

The NCL also hosted a booth at the fair. Despite the drizzle over 500 people visited the display to learn more about the library's services. NCL staff handed out souvenir items as prizes for people participating in a Q&A activity. Library publications, video presentations introducing the library, online games and souvenir stamps further generated visitor interest in the NCL display.

Fairgoers also had an opportunity to tour the Presidential Office Building. The first floor corridor and exhibition hosted a "Special Exhibition on Taiwan Public Libraries in the New Century: Taiwan Is A Book Country." The NCL provided historic photographs with introductory captions to teach the public about the development achievements and cultural traits of the library. (Chinese text by Kao Te-er)



Visitors crowded to the NCL booth for a Q&A prize giveaway. (Photo provided by Kao Te-er)

### ***National Open University Donates Textbooks to Libraries***

National Open University announced that it

would donate textbooks for general entrance examinations to cash-strapped township and city public libraries in order to broaden access to these publications. The university distributes more than 200,000 textbooks annually, including a large number of books designated for preparation in entrance exams.

### ***Sanchong Opens Toy Library***

Taipei County's first toy library opened on November 8 at the South District Library in Sanchong City. The 66-square meter library has 247 new toys available for use by children in the city, including intelligent toys, puzzles, building blocks, language-related toys, science toys, and infant toys. Library users can borrow toys just like books by presenting their library card or personal ID card.

### ***Hsuan Chuang University Opens Fully Automated Library***

Hsuan Chuang University in Hsinchu City opened Taiwan's first "intelligent unstaffed library," enabling university staff with IC cards to borrow and return books without ever interfacing with a human being. The library will even automatically print out a list of items borrowed and returned.

Established at a cost of NT\$5 million, the intelligent library is open 24 hours and has a collection of about 50,000 books, mainly titles needed by teachers of the College of Management, College of Social Sciences, and Law School. The collection will be updated every three years. The new library is

equipped with an automated system that can read RFID tags on the books in the collection. Library users simply place the book they wish to borrow or return on a computer screen to record the book title and borrower's information, all without human operators.

### *Miaoli County Builds Special Collections at Public Libraries*

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has been promoting a program to expand township reader resources available at city and township libraries through collection specialization and resource sharing. Under the program, the ministry provided NT\$1.17 million to Miaoli County to purchase 4,665 publications for the special collections of public libraries.

After convening a meeting with public libraries in Miaoli, the county government's International Cultural Tourism Bureau drafted collection specializations for each library. For example, Jhuolan Library will focus on recreational farms, Tongluo Library will specialize in horticulture, Jhunan Library will focus on folk art and culture, and Miaoli City Library will focus on Hakka cuisine. The International Cultural Tourism Bureau supplied the libraries with books for their special collections on September 18, 2007, and the new materials were made available for public access by October 4.

### *Library Gives Away Incense Bags to Encourage Book Borrowing*

Hoping to attract more readers, Wuci Township Library began offering free good luck incense bags to anyone who borrows books from the library, starting from March 2007. The incense bags, issued by three major temples in the township, have been a hit with readers, boosting the library's borrowing rate up by nearly 10%. Many readers were happy for the chance to enrich their minds and get a bit of spiritual protection at the same time.

### *Nantou County Opens Literature Information Hall*

After a year and a half of planning and collection building, the Nantou County Literature Information Hall opened to the public on November 29, 2007. One of the highlights of the hall is a wall displaying photographs of literary figures from Nantou County. The hall also boasts an extensive collection of works on the county's literary history.

The Literature Information Hall was established with support from the Council for Cultural Affairs. Many works by Nantou authors in county library collections were destroyed in a massive earthquake on September 21, 1999. Library staff have since spent considerable time and visited literary figures in the county to replace the lost works, now included in the collection of the Literature Information Hall.

A total of 60 authors in the county donated over 400 volumes to the Literature Information Hall, the earliest of which was published in 1966. In order to