

Library Professional Education Plan

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In 2003, the NCL arranged several librarian educational programs, including the following:

- (1) An undergraduate credited course was held in cooperation with National Chengchi University to help school librarians improve their professional abilities. Some 50 librarians took part in the course, which contributed to efforts by schools and community organizations to provide a greater diversity of education resources and services.
- (2) The NCL and National Sun Yat-sen University jointly held a for-credit career advancement course for librarians. The course, which was part of the Ministry of Education's efforts to promote lifelong education, was open to public library employees. A total of 50 people attended the course.
- (3) In order to improve the professional knowledge, service quality and educational role of public libraries, the NCL, Taiwan Branch of the NCL, National Taichung Library, Taipei Municipal Library, and Kaohsiung Municipal Library arranged on-site workshop courses tailored to the specific needs of each county and city. The courses covered such topics as technical services, reader services, library automation, knowledge management and service strategies. A total of 17 workshops were held from August to November. Experts and scholars in the library and information fields provided lectures, and about 1,300 library professionals attended the classes.

Public Libraries Awarded for Excellence in 2003

Sixty-seven of Taiwan's nearly 500 public libraries were presented awards for excellence by the Public Library Guidance, Inspection Visit and Assessment Committee, a 12-member body of experts and scholars commissioned by the Ministry of Education. The 24 first-place libraries, including Taipei County's

Yonghe Municipal Library, won an NT\$100,000 prize; the 20 second-place libraries, including Hsinchu County 撥 Hukou Township Library, got an NT\$50,000 award; and the 23 third-place libraries, including Shenkeng Township Library in Taipei County, came home with NT\$30,000. While the winners were not all necessarily large libraries, they earned praise for their ability to make the most out of limited human resources. Vice Minister of Education Lu Mu-lin commended the winning libraries for their hard work. He also promised to help public libraries overcome staff shortages and to continue developing through student volunteer programs in partnership with local universities.

Events

National Taichung Library Holds Public Library Audio-Visual Education Seminar

Under direction of the Cabinet-level Council for Cultural Affairs, National Taichung Library organized two "Taiwan Public Library Audio-Visual Education Seminars" from December 15 to 23, 2003. The workshops were attended by about 80 administrators of county and city cultural bureaus (centers) and city and township public libraries. The seminar aimed to promote greater emphasis on spatial planning and resource management of library AV areas; improve the professional knowledge of AV service personnel; enhance understanding of AV equipment operation and the arrangement of art appreciation and research activities; improve the quality of AV services; create a comfortable and quiet environment for enjoying AV resources; and encourage library use by the public. Discussion topics during the seminar included: Spatial Planning and Resource Management of Library AV Rooms, Introduction to AV Terminology and Equipment, Microphone Principles and Utilization, Sound Control Regulations and Practical Issues, AV