishment of Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies, but also has subscribed to electronic books for three overseas Taiwan Digital Academic Resource Centers, including the Bibliothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations (BULAC) in France. These initiatives aim to enhance the accessibility of Taiwan's scholarly achievements and improve the availability of academic resources abroad. Beyond organizing book exhibitions, NCL also seeks to better understand the resource needs of international scholars and related academic trends.



*The exhibition had information on display for various types of stipends*

The recipient institution, The Ohio State University, founded in 1870, is one of the leading public research universities in the United States. Its library system comprises a central library and 21 subject-specific branch libraries, housing a collection of over six million volumes, ranking 17th in North America in terms of holdings. Its special collections include medieval manuscripts, modern literary archives, printed books, artworks, pamphlets, photographs, periodicals, maps, and primary source

documents. Regarding its Chinese collection, according to Professor Guoqing Li, the earliest recorded Chinese-language acquisition dates back to 1929—a 1924 edition of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's *The Principle of the People's Rights* (Minquan Zhuyi), published by Minzhi Book Company. The university began to significantly expand its Chinese collection in the 1960s, when Chinese language instruction was introduced. The collection has since grown to over 150,000 volumes. It is estimated that the library holds more than 271 (258 titles) pre-1911 Chinese rare books and manuscripts. The majority of these materials are housed in the main library, with additional items held in the Fine Arts Library and the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum. In recognition of this diverse collection, the National Central Library additionally donated 12 award-winning Taiwanese graphic novels, including *The Sprouting Banana Plant* (Bājiāo de Yá) by artist Zuo Hsuan, which recently received the Silver Award at the Japan International Manga Award.

By participating in the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) book exhibition, Taiwan not only promoted its academic achievements but also brought important publications to Ohio, with the aim of deepening local understanding of the richness and diversity of Asian and Taiwanese humanities research, while providing valuable resources for scholarly reference and use.



*A group photo of the dignitaries in attendance*

## ■ NCL and British Library Write a New Chapter of History with Digitization Collaboration

In recent years, National Central Library and the British Library have established an excellent collaborative relationship. In November 2013, NCL and the British Library signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the International Dunhuang Project (IDP), working together to promote the collective sharing of ancient Chinese text resources and the Dunhuang Manuscripts. In 2015, NCL and the British Library also signed an MOU on the Database of the