

News from Taiwan Libraries

■ *New Publications at the National Taiwan Library*

Now Online: Research Analysis of Educational Resources on Taiwan Literary History

The National Taiwan Library opened the Taiwan Study Research Center in 2007 to make its extensive collection of Taiwan studies resources more widely available to the public and support research in this field. To this end, the center commissioned the "Research Analysis of Educational Resources on Taiwan Literary History", creating a much-needed exchange platform for educational resources on Taiwanese literary history. The study provides an important reference for teaching materials, student supplementary reading, and research resources. It also aims to promote domestic and international cooperation and exchanges on Taiwan studies. The research report can be viewed online in Chinese at: http://www.ntl.edu.tw/taiwan.tw/content.php?MainPageID=151&SubPageID=214&Keyword_Search=.

Catalog of the 2008 Exhibition of Taiwan Studies Books Selected for the National Publication Award

The *Catalog of the 2008 Exhibition of Taiwan Studies Books* (ISBN: 9789860166637) was selected for the National Publication Award. Edited by the National Central Library, the catalog is divided into seven subject categories: Taiwan branch, education, architecture, indigenous people, natural sciences, art and design, medicine and health, and historical photographs. Each section presents the historical development and influence of its subject with 16 subtopics based on the exhibited publications or items, including books, magazines, newspapers, photographs, and survey reports.

■ *German Information Center Opens in Tainan*

The Tainan Municipal Library (TML) and the German Cultural Center Taipei jointly opened the

"German Information and Self-study Center" at the library's An-Ping Branch in Tainan City. The center collection comprises about 2,000 donated German-language books, newspapers, magazines and multimedia materials. Additional resources will be added with support of an annual budget of about 4,500 euros. The new center is a welcome addition for people in Taiwan interested in learning about the German culture and language and those planning to study or travel in Germany.

The TML and German Cultural Center Taipei signed the cooperation agreement at a ceremony on May 19, with Tainan Mayor Hsu Taintsair and German Cultural Center Taipei director Jürgen Gerbig representing the two sides. The cooperation project represents a major stride forward in exchange relations between Tainan City and Germany.

Established in 1963 under the Goethe-Institut, the German Cultural Center Taipei has promoted language education, art and cultural activities, and library and information exchanges in Taiwan for over 40 years. It is also the oldest European institution of its kind in Taiwan.

■ *Top-50 Government Publications Highlighted at Exhibition*

The Research, Development and Evaluation Commission (RDEC) of the Executive Yuan, National Taichung Library and cultural affairs bureaus of five counties jointly held the "2009 Top 50 Government Publications Book Exhibition" on July 1 to August 2. The exhibition aimed to promote sales of government publications as well as highlight for the public that government publications are more than just dry statistics, laws and regulations. The books on display included a broad range of topics, from art, travel literature and language to audio-visual resources and books on local customs. The exhibition was held at the National Taichung Library and the cultural affairs bureaus of Taoyuan County, Nantou County, Kaohsiung City, Yilan County and Taitung County.

During the exhibition, the National Taichung Library hosted showings of award-winning government films, including: 1) *Once Upon a Time* (Silver prize winner in the ethnic and cultural category of the 41st Houston International Film Festival); 2) *Legend of the Chinese Moccasin* (Winner of three awards at the 32nd International Wildlife Film Festival); 3) *Taiwanese Opera Maestro: Liao Chiung Chih* (Gold Prize winner in the art and culture category of the 42nd Houston International Film Festival and Winner of the 27th Executive Yuan Culture Award); and 4) *Doc Taichung* (Special Mention at the 14th Hong Kong Independent Short Film and Video Awards).

The Taoyuan County Cultural Affairs Bureau held a seminar on the topic "Travels to Taoyuan," while the Nantou County Cultural Affairs Bureau held a seminar called "Three-minute Magic: How Instant Noodles went from Super Tasty to Super Fun." (Chinese text by Kao Yuju, National Taichung Library)

■ *2009 Marine Education Expo*

The 2009 Marine Education Expo was held at the National Science and Technology Museum in Kaohsiung City from July 11 to 17, bringing together displays from 16 community education centers under the Ministry of Education. With four theme areas on "Eco-Ocean," "Science Ocean," "Literary Ocean" and "Art of the Sea," the expo allowed the public to appreciate the many faces of the sea with eyes, ears and touch.

For the "Literary Ocean" exhibit, the National Central Library (NCL) arranged a "Sea of Books" display, including illustrations of old ships, photographs of fishing villages, other maritime-related publications, and information on distance learning and job hunting. The ship illustrations included images of 17th century vessels and foreign merchant ships, including ships from Taiwan, Guangdong and other parts of China. The original illustrations are from a rare scroll, "Drawings of Tang-era Ships," preserved by the Matsuura

Historical Museum in Hirado, Japan, as well as 18th century illustrations of foreign ships by Yamagata Kinya, director of the Japan Society of the History of Maritime. The collection on fishing villages included photos taken between 1950 and 1960 by He Huikuang. The images present life in Taiwanese fishing villages, including fishermen at work and leisure, housing, clothing and temple activities. The collection of maritime-related publications presented a sample of works from the NCL collection introducing visitors to the sea and the need to protect the ocean ecology. The NCL also promoted distance learning websites, government learning websites, and job websites, with computers on-site for visitor use. NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku was also interviewed at the event by National Education Radio. (Chinese text compiled from National Education Radio material and NCL press release)

■ *National Central Library, Taiwan branch, Opens Senior Reading Area*

In order to meet the diverse information needs of senior readers, the National Central Library, Taiwan branch (NTL), opened a Senior Reading Area with books and audio-visual resources and reading aid facilities for seniors on July 17, 2009. The collection comprises over 1,500 large-print books in the categories of literature, medicine and health, home economics, gardening, domestic and foreign history and geography, the arts and leisure, as well as 400 audio books and 100 videos for senior use. There are also four computers with 22-inch displays equipped with video magnification systems for online searches, six desktop magnifying lamps, reading glasses, and blood pressure meters. The periodical, bibliography search, and audio-visual areas are also equipped with specially designed chairs for senior readers.

The NTL also arranges various activities to promote lifelong learning among the elderly. For example, the library held educational workshops, a seminar series on life-long learning, and talks by writers. The library also hosted presentations of