

integration that transcended geographic boundaries. Organized into five thematic sections, the exhibition explored the evolution of writing technologies, the diffusion of Chinese characters across Asia, intercultural exchange within ancient texts, Taiwan's cultural documentation, and NCL's collection of rare and exquisite treasures. Through this curatorial journey, visitors were invited to discover how ancient books serve as vessels of historical memory and witnesses to the migration of knowledge across time and space.

Beyond the display of texts and artifacts, the National Central Library thoughtfully incorporated elements of contemporary exhibition aesthetics and digital interactivity to create an immersive cultural experience. The exhibition began with a grand reproduction of Zheng He's Nautical Chart, inviting visitors to embark on a "voyage of knowledge." As they passed through a spatial installation composed of constellations, ships, and book pages, visitors symbolically journeyed from the past toward the future in a continuous cultural odyssey. Design features such as illuminated constellations, rippling water projections, transparent acrylic book-page structures, and an interactive Embark Zone transformed ancient books from static documents into a dynamic landscape of knowledge—sparking new imagination about the convergence of traditional reading and cultural technology.

NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang remarked that the value of ancient books lies not only in their material form but also in their role as vessels of cultural inheritance, sources of educational inspiration, and bridges for diverse understanding. Throughout history, Chinese classics have constituted a continuously evolving network of knowledge. As a shared written language across East Asia, Chinese characters have not only connected different cultures but have also fostered the exchange of ideas across regions. Through this exhibition, the National Central Library hoped to help the public gain a deeper understanding of the place of ancient Chinese books within a global cultural context, thereby enriching appreciation for one's own heritage while cultivating respect for others.



Dignitaries unveiling the exhibition

To promote public engagement and equitable access to knowledge, the exhibition offered bilingual Chinese–English guides, along with interactive games and a family-friendly experience zone suitable for visitors of all ages. Guests also had the opportunity to receive limited-edition souvenirs each day, extending the cultural experience into everyday life. Through these encounters, visitors were invited to return to the origins of knowledge—embarking on a dialog across millennia amid the vast sea of books and the starry sky of history.



Many visitors walked through the exhibit

Events

■ Building a New Generation of Doctoral and Master's Thesis Systems for AI Applications: The 2025 Taiwan Electronic Thesis Alliance Annual Meeting Concludes Successfully

The National Central Library hosted the 2025 Taiwan Electronic Thesis Alliance Annual Meeting on September 26 to promote and deepen cooperation

among universities and colleges throughout the nation in the submission and archiving of doctoral and master's theses.



The National Central Library holds the 2025 Taiwan Electronic Thesis Alliance Annual Meeting

In her opening remarks, National Central Library Director-General Dr. Han-Ching Wang stated that, in response to the mature development and diverse applications of artificial intelligence technology, the National Central Library, with the support of the Ministry of Education, has been promoting the planning and construction of a new generation of doctoral and master's thesis systems. She expressed gratitude to all universities for their active response and support during the system planning process, and for their participation in user research. The system will utilize artificial intelligence to assist with system functions, optimizing the graduate thesis submission process, improving the efficiency of school administrators, saving time and costs and comprehensively integrating and connecting all alliance partner schools in the country while maintaining their autonomy, and realizing the process re-engineering and management of paper and digital theses archives. Together, they will create a blueprint for the future service of important academic databases in the country, ensuring that the future system is closer to the actual needs of schools and optimizes the user experience.



NCL Director-General Wang also shared the new-generation doctoral and master's thesis system service blueprint in her business report

To embrace the new wave that is the era of artificial intelligence, Shih-nan Liu, Director of Research and Development at the Taiwan Design Institute, was especially invited this year to give a keynote speech entitled, "The Civilized Future Brought by Artificial Intelligence in the Neo-Renaissance." He shared his design thinking on artificial intelligence in the academic field and its future development and application in exchanging forward-looking perspectives with colleges and universities across the country, absorbing new knowledge, and stimulating innovative design thinking.

The National Central Library's National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan is one of the important digital infrastructure projects in the field of academic research in Taiwan. As of late September 2025, the system has included more than 1.51 million bibliographical entries and 1.12 million full-text electronic entries, of which 870,000 have been authorized for public access, with the public access authorization rate exceeding 91 percent. In 2024, the system was used and searched 500 million times, indicating that it has become an important academic resource with a high usage rate of hundreds of millions of people nationwide. It is the result of the joint efforts of colleges and universities across the country in promoting academic openness and access.

The National Central Library hopes that its future next-generation doctoral and master's thesis system will become an important academic knowledge base in the country. Adhering to the alliance's objective of "co-construction and sharing," the library will pool the resources of the entire nation to collect the thesis archives of partner universities, promote the visibility and academic dissemination of theses from each university, and provide the public with convenient information services for accessing Taiwan's electronic thesis resources more easily.



Group photo of attendees at the alliance's annual meeting