

Programs

Love and Learn about Your Hometown! Public Libraries Promote Reading

by Lin Ya-hui, NCL Training and Counseling Dept.

Under commission of the Ministry of Education, the NCL, Taiwan Branch of the NCL, National Taichung Library, Taipei Municipal Library, and Kaohsiung Municipal Library have been jointly sponsoring the "Love and Learn About Your Hometown " reading activities since 2001 to promote national interest in reading. The reading activities, which have been held by various cultural bureaus (centers) and urban/rural township libraries across Taiwan, have the following main objectives:

- (1) To encourage people to take pride in being knowledgeable about their hometown
- (2) To generate popular interest in exploring the origins and history of their hometown
- (3) To compile bibliographies of local information
- (4) To establish models for public libraries to promote reading activities
- (5) To publish a handbook of public library reading activities
- (6) To encourage communities to see public libraries as centers of reading activities
- (7) To serve as the first step in national reading activities

The program entered the third phase in 2003. Between September and November, a total of 65 reading events were held around Taiwan. Town halls, libraries, schools, reading clubs and other organizations were invited to take part in historical tours, hometown drawing activities, local workshops and other events aimed at fostering public interest in local history, reading, and lifelong education.

Library Professional Education Plan

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In 2003, the NCL arranged several librarian educational programs, including the following:

- (1) An undergraduate credited course was held in cooperation with National Chengchi University to help school librarians improve their professional abilities. Some 50 librarians took part in the course, which contributed to efforts by schools and community organizations to provide a greater diversity of education resources and services.
- (2) The NCL and National Sun Yat-sen University jointly held a for-credit career advancement course for librarians. The course, which was part of the Ministry of Education's efforts to promote lifelong education, was open to public library employees. A total of 50 people attended the course.
- (3) In order to improve the professional knowledge, service quality and educational role of public libraries, the NCL, Taiwan Branch of the NCL, National Taichung Library, Taipei Municipal Library, and Kaohsiung Municipal Library arranged on-site workshop courses tailored to the specific needs of each county and city. The courses covered such topics as technical services, reader services, library automation, knowledge management and service strategies. A total of 17 workshops were held from August to November. Experts and scholars in the library and information fields provided lectures, and about 1,300 library professionals attended the classes.

Public Libraries Awarded for Excellence in 2003

Sixty-seven of Taiwan's nearly 500 public libraries were presented awards for excellence by the Public Library Guidance, Inspection Visit and Assessment Committee, a 12-member body of experts and scholars commissioned by the Ministry of Education. The 24 first-place libraries, including Taipei County's