

libraries. Apart from their special collections, the libraries had well-developed collections of resources on local history. The Shenzhen Library also provided special rooms and document services in the fields of commerce and trade, law, fashion, and ASEAN affairs, reflecting the city's position as a commercial center in China.

In the area of digital resources, Shenzhen Library, University of Hong Kong Library and Hong Kong Central Library stood out for their use of modern technology in circulation, storage management, and integrated information search services. (Chinese text provided by Chien Yueh-lien)

### ■ *Second Cross-strait Book Fair*

The Second Cross-strait Book Fair completed a successful five-day run on September 24, 2006, at the Taipei World Trade Center in Taiwan's capital city. Jointly organized by the Chinese Book Marketing Development Association, Publisher's Association of the R.O.C., and two other organizations, the fair attracted 180 publishers. Books on display numbered about one million volumes, divided about equally between mainland Chinese and Taiwan publications. The 500,000 or so mainland books represented Taiwan's largest and most comprehensive exhibition of publications printed with simplified Chinese characters.

Seminars organized during the fair provided ample opportunity for the publishing industries of the two sides to swap notes and share experience. Publishers also benefited commercially, as visitors turned out in force to buy their books. The mainland displays included a large number of high-quality publications. Among them were thread-bound editions of the Complete Collection of the Four

Treasuries from a Xiamen publisher, as well as various sets of classical works. Several major publishers from Taiwan also chalked up impressive sales during the fair.

The mainland displays presented a new view of traditional Chinese culture, attracting the interest of Taiwan editors. Taiwanese publishers, on the other hand, won high scores for their grasp of popular culture and strengths in producing publications aimed at daily life interests.

The fair organizing committee noted that the event set a good foundation for industry exchanges and interactions between authors and readers. This was especially the case at the "Publishing Summit," during which participants discussed and offered valuable suggestions on issues pertaining to cross-strait exchanges and the impact of digital publishing on the traditional publishing industry. The mainland visitors also toured various types of bookstores and publishing houses in Taiwan to learn more about their operations and to exchange experience.



*Director Yu Hsiao-ming of the Reader Services Division (left) and Director Peng Wei of the Special Collection Division attended the opening ceremony of the Second Cross-strait Book Fair*