

The NCL has been a steadfast participant in TIBE since its inception—an event that, notably, held its very first edition within the halls of the NCL itself. This year, under the strategic vision and planning initiated by former Director-General Han-Ching Wang, the NCL presented the theme "Golden Radiance with the Hidden Dragon's Blessing."

Seeking to transcend the traditional boundaries of archival exhibitions, the NCL team introduced innovative interactive elements, including:

1. Polarized Light Visuals and Filter-based Puzzle Solving
2. Mobile Digital Illustration interactions
3. Digital Decryption of rare ancient texts and contemporary celebrity manuscripts

By leveraging these technological advancements, the exhibit moved beyond physical constraints, offering a visionary preview of the upcoming NCL Southern Branch and fundamentally transforming the visitor's perspective.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the readers who visited our booth, the esteemed panel of judges, and all those who cast their votes in support. The National Central Library remains committed to excellence and innovation. We look forward to the continued guidance and partnership of our colleagues and the public as we strive to exceed expectations in the years to come.



The winners of the Best Booth Design Awards are officially announced during the closing ceremony of the 2026 Taipei International Book Exhibition

Bridging Borders through Books: National Library of Latvia Director Visits NCL

To promote international scholarly exchange within Taiwan's library community and to broaden perspectives and professional expertise in contemporary library curation, NCL has specially

invited Director Dagnija Baltaņa of the National Library of Latvia to Taiwan to deliver a keynote lecture and engage in scholarly exchange.

The lecture began with welcome remarks by NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang, who introduced the keynote speaker, Director Dagnija Baltaņa of the National Library of Latvia. Drawing on her extensive professional background and practical experience, Director Baltaņa delivered a presentation titled "Why Do We Still Need Book Exhibitions in the 21st Century?"



Director Baltaņa introducing the National Library of Latvia strategic development plan

In her lecture, Director Baltaņa began by posing a thought-provoking question: In an age where digital tools are ubiquitous, why do we still need physical exhibitions? Focusing on text-centered exhibition formats, she explained how the integration of art, research, design, and interpretive guidance can transform content interpretation and foster meaningful audience engagement—an approach that plays a crucial role in contemporary curatorial practice. In addition, Director Baltaņa not only elaborated on the deeper significance of exhibition planning in libraries and the challenges it entails but also introduced the mission and vision of the National Library of Latvia, along with the structure and scale of its professional team. She further shared several curatorial case studies, demonstrating the diversity of the library's collections and its ongoing efforts to advance a national reading strategy.

Director Baltaņa also shared how the National Library of Latvia establishes connections between audiences and its collections through thoughtful planning and design. These curatorial practices

demonstrate the core values of libraries, extending beyond the traditional function of collection stewardship and effectively embodying the spirit of the Riga Declaration on the right to read, ensuring that everyone has equal and free access to knowledge. For the library, exhibitions are not merely displays of collections but also serve as a medium for fostering social inclusion and interactive engagement, enriching the public's reading and everyday experiences. The National Library of Latvia's curatorial practices clearly demonstrate that exhibitions function as a strategic tool linking collection-based research with public participation, thereby strengthening the library's role in advancing national democratic development, enhancing international visibility, and deepening cultural diplomacy.



NCL donating a Taiwan Corner to the National Library of Latvia

During the Q&A session following the lecture, participants actively engaged with questions, to which Director Baltiņa provided detailed responses and thoughtful feedback. The lecture was rich in content and highly engaging, offering valuable international insights for Taiwan's library community and inspiring further reflection among local professionals on the role and positioning of libraries in the 21st century.

Following the keynote lecture, NCL held a Taiwan Corner donation ceremony, during which Director-General Wang presented a Taiwan Corner to the National Library of Latvia, bringing the day's scholarly exchange to a successful conclusion.

The content of today's keynote lecture, "Why Do We Still Need Book Exhibitions in the 21st Century?", will be uploaded to NCL's Distance Learning Platform, allowing more members of the library community to access it for observation and learning.

■ NCL Hosts the 2026 International Seminar for East Asian Library Professional Librarians

NCL hosted the International Seminar for East Asian Library Professional Librarians from February 2 to 4, 2026, with the aim of advancing the integration of Taiwan's library profession with the international community and promoting Taiwan's scholarly publications. The theme of this year's seminar, "From Intelligence to Innovation: Exploring the Future of Libraries through Human-AI Collaboration," focuses on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the production, organization, discovery, and preservation of knowledge, while emphasizing the human-centered core of library professionalism.



A group photo of dignitaries and students

The seminar brought together 20 international librarians from nine countries—the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Australia, Switzerland, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Thailand—as well as representatives from NCL's overseas TRCCS partner institutions, to participate in a three-day program of professional training and scholarly exchange. In addition to five keynote lectures, participants visited the Taipei International Book Exhibition and the National Archives to gain deeper insight into Taiwan's achievements in publishing and cultural preservation.

In his opening remarks, Acting Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng of NCL noted that since 2009, the biennial International Seminar for East Asian Library Professional Librarians has become an important platform for international scholarly exchange in the library profession. Evolving from a regional initiative into a cross-cultural and transregional professional community, the seminar demonstrates the library sector's collective commitment to addressing changes in knowledge and technology through dialogue, collaboration, and learning.