

astronaut Marsha S. Ivins of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) visited Taiwan to share her space mission experience during the event.

The two-week activity included exhibitions and lectures. The exhibitions focused on the themes of "outer space" and the "stars" as viewed by humanity over the millennia. The NCL arranged three special exhibitions of books on space and astronomy related topics, including "Secrets of the Heavens: An Exhibition of Rare Books on Astronomy and Calendars"; "Vicissitudes of the Stars: An Exhibition of Ancient Star Charts"; and the "Exploring Space Book Exhibition" focusing on lunar landing plans. Other events included "Man and the Moon: A Multimedia NASA Poster Exhibition"; "Beauty of the Stars," an exhibition of photos taken from observatories across the world; and "Exploring the Stars," an exhibition of photos by astronomy photographers in Taiwan.

During the event lecture series, astronaut Marsha S. Ivins and renowned astrophysicists Li Chiawei and Sun Weihsin presented their views on the next step in space exploration following the lunar landing. Other events, including the "Dialogue between Books and Man," "Lecture on Popular Science," "Evening Talks on the Stars," and a "Video Appreciation" further elaborated on the history of

humanity's quest to turn its star-filled dreams into reality.

■ *READncl Looks to the Future*

The READncl Service System will become history at the end of 2009, but its constituent databases—the "Index to Chinese Periodical Literature," "NCL Gazette Online" and "Contemporary Authors Full-text Image System"—will continue to be available as stand-alone resources from 2010. The "Index to Chinese Periodical Literature" will re-debut as the "Taiwan Periodical Thesis Index System" with the following functional enhancements:

- (1) Expanded Search: Users can search archived material dating back 20 years, twice the 10-year search period under the old system. At the end of 2009, the database will also be made fully open to the public, giving readers online access to nearly 40 years of resources without visiting the library.
- (2) User-friendly Search: Keyword searches, query analysis and expanded searches will all be available to improve the research utility of the service. Search results will automatically highlight the search words with links to extended search functions. Search results can also be sorted by title, category, and year to help users quickly filter out material of interest. From the enhanced search section, users can also link to thesis papers cited in the queried articles for further research.
- (3) Personalized Service: Other new functions include search histories so users can access previous search results without reentering search words. RSS feeds will also be provided for popular periodicals so readers can keep abreast of the latest publication news.
- (4) Full-text Access: The NCL is currently working on gaining copyright authorization for full-text electronic periodicals. Copyright authorized articles will be made available in PDF format for online browsing. Readers can also apply for copies of non-copyright authorized articles via the Nationwide



"New Era of Discovery" Dialogue (from left): Astronaut Marsha S. Ivins, Prof. Li Chiawei of the Department of Life Sciences, National Tsing Hua University; Dean Benjamin Fong Chao of the College of Earth Sciences, National Central University, and Dr. J.J. Miao, director general of the National Space Organization. (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Document Delivery System (NDDS).

■ ***NCL to Make Digital Resources Freely Available to the Public***

In 2010, NCL will make digital resources under the READncl Service System (<http://www.read.com.tw>) fully available to the public free of charge through the library website. Among the resources included will be the "Index to Chinese Periodical Literature," "NCL Gazette Online" and "Contemporary Taiwan Writers Database."

The READncl system is currently a fee-based service, and users can only view scanned materials online or request printed copies by post. The change in usage basis from 2010 is aimed at improving access to academic resources. In addition to free online browsing, users will be able to print resources with copyright authorization. Copyrighted materials will be made accessible from the library within an allowable scope, and copyright-expired academic documents will gradually be made available. Readers can also browse or print resources through the interlibrary cooperation system or apply for NCL document delivery services through the Nationwide Document Delivery Service (NDDS).

NCL International Exchange Events

April 15: Caryn Crump leads a five-person group study exchange visit from Rotary International District 7850 (Canada and Eastern United States) to the NCL, accompanied by 40 other people, including Rotary Southern Banqiao District President Chang Yifeng.



Caryn Crump (fourth from left) and other members of Rotary International District 7850. (Photo by Pinery S.Wu)

May 18: Dr. Richard W. Meyer, retired head librarian at the Georgia Institute of Technology Library, presents a lecture on "The Convergence Transformation of Library."



Dr. Richard W. Meyer (front left) with NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (front right). (Photo by Pinery S.Wu)

May 26: Michael Meng of the University of Washington participates in a "Library East-West Exchange Forum" about the Chinese Collection of the East Asia Library at the U.W and the results of the NCL's digitization work.



Michael Meng (right) with NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (left). (Photo by Pinery S.Wu)

June 12: A group of 28 mainland Chinese specialists visits the NCL, including Nanjing University Library Vice Director and Department of Information Management professor Bo Shao, Tsinghua University Library Vice Director Yang Yi, and Northeast Normal University Library Vice Director Liu Fangguo.

June 17: Bùi Xuân Dúc and Dúống Thi Hoàng Thú, director and vice director, respectively, of the General Sciences Library of Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam, visits the NCL.