

Established in 1941, the AAS is a leading global organization for Asian research. Its annual March conference is a key platform for academic exchange and a significant hub for library professionals. With nearly 700 sessions featuring paper presentations, panels, and poster sessions, this year's conference has drawn more than 3,000 attendees, including scholars, researchers, librarians, and publishers from across the world.

Acting Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng of the NCL highlighted a long-standing 10-year partnership with the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation to showcase Taiwan's research at the AAS. This collaboration focuses on promoting Taiwan's scholarly output and academic resources globally. A key highlight is the formation of the 'Taiwan Team,' a strategic alliance with Academia Sinica Press and NTU Press. This 'Taiwan Team' acts as a vital backbone for Taiwanese scholars attending international events overseas and offers foreign researchers a 'one-stop' comprehensive consultation service before they arrive in Taiwan for their studies.

The University of Alberta, a key hub for Sinology with Canada's second-largest library system, has been a Taiwan Resource Center for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) partner since 2024. The donation was accepted by Professor Daniel Fried, who has a personal connection to the NCL as a former research fellow in Taiwan. Professor Fried emphasized that the TRCCS has already strengthened the ties between the two institutions. He added that this new influx of curated books will significantly bolster their current physical and digital holdings, creating more opportunities for students and researchers to engage with high-quality Taiwanese scholarship.



Guests gather for a group photo following the conclusion of the donation ceremony

Alongside the NCL delegation led by Senior Editor Dr. Wen-De Huang, the ceremony featured key representatives from Taiwan's top academic

publishers: Ren-Yuan Li (Associate Research Fellow and Library Director) for Academia Sinica Press and Editor Li-Wei Hong for NTU Press. To further foster connections, the NCL organized a Taiwan-themed tea reception at the conference venue. By showcasing the specialized archives and the rich cultural and natural landscape of Taiwan, the reception successfully drew a crowd of international scholars and librarians for enthusiastic dialogue and networking.

■ National Central Library Attends 2026 Charleston Conference Asia in Thailand, Presenting Innovative AI-Powered Library Services

The inaugural Charleston Conference Asia was held in Bangkok, Thailand from January 26 to 28, 2026, marking the first time this annual meeting of library professionals was held in Asia. The conference gathered experts in academia, publishing, and library sciences from around the world with a mission to promote exchange of experience with a focus on the trends and challenges in Asia, the Middle East, and African regions. The conference focused on three key topics: the challenges and influence of artificial intelligence, academic equity, and sustainable development goals.

National Central Library Director-General Han-Ching Wang was invited to participate in the session "Transforming Academic Libraries with AI: The Taiwan Experience in Literacy, Services, Knowledge Organization, and Competencies." The session was held from 10:45 to 11:30 on January 27, hosted by Hao-Ren Ke, Dean of the School of Learning Informatics, National Taiwan Normal University and included four presentations to explore how libraries can transform services in the age of AI, introducing AI technologies and adding value to existing services.



Four speakers from Taiwan share their practical experiences of "Transforming Academic Libraries with AI"

Session Presentation Topics:

- Taipei Medical University Library Director Tzu-Heng Chiu presented “Library as the Hub of AI Literacy Education on a University Campus”
- Kaohsiung Medical University Office of Library and Information Service Associate Vice President Eunice Lee presented “Applications and Challenges of AI Consultation Services in University Libraries”
- National Central Library Director-General Han-Ching Wang presented “The Knowledge Remix—AI-powered innovations in subject cataloging for knowledge organization in National Central Library of Taiwan”
- Dean of School of Learning Informatics, National Taiwan Normal University Hao-Ren Ke presented “Empowering Smart Libraries: Developing AI Competencies for Academic Librarians”



NCL presents the poster: “Smart Assistant Librarian System: An AI Assistant for Library Staff”

In addition, NCL’s Digital Knowledge System Division presented the poster “Smart Assistant Librarian System: An AI Assistant for Library Staff” with Director-General Han-Ching Wang and Digital Knowledge System Division Director Hsiao-Ling Hou and System Engineer Cheng-Ru Wu on site to explain the project. With the goal of strengthening professional support within the library, a database was set up to be understandable and searchable to AI tools through the organizing of library system documents. Furthermore, an RAG framework was set up to provide natural language question answering services in order to ensure the verifiability of information. The system simultaneously integrates knowledge graphs and record management mechanisms to help librarians quickly grasp institutional frameworks and increase daily operational efficiency. The poster exhibit

attracted the attention of librarians and university employees from several countries and also provided a QR code to access a video and presentation download.

The Charleston Conference is an annual conference held since 1981, focusing on international exchange around library procurement, collection management, and academic publishing. The conference serves as an important platform in the area of academic information. Conference participants shared applications of AI technologies and academic media and sustainable development strategies, presenting diverse practices and innovative achievements by libraries engaging with digital transformations. Through multinational and multidisciplinary exchange of experiences, the conference provided important inspiration and direction for the future of academic media transmission and library services.

NCL’s participation in the conference not only exhibited the real strides made by Taiwan’s libraries in AI utilization, knowledge organization, and professional skill development, it also strengthened connections with the international library community, providing valuable experience of innovative services in the digital transitions of academic libraries.

■ Diplomatic Ally Haiti Showcases "The Reign of Impunity" at National Central Library, Bridging Borders Through Reflections on Justice

The 2026 “Francophonie Month” series officially opened on the evening of March 27 at the National Central Library. The opening screening featured the Haitian documentary *The Reign of Impunity* (Le Règne de l’impunité), a work of profound contemporary relevance and human rights significance. The event was jointly organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Taiwan and the National Central Library.

The screening was co-hosted by Acting Director-General of the National Central Library, Dr. Chih-Tsung Weng, and Ambassador of Haiti, H.E. Roudy Stanley Penn. Distinguished guests in attendance included H.E. Dr. Robert Kennedy Lewis, Ambassador of Saint Lucia and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps; H.E. Katherine Vanessa Meighan, Ambassador of Belize; H.E. Kenton X. Chance, Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and his spouse; as well as representatives from various sectors, including Mr.