

## Seminar on Union Catalog of Ancient Books

On both sides of the Taiwan Strait ancient books are considered an important part of the cultural heritage of China. In order to encourage greater cross-strait cooperation, resource sharing, and academic exchange in the field of ancient books, the NCL hosted the "Seminar on Union Catalog of Ancient Books and Related Work" on May 31. The seminar was co-chaired by NCL director Juang Fang-rung (莊芳榮) and deputy director Sung Chien-cheng (宋建成).

The delegation from mainland China included: Li Zhizhong (李致忠) of the National Library of China; Han Xiduo (韓錫鐸) of the Liaoning Provincial Library; Zhang Yufan (張玉範) of the Beijing University Library; Gong Aitang (宮愛堂) of the Nanjing University Library; Chen Xianxing (陳先行) of the Shanghai University Library; and Chen Li (陳力) of the Sichuan Provincial Library.

Attending from Taiwan were Chang Pi-te (昌彼得), Wu Che-fu (吳哲夫), Sung Chao-lin (宋兆霖), and Wang Fu-shou (王福壽) of the National Palace Museum; Lin Wen-jui (林文睿) of the Taiwan Branch of the National Central Library; Wu Cheng-shang (吳政上) of the Fu Ssu-Nien Library; Nancy Ou-lan Chou (胡歐蘭) of the National Chengchi University Library; Hsia Li-yueh (夏麗月) and Kao Hsiu-ching (高秀清) of the National Taiwan University Library; and staff from the NCL.

Several resolutions were passed during the meeting, as summarized below:

1. The Taiwan and mainland areas have the largest repositories of ancient and rare books. The two sides should jointly compile a catalog database that can later be expanded to include resources from other areas.
2. Given the vast amount of material to be cataloged, the database will seek first to provide the most substantial information and later proceed with bibliography work.
3. Both sides should determine common standards to be used in the cataloging process, such as scope of records, MARC format, data input guidelines, classification methods, subject labels, and name criteria.
4. The traditional complex form of Chinese characters will be used for cataloging in order to reflect the style as it appears on the edition recorded.
5. Specialists should be trained how to determine the edition of ancient books and carry out preservation work.
6. A steering committee should be formed to guide the project. The committee will meet next year in Taipei to discuss the framework of the database, and to determine both sides can most expediently provide the necessary resources for the cataloging work.

(Chinese text by Ms. Hsu Hui-min. 徐惠敏)