



Publishing Circumstances

Bhutan

Mobile Bookshops

The Mobile Bookshop seen in Bhutan for the first time was organized from 8 December 2000 to 10 January 2001 by the Canadian Cooperation Office in Thimphu. The main objectives of this venture were to make books accessible to people living in small towns who did not have access to bookstores, create an awareness of reading and provide gainful employment to students during their vacation.

Two bookshops in the capital supplied books that could be sold and three students were hired for the job.

The Mobile Bookshop covered towns and villages spanning nine districts. The majority of the customers were students, followed by school libraries. Many of the villagers bought prayer books and books on religion. Judging by the enthusiastic response from the people, this maiden venture was a big success.

Cambodia

Early Childhood Care and Education

In accordance with the government commitment of the countries across the world at the Dakar EFA Conference 2000 at which it was declared 'We should take care of children so that they keep in good health, prevent the spread of diseases and vitamin deficiency during early childhood, thus reducing the child mortality rate; and we should also provide them with the opportunity to study without paying,' the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Non-Formal Education Department) invited representatives of the Ministry of Social Work Labour Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Veteran Affairs, Ministry of Cult and Religious Affairs, monks, religious men, religious women, parents and sponsors to participate in the following meetings:

In October 2000 in order to share ideas with each other and clearly define the concept of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE); In November 2000 in order to define the role and duty of each concerned institution, of local non-governmental organizations, international organizations and each person regarding ECCE; In April 2001 in order to develop the action plan for ECCE and establish the mechanism for drawing up the ECCE policy.

Nowadays the above mechanism has organized a meeting of members concerned and has distributed to them the policy draft written by the Ministry of

Education, Youth and Sports to specify the role and duty of each institution, communities, private sectors, religious sectors, parents, NGOs, and IOs. The ECCE mechanism will organize a meeting in order to review and improve the policy according to the ideas provided by all members, so we will soon have a real policy for ECCE activities.

China

Fairy Tales Begins to Amuse Adults

For a long time, fairy tale readers have fallen into two age groups: five-year-old children and old people. Fairy tales are the spiritual food of children, but when they grew older, they lost interest in them. Old people may pick up the abandoned fairy tales from their grandchildren and amuse themselves by reading the tales. As far as their attraction was concerned, they were exclusively for children.

But now, changes have taken place. Since some famous foreign fairy tales were published in China, a lot of adults have become passionately interested in them. These adults are of different occupations, different ages, and different education levels. During their childhood, they indulged in the beauty of the fairy world. After one or two decades' "hibernation", they are deeply touched by imaginative fairy tales such as *Little Princess*.

In the eyes of many college students, some fairy tales are more meaningful to adults. Xian Xu, a postgraduate from Chinese Literature Department of Fudan University, often talked about fairy tales with his classmates. They bought books and found the latest information about fairy tales on the Internet. In campus book stores, "fairy tales for adults" became very fashionable after the popularity of cartoons. Moreover, some young scholars are inspired in the study of literature, anthropology and psychology by fairy tales.

Fiji

Moves to Link Publishers in the Pacific Islands

Many organizations have supported publishing initiatives in the Pacific. Three main supporters have been the South Pacific Trade Commission established by the South Pacific Forum (now Pacific Islands Forum) and the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the Festival of Pacific Arts.

Publishers represented the Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South

Pacific (USP); UPNG Press, University of Papua New Guinea; and Au Vent des Iles, Tahiti. They, in turn, represented Blackstone Publications (Vanuatu), the Institute of Education (USP), the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, Kristen Pres (PNG), the Melanesian Institute (PNG), the National Research Institute (PNG), the School of Social and Economic Development (USP), and Vava'u Press (Tonga). They canvassed other book associations (Australia, Hawai'i, New Zealand), discussed formation of a South Pacific book council, and agreed to follow it up with their respective publishing contacts. Publishers made further moves to consolidate a South Pacific book development group, polling visitors to book events then drafting guidelines and objectives for the group.

Publishers in the Pacific Islands hope for an annual book fair, to be held in a different country each year, so as to cement these contacts and generate new ones. In addition to displays, sales and networking, they hope to establish Pacific Islands prizes for publishing, writing, and illustration, and to offer workshops on significant topics for Pacific Islands publishers, such as marketing, finance, and copyright. Given the difficulties of publishing for small and undereducated populations spread over vast oceanic distances and divided by 1,200 indigenous and four colonial languages, Pacific Islands publishers have made significant achievements. Their problems and successes are unique and their best teachers are Islands colleagues, who are often harder to reach than professionals in developed countries (because of inherited colonial communication lines). Nevertheless, publishers throughout the Pacific Islands region have a cooperative vision for the future, one that focuses on providing books from local perspectives to meet the needs of indigenous peoples.

India

Government of India Declares 2001-02 as the Year of Books

In the age of the Internet, the book is getting a new lease of life. The Ministry of Human Resources Development has declared 2001-02 as the Year of Books, and hopes to flood the country—hospitals, railway stations, villages, and small towns—with books.

