

The system includes annual budget increase/revision functions, and it can provide relevant reports and statistical data on various operational stages.

In conjunction with the goals of the online procurement mechanism plan, the ISBN Center designed its "New Book Selection and Procurement Information Net" to serve as a platform for public libraries to select and acquire books. The system allows for integrated cross-platform searches of new book information from such sources as the ISBN.net, NBINet Union Catalog, public library automation systems, and online bookstores, providing a single-window environment for online book selection, review, duplicate copy checking, purchasing, budget examination, and checking and acceptance.

The selection and acquisition of books is the most important task in library development. The "New Book Selection and Procurement Information Net" facilitates these operations by providing a function-rich and user-friendly system integrating the various book acquisition procedures. The system was launched at the end of March 2004 to enable public libraries to quickly and efficiently access new book information and library collection catalogs, thereby helping them build collections with resources that readers need.

Events

Travelers and Travels: A Special Exhibition of Chinese Maps and Travelogues

In the old maps and travelogues of China, the mountains and rivers, centers of civilization and economic resources are vividly presented. The public can explore these fascinating documents during a special exhibition held from February 25, 2004, at the library's Special Collections Room. The exhibition presents old maps and travel writings in the NCL collection, arranged in chronological order. The

major content of the exhibit is summarized below:

Ten Road Maps of the Tang Dynasty from the Atlas of Past Dynasties, which present the expansive Tang realm and the merger between northern barbarian tribes and the people of Tang Dynasty; the The Great Tang Dynasty Record of the Western Regions, a historical, geographical, religious and literary record of the travels of the Buddhist monk Hsuan Tsang to 138 states in the western part of the Tang domain; Meng Yuan-lao's Record of the Eastern Capital, a contemporary account of the prosperous Northern Song capital of Bianjing; and the Map of Huan-he Envoys to Korea, a record of official envoy missions to Korea, serves as an invaluable resource for the study of Sino-Korean relations in former times and the history of transportation in China. In the Common Map by the famous Yuan cartographer and geographer Chu Si-pen, one can see the highly advanced level of cartography in the Yuan period; and in Yelu Chu-tsai's Annotated Records of the Western Travels the customs and people of the western territories are elaborated. During the Ming dynasty, contact between China and the western world became more frequent, leading to the adoption of western cartography techniques by Chinese map makers, as seen in the exhibited works Atlas of the World and Complete Collection of Reference Maps. The Hsu Hsia Travelogue offers a record of the customs, people and scenic sites from the Central Plains to the remote Yungui Plateau; and the Annotated Maps of Korea and Overview of Japan provide insight into the cultural exchanges between China and its Northeast Asian neighbors. In his Ching dynasty work, Ku Yan-wu offers an account of travels throughout China, joining history, geography and defense; while Ku Tsu-yu's Essentials of Historical Geography is a prognostic account joining geographical and literary values. From the Ching period, there is a collection of travel travelogues recopied and annotated by Li Wen-tien offering a detailed look at the frontier areas of China; and Yu Yung-he's Pai-hai Travelogue and Tsai-liu Diary remain among the most valuable travel records of Taiwan in the late seventeenth

century, a time when the island was becoming an increasingly important part of the Chinese domain. In 德a_-hai shih-ch_lu' , the author, an official sent to Taiwan, provides a detailed account of the economic and material resources of Taiwan, depicting images of daily life in those early times and also showing the importance placed by the Ching court on Taiwan.

Nothing feeds the spirit and mind like reading and travel. This special exhibition lets you retrace the footsteps of travelers from the Tang to Ching dynasties, on their journeys to the heart and frontiers of China, revealing the beauty and richness of old Cathay.

Council for Cultural Affairs Holds Book Exhibition

The Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA) has become something of a medium-sized publisher in its own right. Over the last four years, it has turned out 300 to 400 books, many of which were on display at a March book exhibition held by the council at the Huashan Creative and Cultural Industry Center. Council Chairwoman Chen Yu-chiou remarked that, the publication of works on contemporary society and culture in Taiwan not only allows the people of Taiwan to immediately see their cultural image, but also enable the people of other countries to understand Taiwan today."

According to the CCL, the books on display present the beauty, literature and history, community culture, cultural assets, and arts of Taiwan. About 40 of the works on history and literature cover Ming and Ching dynasty materials and will also be made available online in digital form for easier public access. Other works include local historical materials, three sets of award-winning poetry and prose works in translation; and proceedings of the Chu Hsi-ning Seminar. There is also a rich collection of works on cultural assets, including 17 volumes on local culture and 10 volumes on cultural enterprises, historical buildings, and study hand-