

funding, multiple services, meeting individual needs, carrier diversity, easy operation of technology, rapid information update, healthy national policy, cross-border cooperation, quick and accurate information inquiries, international outlook, intelligent and capable service specialists.

Each group discussed issues, problems currently related to the first four services which are: their goals, causes, and future strategies. Discussion results were presented in posters together with oral reports. After reviewing the results of the discussion presented by various groups, the third group received the Prospective, Creative, and Flip Future Awards respectively.

Director General Tseng made a comprehensive remark after each group has presented their results. She pointed out that library staff has to break out of the usual framework. Creative thinking is the vital kind of thinking for the future direction and foundation for the development of libraries. She hopes that the results of the discussions may be applied to their respective services.



Three library director generals with young adults.

The second session was comprised of elementary teachers and students who had success in promoting reading or who had won the Reading Foundation Award. Approximately 60 students attended and creatively explored the future of libraries through drawing, words, or other artistic means, such as skits, PowerPoint presentations, paper models, videos, and colorful artwork.



Students' imagination for future libraries.

Participants in the third session were approximately 80 young scholars from 23 high schools and 9 universities. They engaged in group discussion on “staff,” “library holdings,” “services,” and “facilities” of future libraries. Minister Wu of Ministry of Education (MOE) also attended the event, answering questions and discussing issues with these young scholars. In his address, he stated that imagination is requisite for motivation and for goals, and that current ideas play an important role in the direction and motivation of future library improvement. He hoped that all would come together to create an intelligent library that exhibited zero distance to knowledge and unlimited service hours.



Minister Wu (4th right, back row) and library director generals with young scholars and other guests.

■ “Decoding Picture Books” Lecture Series

Picture books have enormous influence in the language learning and development of children.

They are very important teaching materials for teachers. The NCL yearly invites well-known illustrated book authors both locally and from abroad to promote the reading of illustrated books. Furthermore, teachers, writers, and illustrated books promotion units are invited to come together to exchange views. Each time this draws a packed audience.

The NCL, Yu-shan Publishing Co., Ltd., Xing-yueh press and local cooperatives jointly held a series of four talks on “Decoding Picture Books.” Invited to animate the sessions were those who have been for a long period of time promoting and using children picture books in their teaching and reading education. These include secondary school teachers, university professors, writers, bookstore operators, publishing editors and all reading-lovers from all walks of life. More than one thousand people participated, acclaiming excellent recognition.

Director General Tseng in her speech pointed out that picture books help expand children’s imagination and from it, they get a lot of inspiration. All four speakers were all qualified good contributors in picture book reading literacy and education. She expressed the hope that through these lectures, the energy of picture books will be conveyed to children, training children to develop good reading habits.



Director General Tseng (2nd right, front row) with lecturers and audiences.

■ NCL “International Illustrated Book Master’s Seminar”

The NCL invited an internationally acclaimed Australian children’s book illustrator, Mr. Graeme Base to give a talk on his life experience and his works in March. Many of his works are already translated in Taiwan. Mr. Base’ illustrations have a refined style. He uses vibrant and lively colors. When one sees the beautiful nautical map or the animals in the forest illustrated inside the cover of the book, one eagerly looks forward to reading the story. Furthermore, the story is not only very imaginative, there is a strong narrative communicating an implicit concept of ecological conservation. It is indeed very educational. For this reason, his works have been called green picture books. They have won the American Green Earth Book Award, the Australian Wilderness Society’s annual Environment Award for Best Illustrated Book of the year and many other awards.



Mr. Base signed autograph mug.



Mr. Base (center) offers his manuscript to Director General Tseng (left).