

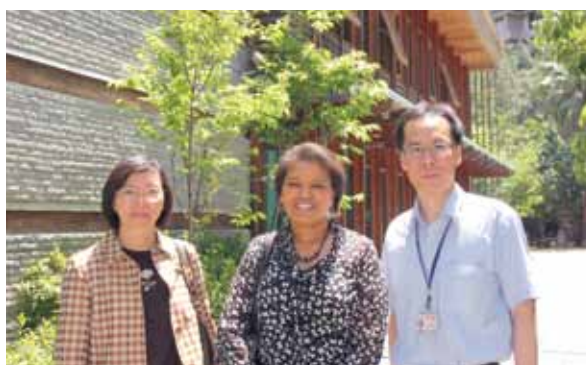


IFLA President Ellen Tise expressed a keen interest in NCL's rare book collection while touring it during her visit and posed many questions to researchers.

On April 22, NCL arranged for her to give a speech on "Libraries are critical institutions for growth and development" at National Taiwan University's College of Liberal Arts Auditorium. Following her remarks, there was a 30 minute discussion time where she interacted with library and information science professors, students, professionals, and others interested in library development. On April 25, a forum was held at NCL's conference room on "How public libraries encourage and increase public reading abilities?" Those in attendance included professionals from the public library sector in Taiwan, including Taipei Public Library, the Kaohsiung Public Library, the National Taichung Library, and the National Taiwan Library. Discussion centered on "What roles libraries should play in encouraging and improving the reading literacy of the public," "Experiences and difficulties in public library reading programs," and "How public libraries can popularize reading," with many sharing their experiences and ideas. Many library professionals were also in attendance and were greatly enriched by the discussion. During the forum, Ms. Tise complimented the efforts of Taiwan libraries, stating that various efforts to promote reading in other parts of the world have already been implemented or are currently being tried in Taiwan. Also, the overall high level of education in Taiwan is a direct reflection of diligence on the part of libraries here.

National Central Library actively participates in international professional organizations and events in order to facilitate a close connection

between Taiwan libraries and international developments. As a continuation from IFLA secretary-general Jennefer Nicholson's visit to NCL last October, having IFLA President Ellen Tise visit Taiwan marks the highest level international dignitary in the library science field to visit Taiwan in the last 20 years. Her visit provided an opportunity for Taiwan library professionals to hear more information and inspiration from abroad on how to provide innovating reader services. It also provided her a lasting impression of Taiwan's achievements in strengthening culture as she toured library and cultural facilities here.



Ellen Tise toured the Beitou branch of the Taipei Public Library and was very complimentary of the eco-friendliness of the facilities. From left: Director-general Tseng, Ellen Tise, Taipei Public Library Director Hung Shi-chang.

■ ***National Central Library Participates in the Pacific Neighborhood Consortium's 2010 Annual Conference***

The Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC) originated from a combined meeting of public university presidents from countries around the Pacific Rim. From this grew a plan to assist countries in the Pacific region. Former chancellor of UC Berkeley Chang-Lin Tien and Professor Curtis Hardyck spearheaded the project and formally named the organization. PNC's mission is to promote the internet and the exchange of information between Pacific Rim countries via state-of-the-art internet technology. In this way, these countries can evolve into a "neighborhood," given their close proximity and relationships.

PNC's 2010 annual conference was held on December 1-4 at the City University of

Hong Kong. It was held in conjunction with the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative again this year. The theme of the meeting was “From Digital Content to Knowledge Asset.”

As a member of PNC, the National Central Library (NCL) has actively participated in annual conferences and activities over the years. For this year’s conference, NCL was responsible for planning the Digital Libraries session, which discussed “Meta-Library—Gateway to World Knowledge Assets and Digital Services.” Library science experts were invited to discuss how libraries can utilize various digital content to create (based on the concept of knowledge investment) knowledge assets and increase the depth and value of library services in the information community. Discussion centered on the use of synthesized searches of library catalogs and databases, the development and management of digital libraries, the digital publication industry and services, e-resources, and open access and knowledge support services.



From left: Chinese University of Hong Kong Librarian Colin Storey, Director of NCL Special Collection Division Yu Hsiao-Ming, Dean of USC libraries Catherine Quinlan, University of Hong Kong Deputy Librarian Peter E. Sidorko, Chinese Academy of Sciences Librarian Zhang Xiaolin, and University of Hong Kong Librarian Tony Ferguson attended the session on digital libraries organized by NCL.

