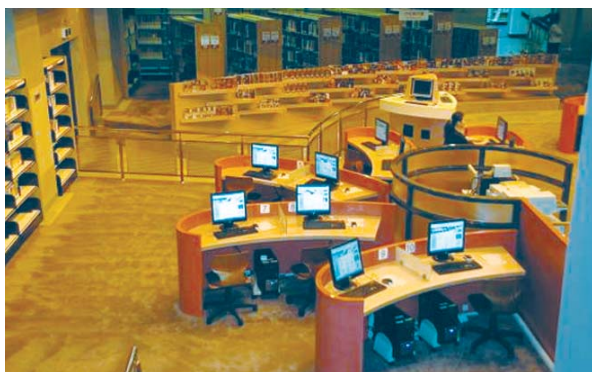




VIPs attending the opening ceremony for the NCL's Arts and Audiovisual Center included Minister of Education Cheng Jeï-cheng (center), Legislator Hung Hsiu-chu (fourth from left), Ministry of Education (MOE) Specialist Kung Ya-wen (far right), Shih Hsin University President Lai Ting-ming (far left), National Taiwan Library Director-general Huang Wen-ling (second from right), former director-general of the National Taichung Library Shiu-an-chyn Yang (third from right), former NCL directors-general Tseng Chi-chun (third from left) and Wang Wen-lu (second from left), and current NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (fourth from right).



The second floor VOD viewing area

Events

■ NCL and NTU Hold Bai Xianyong Lecture Series

National Taiwan University (NTU) and the National Central Library (NCL) co-sponsored a lecture series on the "Artistic and Literary World of

Bai Xianyong" from September 20 to 21, 2008, at the NCL Conference Hall. The series was held in conjunction with the inauguration of NTU's Bai Xianyong Literature lecture course, which was funded with donations from Trend Micro. The event was also timed with the publication of the 12-volume *Collected Works of Bai Xianyong* by Commonwealth Publishing Group.

The opening ceremony was hosted by Prof. Yeh Kuo-liang, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at NTU. NTU Vice President George Chen, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku, and Trend Micro Chief Culture Officer Jenny Chang gave speeches at the ceremony. Director-general Ku said that, as a reader, he hopes that Bai Xianyong will produce more outstanding works, in which case Mr. Bai's new publication could more accurately be called the "Semi-complete Works of Bai Xianyong." He also said that if Mr. Bai could author a book in the league of Tolstoy's *War and Peace* on the transformation of Chinese culture at this time, it would stand a good chance of winning a Nobel prize and open up a new chapter of studies on Bai Xianyong. Director-general Ku also accepted an autographed copy of *Collected Works of Bai Xianyong* presented by Mr. Bai for the NCL permanent collection.

The two-day series turned a spotlight on the artistic and literary works of Mr. Bai over the past 70 years. A total of six lectures were arranged on Mr. Bai's achievements in the areas of novels, dance,



Mr. Bai Xianyong (left) with NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (right)

television dramas, movies, and Kunshan music. There was also a general lecture on "Suddenly Looking Back: Modern Literature!" Mr. Bai participated in all of the lectures and fielded questions from the attendees, which included about 300 scholars and research students from Taiwan and overseas. (Chinese text by Keng Li-chun)

■ *74th IFLA General Conference and Council*

Over 4,000 library and information science leaders from 140 countries and areas converged at the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC): 74th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Congress and Council, held on August 10 to 14, 2008, at the Quebec Congress Center in Canada. The theme of this year's WLIC was "Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding."



NCL staff with US Library of Congress Associate Librarian Dr. Deanna Marcum (second from right) at the World Digital Library meeting

Taiwan sent a 15-person delegation representing 11 organizations to attend the conference this year, led by National Taiwan University (NTU) Library Director Chen Hsueh-hua. The National Central Library (NCL) was represented at the conference by Dr. Armande Liao of the International Publication Exchange Department, Director Yu Hsiao-ming of the Acquisition Division, and Ms. Cheng Pao-mei of



IFLA President Dr. Claudia Lux (second from right) with NCL staff

the Reader Services Division.

In addition to attending the various meetings arranged during the conference, the three NCL representatives participated in the World Digital Library Stakeholders and Partners Meeting and Reception held by the US Library of Congress on the evening of August 10. The meeting introduced the objectives, status and participating organizations of the World Digital Library (WDL) project. The WDL was initiated by UNESCO and is administered by the US Library of Congress. The library is scheduled to be officially launched in Paris in April 2009. As of July 2008, the WDL had 17 cooperation partners, including the NCL, which is currently the only participating library from Asia.

The NCL is currently represented on nine IFLA sections, including standing committee positions for the Genealogy and Local History Section and Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section from 2007 to 2011. Ms. Cheng actively participated in the standing committee of the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section at the 2007 IFLA conference in Durban, South Africa. This year, Director Yu and Ms. Cheng again attended the standing committee of this section with funding support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education.