

broadcast live on an education radio channel and heard by students in schools around the city. Class teachers (or parents) put down their work for 10 minutes each day to read to students.

2. The Taipei City Education Bureau published a book called *Creating a Reading Paradise for Kids* to guide parents and teachers in reading activities with children. You can read a review of the book on pp.51-53 in the April 2004 issue of *New Books: Recent Publications in Taiwan, ROC*.

3. Achievements of the reading program were exhibited along with excellent literary works by children and the records of parent-child reading activities. An e-newsletter was also published with news on reading information and resource.

4. Large volumes of good books were distributed to schools to augment reading resources. They included books aimed at fostering correct life views and character. The books also provided a common topic of conversation among Taipei school kids, subtly helped to nurture intelligent and modern minded kids, facilitated the creation of a high quality reading environment, and helped establish a rich and mannered reading society.

In the third and fourth year, the program will aim to further integrate reading education resources and foster the sharing of reading education experience so as to promote a literary climate in Taiwan and nurture creative thinking among its children.

■ **Audio Book Program Expands Reading Choices for the Blind**

Technology Development Association for the Disabled in Taiwan plans to soon release Taiwan's first virtual "Mobile Library for the Visually Impaired" audio CD as part of its "Braille Audio Book Guide System." The CDs will contain spoken versions of 25 hot-selling books at Kingstone and Eslite bookstores. One thousand CDs will be produced initially and provided to visually impaired readers.

Association Secretary General Yang Sheng-hung noted that people with normal

eyesight often pity the blind and think they need "inspiration," so they mostly donate inspirational books, language learning materials, or light literature. Moreover, there are only around 10,000 Braille books in the NCL collection, or 1/240th the amount of normal books.

As their study and employment opportunities grow, the visually impaired are increasingly aware that "knowledge is power." They are demanding more than just inspirational books and appealing to society to value their reading needs and wants, which also include the Harry Potter books, *Lord of the Rings*, and other popular books and magazines. To help satisfy this need, the "Mobile Library" CD program plans to produce 1,000 audio books—including titles on finance, economics, law, medicine, popular science, and literature—within five years in conjunction with the "Digital Taiwan Program" under the Executive Yuan's "Challenge 2008" national development plan.

SEMINARS

■ Library and Information Science Research Plan Achievement Seminar

The objective of humanities and social sciences R&D at the National Science Council (NSC) is to encourage and upgrade the level of basic research in humanities and the social sciences. Library and information science (LIS) is an extensive field with major research areas including bibliometrics, knowledge management, digital archiving, and digital learning. The Library and Information Science Research Plan Achievement Seminar was held to share LIS research achievements and explore the content and application of bibliometrics.

In addition to research report presentations by LIS scholars, the seminar featured a discussion on important bibliometrics topics. The seminar was divided into three sessions.