The objective behind the book promotion drive is to create awareness among the general public on book reading and purchase, and to come up with solutions to problems that writers, publishers, distributors and other dwellers of the literary world, including readers, face.



Children enjoying a workshop at the 14th Tehran International Book Fair (Iran)

Also on the agenda is a plan to improve and increase the number of bookshops, libraries, and mobile libraries in the country. The National Book Trust has been identified as the nodal agency to organise the Year of Books.

The Committee for the Promotion of Reading Habits and Development of Book Publishing (set up by Ministry of HRD) has already approached the Ministry of Railways, the Airport Authorities of India, and the State Transport Departments as well as the State Health Departments, to provide book stalls at railway stations, airports, bus depots and hospitals.

The Committee has also requested All India Radio and Doordarshan to allot prime-time programmes such as interviews and discussions with authors and critics, as well as *Kavi Sammelans*, poetry-reading sessions and even book quizzes.

To ensure that books go beyond city borders, large-scale plans are on to support rural libraries, increase the number of mobile libraries, promote book clubs in schools, colleges and rural community centres as well as publication of Braille books.

World Book Centre—Information and Training Centre for Publishing

Technological changes taking place fast are also affecting the publishing sector, and posing a challenge to it. To cope with this, one has to remain ever active and equip oneself with the latest information about technological changes and other related aspects and train oneself to develop the skill required for maintaining and improving the quality of publishing. This needs to be done in an organised manner. In this context, Kalyan Shah (c/o Publishers & Booksellers Guild, 3A, Bhawani Dutta Lane, Calcutta 700 073) has drawn up a proposal giving tentative structure of an organisation under a Board of Members comprising experts from different fields with the Director as its head.

The proposed centre may have the following departments to carry out its activities:

1. Reception, Information and Public Relations;
2. Display/Exhibition Centre;
3. Information Dissemination Centre;
4. Information Collection Centre & through Internet/website;
5. Documentation Department;
6. Archive for Micro Films/Microchips Special Room;
7. House Journal & Copyright Centre;
8. E-commerce;
9. Education, Research & Training Centre;
10. Director's Office, and
11. Accounts & Secretariat.

Moreover, the centre in collaboration with the State Central Library may act as a National Bibliographic Centre to help the National Library through its book requisition department. It is hoped that the centre may offer a practical solution to the harrowing problems presently facing the publishing sector.

Indonesia

Winners of the Adikarya Book Awards

During a reception to commemorate the 51st anniversary of the Indonesian Book Publishers Association, held in Jakarta on 17 May 2001, Adikarya Book Awards were conferred on the winners. One of the old crack authors of children's books, Mansur Samin, got the first prize for his title *Ucok dan Si Pelor*, (Ucok and Si Pelor) published by Gunung Jati. In the same category, the second prize was given to Suprihatin with *Di Ujung Tali Pancing* (At the Tip of the Fishing Rod), published by Adicita Karya Nusa. In the category of Books for Adolescents, the winners were respectively Darsan, S. Pd, with a book entitled *Millennium Target*, published by Mitra Gama Vidya, followed by Asma Nadia, writer of *Rembulan di Mata Ibu* (The Moon in Mother's Eye), and Dra Varuni Dian Wijayanti, with a book entitled *Macan Gendaman* (The Bewitched Tiger).

This year, Adikarya Awards were also given to illustrators and book designers.

The number of books for children and adolescents published in 2000, and submitted to the Adikarya team of jurors, was 194, coming from 28 book publishers. According to the head of the team, Riris Sarumpaet, the quality of the books has been increasing compared to that of those submitted last year.

The Launching of "It's not an All Night Fair"

On 21 March 2001 there was the launching of *It's not an All Night Fair*, one of Pramoedya Ananta Toer's famous books, translated into English by C. W. Watson. Actually, the English translation of *Bukan Pasar Malam* had already been appearing in the journal *Indonesia*, published by Cornell University in the late 1970s. In 2000, *Equinox*, a Jakarta and Singapore-based publishing company, specializing

in Indonesian books in English, took interest in the translated work of Pramoedya, and so *It's not an All Night Fair* was published. With this translation, there are now more than thirty works of Pramoedya which have been translated into foreign languages.

During the launching, C. W. Watson, in flawless Indonesian, expressed the feelings he had experienced in the process of translating *Bukan Pasar Malam*, and his admiration for the author. Pramoedya himself, looking tough and rugged for his age, conveyed his gratitude to those taking interest in his works. He also complained about the prohibition of his works, which so far have not been formally withdrawn.

Iran

The 14th Tehran International Book Fair
The 14th Tehran International Book Fair was held from 8-18 May 2001 at Tehran International Trade Fair Site in an area of more than 95,000 sq.m., in 32 halls with over 60,000 book titles, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture & Islamic Guidance.

