

program to deliver books to remote areas of Taiwan aiming to encourage reading habits among young children. The book mobile opened at the front plaza of Danei District Office and Book Bazaar of Dongshan District in Tainan City, respectively. Local elementary school and after-school class teachers were invited to bring students to read the extensive collection of high-quality children's books available from the mobile library. Storytelling activities were also arranged.



Children listen eagerly to a story



The book mobile at the Book Bazaar

■ *NCL Seminars on Western Literature*

In November 2014, the NCL launched a series of seminars on Western literature

on themes including “Greco-Roman Myths,” “Medieval Chivalric Literature,” ”Shakespeare’s Works,” and ”Latin American Literature.” A seminar held on January 10, 2015, looked at the American writer Herman Melville’s encounter with South Pacific Island natives, his experience sailing the Pacific, and their impact on his writing.

The series came to a successful end on January 17 with a seminar exploring three classics by English novelist Graham Greene: “A Gun for Sale,” “Brighton Rock,” and “The Third Man,” attracting enthusiastic support from the full-house audience.



NCL Seminars on Western Literature

■ *NCL and IFII Library Watch Common: Learning from Public Libraries Forum*

The NCL and International Federation for Information Integration (IFII) jointly held a forum on February 6, 2015, on the theme of learning from public libraries. Three

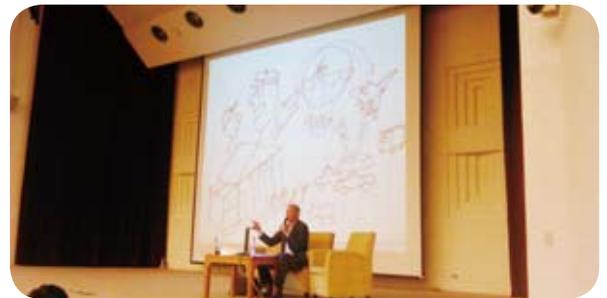
experts and scholars were invited to share the experience of the Los Angeles Public Library, the U.K.'s Idea Store, the two branches of the New Taipei City Library, and the Kaohsiung Public Library new main branch on how they evolved to meet the changing needs of society, readers and community development.



The forum group discussions attracted enthusiastic participation.



Jon Agee (second from left), NCL Director General Tseng (second from right) and others at the “Jump into a Hat” venue.



Mr. Agee improvises at the event

■ **NCL “International Picture Book Master’s Seminar”**

This year’s first “International Picture Book Master’s Seminar” was held on February 8, 2015. American picture book master Jon Agee presented a speech on “A Man Jumps into a Hat and Other Incredible Occurrences in Children’s Picture Books” to an audience of more than 400 people.

Agee began his talk with a picture book he produced at the age of six and then proceeded to hand draw and orally recounted each page of the story. With a genius for drawing and inexhaustible eloquence, he vividly presented the content of each story, winning the audience’s undivided attention.

On February 15, the NCL invited Jon Agee and a well-known children’s book critic Leonard S. Marcus. Both conversed to analyze the style and qualities that make a good picture book by using five illustrated books as example. The event marked the first time the two men have shared the stage and attracted over 700 participants. Marcus also introduced the art of modern picture books from various periods, as well as the picture book displayed at major fine arts museums and libraries around the world, including rare Russian picture books and children’s picture book that have been banned from U.S. public libraries. The talk presented new insight on the deeper aesthetics and the historical significance of the seemingly simple picture book.