

■ One Stop Integration, Press Conference for the ISBN x ISRC Single Log-in Service Enhancement

National Central Library's ISBN Center held a press conference to announce the "One Stop Integration ISBN x ISRC Single Log-in Service Enhancement" on the afternoon of January 20, 2026. The press conference presented the achievements of the first stage of the ISBN Integration Service Platform, inviting professionals from book and audiovisual publishing to follow the latest developments in publishing industry infrastructure and to come together to provide constructive feedback for the industry.

NCL has long maintained its core task of maintaining Taiwan's publishing information infrastructure, continuing to promote the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), Cataloging in Publishing (CIP), and International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) systems, assisting in the accurate recognition, effective distribution, and long-term preservation of published content. As publishing patterns have extended from physical copies to e-books, audio books, as well as music and visual data, the roles and processes of publishing bodies are constantly diversifying. Previously decentralized application systems and account mechanisms were struggling to meet practical needs, making the need for integration more obvious by the day.



Book and audio-visual publishers gather to learn about the updated system

At the press conference, the latest progress in the integration of ISBN and ISRC publisher accounts was announced. The enhancement provides a single log-

in mechanism, which allows publishers to make use of a single account to apply for different international standard codes according to their needs. This will greatly reduce the burden of multiple logins and systems, thereby improve application efficiency and enhance user experience. The updated system has also added a "Smart Subject Cataloguing Standards Query and Analytical Recommendations System," actively providing recommended subjects and categorization to help publishers quickly fill in required information, simultaneously accounting for bibliographic quality and continuing application of relevant data. The new system includes a full upgrade for CIP processes, with its machine-readable cataloging system changed from CMARC to the international standard MARC21, the presentation method changing from a card-based to Data Block system, in line with international trends and beneficial for bibliographic data exchange and value-adding applications. The ISRC system has also undergone several function optimizations to meet industry needs.



NCL ISBN Center Assistant Editor Kuan-Yin Lin introduces new system functions

NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang pointed out that the completion of this system optimization was made possible thanks to valuable advice provided by book and audiovisual publishing professionals and scholars during the planning and optimization process. Director-General Wang also explained that NCL and the Ministry of Culture have discussed adding completion of the Confirmation of Publication Procedure and Publication Deposit Procedure as requirements in applications for public lending rights compensation claims. Public lending rights not only concern the rights of creators and publishers, but they

are also closely tied to the accuracy and completeness of bibliographic information. NCL continues to work with the Ministry of Culture to strengthen the bibliographic quality of ISBNnet, providing a stable foundation for Taiwan's publishing information infrastructure.

Press conference attendees praised the results of the system function optimization, providing feedback during the final discussion that brought the event to a productive close. NCL will continue to promote future integration stages on the foundation created by this initial stage of advancements, gradually introducing AI and other new technologies to create a smarter and more user-friendly service environment for ISBN application, serving as an important stabilizing force for healthy development of Taiwan's publishing industry.

■ National Central Library's Special Exhibition Tours Southern Taiwan: 'A Shared Sky' Rare Book Exhibition Comes to the National Cheng Kung University Library

On the afternoon of January 16, 2026, a cultural feast transcending time and space, titled A Shared Sky: The World of Chinese Texts and Cultural Exchange officially commenced at the National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) Main Library. Organized by the National Central Library (NCL), this heavyweight exhibition follows a successful debut in Taipei last summer. Now in its fourth stop, the tour brings the wisdom and charm of ancient texts to the Tainan campus. The exhibition is scheduled to run from January 16 to March 31.



Pictured Location: NCKU Main Library, Tainan

From the National Central Library to the community: Breathing new life into old works

The National Central Library stated that since the successful conclusion of the initial exhibition last year, it has actively planned this touring exhibition to challenge the impression that ancient books are only squirreled away in museum display cases. For this leg of the tour at the NCKU Main Library, the NCL expressed special gratitude to Director Tzu-Fun Fu and her team for their comprehensive planning. The exhibition's location on the first floor of the library is a deliberate choice to literally bring the texts to the audiences themselves. These ancient texts are and should be accessible both in a literal and figurative sense to audiences of all backgrounds and ages. To experience is to create, and vice versa.

The Five Themes: Constellating the Stars of Asian Civilization

The title of our exhibition, "A Shared Sky," symbolizes how words and knowledge shine upon human civilization like a canopy of stars. The exhibition area is exceptionally divided into five themes, guiding visitors through a cross-border journey:

- Within a Measured Space: A deep dive into the millennium-long evolution of writing and printing technologies.
- The World of Script: Exploring how Chinese classics spread across the Sinographic Cultural Sphere
- Traces in Print: Exploring early Malaysia and foreign observations in classical Chinese records.
- Formosa: Exploring the charm of Taiwan's history and scenery through rare archival collections
- The Treasury of Rarities: A curated showcase of library highlights, representing the pinnacle of books as an artform

Spanning writing evolution, the Sinographic Cultural Sphere, maritime knowledge, and the historical records of Formosa we demonstrate that classical Chinese texts exist not in isolation, but in constant circulation and dialogue. The title "Shared Sky" emphasizes interconnectedness, where we discover and understand each other through shared knowledge under the same canopy of culture. Highlighting these interconnections allows our exhibition to not only challenge the perceived distance of ancient texts, but also to challenge the dichotomy of the observer and the observed.