

- (3) Guidance and Service Targets: Township librarians, library volunteers, and community activists.
- (4) Library Selection Principles: Guidance recipients were selected from among libraries that had signed up to take part in the program.
- (5) Planning and Funding Needs: Service teams drafted an overview of the guidance to be provided and an estimate of the required funds based on the program objectives. Funding was then provided by the NCL.
- (6) Implementation Period: July to October 2004. Each team provided two- to three-day guidance to an average of five libraries.
- (7) Service Content: Services were provided in the areas indicated by the libraries in a questionnaire (mainly concerning public library operations, arrangement of library space, library automation, database and network resource utilization, collection development, formation of book selection committees, online book selection and acquisition, and practical work matters).

■ Summer Library News

Taipei Public Library Plans Home Delivery

On July 25, the Taipei Public Library (TPL) kicked off a weeklong series of seven seminars called "Creating a City Library of the Future: 2004 Contract with the Public." The first seminar was held at the main branch of the Taipei Public Library.

Academia Sinica Vice President Tseng Chi-lang suggested that libraries could borrow a page from convenience stores by providing 24-hour seven-day a week service, as well as forming various clubs to serve as forums for intellectual exchange. TPL Director Tseng Shu-hsien noted that the library planned to introduce an express delivery book loan and return service, 24-hour library service, and MRT station book borrowing stands. These programs will be offered under a membership system open to the general public. The home delivery service is

expected to be especially useful to medical personnel, police officers and people in other professions with irregular hours. As for the MRT book stand service, the TPL is already in talks with store operators to install automated machines for book lending and returns. Under the system, users can order books online in the morning and pick up the book at the designated station after work. The 24-hour library service will initially be limited to libraries with single exits and entrances that are easy to control, in order to minimize the risk of theft. Private companies will be commissioned to operate the libraries from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. the following morning. Library patrons can use the library at this time for studying and reading books on the premise, but not for borrowing or returning books.

Taipei County Cultural Bureau Library

In order to quench reader's thirst for information, the Taipei County Cultural Bureau Library has set up wireless Internet access points, enabling library patrons with wireless-equipped laptop computers to roam the wide world of the web.

The library has also put recommended books from its collection of over 250,000 titles on display at each of the bookshelves in the third floor stack and periodical/reference area to make it easier for readers to find the right book.

In addition, all of the signage in the library is in Chinese and English, in conjunction with central government efforts to create a bilingual environment in Taiwan.

From August 3 to 21, the library held the "2004 Taipei County Good Book Exchange Activity" to facilitate the circulation of good publications and improve access to such books despite the library's falling acquisition budget. All publications published after 1991 and still in good shape could be exchanged during the event, except for K-12 textbooks, magazines, religious literature, test preparation guides and certain other types of material. Participants could earn points for publications contributed, and use the points to exchange for other books.

Taoyuan National Book Exhibition Serves up Summer Banquet of Culture

The Third Taoyuan National Book Exhibition ran from (July? August?) 17 to 25 at the Big Egg Stadium. The event attracted over 120 publishers and featured displays at over 450 booths. There were plenty of outstanding works and bestsellers on sale at discounted prices at the seven-day event, providing a summer banquet of books for bibliophiles.

At the opening ceremony, Taoyuan County Commissioner Chu Li-lun noted that in recent years Taoyuan County has evolved from a cultural desert into a cultural oasis, with the government increasing spending on cultural affairs by 2.5-fold to over NT\$300 million. This money has been used to improve county libraries and acquire books for elementary schools.

There were seven pavilions at this year's book exhibition, including displays on the themes of Taoyuan Culture, Good Book Exchange, Childhood Photos of Writers, Taoyuan Children's Literature, Continuing Education, Comics, and Max Liu. There was also a children's workshop and discussions on reading featuring Tsai Chih-ping, Chen Tan-yan, Chang Man-juan, Chen Juo-si, Li Tung, Chen Yueh-wen, Liu Ke-hsiang, and Hu Yin-meng.

Taichung Newborns Get Early Start on Reading

The Taichung County Cultural Affairs Bureau and Shengang Library jointly held a "Library Starting Line" activity in August. Parents with infants in Shengang Township were invited to bring their newborns to the township library and give them an early start on the road to reading. The library also plans to hold classes on infant care and health. This year the Cultural Affairs Bureau has asked the Shengang Library and Taiping City Library to promote parent-child reading activities. Shengang Library has linked up with local household administration units to send invitations to 700 parents with newborns in the township.

Parents taking part in the "Library Starting Line" activity received a gift set for their newborns, including a little bookworm doll, reader's guide, reader's book bag, and bookstore coupons.