Around 900 domestic publishers, among them 110 children's publishers and 45 publishers who were active in the learning-aid section, as well as nearly 500 foreign publishers from over 20 countries, took part. 321 Latin publishers from European countries, some American publishers and 164 publishers from Arab & African countries displayed their latest publications. There were 85 publishers who took part in the Tehran Book Fair for the first time; Publishers from Italy were among them. Also 45 publishers from Germany participated for the second time in over ten years; Goethe Institute and the Head of Frankfurt Book Fair were represented at the fair as well. Egypt had an active participation, with over 20 publishers displaying their latest titles.

A special ceremony was held on 16 May in order to introduce and honour the cultural relations between Iran and Italy.

There was also a possibility of purchasing books by Internet in "Miras-e-Maktoub" Publishing House which is especially active in ancient Persian texts and has exhibited over 100 titles related to this field and religion. This publisher also introduces its e-books and e-magazines on the web.

8th Press Festival

A member of the Central Council of the Islamic Coalition Society, and editor-in-chief of *Resalat Daily* exchanged views on political issues with young visitors at the 8th Press Festival on 15 May 2001.

- * The book *Statistical Look at the Press* was published concurrently with the ongoing press festival.
- * The Institute for the Compilation and Publication of the Works of Imam Khomeini took part in the 8th Press Festival with two periodicals, *Hozour* and *Matin*. The institute is presenting hundreds of books about the Founder of the Islamic Revolution at the Tehran International Book Fair.
- * A round table entitled *The Press and National Sovereignty* was held on the sidelines of the Press Festival. The round table was attended by a large number of press experts and the Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance for Press and Publicity Affairs.
- * The Director of the Center for Media Studies and Research expressed his view that any measure which can strengthen ties between the people and the press is most welcome.
- * The Managing Director of *Qods Daily* also said that the Press Festival provides visitors with the opportunity to learn about the country's press.

Japan

Recent State of Publishers

According to the *Shuppan Nenkan 2001* (Publishing Year Book) published by Shuppan News Co., Ltd., publishers numbered 4,391 in 2000. The total number reached over 4,000 in 1979, since when it has changed little. From this, Japanese publishing can be said to be stable, but not very active.

In the 1980s, publishing has been developing constantly, and numbers of book titles and copies, and sales amounts have been increasing. During the term, the sales amount of magazines exceeded that of general books, and there has been a rapid increase in the number of new magazines. The large publishers came to depend on the sales of magazines in the 1990s and this trend has continued until now. Because the themes reflecting various readers have been subdivided into many categories such as hobbies, culture, practical knowledge, lifestyle, etc., medium and small size publishers have also been able to publish their original characteristic magazines.

Regarding the scale, publishers with a capital exceeding 100 million yen account for 249, which include publishing



Cover page of *Women's Day Annual* (Myanmar)

divisions of newspapers, broadcasting, printing companies, etc. and of which only 10% are estimated to be companies specialized only in publishing. The capitals of so-called major publishers including Kodansha Ltd., Shogakukan Inc., Shueisha Inc., Iwanami Shoten Publishers, Shincho-Sha Co., Ltd., and Heibonsha Ltd., Publishers are 200 to 300 million yen. Of those, the top two publishers have about 1,000 employees and others have 200 to 300, while 2,235 publishers (51%) have fewer than 10 employees. 3,434 publishers (78%) are concentrated in Tokyo, followed by 200 in Osaka and 133 in Kyoto.

Mongolia

Special Book Merits Special Day

A Book Appreciation Day was recently held, in which 108 volumes of the Mongolian canon Kanjur were displayed. The multi-volume work is kept stored in the National Library of Mongolia.

Kanjur is a respected sutra that links Mongolia's history with the rest of Asia's past. The canon is a full collection of Buddhist teachings.

Currently, 1.5 million ancient wooden seals and manuscripts are being kept in the National Library.

Myanmar

Women's Day Annual

To observe the Myanmar Women's Day for the year 2001, the National Working Committee for Women's Affairs produced an annual issue of *Women's Magazine*, which is to be released on 3 July, for the Women's Day. Contributors to the annual issue are mostly women writers, both veterans and the new generation of writers. The magazine carries poems, articles and short stories highlighting feminine themes. The cover depicts the ladies returning from the pagoda.

Literature Prizes on Anti-Drug Abuse Day

A ceremony to present prizes to winners in the literature, music, painting and cartoon competitions to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, organised by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, was held at the administrative office of the newly opened Drug Elimina-



The newly completed Children's Library in Kathmandu (Nepal)

tion Museum attended by Secretary 1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Khin Nyunt.

In implementing narcotic drugs control, Myanmar approaches the problem in a multi-faceted manner. Educational programmes to wean the poppy farmers away from the old lifestyle to a new one by highlighting the adverse effects of narcotic drugs are carried out simultaneously with the development plans. Substitute reduction programmes are also simultaneously carried out together with supply reduction activities. Preventive drug abuse education, lectures, exhibitions and competitions are held to keep youths from following the wrong path.

