

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.
3. Enhance international joint rare book resource development.
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

the library's Chinese collection. Director Bazin thanked the NCL for its long-time support of international exchanges and expressed hope that the two sides would strengthen cooperation. Director Bazin has visited Taiwan to study public library operations. He also expressed strong interest in showcasing rare books and Chinese publications in the Lyon Municipal Library collection at the Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE).



Director-general Karl Min Ku (second from left) with Lyon Municipal Library Director Patrick Bazin (second from right) and Valentina de Monte, director of the library's Chinese collection (left)

On April 19, Director-general Ku continued on to the Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3 (Université Lyon III), where he toured the Bibliothèque Lettres et Langues, accompanied by university Vice President Gregory Lee and Chinese Department Director Florent Villard. Université Lyon III's Chinese Department, previously headed by Prof. Lee, has a long history of East Asian research, with an emphasis on cross-cultural studies. The university library and the NCL have been long-term exchange partners. Director-general Ku noted that Taiwanese culture brings together a unique mix of Dutch, mainland Chinese, Japanese, European, U.S. and aboriginal influences, making it an excellent place for cross-cultural studies in Chinese society. He noted that in order to expand the university's limited collection of Taiwan publications, the two sides could consider establishing a "Taiwan Collection."



Director-general Karl Min Ku and Professor Gregory Lee (second from right), the first vice president of the Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3, with Mr. Florent Villard (right), director of the university's Chinese Department and head of the research library (left)

On April 20, Director-general Ku visited the Division de l'écrit et des médiathèques at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), where he was received by Division head Ms. Stéphane Dovert, Director Laurence Eme and Mr. Jean-Louis Desmeure. The division is in charge of promoting the overseas translation of French publications, assisting with copyright licensing affairs and helping overseas libraries and institutions. Director-general Ku proposed that the two sides promote exchanges and mutually plan and participate in book exhibitions, including TIBE and Salon du Livre in Paris. The division said it would fully assist with such work and suggested that the Taiwan side contact the Bureau International de l'Édition Française (BIEF). Director Dovert also expressed interest in the scholarships available for visiting scholars at the Center for Chinese Studies and requested additional information from the NCL.

Later that day, Director-general Ku visited the National Library of France (NLF) for a meeting with the library director and other library personnel. He encouraged the two libraries to strengthen personnel exchange visits and suggested that the NLF could establish a "Taiwan Publications Section." He said that the Taiwan side could provide publications on Taiwanese history, society, cinema and other areas to

augment the NLF collection. In addition, Director-general Ku proposed that the two sides could cooperate on the digital conversion of Chinese language materials. He also invited the NLF to participate in the 2010 TIBE, and suggested that the two sides could arrange seminars and literary and cultural exchanges. NLF Director General Jacqueline Sanson presented Director-general Ku with a copy of *En français dans le texte, dix siècles de lumières par le livre*. She noted that if the NLF participates in TIBE, it could display French publications from the library collection, including older printed works, manuscripts, and hand-illustrated historic and modern digital resources.



Director-general Karl Min Ku (third from left), National Library of France (NLF) Director General Jacqueline Sanson (third from right), the director of the NLF international publication exchange department (second from left), and ROC Ambassador to France Michel Ching-long Lu (far right)

On April 21, Director-general Ku toured the Maison de Balzac in Paris, guided by Director Yves Gagneux. In late 2010, the museum will hold an exhibition on the French novelist Honoré de Balzac at the National Museum of Taiwan Literature in Tainan. It also hopes to arrange an exhibition in Taipei.

The World Digital Library (WDL) was spearheaded by the U.S. Library of Congress and established with support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization



NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and U.S. Library of Congress Librarian James Billington in the first WDL business meeting in Paris (20th April 2009)

(UNESCO). It currently has 32 member libraries, including the NCL, which formally joined the cooperation plan in July of 2008. In the afternoon of April 20, Director-general Ku attended the WDL members' conference, during which he and the other participants exchanged views on content and technical issues related to the WDL.

After extensive exchanges with representatives of major libraries of the world, Director-general Ku wrapped up a successful visit that greatly upgraded the international status of the NCL. (Chinese text by Tu Li-chung)

■ *NCL Celebrates 76th Anniversary*

The National Central Library (NCL) celebrated its 76th birthday on April 13, 2009, with a series of fun and educational activities. The events kicked off with the presentation of certificates of appreciation to organizations that donated books to the NCL over the past year. The event guests and library staff then toured the exhibition "Rediscovering the Three Kingdoms" organized by the Special Collection Division. Expert guides introduced the rare books, Lunar New Year paintings and rubbings on display, which combined elements of history, historical novels, and popular art. The visitors then went on a tour across time with activities on the history of the NCL, international cooperation, the library's policy objectives and strategies for 2009 to 2012, and