

■ *NCL Promotes ISBN-13*

The International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is an internationally unified numbering system designed to meet book publication, sales and management needs. The original ISBN consisted of 10 digits used to identify a publication's country of origin (language), publisher, title, edition, and method of binding—in short serving as a kind of ID card for books. The ISBN headquarters has allotted the three-digit number sets "957" and "986" for Taiwan. In Taiwan, publishers can submit to the NCL's ISBN Center a final proof of their publications three months before release to apply for an ISBN and CIP number. They are also required to print the ISBN/CIP information in the correct position on their publications.

In response to the surge in publication and integration of the European Article Numbering (EAN) system, the ISBN international headquarters introduced a 13-digit ISBN system (ISBN-13) along with the original 10-digit system in January 2006. The 13-digit system will be officially implemented in full from January 2007. The NCL's ISBN Center held two workshops on the new system on April 29 and May 6, 2005, to help government agencies, publishers, automation system providers and other interested parties to understand changes in the new system. The workshop information was posted online on the library's ISBNnet (<http://lib.ncl.edu.tw/isbn/index.htm>). The library also provided relevant information and advice at its booth at 2006 Taipei International Book Exhibition. (Chinese text by Tseng Kun-hsien)

Special Reports

■ *2006 Taipei International Book Exhibition*

The 14th Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE) completed a successful six-day run on February 12. The annual book extravaganza boasted 1,910 booths, 445 local and overseas exhibitors, and nearly 440,000 visitors, far outstripping the 320,000-visitor turnout in 2005. Organizer Taipei Book Fair Foundation positioned TIBE 2006 as a forum for international exchange, the publishing industry and reading life with the aim of achieving "regional cultural exchange." One of the feature exhibits was the "Culture Pavilion of Four Countries from Europe," which introduced the publishing industry and reading habits in Europe. The 3rd "Golden Butterfly Awards" added the new category of "Award for Best New Art Designer in Asia" as well as a joint display of award-winning books and "Best From Taiwan" works. There was also a "Golden Tripod Awards Pavilion" displaying current and past award-winning works.

Taipei Mayor Ma Ying-jeou, Taichung County Deputy Commissioner Chang Chuang-his, Hsin Yi Foundation Executive Director Chang Sing-ju and U.K. "Book-start" pioneer Wendy Cooling jointly announced the launch of the "Book Start" program in Taiwan on February 7 at the fair, making Taiwan the first Chinese-speaking country to join the program. (Chinese text excerpted from article by Wang Hsuan)