Nepal

Largest Dictionary in Nepali language Released

Nepal's Prime Minister G. P. Koirala released the publication of *Nepali Sabda Sagar* (The Dictionary of Nepali Words) in a ceremony on 13 March 2001. According to the compiler, Basant Kumar Sharma, it took 13 years of hard labour to complete the volume which contains a collection of 128,000 words. The *Dictionary of Nepali Words* published by Royal Nepal Academy contains a collection of only 57,000 words.

Compiler Sharma said that he undertook the endeavour in order to promote the development of Nepali language and literature. On the same occasion, the Premier also felicitated litterateurs Punya Laxmi Khatiwada, Sardar Yadu Nath Khanal, Bajranand Bajracharya, Baikuntha Prasad Lakaul, Shyam Das Vaishnav and Harischandra Neupane for their dedicated service to the advancement of Nepali literature.

Children's Library in Kathmandu

A new children's library has opened in Kathmandu with the assistance of a Japanese organization. The library was constructed with the support of Joho Roren, one of the largest industrial unions in Japan and managed by Osaka International Club, Nepal Chapter. Kathmandu City Government provided land for the building.

The library offers reference books, education toys, computer facilities,



At the model bookshop (Pakistan)



Annual General Meeting of APPA (Rep. of Korea)

Internet and e-mail services to the children. The library plans to build a collection of 10,000 books classified for primary, lower secondary and secondary children sections. The premise has also a seminar hall and a separate Japanese section. The library aims at the developing the reading habit among children and encouraging them in creative educational activities.

New Zealand

New Maori Literature Awards

A new collaborative initiative this year between Maori Arts advocate Toi Maori Aotearoa and Maori publishing company Huia (NZ) Ltd. has seen the establishment of the Maori Literature Awards.

The aim is to encourage new and established Maori writers. This step towards achieving greater recognition for Maori writing has attracted entries from around the world.

The three categories are: Huia Short Story Awards for new and established Maori writers; Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga (NZ Film Commission) Award for best script for a short film by a Maori writer; and Best Short Story in English by a Maori secondary school student. Entrants must be the descendants of New Zealand Maoris.

The inclusion of a short film script award expands the perception of Maori literature and indicates future scope for increasing the number of categories. The awards are strongly supported by some of the most notable names in Maori literature, such as novelists Patricia Grace and Keri Hulme. The winners will be announced on 29 September 2001.

For further information, contact Katrina Smit at Huia Publishers, phone: (64) 4 473 9262, fax: (64) 4 473 9265, e-mail: katrina.s@huia.co.nz

Pakistan

Model Bookshop

The Chairman, Capital Development Authority, while inaugurating the National Book Foundation (NBF)'s Model Bookshop on 8 May 2001, appreciated the role of the Foundation in providing quality books at economical rates. The occasion was supplemented by the annual book exhibition of NBF through-

out the country (8 May to 9 June). The Chairman assured the NBF that he would stand shoulder to shoulder with them to promote book culture. He said he would provide space for bookshops and libraries wherever possible. Speaking on this occasion, the Foundation's Managing Director, Ahmad Faraz, said that NBF has introduced book promotional projects to inculcate and develop reading habits among society members. However, he expressed his concern over lack of library culture in Pakistan. His main endeavour to make books available to the public at affordable prices and the chain of book exhibitions was part of this very objective.

Philippines

Towards Enhancing Filipino Readership and Authorship

There is a need to develop Filipino readership and authorship not only in Metro Manila but in other key cities and other parts of the Philippine archipelago, which comprises 7,100 islands.

The National Book Development Board (Book Board) which has been tasked by the government to promote the continuing development of the Philippine book publishing industry and, likewise, mandated to assist in generating readership and the development of Filipino authorship, has embarked on the acquisition and sharing of award-winning books.

The list of award-winning books has grown up after a considerable time through the yearly awards jointly given by two private sector organizations called the Manila Critics Circle and the Book Development Association of the Philippines. The bases of the award are the editorial content, readability, artistic design and overall packaging.

The Book Board aims to showcase these books in the 76 provinces and 16 regions of the country where these are rarely available due to the virtual absence of bookstores with adequate inventory of the latest, best-selling, and award-winning books. Though there are libraries in all barangays, their titles are also wanting. This move will somehow afford rural population the opportunity to view and read good reading materials that shall indeed re-create enthusiasm and interest in reading and which may

hopefully lead to the development of local authorship.

Making these quality books available to the authors and writers in the provinces and regions outside Metro Manila may have a positive effect towards improving the quality of manuscripts. Doubtless, the Philippines is endowed with many writers with diverse cultural backgrounds but many of them have not viewed nor appreciated the contents and design of an award-winning book. Thus, their writing style is primarily individualistic though original, but not necessarily attractive nor competitive.

It is envisioned then that the ongoing book-writing seminars by the Book Board coupled with the presence of the award-winning books for their appreciation may help contribute to the development of quality, affordable and responsive local materials.

