

■ *The President Reads—President Ma and Other Notables Give a Recommended Reading List*

As a way to encourage young people to make use of libraries, on July 1st NCL lowered the minimum age requirement to enter the library to 16, much to the elation of many high school students. According to data, the number of patrons under the age of 19 that applied for library cards from July 1-17 was 623. This is 30% of the total number of cards processed during that time. NCL invited President Ma Ying-jeou and other influential people in society to generate a must-read booklist for teenagers, in hopes that this list will encourage youth to get in the habit of reading at this critical time when their personalities and values are taking shape. NCL Director-general Tseng suggested that high school students, especially freshmen, take advantage of summer break to read as broadly and as much as possible.

Those who received invitations to recommend books included the President, Vice President, the five Ministers, and many renowned persons in society. They were asked to submit their recommendations by July 20th. In all, 20 persons responded to our invitation, including President Ma, recommending a list 116 books long. President Ma recommended *Confucius in Modern Times: A Testimony for the Analects*, *Newspapers from the Republic of China*, *Chinese Culture: From Peiking University to National Taiwan University*, *Natural Sciences Made Easy*, *Seediq Bale: The First Historical Comic on the Wushe Incident*. All five of his recommendations share a common trait, that being they are written in an easy, light, and interesting manner to encourage interest in reading, and from there to see the beauty of Chinese culture, important developments in the establishment of the Republic of China, and important historical events in Taiwan's history. His list brings together historical and modern, scientific and literary,

evinced his expectations that students be familiar with history so as to help modern society and have deep cultural roots so as to ensure future progress.



Five books recommended by President Ma for teenagers.

A total of 20 people recommended 116 books in a variety of fields: literature (53), social sciences (16), history and geography (16), philosophy (11), applied sciences (6), natural sciences (5), general (4), art (4), religion (1), and tourism (1). The recommendations revealed the expectations leaders have for the youth of Taiwan and the diversity that exists in Taiwan's society.

■ *Looks Good, Sounds Good: NCL's Exhibition on Air*

NCL and the Police Radio Station produced the show "National Central Library's Exhibition on Air" every Monday from 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on 104.9 FM from June 13 to September 5. This marks the second time that NCL has co-produced a show with the Police Radio Station. The first time was from June to August 1992 when their program "Rosy Clouds Fill the Sky" aired a show called "National Central Library and You." The motivation behind this second program was to highlight the difference between NCL and other libraries, in addition to making the public aware of

NCL's services and facilities. It was also done with the hope that more people would become aware of NCL's various reading promotion activities to get the public interested and engaged in reading.

The program was done by host Liu Xiuru conducting live interviews with certain NCL staff on various aspects of library services, digital data, special collections and resources, as well as reading promotion activities. In all, thirteen shows were produced, which are listed below according to date: 1st show: NCL's Comic Section (aired June 13, 2011)

2nd show: A Different NCL (aired June 20, 2011)

3rd show: My Memories of NCL (aired June 27, 2011)

4th show: Let's All Start Reading (aired July 4, 2011)

5th show: NCL to the Rescue (aired July 11, 2011)

6th show: All You Ever Wanted to Know at NCL (aired 18, 2011)

7th show: A Champion Collection (aired July 25, 2011)

8th show: The War to Rescue Ancient Texts (aired August 1, 2011)

9th show: The Story of Book Collectors and NCL (aired August 8, 2011)

10th show: On Postcards and Patriotic Tickets (aired August 15, 2011)

11th show: Government Records Made Public (aired August 22, 2011)

12th show: Classics in the 100th Year of the Republic (aired September 5, 2011)

13th show: Excellent Audio-Visual Material from the Past (aired September 19, 2011)

These shows were also simultaneously broadcast over the internet. The Police Radio Station provided NCL a copy of each broadcast to archive. To increase the outreach of the program, NCL converted the audio files to MP3 and uploaded them to the Digital Audio Visual Archive System under "Broadcasts." Here is a direct link for those who missed the

program: (<http://dava.ncl.edu.tw/SecondCategory.aspx?SubjectID=Subject03&id=91>)



Director general Tseng (right) and Liu Xiuru (left).

■ *NLC and Taiwan Digital Publishing Forum Work on "1000 Must-Reads from the Last 100 Years" Project*

Taiwan Digital Publishing Forum (TDPF) has begun an e-book project called "1000 Must-Reads from the Last 100 Years." They have invited scholars and online users to select 1000 influential classics published between 1840-1990. In addition to publishing the final book list, TDPF will produce an e-book for each one. The project's ultimate goal is to allow readers to download and read these books in any device they desire.

In May of this year, TDPF invited NCL to participate in the project by providing some of the books listed that are in the public domain. These were then turned into e-books. This digitization of classical works from the last 100 years is a big push forward into the new digital age. On May 25, NCL