



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the reopening of the Family Resource Center



A reading area at the center

for renovations funded by the Ministry of Education (MOE).

The center boasts a collection of about 110,000 Chinese and foreign language children's books and attracts around 28,000 visitors in an average month. In June the library asked children to submit drawings of their perfect library to better understand and respond to the needs of young readers. The favorite themes of the children, including nature, forests, animals, were incorporated into the center design to create a reading environment evoking a fun and imaginative picture book. The periodical, reference and information retrieval areas on the basement level suggest a forest-like setting. "Traveling the World" was the theme of the foreign publication section on the second floor to encourage children to broaden their international horizons and learn about different

cultures through books. On the basement level, there is also a "Happy Classroom" with spaces for parents to read to their kids, family book club meetings, and performance activities.

In 2009, the center also launched a monthly lecture series to guide readers toward deeper appreciation of books. The center has also adopted a new policy allowing readers to borrow books to take home. Readers also have a choice of borrowing books with individual, children's, or family library cards or EasyCards. The NCL Taiwan Branch has also teamed up with Hess Educational Foundation to create a Christmas tree and display cases old newspapers, cardboard boxes and other recycled materials. The displays promote the theme of environmental protection, while also further creating a fun environment for reading at the Family Resource Center. (Chinese text by Lin Chien-hui of the NCL Taiwan Branch)

■ *Hsuan Chuang University Opens RFID Library*

Hsuan Chuang University's (HCU) recently opened two fully automated libraries, with RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology replacing librarians in handling book checked out and returned. The Miao-Ran RFID Library and Zi-Li RFID Library were established in different buildings on HCU's campus to carry some of the collection load at the university's space-strapped main library.



Hsuan Chuang University Library

The two new libraries are open for extended hours, weekends and even summer and winter breaks. In addition, the new libraries have condensed stacks to increase book capacity. Huang Wen-te, head of HCU Library's Reader Service Department, estimates that the two libraries will save the university about NT\$1.5 million a year in staffing costs. The RFID technology also reduces the book inventory time to just one and a half hours, compared with two weeks without RFID assistance. (Chinese text by Huang Wen-te, Hsuan Chuang University)

■ *National Taichung Library E-Book Online Service*

The National Taichung Library (NTL) launched an E-Book Online Service in 2009, providing readers with access to nearly 6,000 e-books over the internet. Anyone with a library card issued by any public library in Taiwan can sign up for the new 24-hour service, which is available free of charge and can be accessed from any computer with an internet link.

E-books available through the service include children's books, cooking books, examination books, and a wide range of other general titles. Readers can also access a large number of government publications, as well as some foreign language publications. The NTL plans to steadily increase its e-book collection to 11,000 volumes this year.

Readers can locate publications using basic and advanced search functions as well as conduct searches by book classification, number of character strokes, author, foreign title and publisher. The service also has several Web 2.0 functions, such as forums for user comments, ratings, and book recommendations.

Readers are allowed to borrow up to 4 e-books at a time for a period of 14 days. At the end of the loan period, books will automatically be returned, but the reader can check out the books one more time if no one else has requested the title. Readers can also reserve up to 3 additional books for a period



National Taichung Library E-Book Online service homepage

of 7 days. Readers can access the e-books through one of three methods, including online reading, online borrowing, and offline reading. Due to copyright protection needs, readers accessing books offline need to first log onto the service by entering their account number from their browser.

As part of a plan to establish a national public e-library, NTL has been searching for digital resources that readers can access online through the e-book service. The library notes that Chinese language e-books published in Taiwan will be an important information resource, providing readers with an affordable and environmentally friendly means to access knowledge. The library has compiled a list of thousands of popular books in traditional Chinese for the e-book service. After acquiring authorization from the publishers, the library scans the books into digital form so they can be accessed online by readers. NTL hopes that the service not only can serve as a management and service platform for e-book sharing through the public library system, but will also encourage reading and spur development of the e-publication market in Taiwan. (Chinese text by Yu Wen-ching of the National Taichung Library)