Rep. of Korea

8th Annual General Meeting of APPA and SIBF 2001

The 8th Annual General Meeting of the Asian Pacific Publishers Association was held on 31 May 2001 at ASEM Hall in Seoul prior to the Seoul International Book Fair 2001. It was the first time for the Korean Publishers Association to host the AGM of APPA since Choon Ho Na, the President of KPA, was inaugurated as the new President of APPA in August last year. Pere Vicens, President of the International Publishers Association, and delegates from 12 out of 15 member countries participated in this meaningful event. Along with the AGM, the 9th APPA Publishers Forum under the theme "Publishing and Copyrights in the Digital Era" was held on 31 May and acclaimed as very useful for the publishers and other people in the publishing-related sector. SIBF 2001 that kicked off on 1 June for six days at COEX in Seoul was also a huge success with the number of exhibitors rising 10% or so. 316 publishers from 23 countries exhibited at SIBF 2001 and more than 270,000 people visited the Fair during the six-day run.

A Preliminary Announcement about the Bill of Copyright

The Korean Ministry of Culture and Tourism unveiled a draft of a revised law



29th National Book Fair (Thailand)

on reproduction and transmission of books and contents in an electronic form recently. A current copyright law allows free reproduction and transmission of books and contents in an electronic form between libraries, which has aroused uproar from a lot of people in the publishing sector and related industries and also has been considered as seriously flawed due to the fact that it does not secure the copyrights. In an effort to respond to the request from publishers and to improve the copyright law, they proposed the bill with amended provision, under which transmission and reproduction of electronic files of books only within a library concerned will be legal. Before presenting the bill in the National Assembly, they are currently trying to collect as varied opinions as possible from various fields on this bill.

Singapore

AIBF/ILE Exhibition

A combined exhibition featuring the Asia International Book Fair (AIBF) and the International Library Expo (ILE) was held on 25–27 April 2001 at the Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Organised by REED Exhibition Company, National Book Development Council and supported by the National Library Board, the AIBF/ILE exhibition is the only trade book and library fair in Singapore. It was held in conjunction with the two major events for professionals from the library, publishing and archival industry in April 2001: e-tlas (Emerging Trends in Library and Archival Services) and PAL (Publishing and Library) Asia.

The exhibition was held to serve the needs of professionals from the region's publishing, library and archival industry, by facilitating the buying and selling of publishing rights, business transaction of books in all formats, as well as library-related products and services. The event was a platform that provided opportunities for Asian book and library professionals to network with business contacts at an international level, conduct rights businesses, source for the latest products and view the latest technologies all under one roof.

Opened by Yatiman Yusof, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Infor-

mation and the Arts, the event featured exhibits from 360 participating companies from 25 countries from Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Africa and North America. Over 2,000 professionals from the publishing, library and archival sectors visited the exhibition, with a third of them from overseas. Participants from ASEAN countries who were in Singapore as part of the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) to attend e-tlas and a special library training programme organised by the National Library Board in April, also visited the exhibition as part of their itinerary during their stay here.

The National Library Board (NLB) was among the exhibitors at the event. Its booth was a showcase of its expertise and features that could advance libraries and resource centres in the information age and promote the national goal of lifelong learning. Featured at the booth were NLB's suite of professional services in the areas of Consulting, Training and Research, Online Multimedia Library, and the Electronic Library Management System (EliMs).

It was good opportunities for networking and striking deals with fellow professionals from a variety of sectors in the library, publishing and archival industry.

Thailand

29th National Book Fair

The 29th National Book Fair of Thailand was organised by the National Book Development Committee, Department of Curriculum and Instruction Development, Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand. It was held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center and the National Library, Bangkok, from 27 March to 8 April 2001, with the theme "Book is Life".

This fair attracted about 500,000 visitors and over 400 publishers throughout the country. There was an exhibition which displayed books written by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana, and books awarded in the 2001 National Book Contest, as well as symposiums, seminars, training, workshops and discussions.



Children at a bookstore (Viet Nam)

Viet Nam

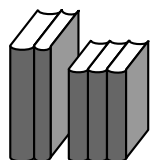
Books for Children—Worrying Issue for Parents

According to a recent study made by a group of Vietnamese sociologists, only 10% of the total amount of families buy books for adults, while nearly 38% of the families buy books for children. And also in a recent study at random, 70% of children like books translated from foreign languages. Actually, the circulation of an illustrated foreign book could be 20 to 30 times higher than a Vietnamese one (from 30,000 to 50,000 copies, while a Vietnamese one could be only 2,000 or so). In reality, there are cases where private publishers reprint books and sell them in the free market, and it is very hard to control. As for the children who can't afford to buy books in series, they go and queue up to rent books in the street rental bookshops.

It would be quite nice if the imported books were properly chosen and translated. However, the publishers have been running after profit, and let the casual translators invent whatever language they want. At the same time, the children imitate violent activities depicted in detail in the illustrations. Some parents complained that they don't deny the entertaining characteristics of foreign illustrated books for children, but apart from some good ones, many of them go against educational aims, not to mention the fact that bad books will keep the children away from their national tradition and literature, and lead them to be thrilled by violence.

