

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

"2009 National Central Library Service Year." Afterwards, everyone went to the nearby NCL Arts and Audiovisual Center for a performance of "Dance of the Three Kingdoms: Chinese Sliding-Block of the Battle of Red Cliffs." The activity came to a successful close with an impromptu hand puppet performance of the generals "Kong Ming and Chao Tzu-lung" by Legislative Yuan President Wang Jin-pyng and NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku.

In addition to the celebration activities, several high-quality publications produced by the NCL were presented, including *Agrarian Life in Early Taiwan, Taichung during the Japanese Occupation Period, Bibliography of Works on the May Fourth Movement, 1949-2009*, and the *National Central Library 2008 Annual Report: Celebrating 75 Years*. (Chinese text by Wu Ying-mei)

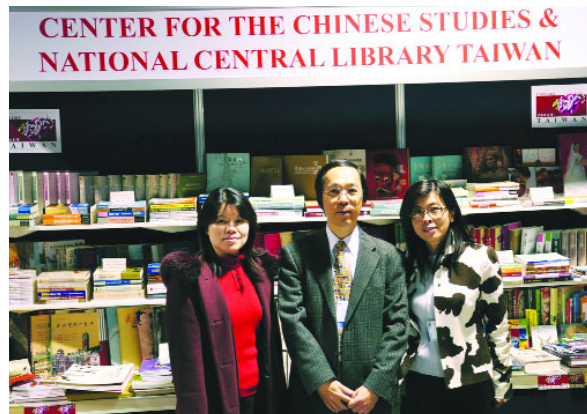


*Legislative Yuan President Wang Jin-pyng (left) and NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku give an impromptu performance of the generals "Kong Ming and Chao Tzu-lung".*

### ■ ***NCL Attends AAS Annual Meeting and Book Exhibition***

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS) held its 61st Annual Meeting on March 26 to 29, 2009, at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago. A total of 2,951 people attended and 249 papers were presented by scholars from around the world, reaffirming the event's central position in the field of Asian studies.

Mr. Chuang Chien-kuo, head of the Materials



*Mr. Chuang Chien-kuo (center) and staff of Taiwan's representative office in Chicago*

Division at the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) represented the NCL at the meeting and gave a presentation on the current status of Chinese Studies in Taiwan. He also presented a paper by NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku on "Bibliographic Information Services at the NCL: Current Status and Future Development" at the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) meeting. The paper introduced the most recent developments at the NCL to the attendees, representing the international library and Chinese studies communities.

At this year's book exhibition, 98 organizations presented publications at 128 booths. Books, periodicals, databases, and other digital resource on East Asian studies accounted for the majority of the resources on display during the three-day exhibition. Exhibitors came from the Europe, the US, and Asia. The NCL and CCS displayed a selection of over 300 books and CDs, including everything from general studies to academic monographs. The titles on display presented a representative view of the contributions made by government agencies in Taiwan to the field of Chinese studies.

The Taiwan exhibitors grouped their displays together as a "Taiwan Pavilion," successfully raising the profile of the exhibits. Other exhibitors apart from the NCL and CCS included Academia Sinica, Transmission Books and Microinfo Co., Linking Publishing Company, Tudor Tech System Co,