

Program

■ GIO Sponsors "Taiwan FUN" Touring Book Exhibition

The Government Information Office (GIO) organized the "Taiwan FUN" touring book exhibition from September 17 to November 29, 2008, with exhibition stops in Yilan County, Nantou County, Kinmen County and Pingtung County. The exhibition presented over 17,000 high-quality, over 40 award-winning graphic novels, and about 200 Golden Tripod Award winning books suitable for extracurricular reading for elementary and middle school students. Several hundred publishers were among the award-winners. In conjunction with the book exhibition, the GIO held two seminars on literature and art as well as courses on "Children's Aesthetics" at the Kinmen County Cultural Affairs Bureau from October 25 to 26.

Special Report

■ NCL Opens Arts and Audiovisual Center

The National Central Library (NCL) inaugurated its Arts and Audiovisual Center on October 27, 2008, at a ceremony presided by Minister of Education Cheng Jui-cheng.

Since moving to Zhongshan South Road in 1986, the NCL has faced a growing need for space as its collection swells. To address this need, former library director-general Juang Fang-rung worked tirelessly to secure the Shih Chien Hall for the library's expansion. The new center is housed in the hall, situated about 900 meters from the main library, enabling close mutual service support between the two locations. The 2,277-square meter center was established with funding from the Ministry of Education (MOE) and has a holding capacity for about 250,000 volumes (items), or enough to accommodate six-year's of future collection growth



Minister of Education Cheng Jui-cheng (right) inspects media viewing equipment at the National Central Library's Arts and Audiovisual Center with NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (far left).

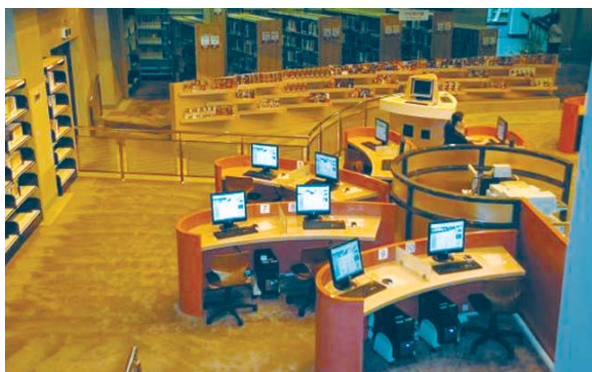
at the NCL.

The center is a special library serving both cultural and research functions. Book lending, reference support, copying and other services are provided at the center, with a focus on art and audiovisual (AV) materials. The center has 40 seats, 17 computer terminals, and 50 media consoles for readers. The center is divided into a general books reading area, stack area, AV viewing area, administrative area and public service area.

The center collection includes art books and periodicals and AV/multimedia resources. In the former are more than 90,000 books and about 40 periodicals on Chinese and western art. The center's AV/multimedia collection currently encompasses over 80,000 resources in Chinese and western languages. About 35,000 items, including art and music books, periodicals, e-books and popular AV recordings are available in the open stack areas and can be freely accessed by readers. Readers can also access materials in the closed stack area by filling out a request form. The information retrieval service is networked with various automation systems, databases and video-on-demand (VOD) resources at the main library, enabling readers to search for various types of bibliographic, full-text and digital resources. (Chinese text by Huang Ching-hua)



VIPs attending the opening ceremony for the NCL's Arts and Audiovisual Center included Minister of Education Cheng Jeï-cheng (center), Legislator Hung Hsiu-chu (fourth from left), Ministry of Education (MOE) Specialist Kung Ya-wen (far right), Shih Hsin University President Lai Ting-ming (far left), National Taiwan Library Director-general Huang Wen-ling (second from right), former director-general of the National Taichung Library Shiu-an-chyn Yang (third from right), former NCL directors-general Tseng Chi-chun (third from left) and Wang Wen-lu (second from left), and current NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (fourth from right).



The second floor VOD viewing area

Events

■ NCL and NTU Hold Bai Xianyong Lecture Series

National Taiwan University (NTU) and the National Central Library (NCL) co-sponsored a lecture series on the "Artistic and Literary World of

Bai Xianyong" from September 20 to 21, 2008, at the NCL Conference Hall. The series was held in conjunction with the inauguration of NTU's Bai Xianyong Literature lecture course, which was funded with donations from Trend Micro. The event was also timed with the publication of the 12-volume *Collected Works of Bai Xianyong* by Commonwealth Publishing Group.

The opening ceremony was hosted by Prof. Yeh Kuo-liang, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at NTU. NTU Vice President George Chen, NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku, and Trend Micro Chief Culture Officer Jenny Chang gave speeches at the ceremony. Director-general Ku said that, as a reader, he hopes that Bai Xianyong will produce more outstanding works, in which case Mr. Bai's new publication could more accurately be called the "Semi-complete Works of Bai Xianyong." He also said that if Mr. Bai could author a book in the league of Tolstoy's *War and Peace* on the transformation of Chinese culture at this time, it would stand a good chance of winning a Nobel prize and open up a new chapter of studies on Bai Xianyong. Director-general Ku also accepted an autographed copy of *Collected Works of Bai Xianyong* presented by Mr. Bai for the NCL permanent collection.

The two-day series turned a spotlight on the artistic and literary works of Mr. Bai over the past 70 years. A total of six lectures were arranged on Mr. Bai's achievements in the areas of novels, dance,



Mr. Bai Xianyong (left) with NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (right)