

■ *NCL Highlights Localization, Digitization and Globalization at 2006 TIBE*

Every day an average of 2,200 people visit the NCL and every minute 122 visitors click onto its website. In addition to providing these services, the library has formed close relations with librarians, publishers, and international organizations to meet the needs of domestic libraries at all levels, promote inter-library cooperation and handle ISBN applications for the publishing industry. Such relationships also support the library's ability to provide knowledge resources, foster the creation of new industries and share the culture of Taiwan with the world.

To help it carry out these functions, the NCL introduced its abundant collection resources and

the achievements of cooperative digitization projects with domestic and overseas libraries at the 14th Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE), held from February 7 to 12, 2006, in Taiwan's capital city.

The design themes of the NCL exhibit this year were localization, digitization, and globalization. The display façade had a 45-degree arch symbolizing both the development of local roots and extension out into the world—a theme further emphasized with the slogan "Leap from Local to Global with the NCL." On the entrance posts were signs with scanned computer images, representing the shift from paper to online digital resources. The exhibit background used exported images to chronicle the transformation of the NCL and development of network systems in response



*Premier Su Tseng-chang (center) inspected the "Taiwan Memory" system at the NCL booth at 2006 TIBE.*



*The NCL display attracted throngs of visitors (Photo by Yi, Ming-ke)*

to the digital age. One area was devoted to information on the upcoming full-scale adoption of the ISBN-13 system in Taiwan on July 1, 2007. Exhibit staff also spent a lot of effort in choosing the materials for display, which included samples of classical works in the library collection as well as CD-ROM instructional materials for various distance learning programs. There were also live broadcasts and introductions to the library's most popular database services, as well as a Q&A activity with prizes including magnetic bookmarks with classical motifs.

The three exhibit themes of localization, digitization, and globalization are briefly introduced below:

1. Localization: Since 1954, the NCL has been not only organizing its original collection of rare books, but also actively collecting local publications on Taiwan, as well as Chinese and western works on Sinology and Taiwan studies through international exchange programs. The library currently has a total collection of

3,131,308 volumes/items and is adding about 260,000 volumes/items a year.

2. Digitization: In order to preserve and provide wider access to the above-mentioned resources, the library has been carrying out an ambitious digitization program that has already netted concrete results. Digital content currently offered by the library includes: rare books, local documents, periodicals and newspapers, rubbings of stone inscriptions in Taiwan, television news broadcasts, genealogies, and thesis papers. Such materials are made available for public searching and browsing through more than 30 online systems, including the Taiwan Research Portal, Taiwan Memory, Taiwan Info, Window on Taiwan, Chinese Knowledge Portal, and Rare Books Information Net.

3. Globalization: The NCL and Library of Congress in the USA have signed a cooperation agreement from 2005 to 2007 to digitally convert rare books in the LOC collection. The library has also teamed up with the Genealogical Society of Utah to digitally convert, between 2005 and 2009, the society's Taiwan genealogical records. In addition, the NCL and 25 domestic and overseas libraries are working together to create a joint catalog database of rare Chinese books to facilitate border-free studies of Chinese culture.

During the six-day exhibition, the NCL display introduced the public to new knowledge resources and explained the important roles played libraries today. The display also provided an opportunity for the library to get feedback from the public on what its doing right and ways it can