

## Work Report of IFLA-PAC China Center

In 2007, the Chinese Ancient Books Preservation Project organized by the Chinese government, which includes ancient books census and registration, ancient books comprehensive preservation, ancient books human resources training, ancient books research and use, began to be implemented nationwide. Since then, the work stated above has become the core activities of IFLA-PAC China Center.

In the past three years and especially in the last year, IFLA-PAC China Center has made some encouraging achievements in the following respects.

1. Due to the fact that the real situation of the ancient books across China is unclear, IFLA-PAC China Center has made great efforts nationwide to use census platform for general survey, carry out the declaration and review of the ancient books for the Register of National Precious Ancient Books, and compile the general catalog provincial branch volumes of Chinese ancient books. In addition, the accreditation of the national key institutions for ancient books preservation has also been carried out to improve the living environment of ancient books.

From 2007 to 2010, IFLA-PAC China Center has organized the declaration, review and announcement of the Register of National Precious Ancient Books three times. By checking the most precious parts of the existing ancient books, 9,859 precious ancient books have become the national precious books and got special care. The ancient books census platform based on computer technology has come into service. And the compilation of the general catalog provincial branch volumes of Chinese ancient books has also been initiated. Eleven provincial centers and three institutions with more than 100 million volumes of ancient books have become the first batch to start the work in 2010. The Chinese Ancient Books Preservation Project, which aims to figure out the real situation, conserve and use ancient books step by step and promote Chinese culture, has been carried out.

Based upon the census situation, IFLA-PAC China Center reviewed the existing restoration institutions and has established twelve national restoration centers which are responsible for the precious ancient books restoration and staff training. In order to realize the ancient books tiered preservation, 150 institutions with large quantities of high quality ancient books have become national key institutions for ancient books preservation and take the responsibility of preserving ancient books. Ancient books preservation mechanism has been built.

As the census progressed, the Ministry of Culture organized investigations in Tibet twice. The investigations have found that there are lots of early documents in Tibet and they are distributed dispersedly. Aside from Tibet Library, Tibet Museum, Tibet Archives and some other public institutions, about 1,700 temples have ancient books. But the total volume is unclear and most of these ancient books are in poor conservation condition. According to the actual situation in Tibet, the Ministry of Culture, together with eight other ministries and commissions (Inter-ministry joint conference members), initiated Tibet Ancient Books Preservation Project, which gives all-round support for Tibet ancient books preservation. It is hoped that relevant experience can be learned from the project and thus be expanded to the census and preservation of the ancient books of other ethnic groups.

The Overseas Chinese Ancient Books Returning Action has also been carried out. On May 21, 2010, the full-text image repository of the Institute of the Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo and the Chinese ancient books catalog of Princeton University of the Chinese Rare and Ancient Books International Union Catalog have been made accessible online for free.

2. For many years, ancient books related personnel are in critical shortage, so IFLA-PAC China Center has organized in-service trainings and advanced academic credentials education.

The training series include ancient books census, ancient books accreditation and preservation, ancient books restoration, ancient books cataloging, ancient books restoration preliminary classes, ancient books restoration advanced classes, national traditional Chinese medicine ancient books training classes, etc.. More than 3,000 people from over 1,000 organizations have participated in the training classes. And the trainees are from 32 provinces, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Macao Special Administrative Region. Some famous domestic and foreign professors and experts have been invited to give lectures on the professional topics of ancient books, which has established wide connections in the professional community.

In the meantime, IFLA-PAC China Center cooperates with Peking University in joint personnel training programs and has collaborated with classical document major of Peking University in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and practices, which has achieved a good effect. Besides, there is no fundamental discipline of ancient books restoration and accreditation in China, so IFLA-PAC China Center is actively engaged in the discipline construction together with universities and colleges, and jointly fostering human resources with normalized academic credentials on ancient books preservation and accreditation.

Currently, ancient books personnel professionalization construction is underway, and ancient books restoration staff occupational qualification accreditation mechanism has also been started, which will both promote the development of the ancient books restoration.

