



Accordion binding



Paper moisture tester

## History

The Imperial Taiwan Library was the precursor to the National Taiwan Library (NTL). When it was built in 1915, the “bookbinding room” was already part of the library.



The Book Recovery Seminar held at the Imperial Taiwan Library on May 7 and May 8 in 1928.

Also, “staff” was assigned for restoring, mounting, and binding books and data.

The Nationalist Government took over the library in 1945. After changing the name and administrative status many times, it was finally called the “National Central Library Taiwan Branch”. Although the term for the “bookbinding room” was also changed into its Chinese equivalent, its mission for restoring, mounting, and binding books and data remained unchanged.

After relocating to the present location in Jhonghe, New Taipei City on December 2004, the Library purchased the ultralow temperature freezer and the

mass de-acidification system, and the “Taiwan Book Hospital” was officially established on June 27, 2007. Its mission is to continue the lasting book recovery tradition of the library and carry forward the advanced storage and recovery technologies, and thereby disseminate to all parts of the country the book preservation concept.

In order to cope with reforming government structure, this library will be renamed as “National Taiwan Library” starting from January 1, 2013.



Working in the bookbinding room.

## TBH Today

The Taiwan Book Hospital (TBH) is an integration of the bookbinding room, bookbinding skills, the ultralow temperature freezer, and the mass de-acidification system. Each of these components is described as follows:

### Bookbinding Room

In order to enhance book recovery and bookbinding skills with modern technologies, the bookbinding room initiated the space adjustment, relocation, and improvement project in 2010. At the same time, we purchased a fume hood, exhaust cabinet, pure water system, mounting bench, and other related laboratory equipment. At present, the bookbinding room occupies an area of 184 m<sup>2</sup> and is located on the fifth floor of the National Taiwan Library. A wide variety of herbal treatments, chemicals and papers are displayed. Also, traditional printing equipment, such as the hard copy rounding and backing machine dated the Japanese ruled period, the pad printer of the 1970s, and lately purchased advanced instruments such as the pH meter, paper gauge, spectrophotometer, and optical microscope, are equipped in the room to recover and bind together the materials of both Chinese and Western books.



Scroll binding



Remove dirty air with the exhaust cabinet.



Mass de-acidification system



Mass de-acidification cabin



國立臺灣圖書館 National Taiwan Library

## Visiting Taiwan Book Hospital

### Mass De-acidification System

In modern papermaking, a large amount of “acidic paper” is produced when alum-rosin (aluminum sulfate ) is laminated on paper made with mechanical pulp containing a large amount of lignin. As time goes by, “acidic paper” turns yellowish and deteriorates as a result of oxidation, making it difficult to store for a long time. For this reason, NTL imported the mass de-acidification system from Battelle in Germany to de-acidify books with HMDO and METE. After a computer-controlled soaking and drying processes, the acid contained in paper is neutralized or becomes weakly alkaline, and the life of books is prolonged.

### Ultralow Temperature Freezer

Apart from physical damage and chemical deterioration, biological attack is one of the major causes of book and record deterioration. Therefore, we purchased the ultralow temperature freezer to stop metabolism and stimulate necrosis in worms with the freezing process, in order to damage their basic physiology to quarantine and control the pest in collections and documents.

#### Self-service Tour

- Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.
- Visitors can see how book recovery staff restores books through the window

#### Tour Service

- Time: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.
- NTL will arrange Chinese tour service.
- Each session is about 30 minutes.
- Please make an appointment five days in advance.

Tel: (02) 2926-6888 ext: 4217 Miss Hsu

## Transportation

#### ■ Taipei Metro:

Take the Nanshijiao Line and get off at Yongan Market Station.

# 臺灣圖書醫院

## Taiwan Book Hospital



Ultralow temperature freezer

國立臺灣圖書館  
National Taiwan Library

Address: 85 Zhongan Street, Zhonghe District,  
New Taipei City, Taiwan 23574  
Website: <http://www.ntl.edu.tw>  
Phone: (02) 2926-6888