

Professor Paul Katz Lectures on
“Taiwan’s Digital Resources and the Study of Chinese Religious
Culture”

In 2013, the National Central Library (NCL) and various prominent United States universities jointly sponsored the Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies to establish an exchange platform for showcasing research results from the field of Taiwan Studies and Sinology, and to enhance awareness of Chinese culture with Taiwan characteristics. On September 9, 2013 the NCL and the C.V. Starr East Asia Library collaborated to invite Professor Paul R. Katz, Research Fellow at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, to speak on “Taiwan’s Digital Resources and the Study of Chinese Religious Cultures.” The lecture was given at the Butler Library of Columbia University, and introduced by Director Jim Cheng of the C. V. Starr East Asia Library.

Paul R. Katz obtained his doctorate from the Department of East Asian Studies, Princeton University. A specialist in the history of Chinese religion and society, he is recognized in the academic world for his scholarship on Taoism and popular religion. He has been director of the Office of Research for the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange a member of the editorial board for this CCS academic journal *Chinese Studies*.

Professor Katz provided a detailed introduction to how Taiwan has in recent years newly established and promoted archives of topical documents rich in content for the three major fields of Taiwan Studies, Chinese Studies and Religious Studies. He began with the 2000-year Chinese-Western Date Conversion system at Academic Sinica as a tool for indexing the current development digitizing systems for academic and topical research in Taiwan, then selected archives pertaining to Chinese studies and Taoism studies for additional introduction, including digital archives from the system for indexing

doctoral and Master's theses, academic journals, and newspaper texts, as well as palace files, as examples of online resources of rich and diverse content. He then demonstrated how using the index for The Cult of Marshal Wen marvelously showcases the research results of Taiwan Studies and Chinese Studies and enhances awareness of Chinese culture with Taiwan characteristics.

After the lecture, Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) played an English-language video, "Resources for Chinese Studies in Taiwan," offering a briefing on the services provided by the CCS, research grants for foreign scholars in Taiwan and Chinese studies, and the setting up by various academic institutions of Sinological e-resources to encourage greater numbers of outstanding foreign scholars to apply for grants to conduct research in Taiwan and boost the capacity of Taiwan studies.



Jim Cheng, Director of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library, speaking to the audience



Professor Paul Katz of Columbia University delivering his lecture



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The video “Resources for Chinese Studies in Taiwan” is screened following the lecture