

Korean and other languages. We are grateful that we can continue to share his knowledge and expertise.

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Events

■ “Public Library Joint Database” Education, Training and Promotion

Since 2004, readers in Taiwan have enjoyed free access to over 30 database systems through the government-backed “Public Library Joint Database” program. In order to increase utilization of this resource, the NCL commissioned the Interlibrary Cooperation Association to organize courses for teachers and librarians on using the system. Between February 2004 and April 2005, the association arranged 50 such courses across Taiwan. A total of 1,624 people attended the courses, including 43 elementary school teachers, 225 middle and high school teachers, 934 librarians, and 27 others. Covering 13 subject areas, the 38 databases included in the system to date were selected from over 100 Chinese and foreign language databases at the NCL according to their suitability for public library needs. (Chinese text by Chung Hsueh-chen)

■ American Corner Opens at National Taichung Library

National Taichung Library (NTL) inaugurated the American Corner in Taichung on May 7 at the library’s Reference Room. The facility, the first of its kind to be established by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), represents the beginning of a new service model for public libraries in Taiwan.

According to statistics compiled by the Ministry of Education, 14,054 Taiwanese students applied for U.S. visas in 2004, representing 45% of all U.S. visa applications processed in Taiwan; and in 2003, nearly 480,000 Taiwanese citizens visited the U.S., according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These figures underscore the pressing demand in Taiwan for information on U.S. education and culture. The American Corner helps to meet this need by providing convenient access



Chen Chi-nan, Minister of Council for Cultural Affairs (center), Douglas H. Paal of the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, Taipei Office (right), and Taichung Mayor Jason Hu at the grand opening ceremony. (Photo by National Taichung Library)