

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.

The conversion work will be completed within five years of the arrival of the microfilm material in Taiwan. The NCL will also provide a copy of the metadata files to the GSU, as well as provide regular reports to the society on the digital conversion progress.

In August 2005, Hsiao-Ming Yu, director of the NCL's Reader Services Division, met with GSU President Melvin P. Thatcher in Salt Lake City, Utah to discuss the cooperation project. Mr. Thatcher noted at the time that the digitization cooperation with the NCL is the first such venture carried out by the GSU, adding that the society attaches great importance to the project. Mr. Yu also met with Grace Y. Chen (director of the cataloging department), Derek B. Dobson (manager of the technical division), and other society staff to discuss details about the scope and standards of the digitization work. These discussions resulted in revisions to some of the metadata and digital imaging specifications.

On August 23, 2005, the NCL began converting the GSU microfilm to optical disks and creating metadata files. The library expects to complete processing of nearly 100 microfilm rolls by the end of this year. In the coming years, the NCL will continue to collect historical resources of value to Taiwan studies in order to build a more complete digital archive of historical materials for research purposes. (Chinese text by Hsiao-Ming Yu)



*NCL Reader Services Division Director Hsiao-Ming Yu (second from left), GSU President Melvin P. Thatcher (second from right), Grace Y. Chen, director of the GSU cataloging department (far left), and Reference librarian Ms Li Hsing-Yuan, (far right) met in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 2, 2005.
(Provided by Hsiao-Ming Yu)*

Special Report

■ *NCL Publications Displayed at Frankfurt Book Fair*

The Frankfurt Book Fair, the biggest show of its kind in the world, was held in Frankfurt, Germany in October. The fair is a major event for the publishing industry, attracting 6,691 exhibitors from 110 countries in 2004. In 2005, the Taiwan delegation to the show brought together exhibits by 10 government agencies and private organizations. The group exhibit was divided into general books and comics. A puppet performance and food displays were also arranged to heighten visitor interest. The NCL displayed 20 of the several hundred publications it has put out over the years, hoping to raise awareness of the dynamic development of Taiwan's library sector. Brief introductions to the 20 displayed works are provided here for reference