There is a big debate being held among the Vietnamese mass media, and many writers, journalists and translators have raised their voices. Although Viet Nam is an agricultural country with 80% of the population living in the countryside, books for children hardly describe the rural dwellers' living conditions, and the children's image of real life might be twisted. At the same time, books are mainly read by young city-dwellers, and children in the countryside can hardly afford to buy them.

Vietnamese writers are appealed to think about this issue carefully, however, it can't be solved in a short time.



Outstanding New Books

Bhutan

A Dance in the Clouds

Written by a lecturer of a Teacher Training Institute, this book is a first of its kind. It is a love story which ends tragically with both the lovers dying in the end. The book is unique as a lot of historical facts on some famous Buddhist temples in the country have been included although it is fiction. Set in Eastern Bhutan the places and events described are easy to relate to, giving it a touch of reality. Many beliefs and practices of Buddhism have also been explained. Bhutan being a Buddhist country with the majority of the people being very religious, such explanations are easy to understand as they are told along with a story.

This is the first book written by this author and it has turned out to be a good attempt. We have very few Bhutanese who are writing, so this is indeed a good sign.

A Dance in the Clouds by Dorji Wangchuk, Dorji Wangchuk (Nie, Paro, Bhutan), 2000, 133 x 193 mm, 96 pages, approx. US\$2.45, ISBN: 99936-10-06-2

China

Children's Encyclopedia of China

The encyclopedia is divided into 4 volumes: "Global Homeland" "Human Society" "Cultural Life" and "Science and Technology", includes 400 subjects concerning knowledge, 2405 knowledge points, and the latest knowledge on several subjects. The book has complete frames, outstanding subjects, and is creatively presented. The structure, pictures, and vivid expression of knowledge help children understand the book.

Zhong Guo Er Tong Bai Ke Quan Shu published by Encyclopedia of China Publishing House (No.17, FuchengMen Bei Da Jie, Beijing, 100037), 792 pages, RMB198.00 (approx. US\$24.00), ISBN: 7-5000-6450-0/J.129

Fiji

My Heart Is Crying a Little

Men from the island of Niue became part of New Zealand's contingent of soldiers to fight in World War I. Used to living on their plentiful island in the midst of the vast Pacific Ocean, brave Niueans were shipped first to New Zealand, then to Africa, then to Europe before they were allowed to return home. This volume, written in English and translated into Niuean tells of their preparation for war



A Dance in the Clouds (Bhutan)



IPS Publishing Guide (Fiji)



Taj Mahal from The Inside India Series (India)

and departure from Niue. It discusses their training to become soldiers and their journey to Egypt then France and England before returning to Niue. Finally, the book addresses remembrance, for the Niueans proudly celebrate ANZAC day each year and maintain a Returned Soldiers Association. This book was sold out within a day on Niue, and met great acclaim in New Zealand, where many Niueans now make their home.

Tagi Tote E Loto Haaku (My Heart Is Crying a Little) by Margaret Pointer, translated by Kalaisi Folau, the government of Niue and the Institute of Pacific Studies (University of the South Pacific, Suva), 2000, 147 x 210 mm, 210 pages, \$17.00, ISBN: 982-02-0157-8

IPS Publishing Guide

This manual is an introductory guide to writing consistently, editing, and publishing. The authors designed it to assist not only those who contribute manuscripts to the publishing programme of the Institute of Pacific Studies at the University of the South Pacific but also small publishing houses in the Pacific Islands and even individuals who might publish a book or two. The authors seek to provide answers to the most asked questions: e.g. What is an ISBN and where do I get it?—as well as to contribute to the professionalization of publications workers in this developing region. The guide, written in alphabetical order for easy reference, covers abbreviations, cataloguing-in-publication data, editors' and proofreaders' marks, legal matters, production phases, submitting a manuscript, words and phrases to avoid, and many other things. It is written specifically for the Pacific Islands, its examples are Oceanic, and its references show the resources that the region already has.

IPS Publishing Guide by Linda Crowl and Mark Garrett, the Institute of Pacific Studies (University of the South Pacific, Suva), 2001, 147 x 210 mm, 100 pages, \$11.00, ISBN: 982-02-0319-8

India

The Inside India

The Inside India Series adds four books to this colourful company. Elegantly produced, with a good balance of pictures and text, these small books initially offer the Delhi, Taj, Jaipur and

Rajasthan to the readers. Texts by well-known personalities supplement Gopi Gajwani's elegant and precise photographs.

For example, Gayatri Devi's particular attention to the royal character of Jaipur city, and her attention to the detail that went into its planning, is matched by Dom Moraes' more sweeping view of Rajasthan as a whole—a 'dry' and 'old' country, but rich in colour and texture.

Interestingly, the balance of the books is far more pictorial than textual. Gopi Gajwani's pictures capture the detail and the broad strokes, as well as the interior and exterior dimensions of the places the books focus on. The text and the pictures function separately, except in a broad sense. So both can be read as independent units, as well as supplementing each other. However, it is intriguing why the publishers chose to keep the same photographer for the series, while choosing different authors for each title.

