Program

■ *Mobile Library Brings Books to the Furthest Corners*

In order to promote the concept of mobile libraries, the Ministry of Education (MOE) is giving classes, schools and even county and city government's the go-ahead to share books so they can be read by more people.

Miaoli County led the way last year with the launch of its mobile library program. Under the program, the county's 119 elementary schools are divided into six associations with one core school in each association in charge of book acquisition, the training of reading teachers, and distribution of the books to other schools. About 35 copies of each title are provided for each class so that every student can read and discuss the same book together. The books will stay at the class for one to three weeks before they are sent off to other classes or schools.

The MOE will purchase two more bookmobiles this year to provide access to the latest books at 16 remote aboriginal schools in Miaoli. The Miaoli County Bureau of Education also plans to establish "Book Corners" at public health centers and other public areas to provide better public access to books.

The MOE will spend NT$1.38 billion on a five-year reading program (2007 to 2011), including NT$1 billion to subsidize book acquisitions for 3,387 elementary and secondary schools.

Special Reports

■ *NCL Launches New Bilingual Website*

The National Central Library (NCL) officially launched a new bilingual website on February 18, 2008. The website is organized into three basic versions for general public, academic and English-language users, under which the content is further arranged by subject.

The website presents a wealth of information in a lively format with a range of multimedia content and interactive functions. The new format provides a single control interface and management mechanism to integrates onto a single platform all of the NCL's online resources and website service functions, along with links to related information resources from the private sector.

The new website is designed for greater flexibility and response to reader needs. Through website traffic analysis and online user surveys, the library can better understand and adapt to reader needs. There is also an English version to serve the broader global community and create barrier-free access to the library's extensive information resources. The website will also provide timely access to the most recent and accurate information published by various contributing units.

The new website can be flexibly expanded in terms of subject content and will gradually incorporate other subject-related and operational websites at the library to create a single web portal for a more convenient browsing experience. Furthermore, the website management platform has layout and index management mechanisms that enable flexible adjustment of the information