

NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE 22ND Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- (1) Total Quality Management:
 - a. Set up guiding visions: Development and quality of library services depends on a clear and concrete direction. NCL has developed 6 visions, 14 strategies, and 86 executive action plans in order to achieve these goals.
 - b. Implement Innovative Management and Improve Service Model
 - c. Organize Project Groups to Achieve Work Objectives
 - d. Improving Services through Quality Control Circle
 - e. Outside Assessment of Effectiveness and Quality
- (2) Spreading Chinese Culture
 - a. Digitizing Important Cultural Assets
 - b. Enrich International Union Catalog and Database on Ancient Chinese Texts
 - c. Promote International Collaborations to Digitize Rare Chinese Books
 - d. Sharing Legacies of Human Culture
 - e. Increasing Use of Ancient Books
 - f. Collecting and Preserving Manuscripts of Contemporary Authors
 - g. Preserving Great Music for Future Generations
- (3) Promoting Scholarly Exchanges
 - a. First Publication of Trends in Taiwan Publications and Scholarly Articles
 - b. Leading Taiwan in Creating New Publication Statistics and Value-Added Information; Showing Trends in Publications
 - c. Contributing Chinese Book Information, First in the Chinese World
- (4) Innovating Knowledge Services
 - a. Taiwan Citation Index - Humanities and Social Sciences
 - b. Synergy of Metadata Resources in Taiwan

- c. Development and Upgrade of Capabilities for Each Information System; Mobile Services on the Internet
- (5) Increasing Professional Competition
 - a. Leading and Assisting Librarians in Continued Growth
 - b. International Scholars and Experts Invited to Lecture in Taiwan
 - c. Guiding Developments of Professional Standards
 - d. Outstanding Library Contribution Awards
- (6) Promoting a Reading Atmosphere
 - a. Make Use of Social Resources, Develop Cross-departmental Service Models
 - b. Objectively Show Reading Interests of Taiwan Public
 - c. Commending Top Library Book Borrowers
 - d. A First Attempt at Reading Activities for Each Season
- (7) Showing forth Taiwan's Ability
 - a. Enhancing International Collaboration and Scholarly Exchange
 - b. Improving Diplomatic Space in International Cooperations
 - c. Extending Taiwan's Educational and Cultural Influence
 - d. Promoting Chinese Studies Culture and Spirit
 - e. Actively Participating in Taiwan Academy

2. RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

(1) National Central Library (hereinafter referred to as "NCL") is the sole national library of Taiwan under the direction of the Ministry of Education to administer the affairs of acquiring, processing, and preserving nationwide publication and information resources, expanding academic research, as well as studying, promoting and guiding the development of all types of libraries nationwide.

(2) NCL is the only library legally stipulated to help "research, promote, and guide library development throughout Taiwan." Because of this, the development of different types of libraries in Taiwan is the obligation and responsibility of NCL.

(3) NCL augments knowledge services to government agencies in their policy-making.

(4) NCL represents the Republic of China in working with foreign libraries and research institutions and in promoting exchange with international library organizations. and conduct international exchange of official publications.

(5) The importance of Chinese culture and sinological research led the government to commission NCL to set up a "Chinese Studies Information and Service Center" (in 1987 its name was changed to the Center for Chinese Studies) with the responsibility of promoting Chinese studies in Taiwan and abroad.

(6) In accordance with the reorganization adjustments of the Central Government, the NCL is administratively organized into the following divisions and offices: Director-general's Office, Librarianship Development Division, Collection Development and Bibliography Management Division, Knowledge Services Division, Special Collections Division, Digital

Knowledge System Division, International Cooperation Division, General Affairs and Secretariat Office, Personnel Office, Civil Service Ethics Office, Accounting Office, Center for Chinese Studies.

3. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- (1) Annual budget (FY 2012): USD 15,524,100 (subsidy included)
- (2) Number of staff: 183 (Employees and Temporary Workers) (as of December 2012)
- (3) Collections (as of December 2012): 4,793,809 items (Books 2,888,946 volumes; Rare books 264,883 volumes; Periodicals 27,328 titles; Newspapers 420 titles; Non-book Materials 1,268,612 items; Electronic collections 343,620 titles)
- (4) Aggregate Bibliographic Records (as of December 2012): 28,493,255
- (5) Aggregate Images Files (as of December 2012): 66,449,945

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING COLLECTIONS

- (1) Collecting and Preserving Manuscripts of Contemporary Authors:

Since the 1940s, the Library has been collecting manuscripts, handwritten copies, and annotated works of Ming and Qing literati. Most manuscripts collected are of scholars from the Jiangnan region. In recent years, in light of the changes that have taken place in society, the Library has begun collecting manuscripts of contemporary authors and famous persons. Currently the Library has already collected 8,300 manuscripts, 9,200 paintings, for a total of 17,500 artifacts.

- (2) Preserving Great Music for Future Generations:

By engaging in current events, libraries can close the gap between them and the public. For example, on February 2012 when famous singer Feng Feifei passed away, the Library hosted “Donate for Love: Donate Vinyl Records by Feng Feifei to the National Central Library.” A month later, 14 collectors donated a total of 494 vinyl records, 90 of which were records of Feng Feifei’s music. Not only did this activity reduce the distance between the Library and the public, it also resulted in the chance to preserve great music for future generations.

- (3) Establish E-Publication Platform System:

The E-Publication Platform System (EPS) primarily provides archiving and services for e-publications. It combines NCL’s deposit system and catalog system already in place, to establish a united system for depositing, authorizing, archiving, assigning ISBNs, cataloging e-books, as well as managing copyrights, disseminating publication information, and providing full-text browsing.

