

basic resource for students of Taiwanese history, as well as a starting point and shortcut for further research into the influence of major Taiwanese historical figures on their times. Although these works are not comprehensive in scope, this in no way diminishes their reference value. They are indispensable tools for readers and researchers of Taiwanese history alike.

(Excerpted from the Chinese text by Chang Wei-tung, Editor, Taiwan Branch of the NCL)

Joint Catalog of Rare Chinese Books

(NCL Special Collections Department)

The creation and development of bibliographical databases of rare Chinese books is a critical part of cultural preservation work. To this end, exchange and cooperation among Chinese libraries and organizations around the world with collections of Chinese-language publications has become an inevitable trend. In order to facilitate inter-library cooperation and resource sharing in rare Chinese books, the NCL established the "Joint Catalog Database of Rare Chinese Books in the Taiwan Area" in 1998. It also invited libraries in mainland China and Hong Kong to contribute bibliographic information for the database, resulting in the expansion of the original project into a "Joint Catalog Database of Rare Chinese Books", currently accessible online at:

<http://nclcc.ncl.edu.tw/ttsweb/rbookhtml/nclrbook.htm>.

Information in the database is expressed in metadata format with selected core bibliographic fields. The database includes 420,000 bibliographic records from 11 organizations with major collections of rare Chinese books, including various libraries and information organizations in Taiwan as well as 11 organizations in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao.

The database can accept bibliographic data from contributing organizations in CMARC, CNMARC and USMARC formats to facilitate information query and display, recording and preservation functions. The data exchange functions of the system eventually will be expanded to include the delivery of bibliographic information conforming to international metadata standards. In the future, the NCL hopes to develop the database into an international joint catalog of rare Chinese books for the use of worldwide organizations with Chinese-language books.

Witness to a Century of History:

Catalog of Works by and on Soong Mei-ling

Soong Mei-ling, better known as Madam Chiang Kai-shek, lived a life spanning more than three centuries. She was born at the close of the 19th century, during the end of the Ching dynasty, when an enervated China was subjugated by the world powers. In the 20th century, Soong followed her husband Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek through difficult times in China. She became the spokesperson for her country as well as one of the most prominent individuals of her time. In the early 21st century, she capped off a flamboyant and controversial life with the penning of her autobiography, before peacefully dying in her sleep on October 24, 2003, joining history and legend. Soong 宋美齡 death marked the end of an era and the elegance it came to represent. To facilitate research on Soong Mei-ling, we have compiled a catalog of writings and studies on this singular historical figure.

1 Sources

The resources included in this catalog consist mainly of titles in the National Central Library catalog and National Bibliographic Information Network (NBINet) database, with verifications of original documents and related resources where required. This material has been collated, classified and edited to produce