

2008; and the results of the collaboration will be made publicly available online.

In the first stage, the project will focus on scanning about 80,000 (nearly 300 volumes) of unique material in the collections of the two sides. The second stage will involve scanning of catalogs of different rare book editions in the NCL collection; and in the third stage, the two sides will complete the conversion of NCL rare book catalogs from microfiche to electronic image form.

The NCL-LC project is an important benchmark for the NCL in the area of international cooperation. By bringing together the experience of the NCL and the valuable collection resources of the LC, it will also contribute to the preservation of rare Chinese books and make them more widely available to the public, realizing the ideal of resource sharing and opening a new era in international cooperation between the NCL and LC.

### ■ NCL and Tainan Public Library Cooperate on Digitization of Japanese-era Books

The collection of the Tainan Public Library (TPL) contains over 12,000 Japanese language works, including over 2,000 newspapers on Taiwan dating back to the Japanese occupation period. The library compiled a catalog of these resources several years ago to facilitate research use. However, in order to better manage these historic documents, public access has been restricted to in-library reading. Still, the library has worried about damage to these materials through reader misuse and deterioration with age.

In order to preserve and improve reader access to the Japanese-era materials, the library has been converting these resources to digital format. The project is proceeding in cooperation with the NCL, which is providing financial and technical support.

The cooperation agreement between the TPL and NCL was signed on March 14, 2005, by TPL director Wen Tsai-tang and NCL director Juang Fang-rung. The project will run from April 2005 to December 2007, during which the two sides hope to digitize about 2,000 books, photos, maps, newspapers and other original documents from the Japanese occupation period. The 700 oldest books and Showa period newspapers will be scanned first. These historical materials

cover the early years of the sugar industry, agricultural trade, history, aboriginal field studies, and natural scenery in Taiwan. Once the materials are converted to digital format, the NCL will prepare metadata descriptions for all of these items, after which these resources will be available for public viewing, display, and transmission.

### ■ 2004 Achievements of the National Digital Archive Program

The National Digital Archive Program was launched to preserve important documents of Taiwan in digital form as a resource for cultural, social, industrial, and economic development.

The 2004 achievements of the program were displayed from February 25 to March 6, 2005, at the National Museum of Natural Science in Taichung. The display was jointly sponsored by the Planning Office of the National Digital Archive Program and the Digital Archive Plan of the National Museum of Natural Science (NMNS). The display was aimed at increasing public awareness of the program, as well as interest in and knowledge of digital archive resources, in central and southern Taiwan. (photo 1)

The exhibition comprises 12 theme displays and one general display as follows:

- Zoology: Introductions to the digital collection at the Museum of Insect Specimens at the National Taiwan University (NTU) and the shellfish/fish database at the Museum of Zoology
- Botany: Local plant database
- Geology: Digital geological collections of NTU and NMNS
- Anthropology: Digital collection on Taiwan aborigines and union database on ethnic groups in southwestern China
- Archeology: Digitalized archeological appraisals and studies from 1928 to 1945; field studies from 1971 to 1999; major archeological specimens from the Archeological Department at NTU, and resources on the archeological remains and sites of the Yansyusiaotun and Shihshanhang cultures