

■ **Graphic Novel and Comics Room Opens at NCL's Arts and Audiovisual Center**

The “Graphic Novel and Comics Room” devoted to manga and graphic novels opened at NCL's Arts and Audiovisual Center (AAC) on 23 February. The “Graphic Novel and Comics Room” is located on the third floor of the AAC, in a newly designed venue with excellent equipment and comprehensive services. It provides a comfortable reading environment for lovers of manga, and aims to provide an inspiring venue for creative and talented manga enthusiasts.

According to Director-general Ku, “the comics industry is a propagator of creative ideas and innovation, and is also a great source of inspiration for creative digital media.” For many years, these ‘comics’ were viewed as unrefined, lower class publications, but NCL, the library of libraries, has now made these works an important element of the Library's collection. The action of NCL should make people rethink the role of the manga in the modern society. The opening of the ‘Graphic Novel and Comics Room’ at NCL also has attracted a great amount of attention.”



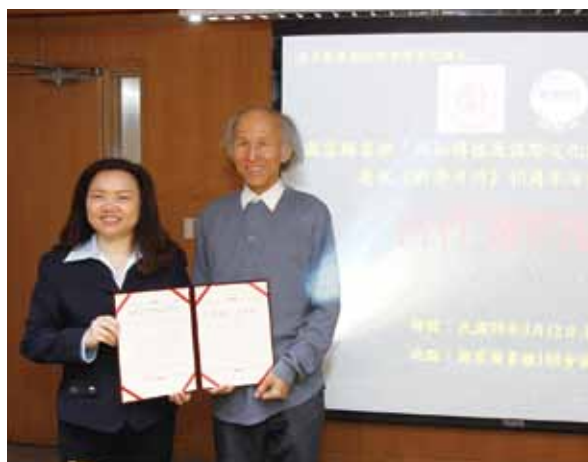
Opening ceremony of the NCL “Graphic Novel and Comics Room”, a collection of manga and graphic novels.

■ **100 Science Books Promoted for Science Popularization Reading Year**

On 2 March, NCL and Science Monthly held a joint news conference in celebration of the fortieth

anniversary of *Science Monthly*. The ceremony was attended by Executive Yuan Minister of State Ovid J.L. Tzeng, Deputy Minister of Education Tsong-Ming Lin, National Taiwan Normal University President Kuo-En Chang, National Science Council Department of Science Education Director Chih-Wei Hue, Yu Chi Chung Cultural & Educational Foundation Executive Director Alice Yu, Yuan Liou Publishing Co. Chairman Jung-Wen Wang, and a number of others.

Science Monthly has deeply influenced the development of science in Taiwan, setting up the foundations of Science in Taiwan. In harmony with the goals of the Ministry of Education's “2010 Lifelong Learning Year”, NCL and Science Monthly jointly promoted the “2010 Science Popularization Year” activity. The new program selects 100 popular science books, recommending them to the public. In addition to expert introductory reviews and commentary to the works, the books are ranked by the complexity of content from one to three stars. The number of stars corresponds roughly to elementary, middle, and high school/junior college levels, making it easier for people to make more appropriate choices from the list.



NCL Deputy Director-general Ying-mei Wu (left) with Science Monthly founder Hsiao-Hsin Lin after signing the agreement.