- (4) Expand the electronic resources:

To achieve the aim of mutual sharing of digital resources, NCL participates in e-book alliances to increase the number of e-books in its collection in addition to purchasing important databases. These diverse holdings can then satisfy patrons’ many reading needs and raise Taiwan’s academic competitive edge.

- (5) Encourage important donations from individuals and groups:

NCL has been the recipient of many donations of rare collections over the years, including those from literature and history books from the Qing dynasty; government publications; books

published in China and news pictures from around the world; broadcast recordings and vinyl records; works written by the members of the Overseas Chinese Women Writers Association; thread-bound books; old books on pre-Qin philosophers; Buddhist studies books, etc.

5. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MANAGING COLLECTIONS

(1) Collection Digitization:

In order to better preserve the precious rare collection, NCL has started to digitalize rare library holdings since 2001. Over the past 10 years, the rare materials digitized have reached up to 5,240,718 pages (over 7000 titles) of rare books and 18,501 pages of rubbings.

(2) Establish Thesis and Dissertation System:

According to the Degree Conferral Law, NCL is the only library in Taiwan legally designated to archive theses and dissertations. As NCL has a responsibility to assist academic research, under the direction of the Ministry of Education it created the National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan. This system provides value-added knowledge services for theses and dissertations, such as full-text downloads (for those so authorized) and online research capabilities for the public.

(3) A digital library:

NCL's homepage (www.ncl.edu.tw) provides digital resource services twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year. With different systems for bibliographies, indices, government documents, special research topics, ancient books, and full-text images, patrons can access all of them online.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

(1) Taiwan Citation Index - Humanities and Social Sciences

In 2012, the Library worked with the National Science Council to create the Taiwan Citation Index - Humanities and Social Sciences. The site uses a single interface system for cross-disciplinary one-stop searches and will increase the utilization of scholarly resources. At the same time, statistical analysis is conducted on the development of humanities and social science fields in Taiwan, providing theses and dissertation citation rate and other bibliometrics. It can also be used as a research and evaluation reference for academic organization.

(2) Synergy of Metadata Resources in Taiwan

When the project was completed at the end of 2012, data had been acquired from over 50 different systems, enabling users to search over 15 million records from 20 different data types. The important functions realized in the creation of this system and its future promotion are as follows: 1) greater connection between catalog and authority data, providing data framework extension and connectivity, as well as allowing users to explore in depth the connection between different works; 2) a centralized search site where users can access the catalog, table of content, abstracts, full text, and bibliographies; 3) high parameters settings to respond to future data entry, file creation rules, or adjustments in catalog service needs; 4) unique capabilities such as topic term charts, hot topics, term collection tools, and themed websites to assist users in topic-related searches; 5) various data export formats (including EndNote, RefWorks, Excel, XML, and

MARC) for average users, researchers, publishers, library and information professionals, and other users. This enables resources to be reused.

7. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND OTHER NATIONAL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS (LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS)

- (1) Establish National Bibliographic Information Network (NBINet) Union Catalog: NBINet provides users with the ability to search multiple catalogs at the same time, including catalog information from the NCL and 75 other participating organizations. In addition to allowing participating organizations from adding catalog information, the users can search the catalog online and download information in a variety of formats. It also is in conformity with Z39.50 protocol, allowing for cross-system search capabilities in other comparable databases.
- (2) Establish Chinese Rare Book Catalog: At the end of 2012, the Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books reached over 625,000 records. It shows a comprehensive picture of precious rare books scattered in over 44 libraries throughout the world.
- (3) International digital project of ancient Chinese books: NCL actively pursues collaborative opportunities with foreign institutions in digitizing rare Chinese books that have made their way overseas and obtaining user access rights. The purpose of these efforts is to share research. At the end of 2012, NCL conducted digitizing projects with the U. S. Library of Congress, the East Asian Library at the University of Washington and the C. V. Starr East Asian Library at the University of California Berkeley. Currently the Library has amassed over 3,745 volumes (or 2,211,398 images) that patrons can directly access online.
- (4) Participate World Digital Library (WDL) project: To share part of human culture legacies with the rest of the world, NCL was invited to join the WDL project in 2008.

8. EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND PUBLISHERS IN YOUR COUNTRY/REGION

- (1) NCL publishes *New Books Monthly* based on applications for ISBNs and CIPs. It is a magazine highlighting new publications in Taiwan. On the ISBNnet website, patrons can easily keep abreast of new books, assist libraries in acquisition choices, and achieve boundary-free knowledge dissemination.
- (2) Leading Taiwan in Creating New Publication Statistics and Value-Added Information; Showing Trends in Publications
Data from applications (from commercial publishers, government agencies, social groups, and individuals) for ISBNs and CIPs are tallied and analyzed to understand trends in new publications in Taiwan (around 42,000 per year on average), including topics, standard classifications, languages translated from, and countries of origin. These are used to provide new book information to the Taiwan public via internet platforms.
- (3) NCL cooperates with some publishers to publish classic books and e-books

In order to promote “classical reading”, so that the general public, through sharing in the profound collection of the national treasures, can have a closer look at the interesting daily life of the ancient literati, the National Central Library in cooperation with some publishers to publish classic books and e-books for contemporary people to appreciate, read, and doing their research.

(4) A united efforts in promoting reading: NCL generated several objectives in promoting reading and has held diverse activities to encourage the public to develop interest and habits in reading. For example, in 2011 NCL brought together libraries, government organizations, publishers, bookstores, and news agencies in Taiwan to promote “Modern Chinese Novel Month” and “100th Year of the Republic, A ‘Classic’ Time for Reading” to encourage the public to read the Chinese classics, to increase overall reading ability and sophistication, and to create an atmosphere of reading classics throughout society.