

cooperation agreements with the General Sciences Library of Ho-chi-Minh City, Library and Information Center, Vietnam National University of Hanoi, and the Institute of Han Nom Studies Library. The agreements were signed in triplicate, with Chinese, Vietnamese and English versions.

According to the agreements, the cooperation between the two sides will include: 1. Exchange of general and specialized books, periodicals, documents and other publications; 2. Digitization of documents and rare books; 3. Cooperation on bibliographic resources and a rare books bibliographic database; 4. Cooperation on the publication of monographs on topics of mutual interest to the two sides; and 5. Exchanges of experience on library services and activities, exchange visits, and joint international symposiums. The involved libraries also agreed later to formulate the details of joint research plans based on individual cases.



*Group photo was taken after signing a cooperation agreement. General Sciences Library Deputy Director Duong Thi Hoang Thu (second from right) and Research and Counseling Department Director Le Thi Thanh Thuy (far right) with NCL Acquisition Division Director Yu Hsiao-ming (second from left) and Dr. Armande Liao (far left) of the NCL International Publication Exchange Department.*

### ■ **NCL Promotes Chinese Studies Library**

A national library is a symbol of a nation's cultural attainment, serving the important dual

functions of preserving a country's cultural roots and expanding into new realms. A national library not only provides information, but also plays an active role in society. A national library also serves as a link and communication bridge between libraries and academic institutions to support cooperative development of academic research and library affairs.

The "Chinese Studies Library" is a plan recently initiated by the National Central Library (NCL) to expand external services in cooperation with academic research organizations and various institutions. The Chinese Studies Library will extend the scope of knowledge services and cooperation ties of the library in the field of Chinese studies.

The objectives of the Chinese Studies Library plan are as follows:

1. Providing spatial planning and assisting with the establishment of an environment for the Chinese Studies Library:

The NCL will assist with the planning of spaces and resources for the Chinese Studies Library and provide areas for resource sharing and the display of rare book images.

2. Integrating information services and establishing a special website with search functions:

A high-quality website with bilingual and barrier-free content will be established to access the services and resources of the Chinese Studies Library. The website will integrate all NCL databases, including databases for periodicals and thesis papers, government information, Chinese studies, rare books, recently published books, union catalogs, digital archive, etc. The site will also provide consulting services on new books, periodicals and thesis papers for Chinese Studies.

3. Arranging lectures by international and local Sinologists and promoting "Global Chinese Studies Lectures":

In addition to supporting research in Taiwan by outstanding visiting Sinologists, the NCL invites international and local Sinologists to present lectures at the library. The NCL will recommend these

visiting scholars and Sinologists as lecturers at cooperating institutions to promote exchanges and cooperation.

4. Holding lectures to promote library resources and utilization:

The NCL plans a series of lectures on collection resources and library utilization to heighten awareness of these resources and enhance information retrieval and management capabilities. These courses cover: periodicals and thesis papers, government information, the NCL E-Learning Campus, rare books, reference resources, Daily Advance Notice of New Publications, library bibliography resources and Chinese studies resources.

Several universities are in talks with the NCL over the promotion of work related to the Chinese Studies Library project. In future, the NCL will further establish cooperative ties through various channels to achieve mutual benefits, initiate academic research and promote cultural reading. (Chinese text provided by the Special Collection Division, NCL; and Materials Division, Center for Chinese Studies)

Appendix: Summary of "Global Chinese Studies Lectures"

- The Riddle of Ancient Writing: The Position of Women in the Shang Period as Revealed in the Oracle Bone Inscriptions from the Yin Ruins
- The Traditional Character Script of the Zhuang People of Guangxi: A New Approach to Sinology and Southeast Asian Studies
- Modernity in Classical-style Verse: Fan Zengxiang's 'Song of Rainbow Cloud' and the Popular Legend of Sai Jinhua, Cross-cultural Courtesan of the Late Qing Era
- Taiwan on the Eve of the 21st Century: The Transformation of Symbols, Rituals, and Prejudices
- Culture, Style and Globalism: The Reception of Western Ornament in China and Taiwan
- Text, Metatext and Figure in Liu Xie's *Wen xin diao long*: Reading the Xuzhi chapter

· Traversing a Thousand Li and Ten Thousand Books: A Look at Wang Zhen-yi and Her Writings on Astrological Studies

· Qian Mu and His Historical Concept

· The Evolution of the Jiading County Local History from 1557 to 1605: The "Chaste Maiden Zhang" Incident and More

Video recordings of these lectures are available for online viewing.

■ *Daily Advance Notice of New Publications in Taiwan*

In July 1989 the NCL assumed the responsibility over ISBN affairs for new publications in Taiwan. In February of the following year, the ISBN Center was formally established. At the same time, the ISBN Center has been promoting CIP operations for nearly 20 years. During this time, the center has assigned ISBN for about 675,000 new books from over 18,000 publishers. The ISBN Center publishes the bibliographic information for new books registered by publishers (including publishing houses, government institutions, academic organizations and individuals) for ISBN/CIP on the "ISBNnet," *New Books: Recent and Forthcoming Publications in Taiwan, ROC, and "ISBNnet News."* Such information includes a classified catalog, book introductions, book reviews, reader comments, and children's book reviews. The center also provides comments on award-winning books and selects representative annual reference works and the top representative Taiwan publications of the year, in addition to various other new book information services. In January 2009, the center further expanded its service scope with the launch of the "Daily Advance Notice of New Publications Service," as described below:

1. The Daily Advance Notice of New Publications Service is based on bibliographic information for new book provided by Taiwan publishers to the ISBN Center for ISBN/CIP registration. The system provides regularly scheduled information