



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.

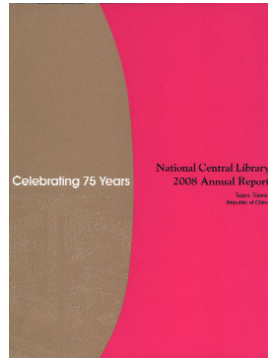
Launched at the end of 2008, the database can be accessed from the CCS website from the "Subject Database" link (<http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/ccs/TW/ExpertDB7.asp>). The main database functions include browsing by publication title and issue and simple and integrated search by category, article title, author, 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.



Different types of libraries provide support for different types of societies and organizations. A national library naturally provides reading support, information support and knowledge support services on a national scale." The entire staff of the NCL should therefore devote its full efforts to meeting the challenges of the new century.

To this end, and in order to better inform the public of the library's operations, the NCL published its first-ever annual report. Entitled the *National Central Library 2008 Annual Report: Celebrating 75 Years*, the report is arranged into chapters offering a glimpse at the library's achievements in the areas of annual work plans and utilization of government budget and social resources, while also embodying the principle of open government information. (Chinese text by Wu Ying-mei)

■ *Agrarian Life in Early Taiwan: A Collection of Photographs by He Hui-kuang*

Photographer He Hui-kuang opens a window to rural life in Taiwan's Yunlin, Chiayi, and Nantou counties during the 1970s and 80s in a series of 148 photographs donated in digital form to the NCL. In order to bring these images to a wider audience, the library recently published a selection of these photos in an album titled *Agrarian Life in Early Taiwan: A Collection of Photographs by He Hui-kuang*. This is the second album of old photographs on life in early Taiwan to be produced by the NCL since the publication of "*Photographic Memories: Historic Photos of Taiwan (Vol. 1)*."

The cover of Agrarian Life in Early Taiwan: A Collection of Photographs by He Hui-kuang



A self-portrait of He Hui-kuang

In these photos, Mr. He has captured portraits agrarian life in Taiwan, from people and events to culture and the natural environment, framing the ordinary in a way that brings the subjects vividly to life. Fishermen, elderly women, homes, work and rest, clothing, weddings, funerals, landscapes, and temple activities all immortalized under Mr. He's lens, taking one back across time to the Taiwan of old. (Chinese text by Sung Mei-chen)

■ *Taichung during the Japanese Occupation Period*

Taichung during the Japanese Occupation Period is the volume 3 in a series of Images of Taiwan. This series include *Taipei during the Japanese Occupation Period* and *Tainan during the Japanese Occupation Period*.