

opening ceremonies. Beside speaking at the event, he also accepted a donation of books from the China National Publications Import Export Corporation, including high varied content from such publishers as the Jilin Publishing Group, Peking University Press, Xinjiang Fine Arts and Photography Publishing House, Social Sciences Academic Press, China Renmin University Press, World Publishing Corporation, China Financial and Economic Publishing House, the Ministry of Culture's Ethnic Minority Folk Art Development Center, and the Zhonghua Book Company.

Following the opening ceremonies, a forum was held in the NCL on cross-strait publications. The theme was "The Displacement of Traditional Paper Publications by Digital Publications." Director-general Ku presented a copy of the "Diamond Sūtra" (published by NCL) and both a hardcopy and digital version of the "National Central Library 2009 Annual Report" to the head of the Chinese delegation Ms. Wei Wu, which corresponded with the forum's theme. Chia-hong Weng, Secretary-general of the Association of Taiwan Digital Publishing Alliances, made a special point to describe the characteristics of the digital version of the "National Central Library 2009 Annual Report" in his presentation.

Digital publishing is fast becoming a major trend worldwide and publishers on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are taking an active response to related developments and issues. This new trend has started to cut the legs out from underneath traditional paper-based publications. Changes in methods of publication, avenues of sales, and reader behavior and habits all press down on tradition publishers, forcing them to find ways to adapt. This forum encouraged in-depth discussion on digital publishing related topics by publishers from both China and Taiwan. Future exchanges between both sides of the strait will be more variegated and frequent. The publishing industry will also enter a chapter of history with the further development of digital publications. (translator / Trevor B. McKay)



*Director-general Ku (left) presents a copy of the "Diamond Sūtra" produced by NCL to Ms. Wei Wu (right), the head of the delegation from China.*

### ■ **NCL Collection Adds Documentaries on Local Culture**

The National Central Library (NCL) held the multimedia exhibition "Recording Images of Local Culture: The Heartbeat of Taiwan" at the Arts and Audiovisual Center on June 1 to July 11. The exhibition presented documentaries recording Taiwan's true local culture, including series on the Hakka journey, women in Taiwan, and military housing communities. There was also an exhibition of photographs on Taiwan veterans and military residential communities, as well as a post-viewing discussion session. Taipei Municipal University of Education President Lin Tian-you and Director Chang Hung-yi, Overseas Born Taiwanese Association Secretary-general Chang Si-nuo, director Peng Chi-yuan, Professor Liu Hsing-chin, and Mr. Lan Bi-shan were among the participating guests. In his speech, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku noted that apart from being an academic, public and international library, the NCL regularly holds literary, artistic, and other culturally-related activities to advance cultural education. The documentaries presented at the exhibition record the historical path followed by the people of Taiwan, catching a true portrait of the island and stirring reflection on and insight into local life and culture. The films will be included in the NCL special collection.



*Director-general Karl Min Ku (left) receives a copy of the documentary "Hakka Journey" presented by Director Peng Chi-yuan (right) for the NCL collection.*

### ■ **NCL Launches Improved Dissertation System**

The National Central Library (NCL) officially launched the "National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan," on June 10, marking the third generation of its Electronic Theses and Dissertations System, one of Taiwan's leading online academic resources. National Taipei University (NTPU) contributed to the new site the full-text content of all NTPU theses papers freely available to the NCL in perpetuity under a non-exclusive arrangement. The move was made under the leadership of NTPU President Charles Hou, a leading proponent of making theses freely open to the public, to improve the research environment in Taiwan and heighten the international visibility of the university's research achievements.

Under the agreement with the NCL, NTPU has authorized the library to reproduce the thesis content by any means, including print, microfiche or digital formats. The content can be delivered online for users to search, read, print or download.

At the launch ceremony, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku emphasized that the new site offers improved functions and more comprehensive service support, making it an even more valuable resource for knowledge building. The new system brings together the PerioPath Index to Taiwan Periodical Literature System, Government Information System, E-Learning Campus, and other

resources. All of the content is freely available to the public in the spirit of openness.

The NCL also announced the "White Paper on Cooperative Development of Academic Resources and Knowledge Services by the National Central Library and University Libraries" at the launch ceremony. The white paper outlines plans for the NCL and university libraries to jointly create a cooperation mechanism and national academic resource and knowledge promotion service, promote academic openness and exchange, and promote Taiwan's research achievements to the world.



*Director-general Karl Min Ku (right) and National Taipei University President Charles Hou (left) sign the "Full-text Theses Authorization Cooperation Agreement."*



*Director-general Ku (third from right) and President Hou (third from left) pose together after signing the agreement.*