(by Urvashi Butalia)

Inside India Series: Delhi by Khushwant Singh, *Taj Mahal* by Anees Jung, *Jaipur* by Gayatri Dev and *Rajasthan* by Dom Moraes, Crest Publishing House (G2, 16 Ansari Road, Darna Ganji, New Delhi 110002), 2000, 115 x 140 mm, 116 pages, Rs.150.00 (approx. US\$3.00) each, ISBN: 81-242-0183-8, 81-242-0185-4, 81-242-0184-6, 81-242-0182-X in due order

Indonesia

The Dazzling Supernova

This is the first novel written by a singer, Dee or Dewi Lestari, a member of Trio Sita-Rida Dewi from Bandung. Since its launching in mid-February 2001, 12,000 copies of it were sold out within 35 days. Presently, the charming young Dee is very busy responding to invitations to talk from various campuses or literary communities all over the country. As a matter of fact, her novel, praised by a number of men of letters such as Sapardi Djoko Damono, Arswendo, and Putu Wijaya, has been attracting the media, printed as well as electronic. Its highest merit is that in Indonesia, it is regarded as the first novel using various contributions of male homosexuals who, influenced by the use of narcotics, create a fiction about a broken marriage with stories concocted in conformation to scientific theories, combined with the wisdom coming from holistic spirituality.



Listening to the Messages from the Body (Japan)



Our Forest Reserves (Lao PDR)



The Cultural Monuments of Western Mongolia (Mongolia)



Page-spread from *National Ethnic Groups of Myanmar* (Myanmar)

People wellgrounded in sciences are usually dissatisfied with the novel, saying that some of the theories implied in the novel were wrongly interpreted. Controversial though it may be, many readers find *Supernova* really dazzling.

Supernova, Kstaria, Puteri, dan Bintang Jatuh, by Dee, Rrudee Books, (Jl. Patrakomala No. 57, Bandung 40113), 208 pages, 210 x 146 mm, Rp.29,500 (approx. US\$2.50)

Iran

The Mir Station

The subject of the book is the experience of five young people from different countries and continents, all winners of the "scientific Olympics", who are invited to Russia. The high point of the visit is a trip into space and a stay on board the Mir space station. All of them come from families which had experienced the horrors of discrimination or war, but all look to the future and want to "Build, not destroy". They are curious about each other's countries and cultures, tease each other and have fun together. The author successfully blends information on space programmes and the Mir station with problems facing the earth and the need to share ideas and work together without hatred or revenge.

This book won UNESCO Prize for Children's Literature in the Service of Tolerance and was awarded at the Bologna Book Fair on 6 April 2001.

Istgah Mir by Violet Razaghpanah, Nashre Ayenei Asar Publishing House (PO Box 14155-3539, Tehran), 1999, 210 x 140 mm, 104 pages, ISBN: 964-90170-0-3

Japan

Listening to the Messages from the Body

Many books featuring "healing" have been published recently following the current trend of popular books on "how to live", on philosophy or psychology. This seems to show that people today are exhausted both in body and mind and need relief.

This book is based on a dialogue with the human body, with some keywords including illness, food, love and words. The author says that the body has two aspects; physical and mental. According to his theory, a body should be opened outside as well as inside, so the ideal body should be empty. He not only has

interest in, but also practices "ki", nature spirit, besides working as an editor. It is a book analyzing the relation between words, mind and body.

Karada no Messeji wo Kike by Taturou Harayama, Shueisha Inc. (2-5-10, Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8050), 2001, 106 x 152 mm, 263 pages, ¥495 (approx. US\$4.10), ISBN: 4-08-747326-0

Lao PDR

Our Forest Reserves

The collection consists of 5 short stories, written by the writers' group of DANIDA (NGO). The content describes a fertile natural resource such as that of forests and animals in the National Xepiane Forests Reserves in the south of the country. The main purpose of this book is to campaign for local people and the new generation to preserve our natural resources and environment.

Our Forest Reserves by DANIDA in co-operation with the Agriculture and Forestry of Champasack Province, 2001, 210 x 290 mm, 22 pages, free distribution

Mongolia

The Cultural Monuments of Western Mongolia

This work of M. Amagalan, ethnographer and stage painter, is the result of his 40 years of study of specific features of all the clothes and ornaments of the Khalkha, Torguud, Zakhchin, Uuld, Minggad, Bayad, Durvud, Khoton (of Turkish origin), and Kazakh peoples who live in the western peripheries of Mongolia. He met over 1,200 people, saw those rare materials kept by them with his own eyes and recorded the history of those things by inquiring of the keepers. Then he reproduced them in detail. The result of his perseverance is this album, consisting of nine chapters. When he made this album, he endeavoured to preserve the traditional principles of content and purpose, quality of materials, forms and sizes, and harmony of colours.

