



Participants in the 2009 NCL Visiting Scholar Cultural Tour (Photo by Caesar Tsai)

view of the alluvial plains of the Da-an River. After entering the kiln area, the visitors were greeted by a rustic scene of farmland checkered with irrigation channels. The group first toured the front garden guided by Ms. Li Jung-shan, who provided an in-depth introduction to the local ecology, wood kilns, and garden landscape art. At noon, the group was treated to a fortifying "rice cutting" lunch of rice, meat and veggies in the style traditionally prepared by rice farmers during the harvest season. After lunch, the visitors toured the botanical garden and enjoyed the local scenic beauty. The group then let their creativity go wild at the pottery wheel, with guidance from of a master ceramist. On the way back, the group stopped at Gongguan Township for dinner before returning home. (Chinese text by Caesar Tsai)

■ *Full-text Database of CCS Publications*

Since its establishment in 1981, the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) has contributed extensively to the field of Chinese studies through the compilation and publication of academic resources in Taiwan and abroad. In 1982, the center launched its quarterly *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* and the semiannual *Chinese Studies* (which became a quarterly in 2008). Over the years, both periodicals have earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence of editorial standards and content. For over 25 years, they have provided a wealth of

information on Chinese studies and been widely cited in the field both in Taiwan and around the world. Recently the CCS decided to make the content of both publications available online through its "Full-text Database of CCS Publications" to make these resources accessible to a broader readership.

Launched at the end of 2008, the database can be accessed from the CCS website from the "Subject Database" link (<http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/ccs/TW/ExpertDB7.asp>). The main database functions include browsing by publication title and issue and simple and integrated search by category, article title, author, abstract or keywords. All articles can be viewed online in PDF format or downloaded and printed. The database currently comprises the full content of 55 issues of *Chinese Studies* and 108 issues of the *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies*, including articles, thesis summaries, research reports, seminar news, introductions to Chinese studies programs, academic news, new book reviews, and other information related to Chinese studies, totaling about 2,300 full-text images. The CCS is also seeking copyright authorizations to expand the database content and further promote Chinese studies. (Chinese text by Sun Hsiu-ling)

NCL Publications

■ *2008 NCL Annual Report*

Seventy-six years have passed since the National Central Library (NCL) was founded in Nanjing in 1933. Since then, the library has evolved with the changing political, economic and technologic landscape, moving to Taiwan in 1949, relocating to new facilities, and developing services to meet the needs of the time. Throughout it all, however, one thing has remained constant, and that is the library's role in preserving culture and promoting knowledge.

NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku once said that: "Libraries should evolve in a way that does not affect the consistency of their contribution to society.