

in the establishment of digital resources, libraries need to spend a lot of time and effort to get authorization from individual copyright holders. Their job would be made much easier if the Ministry of Economic Affairs, which is in charge of copyright matters in Taiwan, could view library databases as fair usage of copyright materials by a non-profit entity, while also establishing a mechanism for fairly compensating copyright holders for the usage of their works. Such an arrangement would greatly facilitate the development of the information function of public libraries. I am confident that through the collective wisdom and appropriate measures of the relevant agencies, the metamorphosis of our public libraries can be achieved before long.

## ■ E-Learning Campus

In order to provide a convenient and free online resource for continuing education, the NCL launched the NCL E-Learning Campus (<http://cu.ncl.edu.tw>) in December 2000. Over the years, the library has steadily increased the site content to meet the self-education needs of the general public.

The more than 40 courses offered through the site are divided into three main categories: library utilization courses, courses for library and information science (LIS) professionals, and nine-year education system courses. There is also information on dozens of seminars and workshops related to library service and development. In addition to inviting scholars and experts to take part in designing online courses on various themes, the NCL has augmented the E-Learning Campus with the course content of the 2002 Library Association of China Symposium to provide an additional learning channel for LIS faculty and students. A total of eight such curricula have been posted on the site. In 2003, new courses were added on the topics of "Township Library Operations and Management ", "Elementary and Middle School Library Operations", and "Reading Strategies." Each course joins specialized and practical instructional content and boasts especially innovative web page designs to provide a user-friendly digital learning environment.

The multimedia content and search functions of the site have also been improved to enhance the learning experience.

In conjunction with the launch of new online courses, the NCL regularly arranges symposia or participates in national events to promote the E-Learning Campus service to libraries, students, teachers and the general public. Such events include the Taipei International Book Exhibition, the "Bridging the Digital Divide 2002 Implementation Progress Exhibition" held as part of the "Challenge 2008" national development plan, the 2002 Community Education Lifelong Learning Festival, and the National Digital Learning and Education Resource Fair.

In order to further increase public awareness and utilization of the E-Learning Campus, the NCL has published a handbook with sections introducing the website, describing program content, and answering frequently asked questions. The course descriptions arrange the more than 40 modules offered under four basic categories, including "Library Utilization Courses" (nine in total), "Courses for Library and Information Science Professionals" (12), "Library and Information Science Professional Symposia/Workshops" (11), and "Nine-year Education System Courses" (11). Each description introduces the course objectives, target students, and course content, making the world of online learning even more accessible.

## EVENTS

### ■ National Book Exchange Day

The Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA) teamed up with township libraries across Taiwan to hold the "National Good Book Exchange Day" on September 4. Following a month-long book collection drive, the activity aimed to provide books to remote areas lacking reading material, while also encouraging people to share the joy of reading.

People with book donor cards could exchange books on a one-for-one basis at the CCA's

