

event in the digitization and preservation of cultural documents.

In his remarks, NCL Deputy Director-General Chih-tsung Weng noted that the Library has long been actively engaged in digital archiving, and in recent years has advanced this mission through a model of “cooperative digitization,” working with diverse partners to preserve Taiwan’s important cultural heritage. The present collaboration originated when Ms. Chiu-chu Huang, a member of Wan-chuan Chang’s family, consulted the Library’s holdings in preparation for a lecture, which in turn opened the door for further cooperation. After more than a year of discussion, digitization efforts encompass nearly ninety items, including photographs, correspondence, certificates, and invitations, and amounting to roughly 6,000 images in total. The Library will continue to add metadata to the collection and make it accessible to the public. It is worth mentioning that these valuable images will be incorporated into the Library’s Digital Resource Preservation System. This system not only safeguards both images and metadata but also issues automatic alerts to administrators when files approach the end of their lifespan or display anomalies, thereby ensuring the long-term preservation and sustainable use of these digital resources. The Library also desires to construct within the “Taiwan Memory” platform a dedicated dataset on “Taiwanese Artists’ Memories” in the future, thereby reconstructing the life journeys and creative processes of artists and presenting the rich historical texture of Taiwan’s art history. This collection will, of course, be a part of that.



A shot after both parties signed the agreement

In addition to the signing ceremony, the event also featured a special lecture delivered by Associate Researcher Chen-ching Lin of the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, presenting the first results of the digitization project. Using as his point of departure a well-known group photograph of Wan-chuan Chang, Cheng-po Chen, Ji-chun Liao, San-lang Yang, Kuo-jung Hsieh, and others taken during the Taiwan Art

Exhibition in Tainan, Lin guided the audience in examining the details of the image—its date, content, and the conventional narratives of Taiwan’s art history—erstwhile offering new perspectives. His presentation vividly demonstrated both the allure of “letting photographs tell their stories” and the rigor of art-historical research.

The signing of the cooperative agreement happened to coincide with Mr. Wan-chuan Chang’s birthday. To mark the occasion, the event concluded with a specially prepared cake, which Deputy Director-General Weng, together with a representative of Chang’s family, cut amid the warm congratulations of all the guests, symbolizing the successful conclusion of the ceremony. Looking ahead, both parties will continue with the cataloguing of images and, building upon this project, expand the scope of collaboration and partners involved. This partnership stands as an important milestone in the preservation and sharing of artists’ archival materials.



A group photo after the event

■ The National Central Library and the National University of Tainan Collaborate on the Digitization of Historical Books to Build a Sustainable Legacy for Taiwan's Cultural Heritage

On June 25, the National Central Library and National University of Tainan held a signing ceremony for the "Taiwan Ancient Books and Documents Digitization Cooperation." Han-Ching Wang, Director-General of the National Central Library, and Ch'en Huip'ing, President of the National University of Tainan, jointly signed the cooperation agreement, officially launching the project for digitization of the library's precious ancient books. Both parties hope that, through this cooperation, they can promote the preservation of local culture and the sharing of knowledge resources, inject new life into Taiwan's cultural assets, and achieve sustainable dissemination of knowledge and culture.



Director-General Han-Ching Wang of the National Central Library and President Huip'ing Ch'en of National Tainan University signed the "Cooperation on Digitization of Taiwan's Ancient Books and Documents"

National Tainan University was founded in 1899. Its predecessor was Tainan Normal School. It is one of the most historic centers for teacher training in Taiwan. The ceremony coincided with its 127th anniversary. The University of Tainan has long been committed to the cultivation and preservation of local cultural and educational resources, and has actively invested in the research and promotion of library resources. This collaboration will prioritize the digitization of typical old books in the collection, including rare documents, such as "Granulated Sugar Manufacturing Method" (1905), "Taiwan Railway Taitung Line" (1917), "Taiwan Postal History" (1918), and "Tainan City Revised Town Names and Places" (1919). These documents cover industrial development, transportation construction, and urban governance, and are of great academic value for understanding Taiwan's modern social changes.

Director-General Han-Ching Wang said in her speech: "What we collect is not only books and knowledge, but also our lives. These life trajectories should be recorded and preserved." She also mentioned that the National Library South Branch is expected to open next year and will focus on biotechnology, emerging technologies, children and education, and historical research. We hope to collaborate with the University of Tainan in the future, not only in the digitization of old books, but also in the integration of knowledge in various fields.

In her speech, President Huip'ing Ch'en quoted the saying, "How can we allow history to turn to ashes?" to express her emphasis on document preservation. She stressed that the digitization of precious cultural relics amounts not only to respect for history, but also to responsibility to future generations. "Digital archives have profound significance, both for contemporary research and for the future preservation of history." She also thanked the National Central Library for facilitating this collaboration and looked forward to more in-depth exchanges and cooperation opportunities in the future.

The National Central Library would like to

express special thanks to President Huip'ing Ch'en, Director of Library Resources Tsunghsi Ch'en, and the library team for their strong support, which made this collaboration go smoothly. In the future, the National Central Library will continue to expand its cooperative network, deepen cross-sector collaboration, and promote the digital preservation and knowledge sustainability of Taiwan's cultural assets, allowing more people to learn about history, connect with culture, and inspire innovation through the internet.

■ The National Central Library and National Taichung University of Education Jointly Promote the Digital Preservation of Ancient Books and Documents, Marking a New Milestone in Knowledge Inheritance

On June 25, the National Central Library and National Taichung University of Education held a signing ceremony for the "Taiwan Ancient Books and Documents Digitization Cooperation." Han-Ching Wang, Director-General of the National Central Library, and Pai-ch'en Kuo, President of the National Taichung University of Education, jointly signed the cooperation agreement, officially launching the digital preservation of National Taichung University of Education's library's precious ancient books. This collaboration is not only an important milestone in the National Central Library's mission to preserve cultural assets but also responds to the trend of sustainable development of contemporary digital humanities and knowledge, setting a new benchmark for the preservation and revitalization of Taiwan's documents.

National Taichung University of Education was founded in 1899. Its predecessor was Tainan Normal School. With its long history, it is one of the most historic centers for teacher training in Taiwan. The school has been deeply engaged in education, humanities and language research for many years and has achieved rich results. The library of National Taichung University of Education houses over 1,000 old books, including the work "The Art of Teaching," published in 1891 by the first president, Kunimasa Kinoshita. The old books on Taiwan-related themes that were digitized in cooperation with the National Library on this occasion include "Normal School Arithmetic Textbook", "Elementary Science Teaching Book", "Normal School Physical Education Textbook", etc. The most typical of the digitized documents in this collaborative project is the Japanese-Taiwanese Dictionary published in 1907. The dictionary was compiled by Japanese scholar Naoyoshi Ogawa. It is the first dictionary in Taiwan's history to systematically organize the Taiwanese language and includes the first language distribution map of Taiwan. It has profound linguistic and historical research value. After digitization, it will become an important reference material for domestic and foreign academics to study