### **National Ancient Books Preservation Training Classes List**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Training period</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Number of trainees</b>	<b>Running days</b>	<b>Number of Guest trainees</b>
1	First National Ancient Books Census Training Class	May 21 - June 8, 2007	National Library of China (NLC)	35	19	0
2	Second National Ancient Books Census Training Class	June 30 - July 15, 2007	NLC	35	16	0
3	Third National Ancient Books Census Training Class	August 15 – 29, 2007	NLC	40	15	10
4	First National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	October 10 – December 21, 2007	NLC	36	73	0

5	Second National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	February 25 – May 15, 2008	NLC	35	80	0
6	First National Ancient Books Accreditation and Preservation Advanced Research and Study Class	May 26 – July 3, 2008	NLC	35	39	0
7	Third National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	July 7 – September 13, 2008	Zhongshan University Library	41	69	6
8	First National Ancient Books Census Platform Training Class	August 24 – 29, 2008	NLC	38	6	8
9	Second National Ancient Books Census Platform Training Class	August 31 – September 5, 2008	NLC	38	6	0
10	First National Ancient Books Cataloging Training Class	August 31 – September 20, 2008	Liaoning Provincial Library	51	21	2
11	First Ethnic Group Language Ancient Books Accreditation and Preservation Research and Study Class	October 8 – 24, 2008	NLC	27	17	3
12	Fourth National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	October 13 – December 20, 2008	Tianjin Library	39	69	0
13	Fourth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	October 18 – November 4, 2008	Shaanxi Provincial Library	70	18	8
14	Second National	October 20 –	Zhejiang	43	20	0

	Ancient Books Accreditation and Preservation Advanced Research and Study Class	November 8, 2008	Library			
15	Fifth National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	October 21 – December 27, 2008	Zhejiang Library	37	68	0
16	National Traditional Chinese Medicine Ancient Books Preservation Research and Study Class	October 26 – November 7, 2008	China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences	50	13	1
17	Second National Ancient Books Cataloging Training Class	October 28 – November 21, 2008	Capital Library	39	25	0
18	Fifth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	November 2 – 14, 2008	Hebei Provincial Library	55	13	0
19	Sixth National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	November 11 – December 25, 2008	Nanjing Library	45	45	0
20	Seventh National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	November 16, 2008 – January 10, 2009	Guizhou Provincial Library	39	56	2
21	Third National Ancient Books Accreditation and Preservation Advanced Research and Study Class	November 30 – December 12, 2008	Shandong Provincial Library	91	13	22
22	Third National Ancient Books Census Platform Training Class	December 1 – 4, 2008	NLC	41	4	1

23	First National Ancient Books Census Platform Administrator Training Class	December 22 – 25, 2008	NLC	46	4	3
24	Second National Ancient Books Census Platform Administrator Training Class	January 5 – 8, 2009	NLC	46	4	4
25	Third National Ancient Books Cataloging Training Class	February 11 – 25, 2009	Chongqing Library	60	15	8
26	Second National Ethnic Group Language Ancient Books Accreditation and Preservation Research and Study Class	February 15 – 27, 2009	Yunnan Provincial Library	90	13	12
27	First National Stone Inscriptions Rearrangement and Accreditation Training Class	February 19 – March 6, 2009	Shanghai Library	50	16	0
28	First National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Advanced Training Class	March 2 – April 24, 2009	NLC	32	54	3
29	Sixth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	April 7 – 21, 2009	Henan Provincial Library	62	15	7
30	Eighth National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	April 14 – May 27, 2009	Yunnan Provincial Library	49	44	3
31	Second National Stone Inscriptions Rearrangement and	May 11 – 26, 2009	NLC	40	16	5

	Accreditation Training Class					
32	Seventh National Ancient Books Census Training Class	June 22 – July 3, 2009	Qinghai Provincial Library	45	12	4
33	Eighth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	June 29 – July 10, 2009	Xinjiang Library	66	12	5
34	Fourth National Ancient Books Cataloging Training Class	July 6 – 24, 2009	Gansu Library	83	19	16
35	Ninth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	July 15 – 30, 2009	Hunan Library	76	16	10
36	National Traditional Chinese Medicine Ancient Books Cataloging Training Class	July 26 – August 7, 2009	Information Research Institute, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences	53	14	0
37	Fourth National Ancient Books Accreditation and Preservation Advanced Research and Study Class	August 31 – September 18, 2009	Shanxi Library	94	19	17
38	Ninth National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	August 10 – December 25, 2009	NLC	39	77	0
39	Tenth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	August 12 – 28, 2009	Anhui Library	93	17	13
40	Eleventh National Ancient Books Census Training	August 14 – 30, 2009	Sichuan Library	86	17	6

