

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

Huashan Cultural and Creative Industry Center, National Taichung Library, township libraries, and county and city cultural bureaus and cultural centers.

The CCA sent out posters and banners to libraries around the country to promote the event. It also gave out bookmarks to encourage participation, and launched a special website with event information, including daily updated tallies of books donated to each library to encourage healthy competition. The council also invited President Chen Shui-bian to film a television ad at the Huashan Cultural and Creative Industry Center to speak about the benefits of the book exchange program. Model Lin Chi-ling and various digital artists also donated their favorite books to attract attention to the event.

Of the 494 public libraries in Taiwan, 268 took part in the National Good Book Exchange Day, representing 54.25% of the total. The libraries received nearly 300,000 books from 27,684 people, who in turn received 169,526 books on exchange. Representing President Chen Shui-bian, Secretary General Su Chen-chang of the Office of the President attended the book exchange at the Huashan Cultural and Creative Industry Center and also personally donated books. He noted that President Chen has stressed that reading is the root of knowledge. The president donated nine books for the exchange activity, including the series "Discovering Taiwan." Taichung County provided the greatest number of books (24,883), followed by Kaohsiung County (20,007), and Taichung City (18,571).

Librarians from across the country also pitched in enthusiastically to make this event a success, creating promotional posters and rallying support from local businesses, some of which donated funds for purchasing new books. The top-20 providers of books were presented awards as well as stained glass plaques of appreciation made by well-known artists.

The National Good Book Exchange Day activity came to a successful end on September 4, with high praise all around and leaving expectations high for next year's event.