



Secretary Chen You-min presents a memorial photo album to Director General Juang on behalf of the library staff. (Photo by Caesar Tsai)

### *Mongolian Library Directors Visit Taiwan*

National Library of Mongolia Director Akim Gotov and Book Palace Children's Director Oyunbileg Damdinsuren visited the NCL on February 1 to 8 to promote international cultural and book exchanges. The visitors learned more about the NCL's digital conversion work, attended the 15th Taipei International Book Exhibition, and visited the main branch and Beitou branch of the Taipei Public Library, Lin Yu-tang Memorial Library, Mongolian and Tibetan Culture Center, and National Palace Museum.

NCL Director Juang previously visited the National Library of Mongolia from August 22 to 30, 2006, at the invitation of Director Akim. At that time, the two sides discussed plans to establish book exchanges and cooperation on digital resources. Exchange relations were successfully formed between the two sides with assistance from the Ministry of Education and its overseas units.



National Library of Mongolia Director Akim Hatagin Gotov (fourth from right), Book Palace Children's Director Oyunbileg Damdinsuren (fifth from left), NCL Director Juang Fang-rung, and NCL staff (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)



National Library of Mongolia Director Akim Hatagin Gotov (third from right), Book Palace Children's Director Oyunbileg Damdinsuren (center) at the Beitou branch of the Taipei Public Library with branch directors Ms. Lu Pao-kui (third from left) and Mr. Poh Yun-feng (far right). (Photo provided by Cheng Bao Mei)

### *Connecting the Genealogical Dots Across the Taiwan Strait*

Taiwan and the southeast coastal area of mainland China are closely connected both by

geography and nearly 400 years of migration across the Taiwan Strait. Genealogical documents in the mainland are an important resource in tracing the connection of long-time residents in Taiwan to their ancestral roots in the mainland.

In order to better understand the status of these resources as a reference for the NCL's collection development, Mr. Huang Wen-te and Ms. He Pei-chi of the Reader Services Division visited major libraries and research institutes in Fuzhou and Xiamen, China, from December 18 to 21, 2006. On December 22, they continued on to Hong Kong to visit the Centre of Asian Studies and Hung On-To Memorial Library at the University of Hong Kong.

On December 19, the visitors went to Fujian Normal University (FNU). The university's old library at Changanshan has a collection of over 19,000 rare book titles (over 200,000 volumes), including more than a hundred volumes of newly transcribed genealogies. FNU also has over a thousand western-language publications on the Fujian area. Due to the geographical proximity of Taiwan and Fujian, these resources are useful for the study of western influence on Taiwan in the 19th to early 20th centuries. FNU is a member of the China Academic Library & Information System (CALIS) and is now digitally converting its rare books to improve access to these resources for research.

On December 20 to 21, Mr. Huang and Ms. He visited the Xiamen University for a meeting with Humanities School dean Prof. Chen Zhiping and Prof. Chao Xiaohong, who introduced the local experience in the development of genealogical research and resource collection. Interest in genealogical compilation has enjoyed a resurgence in the coastal areas of Fujian after nearly 20 years of rapid economic development there. At the same time,

however, attention to older genealogical documents has languished. In order to preserve these resources, Prof. Chen has personally compiled over a thousand genealogies related to Taiwan and Fujian and preserved them at Xiamen University's Humanities Museum. More than 10 of these resources have been recorded in the *Tai-wan wen-xian hui-kan* (Taiwan Documents Series). The museum also contains a large number of Taiwan and Fujian genealogies and resources on Taiwan aboriginal research compiled by the late museum founder Prof. Lin Huixiang.

On the afternoon of December 20, the NCL visitors went to the Xiamen Archives Bureau and toured the Koxinga Museum on Gulangyu Island. Although the bureau does not store genealogies, it has a large number of records of the local activities of Taiwanese people from 1935 to 1945. At the Koxinga Museum, over 10,000 rare books are preserved. The collection comprises more than one thousand genealogies, including valuable resources on the clan of Cheng Chung-kung (Koxinga).

On December 22, Mr. Huang and Ms. Wang visited the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong. They exchanged views with researchers on the development of oral history, collection of genealogical and historical resources, and digital collection development in Hong Kong. The center is currently carrying out a "Hong Kong Oral History Archives Project." In addition to its ongoing discussion of theoretical and research methods, the center has been promoting public awareness and education in the areas of local history, documents, and historical photographs. The center has completed records of more than 180 oral history interviews. The university's Hung On-To Memorial Library is in charge of preserving these records and developing a search system for the materials. With

assistance from the University of Hong Kong Libraries, the NCL visitors then went to the library's Special Collections department to learn about regulations on general reader access to collection resources and the collection environment for oral records. (Chinese text by Huang Wen-te)



From left to right: Xiamen University Humanities School Prof. Chao Xiaohong, Ms. He Pei-chi and Mr. Huang Wen-te. (Photo provided by Huang Wen-te)

### ***Taipei Public Library Introduces "My Librarian" Information Service***

The Taipei Public Library (TPL) launched a personalized information service called "My Librarian" in January 2007. For a small fee, readers can request a print out of information sources compiled by a TPL librarian based on their specific area of need.

The TPL handles more than 2,000 information service requests every month. The library has found that despite the availability of online resources, many readers do not know how to access such resources and therefore require human assistance in their

information searches. The My Librarian service is aimed at meeting this need.

My Librarian comprises two types of personalized service. One is a new knowledge reporting system, including reports of new books in areas of a reader's particular interest, summarized information on special topics, and a news clipping service. The other is a research information service system, including library use and specialized study research information services.

The new book notification service is free and an NT\$30 fee is charged for book and periodical thesis information, specialized information and newspaper clipping services. The library-use research information service costs NT\$300, and the specialized research service costs NT\$500. Readers can request weekly, monthly or quarterly reports. With the research information service, a librarian will first guide the reader on a virtual search to help him or her find the information they need.

Readers can apply for the service online at the library website ([www.tpml.edu.tw](http://www.tpml.edu.tw)) or by calling (02) 27553554. (Chinese text excerpted from the United Daily News 2006/12/26)

### ***Mobile "Book Box" Service Opens in Nantou***

The Cultural Bureau of the Nantou County Government kicked off a "book box" mobile book loan service on January 10, 2007, adding a welcome new resource for readers in the county. Arranged with assistance from the National Taichung Library and a Nantou County 921 Earthquake relief account, the service makes 240 boxes of high-quality books available to schools, kindergartens, daycare centers, and community reading clubs in Nantou County. There are currently 60 boxes of books each at Cultural