	Class					
41	Tenth National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	August 19 – December 30, 2009	Shanxi Library	34	73	0
42	Third Ethnic Group Language Ancient Books Accreditation and Preservation Research and Study Class	August 21 – November 1, 2009	Southwest University Library	46	12	0
43	National Western Language Books Restoration Technology Training Class	November 15 – 28, 2009	Zhongshan University Library	24	14	4
44	Fifth National Ancient Books Cataloging Training Class	November 30 – December 16, 2009	Dalian Library	100	17	14
45	Twelfth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	December 7 – 19, 2009	Hubei Library	73	13	13
46	Thirteenth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	March 1 – 17, 2010	Guangxi Library	76	17	5
47	First National Ancient Books Census Platform Auditor Training Class	March 14 – 19, 2010	Huazhong Normal University	51	6	2
48	Fourteenth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	March 15 – 23, 2010	Nanjing Library	61	9	16
49	Fifteenth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	March 17 – April 2, 2010	Zhejiang Library	74	17	12
50	Eleventh National Ancient Books	April 6 – June 25, 2010	Tianjin Library	40	81	4

	Restoration Technology Training Class					
51	Sixteenth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	April 22 – 28, 2010	Liaoning Library	59	7	10
52	Fifth National Ancient Books Accreditation and Preservation Advanced Research and Study Class	May 4 – 14, 2010	Anhui Provincial Library	75	11	5
53	Seventeenth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	May 20 – June 2, 2010	NLC	59	14	0
54	Twelfth National Ancient Books Restoration Technology Training Class	May 25 – August 6, 2010	Zhongshan University Library	41	74	2
55	Seventeenth National Ancient Books Census Training Class	May 26 – June 6, 2010	Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library	72	12	18

55 times in total,  
2,955 person-time,  
1,056 institutions as  
Total formal trainees, other  
guest trainees also  
included, more than  
3,200 trainees in total

3. IFLA-PAC China Center has also made greater efforts for ancient books reproducibility preservation to promote the proper use of ancient books.

In 2002, the Chinese Rare Books Reengineering Project, which is funded by the government, chose the rare ancient books before the Tang, Song, Jin and Yuan Dynasty, and photocopied them to make thousands of copies for inheritance and use. Fifty-eight titles of unique copies which were once hidden in the palace came out of the storehouse, and were made available to the academia and the general public. The duplicates of these rare books have reduced the circulation of the original ones and protected them, which can be regarded as a good model for the ancient books reproducibility preservation. The continued compilation of the Chinese Rare Books Reengineering Project started in September, 2008. Besides, the precious ancient books in the Ming and Qing



Dynasty and some precious rare books of the ethnic minority groups were photocopied and published, which has benefited the general public. The National Library of China has also photocopied many ancient books.

In recent years, the ancient books digitization has developed rapidly. The National Library of China has made its oracle bones, stone inscriptions, Tangut materials, old pictures, local chronicles and some other resources accessible online through digitization. Readers can use them conveniently on the Internet. The National Library of China has also overall planned to digitize ancient books nationwide through the platform of Chinese Ancient Books Preservation Project, which will make full use of the specialists' expertise in book selection and avoid overlapping investment and waste of money. More importantly, it will reduce the potential damages to the ancient books and maximize the benefit of the ancient books preservation.

4. IFLA-PAC China Center has publicized the ancient books preservation by exhibitions, newspapers and magazines, Internet, etc..

In order to popularize the general knowledge of ancient books and raise the public awareness of the ancient books preservation, IFLA-PAC China Center has held a series of exhibitions in the past few years, which has achieved a good effect. Through the exhibitions, the professional people get access to the ancient books very closely, which enriches their research. General readers expand their knowledge scope and foster the preservation awareness.

