

information. The activity was part of the "Bridging the Urban-Rural Digital Divide Plan" directed by the Cabinet-level Council for Cultural Affairs, organized by the National Taichung Library and jointly carried out by county/city cultural bureaus and township libraries.

The activities brought together the public library functions of information searching, education and leisure. The event was directed not only at the general public, but also emphasized enhanced services for people living in remote areas and disadvantaged groups, such as foreign spouses, the elderly, and aboriginals, seeking to expand information access to all. National Taichung Library also launched a website (<http://egogo.ntl.gov.tw>) with information on related activities organized by participating libraries as well as interactive games that provide a fun and informative means to learning about related activities.

■ *NCL Attends 71st IFLA Conference*

The 71st General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) was held from August 14 to 18 in Oslo Norway. About 3,000 representatives from 133 countries and regions attended the event, whose theme was "Libraries: A Voyage of Discovery." The conference comprised 216 meetings and featured 404 speakers and presenters. Norway's culture minister Valgerd Svarstad Haugland hosted the opening ceremony. The King of Norway Harald V attended the ceremony, during which IFLA president Kay Raseroka and Oslo mayor Per Ditlev-Simonsen also gave

welcome speeches. Francis Li-Chung Tu, of the NCL Reference Department, represented the library at the conference. In addition to attending the opening ceremony and various group lectures, Mr. Tu visited with former ILFA presidents Kay Raseroka and Claudia Lux, current association president Alex Byrne, and association general secretary Peter Lor. He also toured and met with officials at the National Library of Norway, Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, University of Oslo Library, Oslo Public Library, Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum. (Chinese text by Francis Li-chung Tu)



*Mr. Francis Li-chung Tu of the NCL visits with IFLA President Alex Byrne (left)
(Provided by Francis Li-chung Tu)*

■ *Meeting Held to Assess Taiwan Reference Works*

The "Advisory Meeting for Evaluation of Reference Works Published in Taiwan in 2004"

was held on August 15. The meeting's evaluation and selection committee was formed by 11 scholars and experts and three staff members from the NCL.

A total of 385 reference works went assessed by the committee. Eighty two passed review by over half of the committee members, and nine received the committee's unanimous approval, including: *Bibliography on Studies of Botel Tobago/Orchid Island/Lanyu, Taiwan*; *Research Bibliography of Western Literature in Taiwan: 1946-2000*; *Guide to Chinese Medical Prescriptions*; *Encyclopedia of Culture in Taiwan*; *Dictionary of Taiwan History*; *Encyclopedia of Vertebrates*; *Illustrated Book on International Sign Language*; and *Illustrated Handbook on River Plants in Taiwan*. Abstracts and cover photos of the other 82 selected works were included in the October 2005 issue of *New Books: Recent Publications in Taiwan, ROC*. Bibliographies and abstracts of all of the works will also be included in the *Bibliography of Reference Works Published in Taiwan: 2004*, to be published at the end of 2005 by the NCL Reference Department. (Chinese text by Ming-Lin Wang)

■ *Commission Launches Mongolian and Tibetan Studies Website*

The Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission officially launched its "Mongolian and Tibetan Studies Website." The site provides categorized and searchable information on newspaper reports and periodical articles on Mongolian and Tibetan studies. The newspaper

section includes reports from Inner Mongolia Daily, Tibet Daily, and Mongol Messenger; and the periodical section includes Chinese Nation, Ethnic Pictorial, National Economic and Social Development, Inner Mongolia University Journal, Ethnic Studies, Inner Mongolia Social Sciences, World Ethnicity, Mongolian Studies News, Chinese Tibetan Studies, Tibetan Studies, and Eastern Europe and Central Asian Studies.

■ *National Taichung Library Debuts Taiwan's First UV Book Sterilizer Service*

The National Taichung Library (NTL) rolled out Taiwan's first ultraviolet (UV) book sanitizing service on August 31. The new service comes at a time of heightened global concern over infectious diseases, such as SARS, bird flu and enterovirus. The NTL is visited by hundreds of readers every day and the library's books are frequently checked out, making the sanitization service especially welcome. The sanitizing machine was displayed at a library exhibition in Japan at the end of 2004 and it only became available on the market this spring.

The machine is very easy to operate. Up to six A4-sized books can be placed in the sanitizer at once. Users just have to push a button and in 45 seconds the books are germ free. The machine has a 99.99% effectiveness rate in killing any *E. coli* or *staphylococcus aureus* that might be lurking in the pages.

The NTL acquired two of the UV machines. Both are located near the library's first floor book check out counter and are self operated. (Chinese text by National Taichung Library)