

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 19th 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



to our stand were high in numbers. Workers, staff, or visitors all felt this year's exhibition was an excellent learning opportunity. Not only could visitors view an abundance of new publications and interact with authors, they could also understand more about NCL's knowledge services. Our staff was able to promote our services by directly interacting with users and discussing our systems.

■ ***"Mapping and Unmapping the Pacific" - International Pacific Studies Conference; a dialogue between Taiwan and international research***

The Pacific world can be seen as an "oceanic continent," mapped throughout the ages by migrations and exchanges. In its midst, islands are the vantage points from which different mapping strategies have been taking and are still taking place, offering a variety of viewpoints on the Pacific, its contours and its dynamics.

In view of exploring Taiwan and the Pacific Austronesian's present and future history, the National Central Library and Taiwan Society for Pacific Studies, the Taipei Ricci Institute co-organized an international symposium on "Mapping and Unmapping the Pacific: island perceptions of an "oceanic continent ". The objective of this conference is twofold: (a) accounting for the diversity of the "mappings" of the Pacific continent so as to challenge and renew historical, geographical and ethnographic insights on this part of the world; (b) allowing a younger generation of scholars to compare the insights they have gained in confronting local and global knowledge. Researchers from Taiwan — the island between the Asian continent and the Pacific, believed to be the starting point of Austronesian expansion into the Pacific, being the

periphery and the core at the same time — will also present their perceptions of this oceanic continent as it is observed and imagined from Taiwan.

To achieve the aims of the conference, the Meeting on the 16th & 17th has covered the following topics: 1. Tracing the Austronesian Migration Route with Different Approaches; 2. Mapping the Pacific: Austronesian Arts, Cultural Life and Education; 3. Alliances and Conflicts: Space Politics, Environmental and Territorial Issues; 4. Sacred Spaces-Times: Religions, Society and History; 5. Looking South: the Russian and Japanese Outlooks on the Pacific; 6. Young Scholars' Session. And also four prizes were awarded at the end of the conference to grassroots leaders or communities that have made a significant contribution to cultural diversity, sustainable development and spiritual empowerment in the Pacific world.



The keynote speakers of the "Mapping and Unmapping the Pacific" International Pacific Studies Conference.

■ ***Modern Chinese Novel Month in NCL***

In 1967, world-renowned writer Nieh Hualing and her husband Paul Engle (1908-1992), a famous poet, established the International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa. Now it is a gigantic cultural organization with a reputation throughout the world. Every year, ten or more authors are invited from Asia, Africa, South America, and Europe to come to learn the writing skills by interaction and create together for a period of time. It is also an opportunity for culture exchange. Because of this the University of Iowa has become fertile soil in which young budding authors from overseas grow and develop. The city has become an important literature hub, as well as a gathering place of the literati.

After China opened up in 1979, Nieh Hualing out of concern for the development of Chinese literature in China and Taiwan began holding "China