

■ “ Dialogue between Architects and Libraries” Training Session

The NCL and the “International Federation for Information Integration” jointly held the “Library Watch Commons” forum with the theme “Dialogue between Architects and Libraries.” Two training sessions were held. The first took place in January 2015 inviting architect Kuo-chen Mo to interact and exchange with more than seventy librarians from across the national library community. Mr. Mo first spoke on the principle of library space design, then using the “World Café” model, he discussed the future space needs of libraries with the participants. They also shared their past experiences in discussing with architects and designers on space transformation. In February, 2016, a designer and two librarians discuss the different roles of the designer and the constructor in the execution of space construction from planning, construction to management paying attention to necessary details.



Participants discuss in small groups.

■ NCL Holds a Joint Exhibition of Taiwan Antique Maps

From February 22 to May 29, at the NCL, a joint exhibition of Taiwan Antique Maps was held with Taiwan Historica, Beitou Museum, and Association for Taiwan Antique Maps and Cultural Relics to showcase the antique maps provided by cooperative units and collectors.

The old maps on display have different themes, such as “Taiwan Industry Map” that introduces the industrial development during the different

historical periods. The exhibition will be held at the Taiwan Historica located in central Taiwan in July. At the opening of the exhibition, it attracted visits of many artists, historians, local culture and history researchers, museums and library staff.



Director General Tseng poses a photo with attendants of the exhibition.



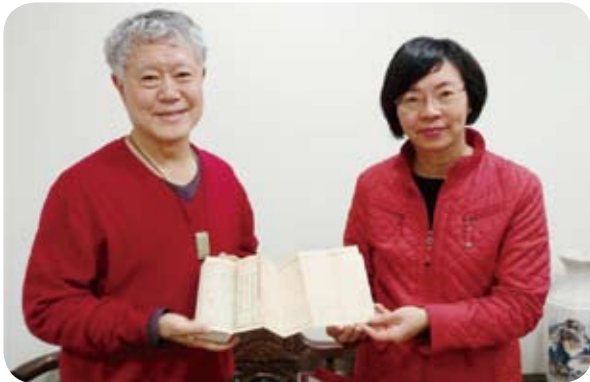
A map of Taiwan's diverse industries.

■ NCL and Trend Education Foundation Jointly Hold a Series of Lectures on the “Dream of the Red Chamber”

The NCL invited Hsun Chiang, a well-known Taiwanese writer, an expert, who has made extensive research on “The Dream of Red Chamber” to a series of lectures on the chapters 81 to 100th of the novel. The conference attracted over 600 fans.

He mentioned that after reading until chapter 80 of the novel, readers will certainly have many questions. He then gave detailed exquisite explanations of the questions including the authorship of the novel: was the novel a finished piece? Is the popular version after

chapter 80 written by the same author? The last 40 chapters, was it a supplement by E Kao?



Director General Tseng donates a book to Writer Hsun Chiang.

■ 2015 National Reading Habits Survey Results

The NCL has annually announced an analysis and statistics on the reading habit of public library readers in Taiwan. The latest such data was released at a press conference and model reader commendation ceremony held by the MOE was on March 3, 2016.

Director General Tseng analyzed and explained the survey findings for 2015 to the national media people and to all those present. She pointed out that compared to the year 2015, there is a significant increase in the number of visitors coming to the Library, of those who borrowed books, and the number of books borrowed, website users and requests for library cards (the number of library users increased to 73.37 million, up 2%; the number of borrowers increased to 18.79 million, up 9%; the number of books borrowed is 69.43 million, up 9%, the number of library card applicants increased to 13.31 million, up 11%; the numbers of e-books borrowers increased to 0.836 million, up 35%). All these indicate that the efforts invested in promoting reading by the MOE, the NCL and public libraries in all level obtained significant results.

Director General Tseng further pointed

out that due to the strong all out support of the MOE, the NCL in concerted efforts with the 12 Regional Resource Centers set up by county and city governments effected the following actions: purchased large quantities of high quality and foreign language books; offered a variety of reading promotion activities. These attracted local residents and immigrants to go to the library with enthusiasm and use the software and hardware facilities. As a result, these not only strengthened the function of public libraries, through excellent Taiwan publications and books from different countries, new immigrants and residents were helped to integrate into the local culture.

Furthermore, the MOE invested a lot of financial aid to assist in the physical transformation of library premises, promoted parent-child reading and other related activities, encouraged more people to go to the library. Consequently, there is an increase in the number of books borrowed.

Director General Tseng also expressed the hope that publishing industries, cultural and educational institutions continue to cooperate with the NCL, with libraries at all level in innovative services and organize various activities, so that reading becomes a part of every citizen's daily life.

Education Minister Wu present at the press conference affirmed all the lending and reading model. He noted that public libraries have improved their library space in recent years and their respective collections increased as well. He encouraged the general public to make greater and better use of library facilities.



Group photo taken after the press conference.