

Program

■ *MOE Acquires New Taiwan Literature Textbook for Elementary Schools*

The Ministry of Education (MOE) purchased 360 sets of *Taiwan Literature Reader*, a textbook published by the Changhua County Cultural Affairs Bureau, for use at elementary schools in 25 counties and cities across Taiwan. Selected for its high quality content and illustrations, the textbook series was edited for primary school use by well known Changhua writers and professors of Taiwanese literature at Providence University and National Cheng Kung University. Each set comprises nine volumes with essays, contemporary poetry, local legends, and stories by Changhua scholars. The series also introduces the life and works of literary figures in Changhua County.

This year, a committee of experts and scholars selected 188 children's books for acquisition under an MOE program. The books will be made available to elementary and middle schools across Taiwan on rotation basis through a bookmobile service.

■ *Township Library Development Plan Gets Underway*

In order to help public libraries improve the quality and scope of their services to meet the changing needs of society and sustainable develop, the NCL proposed to the Ministry of Education a "Township Library Development Challenge Plan." The plan aims to secure funding to help township

public libraries to enhance their services and facilities. Cultural bureaus were asked to recommend libraries at the township, city, and district levels for assessment by an NCL-picked committee to determine funding need. Funds will be used largely for improving the library environment, including upgrading service quality and facilities and renovating library buildings to create an excellent reading environment. funds will also be earmarked for the acquisition of high quality, popular and special books over a three-year period. In September, a total of 10 libraries were selected to receive funding for library environment improvements. Another 51 libraries will receive funding for collection building. (Chinese text by Yea-Huey Lin)

■ *NCL and GSU Cooperate on Taiwan Genealogical Data*

The NCL and Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) signed a cooperation agreement on November 22, 2004, covering genealogical data from the Taiwan area. The library first approached the GSU in early 2004 about accessing the society's extensive genealogical data on Taiwan in order to augment the library's own genealogical records. Such records are an invaluable resource for the study of history.

Under the terms of the agreement, the NCL will first acquire from the GSU 880 microfilm rolls (about 9,000 titles) of genealogical information from the Taiwan area. The GSU is also authorizing the library to convert such material to digital format and publish it online for educational use.