

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 Wenlange 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

versions from the Song, Jin, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties. A large number of these are extremely rare, high quality books that were taken overseas. Since many are from library collections south of the Yangtze, visits were made to some of these

famous libraries during this trip to China. Actually visiting these places was helpful in understanding their circulation and remembering the sacrifices of the ancients. As a result, our efforts will be more concerted in managing and preserving these texts.

### **Traditional method of making paper**



*Bamboo pieces soak in vats to soften fibers.*



*After the bamboo is beaten to a Paste, clear water is added to rinse it.*



*After water is drained, a thick pulp remains.*



*The thick pulp is placed in a stone trough, and water is added depending on the desired thickness.*



*After each sheet is taken from the trough, it is stacked together and a heavy object is used to press out excess water.*

### **■ National Central Library Active at 2011 Taipei International Book Exhibition**

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE) finished on February 14, 2011. It was held at the Taipei World Trade Center. Lasting for six days, it was an intellectual feast following the Chinese New Year holidays. As National Central Library services all libraries in Taiwan, it has actively participated in TIBE over the years. This year was no exception, bringing together our vast experience to further influence the Chinese reading public.

NCL's theme for this exhibition was A Look at

Digital Development Activities, displaying projects and achievements from 2010.

- I. E-Publication Platform System (EPS): deposit, encoding, archival and reading services.
- II. Multimedia Audio-visual Services.
- III. NCL Cataloging Service: A knowledgebase for cataloging librarians.
- IV. Web-based Catalog Services.
- V. Innovative Knowledge Services.

This year's TIBE attracted a total of 590,000 visitors. NCL's stand was located on the side of the theme hall, and displayed 11 major innovative systems and over 40 new NCL publications. Visitors