

Taiwan Normal University to present a lecture on "Archaic Land Deeds and Clan Relations in Taiwan" at the library on May 19. The lecture comprised covered the four topics of Taiwan's aboriginal tribes, land deed structures in the Qing dynasty, "frontier people" and Han Chinese in archaic land deeds, and Han, frontier and "barbarian" people in archaic land deeds.

Contract and agreement documents are an important source of information on daily life and social changes in Taiwan in earlier times. Since many of these documents are scattered in different locations, the NCL plans to collect, compile and publish such documents now in private collections to facilitate the study of Taiwan history.

■ *NCL Group Attends OCLC Meeting and Visits U.S. Libraries*

Director Wu Ying-mei of the NCL's Cataloging Department led a delegation of 16 library professionals from Taiwan to participate as observers in the 2006 OCLC Members Council Meeting. OCLC arranged a series of courses on its operating strategy and R&D plans for the Taiwan group before the meeting. The courses were taught by high-ranking managers of OCLC, including Vice President Phyllis Spies. Tsai Sue-en of OCLC Asia Pacific Library Services also led the Taiwan group on a tour of the OCLC campus, including visits to lab facilities and server rooms.

Apart from attending the OCLC activities, the Taiwan delegation visited several major libraries in the U.S., including the Library of Congress, District of Columbia Public Library, Ohio State University



Director Wu Ying-mei of the NCL (second from right) and Andrew H. Wang, Executive Director of OCLC Asia Pacific Services & New Initiatives (far right) (Photo provided by Wu Ying-mei)

Main Library and East Asian Library, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Huntington Library, Los Angeles Public Library and UCLA Library.

Director Wu also met with Andrew H. Wang, Executive Director of Asia Pacific Services & New Initiatives at OCLC, for discussions on cooperation issues. The NCL noted that it would complete its CMARC and MARC21 transfer software this year, and have at least 100,000 bibliographies (excluding academic papers) uploaded to the WorldCat system by the end of 2007. This cooperative achievement will serve as reference material for East Asian and global libraries in bibliographic copying. (Chinese text by Wu Ying-mei)

■ *NCL Attends the 4th Annual Library Leadership Institute*

The "4th Annual Library Leadership Institute:

The 21st Century Digital/Print Hybrid Research Library" was organized by the Hong Kong University Libraries in Nansha, China, from May 27 to 30, 2006. Director Wang Teng-yuan and Assistant Editor Liao Shioh-man attended the institute from the NCL, joining 33 other representatives from academic and research libraries in Hong Kong, Taiwan, mainland China, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Paul Gandel, vice president for Information Technology and Services at Syracuse University, was principal facilitator; and Johnson Paul, deputy director of Publishing and Research Services (PRS) of the National Library Board of Singapore, was the main presenter. Over the course of the four days, participants engaged in learner-driven activities designed to build skills and awareness required of library leaders today. The sessions mixed formal presentations, small group discussions and interactive simulation activities. Topics covered included: Project Management,



Principal facilitator Professor Paul Gandel (center) is pictured with the Director Wang Teng-yuan (right) and Asst. Editor Liao Shioh-man (left) of the NCL.

Strategic Planning and Assessment, Changing Nature of Higher Education, and Scenario Planning.

Apart from attending the courses, participants had ample opportunity for exchanges and to share practical experience in the library fields in the represented countries.

■ *Summer Fun at the Hsinchu Bureau of Cultural Affairs Library*

The Hsinchu City Bureau of Cultural Affairs Hsinchu City kicked off a series of fun learning activities this summer vacation.

One such program was a computer camp, where fifth- and sixth-year elementary school students could learn how to use online resources at the public library. The camp also arranged outdoor activities to familiarize kids with PC hardware and software and show them that learning with computers can be fun.

A touring exhibition of classical comics was also arranged by the bureau from June 24 to July 2, with over 10,000 volumes on display. Comics published before 2001 joined a selection of more recent popular titles at the event. Books on infant education, parent-child education, preschool education, and other education topics were also on display in a special children's book section to encourage greater parental interest in children's educational development.

