

■ NCL Showcases Thesis and Dissertation Applications at the 2025 ALA Annual Conference

The National Central Library (NCL), Taiwan participated in the 2025 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, held in Philadelphia from June 26 to 30, showcasing the practical applications of its electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) collection. Ting-You Wu, Assistant Editor of NCL's Knowledge Services Division, represented the Library at the event, participating in the poster session and a series of conference activities.

NCL's featured presentation, titled "Leveraging NCL's ETD Repository: Introducing WriteAid Similarity Scanner", highlighted the collaborative development of the WriteAid Similarity Scanner with National Taiwan Normal University. This tool utilizes NCL's extensive ETD archive to assist graduate students in enhancing the originality and quality of their academic writing. The poster attracted considerable interest from international professionals, facilitating productive exchanges and promoting NCL's innovative services on a global stage.



Taiwanese delegates at the poster session venue

The ALA Annual Conference is one of the world's most significant gatherings in the field of librarianship, drawing thousands of librarians, educators, authors, publishers, and information professionals from across the globe. This year's conference featured nearly 200 sessions, including lectures, forums, discussions, and workshops, covering topics such as reader services, community engagement, STEM education, and emerging library technologies. Over 500 vendors also exhibited their latest products and services.



A view of the opening ceremony venue

NCL's selection for the poster session not only underscored Taiwan's achievements in leveraging theses and dissertations to support academic services, but also facilitated meaningful international engagement and collaboration.

A delegation comprising representatives from the National Central Library, National Taiwan Library, National Library of Public Information, Taichung Public Library, National Chengchi University, National Chung Hsing University, and Fu Jen Catholic University jointly attended the conference. The group also visited the University of Pennsylvania Libraries to explore the latest trends and innovations in U.S. academic library services.

Coinciding with the "Free Museum Days" in Philadelphia, conference attendees had the opportunity to explore the city's renowned historical and cultural institutions. These visits offered inspiration and fresh perspectives, energizing future efforts to develop innovative library services back home.



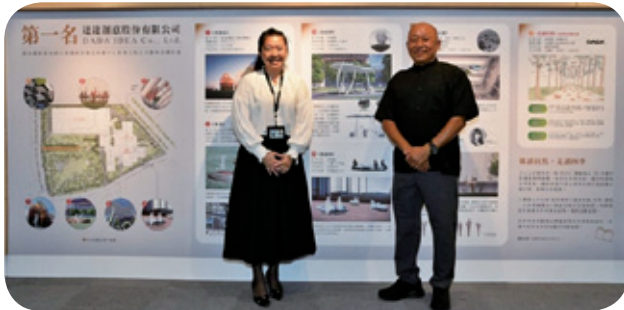
ALA 2025 delegation visiting the University of Pennsylvania Libraries

■ Exhibition Highlights Public Art Integration in National Library Infrastructure: Selected Works from the NCL Southern Branch and National Shared Repository Project Unveiled

The National Central Library (NCL), Taiwan officially opened the exhibition Reading Nature, Walking Through the Seasons on June 27, 2025, at its main building in Taipei. This curated showcase presents selected works from the public art installation initiative for the upcoming Southern Branch and National Shared Repository - a national cultural infrastructure project of strategic importance. The exhibition offers government stakeholders, international institutions, and library professionals an in-depth view of how art, architecture, and knowledge services are being seamlessly integrated into Taiwan's next-generation public library facilities.

In alignment with Taiwan's Public Art Act and in support of sustainable cultural development,

the NCL initiated the planning process for this public art program in March 2019 by convening a multidisciplinary advisory group composed of experts in art, architecture, and cultural policy. The resulting Public Art Installation Plan was approved by the Ministry of Culture in July 2023, and following a comprehensive two-phase selection process—including evaluation, final selection, and valuation reviews—the project's outcomes were formally endorsed by the Ministry on December 18, 2024. A contract was successfully awarded to the selected artistic team, DADA Idea Co., Ltd., on December 31, 2024.



Director-General Han-Ching Wang and Artistic Director Shuen Long Lin at the exhibition opening

This exhibition serves as a critical outreach component of the public art initiative, offering a first look at the artistic proposals that will be integrated into the physical and conceptual framework of the Southern Branch. Through this effort, the NCL demonstrates its institutional commitment to aesthetic excellence, civic engagement, and the creation of inspiring spaces where art and knowledge intersect.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang emphasized the importance of embedding artistic vision within national knowledge infrastructure: “This project reflects our belief that a national library must go beyond its role as a repository of information—it should also inspire, engage, and reflect the cultural vitality of its time. After five years of planning, we are proud to present works that will bring Taiwan's southern region a new icon of intellectual and artistic excellence.”



Director-General Han-Ching Wang delivers opening remarks

The exhibition features works from the top three finalist teams, with six conceptually and technically diverse projects submitted by first-place winner DADA Idea Co., Ltd. These works include:

- Joyful Reading Peak (ROSO Robotics Construction Lab)
- Rolling Scrolls (ROSO Robotics Construction Lab)
- Gathering Bottlegrass (Ling-Li Tseng / Occasionally Design)
- Bubble Pavilion (Shuen Long Lin / DADA Idea)
- Blossom Seats (Shuen Long Lin / DADA Idea)
- Mountain Cloud of Knowledge (Yuma Taru / Wild Laurel Studio)

Each piece is uniquely designed to respond to the Southern Branch’s landscape and architectural features, offering a harmonious blend of form, function, and cultural storytelling. At the exhibition opening, Artistic Director Shuen Long Lin provided a comprehensive introduction to the creative vision behind each installation, emphasizing their role in enhancing the spatial experience and emotional resonance of the library environment.



Artistic Director Shuen Long Lin introduces the design concepts behind the selected works

In addition to the public art models and conceptual posters, the exhibition includes architectural renderings of the Southern Branch’s interior spaces and customized furniture design. The project reflects a holistic design philosophy in which public art, information services, and user experience are fully integrated from the ground up.

As Taiwan continues to invest in transformative cultural infrastructure, the NCL Southern Branch stands as a model of how national libraries can serve as both intellectual beacons and cultural landmarks. The NCL extends a warm invitation to the public to engage with this exhibition and join in the dialogue on the future of libraries as public cultural spaces.

Exhibition Details

Topic: Reading Nature, Walking Through the Seasons
 – Exhibition of Selected Works from the Public Art Program for the NCL Southern Branch and National Shared Repository Construction Project
 Venue: Gallery of NCL History, 1st Floor, National Central Library
 Opening Date: June 27, 2025