

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ *WDL Chinese-Language Content Working Group Meeting*

The Chinese-Language Content Working Group Meeting of the World Digital Library (WDL) took place on 3 to 4 December 2009 in the U.S. Library of Congress (LOC) in Washington D.C., where attendants included: WDL Director John Van Oudenaren; U.S. LOC Asian Division Scholarly Services Head Dr. Mi Chu; NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and Director Yu Hsiao-ming; National Library of China (NLC) Deputy Director Dawei Wei and Director Sun Yigang; Princeton University East Asian Library Tai-loi Ma; and others.

This meeting came about from an agreement reached between Director Oudenaren and Director-general Ku at the 19 April WDL meeting in Paris. One half year after the meeting, the LOC Asian Division followed with an invitation. The main point of the meeting was to discuss how to clearly and concisely convey the essence of the development of traditional Chinese culture as evident in ancient Chinese texts, introducing it systematically to the world via the multilingual WDL platform.

The following main points were agreed upon during the meeting:

- 1) During the initial period of the process, three libraries with Chinese rare book collections, the NLC, LOC, and NCL, will jointly discuss the



Director-general Karl Min Ku (center) introduces NCL's digital image publications to Dr. James Billington (left), with Dr. Mi Chu (right)



issues involved in arranging the Chinese content for WDL.

- 2) The three main libraries have collections covering the same subject areas, for example, all three libraries have 11th century editions of Su Dong-po's work. The three libraries can work in unison to provide a complete collection to the entire world.
- 3) With regard to the 2010 content for the WDL, the meeting reached preliminary agreements to further consider the following topics: astronomy, calendrics and divination; Ming Dynasty block-print illustrated novels; Song Dynasty editions of Su Dong-po's poetry; 17th century Jesuits' Chinese translations of Western works; printed books from the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom era; Yangshi Lei and the Old Summer Palace; and Guang Yu Tu atlas. These topics will await further examination of each library collection before verification. Each of the three libraries aims to propose five to ten books for each topic.

■ ***NCL and the East Asia Library at the University of Washington sign digital cooperation agreement***

NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and Director Yu Hsiao-ming visited Lizabeth (Betsy) Wilson, Dean of University Libraries at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle, and Zhijia Shen, Director of the East Asia Library at the UW, to reach a consensus on projects of digitalizing ancient Chinese books. The two sides signed a



NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (center), Director Wilson (second from left)

cooperation agreement on January 5, 2010, and will start digitization works in May 2010. NCL will send technical personnel to the East Asia Library at the UW to digitalize rare ancient Chinese books. NCL will be authorized to use the digitalized materials.

■ ***Understand France through texts: digitalized French writer manuscripts and movies***

The National Library of France, National Central Library (NCL), Taipei Ricci Institute, and French Institute in Taipei jointly held the exhibition, "Understand France through texts: digitalized French writer manuscripts and movies", on January 25 to February 27, 2010, at the NCL. Director Thierry Grillet from the National Library of France gave a talk on "The manuscript treasures (Un patrimoine de brouillons)". Scholars from several departments of French language and literature in different universities were invited to join the discussion. NCL exhibited its collections of ancient French books. The National Library of France exhibited 60 digitalized images, including the French writer manuscripts in the 19th-20th century, photographs, illustrations, drawings, photographs, showing 200 years of French culture. Taipei Ricci Institute exhibited records of Western science and religion publications in China in the 17th-18th century. In addition, NCL showed French films, including *Clean*, *La Vie en Rose*, *Le Papillon*, *Blue*, *Le Temps Retrouve*, and so on.



Exhibition poster