Another event during the summer program was the "2006 Children's Reading" symposium and book exhibition on June 17. The symposium introduced methods of reading and writing

children's poetry, as well as methods of reading education illustrated with case studies. The book fair displayed children's books recommended by the Ministry of Education and Government Information Office. The events sought to deepen and broaden reading activities through by listening, telling, reading, writing and performing stories, and thereby foster children's ability for creative thinking and self-expression.

■ *Hakka Library Opens*

Taiwan's first Hakka themed library opened in Taipei's Da-an District. The library has over 5,000 Hakka-related books, academic papers and periodicals and has become a magnet for Hakka people to link up and read up about their roots. The centrally located library also serves as an excellent place for non-Hakka people to learn more about Hakka culture. (Chinese text excerpted from ETtoday, June 21, 2006)

■ *Reading Room Opens at East District Office in Taichung*

The East District Office of Taichung City officially opened a reading room to expand services to district residents. Occupying the second floor of the District Office building, the reading room took half a year to plan and was completed at the end of June 2006. The reading needs of cultural district residents were originally served by a community library that has also hosted numerous cultural and art activities since opening in 1990. However, the library was situated at the southern

end of the district, making it difficult to reach for those in the east and north. The new centrally located reading room puts the joy of books within easier reach of all the district residents.

■ *Sunflower Library Opens*

The Sunflower Community Library opened in Pingtung County, providing a weekend haven for children to read, surf the internet and play. Spearheaded by a married couple working for the Pingtung County Government, the library brings together community resources and took three years to achieve. Open every Saturday and Sunday, the library extends a helping hand to single parents, with volunteer moms providing babysitting service on a rotational basis. (Chinese text excerpted from ETtoday, May 3, 2006)

Seminars

■ *"2006 OCLC and Library Dialogue" Conference*

Sponsor: National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) Library, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) Library, OCLC
Date: June 6, 2006 (North Session), June 8, 2006 (South Session)
Place: NTNU Library (North), NSYSU (South)

■ *Seminar on "New Trends in Digital Information Services"*

Sponsor: National Cheng Kung University Library

Date: June 23, 2006

Place: National Cheng Kung University Library

■ *EBSCO Seminar on "Future Trends of Digital Information Services in Asia"*

Sponsor: EBSCO, EBSCO (Taiwan)

Date: June 29, 2006

Place: Sheraton Taipei Hotel (morning); National Taiwan University Main Library (Afternoon)

■ *2006 Seminar on Added Value Technology for Digital Archives*

Sponsor: Digital Cultural Content Association, Applications and Services Division of the National Digital Archives Program

Supported by: Graduate Institute of Networking and Multimedia at National Taiwan University Axis 3D Technology, Natural Data

Date: June 30, 2006

Place: Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering, National Taiwan University

■ *International Seminar on the Development of Digital Libraries*

Sponsor: Department of Library and Information Science, National Taiwan University

Supported by: American Society for Information Science and Technology (Taipei Chapter)

Date: August 10-11, 2006

Place: National Taiwan University Library

Exhibitions

■ *Exhibition of Taiwan Folk Agreements in the NCL Collection*

The National Central Library (NCL) collection contains over 2,400 private exchange agreements dating from between 1836 to 1951. A total of 79 such agreements were put on display as part of a special exhibition, including documents recording the sale of persons and houses and the adoption of son-in-laws. The majority of the agreements date back to the Japanese occupation era, and the second largest number are from the Qing period. The documents offer a glimpse at the evolution of Taiwanese society between the mid 19th century and the mid 20th century, particularly with regards to gender relations.

Marriage agreements account for the majority of the documents, including agreements formed by parents seeking sons-in-law for their natural-born or adopted daughters (the first adoption of a son-in-law), seeking sons-in-law as second husbands (due to the death of the first husband or remarriage after divorce), parents seeking a husband for their widowed daughter-in-law, or grandparents seeking a husband for their granddaughter or niece. Agreements in the adoption category include adoption of persons with the same family name, adoption of sons with a different family names, and adoption of girls along with the seeking of a husband to pass on the family name, and even for the raising of a mother's minor children to adulthood after remarriage and subsequent return