



*A group photo of international conference participants*

## ■ The Center for Chinese Studies Holds Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies Lectures

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) promotes academic exchanges in order to increase interaction between the local and overseas Chinese Studies communities. To this end, the CCS established the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, which every year assists 20 overseas scholars in coming to Taiwan to conduct research for periods of between 1 to 6 months. Besides hosting Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies from time to time at which these scholars can present the fruits of the research, the center also often invites renowned scholars from around the world to visit and deliver lectures. Between April and June, 2025, 2 scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On April 18th, 2025, Associate Prof. Jens Reinke, Buddhist Studies at the Buddhist Seminary of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, gave the lecture on “Amitabha 2.0: Buddhist Care for the Dying in Contemporary Taiwan.”

On April 22th, 2025, Associate Prof. Renata Vinci, University of Palermo (Italy), gave the lecture on “Transcultural Narratives of the Mediterranean in Late Qing Travel Writing: Kang Youwei and Beyond.”

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ NTHU Launches Taiwan's First University-Based Public E-Book Platform: Free Access, No Registration Required

At the end of May, the National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) Library launched Taiwan's first university-run public digital reading platform, the Digital Archive and Open Reading Pavilion. This

platform offers free and registration-free online access to a wide range of valuable content, including research findings, nature records, and historical and cultural materials.

Unlike commercial e-book platforms, this initiative focuses on original works that are unpublished, out-of-print, or shared with author authorization—such as handwritten notes and locally published booklets—preserving materials that are often overlooked yet culturally significant. Library Director Lin Teng-Sung emphasized the platform's core principles: permanent preservation, authorized use, and free public access. All works are for non-commercial use, with authors retaining copyright.

The collection spans education, popular science, the arts, and regional cultural history. A dedicated “Tsing Hua Section” features works by faculty, students, and alumni, as well as historical documents related to the university. Government and institutional publications from entities such as CPC Corporation and Chunghwa Post are also included, bringing previously limited-access materials into the public domain.

Notable works such as *Jia Xin Camellia*, co-authored by Shennong Award recipients, and the writings of former NTHU President Liu Jing-Liang have been reintroduced through the platform. NTHU is actively collecting more works and welcomes submissions of original or previously published content, provided authors are willing to authorize public access—further promoting knowledge sharing and cultural preservation.

Access the Digital Archive and Open Reading Pavilion: <https://or.lib.nthu.edu.tw/FrontEnd/subjectPavilion>

### ■ National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts Reopens Art Library with New Vision for Artistic Learning

On May 17, the Art Library at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (NTMoFA) reopened on its 3rd floor with a fully renovated space and expanded services. With nearly 160,000 volumes covering art history, design, photography, and more, the library now offers a more comfortable, flexible, and engaging environment for the public.

Formerly known as the “Information Center,” the rebranded Art Library better reflects its purpose and invites broader public engagement. It now includes a Special Collections section, which houses significant documents on Taiwanese art history, and a Collections Work Area where visitors can observe the book conservation and restoration process.

The opening ceremony featured a special

acknowledgment of artist Hsieh Li-Fa, who donated valuable art documents to the library. A themed exhibition, *The Craft of Bookmaking*, curated by Professor Liu Tzu-Ping and students from National Changhua University of Education, accompanies the reopening. The exhibit guides visitors through the creation of a book—from writing and editing to binding and aesthetics.

To further enhance accessibility, the library also features a digital resource zone, including multimedia viewing spaces, fostering interaction and modern learning experiences. NTMoFA's initiative highlights its mission to promote art reading and aesthetic education to both professionals and the wider public.

### ■ **“Reading Grand Slam” Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Record Participation Across Taiwan**

Marking its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the “Reading Grand Slam” initiative has become a national reading movement, involving libraries in 17 counties and cities across Taiwan and generating over 300,000 book borrowings to date. The 2025 edition sees its largest scale yet, with Tainan and Kaohsiung joining the program—completing full participation from all six major municipalities.

This year, the program also partners with eight universities—National Chengchi University, National Taiwan Normal University, Tunghai University, Fu Jen Catholic University, Soochow University, Feng Chia University, CTBC Business School, and CTBC University of Science and Technology. The initiative encourages students to borrow books from campus libraries to cultivate regular reading habits.

From May 28 to June 30, readers who borrow 10 books or accumulate 10 points through the reading tracker system can exchange them for weekday tickets to Chinatrust Brothers professional baseball games. A total of 11,500 tickets are available in the first phase. This creative fusion of reading and sports aims to promote literacy through engaging experiences, further expanding the culture of reading nationwide.



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