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Overview of the NCL's Rare Books Collection in 2003

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◆ Digital Archives

Digital archiving and document delivery is the wave of the future, even, as the NCL is showing, for tomes written in dynasties past. The rare books collection at the library now comprises some 12,000 books, rubbings and other documents,

many of which can now be accessed online at:

<http://rarebook.ncl.edu.tw/rbook.cgi/store/frameset.htm>). As of 2003, the library had converted 4,100 rare books to microfiche about 1.95 million images in all, and scanned 20 sets of books for a total of 10,362 full color image files. The library has also produced a DVD of annotated full-text images of rare book forewords and upgraded its Rare Book Image system to conduct full text searches of rare book forewords.

◆ Chinese Rare Books Union Catalog and Union Catalog of Family

Genealogies in the Taiwan Area

One of the most important tasks in the preservation of China's literary legacy is the establishment and development of an online catalog of Chinese rare books. To this end, the NCL has invited organizations with rare book collections in the greater China region to join forces in creating a union catalog for Chinese rare books. The catalog, which can be accessed online at

<http://rarebook.ncl.edu.tw/rbook.cgi/store/frameset.htm>, is based on a Metadata format with data represented in several core catalog fields. The user interface can be set for simplified and traditional Chinese characters. In 2003, the system was expanded with the addition of 300,000 records from the National Library of China and 395 records from the Biblioteca Central de Macau, bringing the total to over 420,000 catalog entries. The database continues to grow daily, and it is hoped the system can evolve as an international resource for Chinese rare books.

There are over 6,000 Chinese family genealogies in collections in the Taiwan area, representing a significant portion of such materials extant in the world. In view of the importance of these historical documents to studies in social sciences, the NCL has invited 11 public and private libraries and collections, including the National Palace Museum, Academia Sinica's Fu Ssu-nien Library, Taipei City Archives, and Liu Ching-liu Collection to jointly establish a Union Catalog of

Family Genealogies in the Taiwan Area. In 2003, the catalog added more than 9,000 records from the National Palace Museum, bringing the total to over 14,000. In September 2003, the NCL embarked on a "Taiwan Family Genealogy Arrangement Plan" on the basis of the material collected in the database system.

NCL International Exchange Events

TIBE 2004

1. NCL representatives participated in the 2004 Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE). The library display showcased the NCL's progress in creating a digital collection, including such online systems as Taiwan Memory, Taiwan Info, Dissertation and Thesis Abstract System (DATAS), National Bibliographic Information Network (NBINet), ISBN.net, and READncl: Remote Electronic Access/Delivery System. NCL publications at the TIBE exhibit, including *Century Old Images of Taiwan* and *Biographical Sketches of Historical Figures in Taiwan: Ching, Ming and Japanese Occupation Period*, also received a lot of attention from fair goers.

AAS Annual Meeting

2. Bureau of International Exchange of Publications Chief Katie K.C. Su, represented the NCL at the 2004 AAS Annual Meeting, held in San Diego, USA on March 4 to 7.

Visitors

3. The NCL received several foreign guests early this year. Chi Wang, head of the Chinese Section at the U.S. Library of Congress visited on February 20. On Feb. 25, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, chief of the Asian Division of the U.S. Library of Congress and Dr. Mi Chu Wiewus met with NCL officials to discuss cooperation plans. On March 11, University of Central Arkansas Provost and Dean of Faculty Dr. A. Gabriel Esteban led a group of nine visitors to the NCL to learn more