No.	Period	Place	Subject	Type	Sponsor(s)
1	May 28 - June 28, 2006	National Library of China (NLC)	Civilization Watch—History and Exploration of the Ancient Books preservation	Elite items exhibition	National Library of China (NLC)
2	October 19 – 21, 2006	NLC	Elite Items of the Gold Light Buddhist Sutra in NLC Collection	Special collection exhibition	NLC
3	January, 2006	NLC	Exhibition of Zhang Xiumin's Academic Career and His Works	Life and career exhibition	NLC
4	March, 2007	NLC	Inheritance of Civilization—Chinese Ancient Books Preservation Project Exhibition	Ancient books preservation	NLC
5	April 26 –May 9, 2007	Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre	Exhibition of the Dao De Jing Editions	Special collection exhibition	NLC and its partners
6	June 8 - 20, 2007	NLC	Exhibition of the Chinese Papermaking, Printing and Ancient Books Preservation	Traditional crafts	NLC
7	September, 2007	NLC	Exhibition of Yang Shi Lei Architectural Drawings of the Qing Dynasty	Special collection exhibition	NLC
8	November 8 -	NLC	Special Exhibition of the 37th	Special	NLC and its

	December 4, 2007		Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between China and Italy	collection exhibition	partners
9	December 8, 2007 – March, 2008	NLC	Anne Frank: a History for Today	Life and career exhibition	NLC and its partners
10	April – November, 2008	NLC	Exhibition of the Centenary of Fu Lei’s Birth	Life and career exhibition	NLC and its partners
11	June - August, 2008	NLC	Special Exhibition of the National Precious Ancient Books (No. 1)	Ancient books preservation	NLC
12	September 5 - 24, 2008	NLC	Exhibition of the Complete Library in Four Branches of Literature	Special collection exhibition	NLC
13	September 25 – October 24, 2008	NLC	1860—1930: Chinese Old Pictures in British Collection	Special collection exhibition	NLC and its partners
14	December, 2008	NLC	Exhibition of Tibetan Books	Special collection exhibition	NLC
15	July - September, 2008	NLC	Exhibition of Chinese Ancient Inventions	Special collection exhibition	NLC and its partners
16	January 4 - 23, 2009	NLC	Opening Exhibition of Local Chronicles Museum	Special collection exhibition	NLC
17	April 23 - 26, 2009	NLC	Exhibition of NLC Rare and Ancient Books on April 23rd—International Day of the Book	Elite items exhibition	NLC
18	May 2 - 13, 2009	Macao University Library	Exhibition of the Commemoration the May 4th Movement	Special collection exhibition	NLC and its partners
19	June 14 - July 10, 2009	NLC	Special Exhibition of the National Precious Ancient Books (No. 2)	Ancient books preservation	NLC
20	September 1 - October 7, 2009	NLC	One Hundred Years’ Watch: Exhibition of the Elite Items in NLC Special Collections	Elite items exhibition	NLC
21	April 23 - May 10, 2010	NLC	Exhibition of Chinese History of Books	History of books	NLC

5. IFLA-PAC China Center is putting more effort in research and trying to make the ancient

books preservation transform from experience to science.

After three years' construction, IFLA-PAC China Center has become an advanced national level laboratory for the ancient books preservation, and has conducted some experiments. The research on ancient paper, the construction of ancient paper storehouse, and the survey and study of laws and regulations will greatly promote the normalization of the ancient books preservation, especially restoration, which can make the ancient books preservation in China come into a beneficial development stage and contribute to protecting common cultural heritage of mankind. IFLA-PAC China Center has conducted research on related laws, regulations, and policies. Relevant technical standards have been developed and are being carried out. Some special equipment and tools for the ancient books restoration have also been developed. The paper pulp repairing machine, the book pressing machine, the repair stand for western language materials, the paper folding apparatus, and the paper PH value dipstick have been put into use, and some other tools are being developed. The center also supervises the manufacture of the restoration papers and distributes them. IFLA-PAC China Center hopes to improve the planning and management standards of the Chinese ancient books restoration through a series of actions and constant efforts. The transformation from experience to science is the common dream of the Chinese ancient books personnel.