

It was announced at the conference that in preparation for the event local libraries would create bilingual (Chinese and English) websites and arrange for a robot to greet IASL visitors. Groups will also be invited to participate charity bazaars and other activities related to the 2007 meeting.

IASL Vice President Diljit Singh noted that the association designated the fourth Monday in October each year as International School Library Day to encourage library directors to promote e-learning and reading activities. On this day, IASL member countries hold library events to foster better reading habits and promote reading. In Taiwan, the day was marked by holding the 2006 National High School Library Work Conference under the theme of "Self-transcendence through Creative Learning." The conference discussed ways to increase students' interest in reading and to integrate school libraries and digital information.

NCL Deputy Director General Sung Chien-cheng noted that through the support of the Ministry of Education, long-term efforts of high school library directors, and cooperation with books.com.tw, Taiwan has made significant progress in promoting e-learning through online reading contests as well as other reading campaigns. He also expressed confidence that the 2007 IASL annual meeting would further elevate Taiwan's international profile and tourism industry. (Chinese text excerpted from the Central News Agency, October 23, 2006)

■ *NCL Builds Collection and Services for the Digital Age*

As Taiwan's only national library, the NCL plays an important role in the collection of publications and in providing information services. In the past such

resources and services dealt largely with print materials, but in the digital era the library has devoted growing resources to building its e-collection and online services. This evolution has involved the procurement of domestic and foreign digital products, as well as in-house creation of online databases to facilitate information access. The library has also been digitally converting collection resources and strengthening search functions to further enrich its e-library services. As of July 2006, the NCL's digital resources included 355,137 e-books and e-journals. A summary of these resources in the three categories of procured, produced and free online materials is provided in the following chart. (Chinese text by Tsai Pei-ling)

*Online Electronic Resources at the NCL
(As of July 2006)*

Source	Type	Qty.	Unit	Access Points
Procured	E-books	8,997	Titles	NCL and some public libraries
Procured	E-journals	25,023	Titles	NCL and some public libraries
Procured	e-newspapers	312	Titles	NCL and some public libraries
Procured	Thesis papers	145,796	Titles	NCL and consortium member libraries
Procured	Research reports	9,072	Titles	NCL
Procured	Gray literature	19,803	Titles, Volumes, Articles	NCL
Subtotal		209,003		

Source	Type	Qty.	Unit	Access Points
NCL-produced	E-books	15,970	Titles	NCL
NCL-produced	E-journals	4,252	Titles	NCL
NCL-produced	E-newspapers	52	Titles	NCL
NCL-produced	Rare books	6,382	Sets	NCL
NCL-produced	Dissertations	76,819	Titles	No usage restrictions
NCL-produced	Local documents	787	Titles	NCL
NCL-produced	reports on overseas assignments	41,788	Titles	No usage restrictions
Subtotal		146,050		

Source	type	Qty.	unit	Access Points
Free online	E-book websites	34	Sites	No usage restrictions
Free online	E-periodical websites	50	Sites	No usage restrictions
Subtotal		84		

■ Book Boom Magazine Wins Government Publication Award

The National Taichung Library's (NCL) monthly magazine *Book Boom* won the 2006 Outstanding Government Publication Award, marking the second consecutive year the magazine has earned the award. The NCL has published *Book Boom* since 2003 to promote interest in reading. The magazine is aimed at both readers and librarians and presents a mix of local and international perspectives. Its lively and pertinent content has made it a much-loved publication with the reading public.

Book Boom is published on the tenth day of every month. Its content includes sections devoted to cultural events, cover stories, library news, book news

and reading events. The magazine reports on domestic and international public library news and community education topics to increase public awareness and use of libraries, promote reading, and encourage lifelong learning. The NTL also publishes an online version of *Book Boom* at: <http://www.ntl.gov.tw/Publish-List.asp?CatID=10>



Cover photo of Book Boom magazine (Photo provided by National Taichung Library)

Events

■ NCL Offers Training Course on "E-Learning Campus" system

The NCL held a series of courses introducing the library's "E-Learning Campus" system on May 22. The courses, which were open to both librarians and the general public, introduced the programs and operating environment of the E-Learning Campus.

Most of the courses focused on the new E-Learning Campus programs for 2005. The NCL's Ms.