During the conference, NCL took note of international projects and the special collections of other attendees. Through finding more opportunities for exchanges and cooperative endeavors, NCL would be able to increase its digital holdings, to the benefit of researchers in Taiwan and abroad. One such opportunity was presented by Florent Villard, professor of Chinese at Université de Lyon, who reported on Chinese archives from the Lyon Sino-

French Institute (SFI), which are housed in the Lyon Municipal Library. They include information on students, theses & dissertations, and books & periodicals, etc. This is important historical data on early exchanges between China and Europe. Established in 1921, SFI assisted 473 Chinese students over the course of 25 years. These included many authors, artists, doctors, and politicians that have had a large influence on the modernization of China. Florent Villard hoped to find a partner to assist with the cataloging and digitalization of this information. Additionally, representatives from other institutions also expressed a desire to engage in cooperative projects with NCL. Being asked to organize the Digital Library session gave NCL an even greater opportunity to display our achievements and share our vision of digital media, thus establishing a foundation for international cooperation and exchanges.

The conference brought together research results and developments by experts, scholars, and related industries, giving attendees an overview of the most up-to-date professional know-how. Also, the PNC conference also provided a means for digital rights owners and digital service providers to discuss cooperative endeavors. This was an incentive for more interest and participation in the project underway.

NCL has given presentations at PNC conferences since 2004. Each year, important developments and achievements are shared with the library community. During the last few years,



Director Yu Hsiao-Ming represented NCL at the PNC meeting. Afterwards, she took a group photo with Angela Ko (3rd from right), assistant director of the Fung Ping Shan Library at the University of Hong Kong and her colleagues.

many of our international digital cooperative projects have garnered much interest and support. This has led to many solicitations from important universities and academic organization for potential cooperative projects. As such, NCL will continue to actively participate in PNC and other large-scale international meetings so as to establish a greater network of institutions with which to collaborate.

■ ***E-Publication Platform System Awarded 2011 Presidential Citation by American Library Association***

NCL's E-Publication Platform System (EPS) was awarded the "2011 Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Project" by the American Library Association (ALA). This award was first issued under the direction of Lorie Roy, while she was president of ALA from 2007-2008. Its purpose is to encourage innovative services in the international library community. ALA's International Relations Round Table is responsible for reviewing recommendations. From 2008-2010 a total of 11 international libraries were given the award. NCL's EPS innovative service was one of four awards given out this year by ALA.

Events

■ ***Highlights from Zhejiang Library's Research on Ancient Book Restoration***

At the beginning of this year, China's Ministry of Culture announced 12 national restoration centers for ancient books. Among these is the Zhejiang Library, due to its experience in preservation and restoration. The four buildings that comprise the Zhejiang Library house some 3.9 million volumes. Their ancient book collection features a copy of the Wenleng version of Qing imperial library, as well as many block prints, hand-written books, and manuscripts from the Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties. Of the 835,000 thread-bound volumes in its collection, 141,000 are rare.

An ancient book restoration camp was held on November 17, 2010 at Zhejiang Library's restoration center. One part discussed was stone rubbings. These are produced by first making a rubbing of the characters engraved on the stone. Next, the paper is trimmed and mounted. The

whole process can take up to three or four days. Restoring stone rubbings is different from restoring books. After the pages in books are restored they are flat. Stone rubbings, on the other hand, need to be uneven, the way it is after the paper is rubbed against the stone.

In restoring ancient documents, the basic *modus operandi* is to restore them so they still look old—in other words, to preserve the historical messages on them. Once completed, the restored rubbings should be very similar to the original in appearance. To preserve the unevenness of the paper after mounting, the wet tip of a brush is lightly brushed over the paper except where the characters are. This way, once it is mounted the paper will not easily become flattened.

Zhejiang Library has developed a restoration archive system to assist with the restoral and preservation of ancient books. It involves recording catalog information for the book, documenting its current damage via photos, evaluating the best way to restore it, analyzing the type of paper used in the book, restoring the books, documenting the restored version via photos, comparing the before and after pictures, and documenting the restoration process to be used for reference in the future for similar cases.

This research camp also arranged for a tour to see how the paper is made that is used in restoration. It is the same way that paper was made anciently. The indigenous and plentiful green bamboo is used. The process involves the following steps: 1) collect bamboo, 2) cut bamboo into small pieces, 3) soak pieces in a one-meter wide vat, 4) soften bamboo by beating and remove green parts, 5) soak paper, with the right amount of lime added the bamboo fibers will gradually separate and soften, 6) removed impurities, 7) beat the material into a paste, 8) add clear water to rinse, 9) drain off excess water, 10) the pulp remains, 11) add clear water according to kind of paper desired (yellow, white, thick, thin), 12) spread paper, 13) after laying out each layer of paper, press water out by using heavy objects, 14) hang paper up to dry, and 15) take down.

Preserving ancient texts from China's history has been an important task of NCL. Rare books in our collection include block prints, hand copies, illustrated books, manuscripts, and annotated