NCL and National Civil Service Institute Team Up to Promote Nonpartisanship

In order to further provide a high-quality learning environment, promote reading and resource sharing, and upgrade services, the NCL signed a cooperation agreement with the National Civil Service Institute (NCSI) on April 15. NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and National Civil Service Institute Director Liao Shi-li jointly presided at the signing ceremony. Other VIPs at the ceremony included Deputy Director-general Hsiung Tsung-hua of the Ministry of Education and Deputy Director-general Lin Yang-jey of the Civil Service Protection and Training Commission.

In a speech during the ceremony Director-general Ku expressed high hopes for the cooperation between the two sides, describing the alliance as a new milestone in interagency cooperation. Noting that the NCSI's three major missions are national civil service training, nonpartisan training, and continuing education, Director-general Ku said that the partnership would enable the two organizations to work jointly for the goals of civil servant neutrality and knowledge neutrality, with additional benefits for knowledge dissemination.

The agreement covers cooperation between the NCL and NCSI in promoting book utilization and educational courses and holding reading promotion and international exchange activities, as well as NCL assistance to the NCSI in planning acquisitions and international exchanges for institute reading room collection. The NCL will also provide the NCSI access to its digital collection resources to support education and research at the institute. The two sides also hope to integrate their resources to provide deeper knowledge services to persons in each other's service scope.

In addition, the NCL and NCSI signed a follow-up agreement to cooperate on promoting civil service education in conjunction with World Book Day. The two sides subsequently held a "2009 World Book Day: Reading Promotion Workshop Activity," April 23, marking a positive start to the new alliance.

National Central Library Strategic Plan 2009-2012 (Outline)

In the dawn of the new era, the fast development of internet technology has had a serious impact on library services. Nations around the world, from England and Australia to neighboring Singapore and Hong Kong, have drafted new development goals and strategies in response to the advancement of knowledge and technology. Such strategies aim to achieve progress in library services and sustainable development. The National Central Library (NCL) drafted this Strategic Plan to lay a national foundation for library development in Taiwan. Formulated in conjunction with the Ministry of Education’s policy guidelines for 2009 to 2013, as well as grassroots reading cultivation and spatial reform plans for libraries, the Strategic Plan will serve as a set of guidelines for the development of the NCL from 2009 to 2012.

I. Mission

In pace with the global information society, to preserve national documents, disseminate knowledge, facilitate lifelong learning, and ensure sustainable development of Sinology.

II. Vision

To ensure sustainable development of libraries
and librarianship—Construct a world-class library that consolidates the world’s academic and cultural resources, leads in the quest for knowledge, and offers a continuous flow of new ideas and wisdom.

III. Administrative Aims

1. Coordinate with information policies to upgrade the social values of libraries.
2. Synchronize with world trends to develop high quality library human resources.
3. Advocate the concept of knowledge consumerism to offer target-group service.
4. Promote knowledge management and implement knowledge-support engineering.
5. Construct a meta-library and develop NCL into a world knowledge base.

IV. Administrative Goals & Descriptions

i. Goal One: Collection Grading and Distribution System

1. Plan a library collection development policy.
2. Establish a Library Collection Grading and Distribution System.
3. Highlight the uniqueness of the National Central Library Collection.
4. Provide high-quality and graded reader services.

ii. Goal Two: Consolidate Bibliographic Resources

1. Consolidate bibliographic records of the NCL to lower the cost of cataloging.
2. Upgrade cataloging efficiency to satisfy the needs of users.
3. Strengthen electronic resources processing to expand the scope of search on library’s collections.
4. Promote international bibliographic sharing to bring Chinese publications to the international society.
5. Enhance technical standards to build a cross-domain resource sharing mechanism for authority resources.
6. Advocate bibliographic cooperative cataloging and sharing and promote union catalog services.

iii. Goal Three: Strengthen Knowledge Services

1. Establish a knowledge consultation support mechanism to reinforce reference services.
2. Provide personalized knowledge service to promote knowledge dissemination.
3. Promote Sinology research and knowledge services to support academic studies.

iv. Goal Four: Upgrade Physical and Virtual Environments

1. Enliven spaces and innovate services.
2. Improve the virtual reading environment.

v. Goal Five: Participation on International Activities

1. Upgrade the level and scale of international cooperation.
2. Increase the library’s international visibility and influence.
3. Continue digital cooperation programs and joint development of rare book resources.
4. Upgrade the world vision and professional abilities of library personnel.

