

## NCL Seeks to Fill Collection Gaps

In 1949, the National Central Library was moved from mainland China to Taiwan, but only 140,000 rare books and some 20,000 other books from the original collection were brought over at that time. In the 43 years since the end of the Ching dynasty, acquisitions have been largely restricted due to political factors and, since the relocation of the library to Taiwan, limited funding as well. Consequently there are still some 100,000 titles published between the Ching period and 1954 that are not represented in the library collection. Budget, staff, and regulatory limitations have created a deficit of over 200,000 Chinese publications published since 1911.

In order to fill these gaps, library director Dr. Juang Fang-rung (莊芳榮) has called for library acquisition to focus on completeness in the Chinese collection and on quality in acquiring western publications. He also asked that precedence be given to acquiring a broad number of titles rather than several copies of the same work.

In recent years, the NCL has not only bolstered its collection of recent Chinese publications, but stepped up efforts to acquire older works as well. Booksellers have been commissioned to locate in Hong Kong and mainland China books and periodicals from the Republican period. A reprinted 500-volume set collection on China during the Republican period was also purchased from the Shanghai Bookstore, adding to the library's collection of pre-1949 publications. In December 1999, the Air Force Academy Library donated more than 16,000 titles, including valuable works from the academy's mainland period. Last October, the Acquisitions Department also obtained a 666-volume "Collection of Chinese Local Gazettes: Taiwan Province in the Second Period." In November, the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research Library donated 3,167 Japanese books published in the 1970s and 80s on finance and industrial development, including several hard to obtain gray documents. All of these recent additions make a valuable contribution to the library collection

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