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The encyclopedia is divided into 22 broad subject areas, including craft art, history, industry, botany, zoology, economy, diplomacy, and historical sites. The encyclopedia will contain 30,000 to 40,000 key words with descriptions of 24 million words. The print version, scheduled to be published in 2008, will comprise around 20 volumes and include 600 to 700 website links.

SEMINARS

■ GIO Hosts Publisher and Library Seminar

In conjunction with the 13th Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE), the Government Information Office (GIO) arranged a seminar on the topic of publishing and libraries at the Taipei World Trade Center on February 16, 2005. The seminar sought to promote healthy exchanges between publishers and libraries so that both sides can better understand the views and needs of the other side, and thereby strengthen partnerships between the two sides. The event was organized by the Taipei Book Fair Foundation and carried out by the Library Association of China. About 275 participants engaged in enthusiastic discussions during the event. These exchanges covered the following three main topics:

- Process and Functions of Library Book Selection—By Prof. Chen Chao-chen

Introduction to library book selection mechanisms, information format development trends over the next five years, e-book acquisition and lending methods, library and

information service models in the digital age, and new relationships between libraries and publishers in the digital era

- **Assessment of Application Models for Book Procurement Laws and Inter-entity Supply Contracts**—By Senior Specialist Wang Li-feng and Director Peng Wei
Introduction to application methods for book acquisition under the *Government Procurement Act*, and strengths and weaknesses of the Inter-entity Supply Contract model
- **Public Library Book Selection and Acquisition Needs**—Director Tseng Shu-hsien
Introduction to principles of public library collection development, budget sources, acquisition methods, publisher selection, and publisher value-added services.

There was also a general discussion presided by Prof. Chiu Chiung-you.

Libraries benefit publishers by providing places for learning and vigorously promoting interest in reading. They play an important, if often unseen, role in fostering the literary interest and level of society, and thereby stimulate public willingness to buy books and periodicals, enhancing the virtuous cycle of publishing and marketing. Libraries, on the other hand, depend on the publishing industry to put out good books that can attract readers and assist learning and research pursuits. The GIO seminar helped promote this healthy relationship by enhancing understanding in the publishing world of library book selection and acquisition methods, as well as legal restrictions. It is hoped that publishers, book agents, and online bookstores can jointly work with libraries on book and periodical acquisition issues.

■ Seminar on Religious Libraries

The Seminar on Religious Library Management was held at the NCL on March 18, 2005. The event was jointly sponsored by the Special Library Committee of the Library