V. Strategies and Programs

i. Strategy One: Establish a Graded Collection Management System to Provide Target-Group Services

Programs:
1. Amend the library collection development policy.
2. Reinforce special collections acquirement programs.
3. Graded collection management program.
4. Arts and audiovisual promotion program.
ii. Strategy Two: Establish a Bibliographic Backbone System Platform to Integrate and Share Bibliographic Resources
Programs:
1. Bibliography working procedure improvement program.
2. Shared bibliography recording platform program.
3. Electronic resource cataloging program.
4. International bibliographic exchange program.
5. Authority records conversion program.
6. Union catalog service program.

iii. Strategy Three: Establish a Knowledge Support and Consultation System to Provide In-depth Knowledge Service
Programs:
1. Expert consultation service program.
2. New publications advance notice service program.
3. Theses and dissertations research support program.
4. Chinese periodical bibliography research support program.
5. Contemporary literature knowledge support program.
6. Knowledge resources alerting service integration program.

iv. Strategy Four: Construct a Physical and Virtual Public Reading Environment to Upgrade the Quality of Reading and Literacy
Programs:
1. Space redesign and innovative service program.
2. New knowledge dissemination and international culture service program.
3. Establish the National Central Library infrastructure service management System.
4. Integration and improvement of the National Central Library’s World Wide Web portal.
5. Establish a National Central Library blog management system.
6. Establish a National Central Library e-books collection authorization and management system.

v. Strategy Five: Reinforce International Exchange and Academic Participation to Expand the Influence of Taiwan
Programs
1. Professional exchange space development plan.
2. Upgrade the world vision of the librarians plan.
3. Upgrade the National Central Library’s international visibility and influence plan.
4. Develop the international rare books digital cooperation program.
5. Active participation in the world digital library program.

VI. Expected Effects and Influences
i. Establish a graded collection management system to maximize the effect of national document archiving and information services for the public
Programs:
1. Construct the NCL featured collection and support the development of academic research.
2. Provide reference documents for public administration to reinforce the soft power of the nation.
3. Complete the graded collection management system to ensure maximum preservation of the national documents.
4. Establish a focus-service model to reinforce the services of the Arts & Audiovisual
services.

ii. Complete establishment of the bibliography backbone system platform, consolidate the bibliography system, indexes, and value-added services
1. Minimize the cost of bibliography processing and provide bibliography resource-sharing services.
2. Speed up cataloging processes to enhance the timeliness of bibliographic services.
3. Expand the scope of bibliography index search and provide index services for the electronic collection.
4. Complete the bibliography exchange mechanism and promote internationalization of Chinese bibliography.
5. Upgrade the usage of subject standards and promote catalog enquiry clustering functions.
6. Redevelop the National Standard Bibliography to extend the diversified functions of the union catalog.

iii. Complete establishment of the knowledge support system, upgrade the quality of reference service, and speed up knowledge dissemination
1. Upgrade the quality of reference consultation services.
2. Speed up dissemination of knowledge industry news.
3. Support research and upgrade research quality.
4. Establish interactive platform to enliven services.
5. Consolidate resources to increase the value of knowledge.
6. Promote Chinese Studies Library to facilitate cultural development.

iv. Complete the establishment of a high-quality virtual reading environment to reinforce libraries’ role in knowledge dissemination
1. Reinforce the role of NCL’s education and exhibition spaces in the process of knowledge dissemination.
2. Quality internet environments provide free-access online reading facilities and increase the interest in reading.

v. Expand the level and scope of international exchange to increase the influence of the NCL
1. Upgrade the level and scale of international cooperation.
2. Increase the library’s international visibility and influence.
4. Expand the world vision and professional abilities of library personnel.

Events

NCL Director-general Visits France

NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku visited France on April 17 to 22, 2009, to strengthen exchange ties with the French library community. Director-general Ku was accompanied by NCL colleague Mr. Tu Li-chung on the trip, during which he also attended the World Digital Library (WDL) partners meeting on April 20 and WDL inaugural ceremony on April 21.

The director-general’s itinerary included visits to the Lyon Municipal Library, Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3, National Library of France, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Maison de Balzac in Paris.

On April 18, Director-general Ku visited the Lyon Municipal Library (France’s biggest public library), where he was received by library Director Patrick Bazin and Valentina de Monte, director of