These materials are not to be found in the national museum stock, nor in local museums. They are mostly kept by their inheritors. So the first publication of these materials is most significant to science.

The Cultural Monuments of Western Mongolia by M. Amgalan, Monsudar Co., Ltd., 2000, 230 x 280 mm, 212 pages, US\$33, ISBN: 99929-0-008-3

Myanmar

National Ethnic Groups of Myanmar

This is the first book of its kind to be published in English and distributed world-wide. In this edition are described fully the origins, customs and traditions of 129 different ethnic groups (out of 135 officially recognized) living in the country. Some of the ethnic groups included, like the Engs, Dayes and Dayaws, have never been fully described nor photographed before and some of the photos contained in the book are rare and original photos never before published.

The book's predecessor was a book entitled *National Races of Myanmar*, written in Myanmar language and published in 1960 by the Ministry of Culture, which has remained up to now the key reference work, both domestically and internationally, on the various ethnic groups of Myanmar.

The author, U Min Naing, the respected authority on the origins and customs of the Myanmar ethnic groups and a laureate of many literary awards, started the study of various ethnic tribes living in the country as a hobby in 1952 and continued his research throughout the course of 34 years of government service at the Ministry of Culture. This interest has led the author to discover new ethnic groups as well as document the disappearance of some. But within the course of 30 years, the author also discovered new sub-groups of China, Palaungs, Lisus and Kayaths.

Printed on quality art paper with 58 colour and 296 original black & white photos.

National Ethnic Groups of Myanmar by U Min Naing, Swiftwinds Services (No. Y, Thukawady, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon), 245 x 190 mm, 168 pages

Nepal

An Introduction to Nepal

This is the recently published Nepali version of the famous book *Nepal: The Kingdom in the Himalayas* written by renowned Swiss geologist Tony Hagen. Just before the advent of democracy in



Tony Hagen with his book (Nepal)



Across the Broken Bridge (Pakistan)



The Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines (Philippines)



The Rulers of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka)

Nepal in 1950, the then Prime Minister Mohun Shumser sought the help of the Swiss Government for a geologist ostensibly to help find precious mineral deposits. Hagen came to Nepal in October 1950 and undertook long and hazardous treks all over the mountainous parts of the Kingdom for several years.

On completion of his assignment with the government, and some more years with the United Nations in Nepal, Hagen travelled extensively to the nooks and corners of the country. Technically, he did not find any gold mines, but he unraveled the exquisite natural beauty and the precious water resources of Nepal in the innumerable rapids emanating from the Himalayas. His book was one of the best recollections of observations by a foreign expert about the most remote and isolated parts of Nepal, the people and their rich and diverse culture.

The publication of the present volume in Nepali was made possible with the support of Tony Hagen Memorial Foundation. The book is the abridged version of the original English text and is expected to serve the inquisitiveness of the readers at home and domiciled Nepalese abroad.

Nepalko Chinari (An Introduction to Nepal) by Tony Hagen, edited by Basanta Thapa, Himal Kitab, Patan Dhoka (P.O. Box 166, Lalitpur), 108 pages, NRs. 250 (approx. US\$ 3.20)

New Zealand

Ellie and the Shadow Man

Eminent novelist Maurice Gee has published his fourteenth novel in *Ellie and the Shadow Man*. It is the story of a spirited and forthright woman who becomes a noted painter, but whose life and art are haunted by a presence she thinks of as her 'shadow man.' The richly-textured novel moves between the worlds of adolescence and adulthood, between art and domesticity. Gee's writing is deceptively simple. He has a special skill in evoking the atmosphere of past decades.

Gee has also published collections of short stories and novels for children. He has won numerous awards.

Ellie and the Shadow Man by Maurice Gee, Penguin Books (NZ) Ltd., (cnr Rosedale and

Airborne Roads, Albany, Auckland 1310), 2001, 155 x 230 mm, 348 pages, approx. US\$17.00, ISBN: 0-14-100417-7

Pakistan

Across the Broken Bridge

The novel is set against the backdrop of an eastern society thus providing an insight into the values and attitudes of a distinctive culture. The story focuses around a girl named Shahnaila who belongs to an impoverished family living in a slum. Her parents are barely able to support her and her sisters. She dreams of a handsome stranger who will one day come to claim her, take her away from her drab existence and shower her with riches. Shahnaila's unparalleled beauty brings her many admirers, and unexpectedly a wonderful opportunity is offered to her which throws her and her family into a whirlwind of uncertainty. But things are not always what they seem, and Shahnaila's hopes for the future are tainted by silent misgivings.

Across the Broken Bridge by Nilofer Sultana, Minerva Press (London, UK), 268 pages, ISBN: 0-75411-299-3

Philippines

The Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines

The book introduces all the indigenous peoples of the Philippines, numbering more than a hundred, in capsulized and colourful settings. It contains information about the roots, practices, beliefs, arts and artifacts, historical sites, and folklores of these different cultural groups, including those from the farthest north and south of the Philippine archipelago.

This publication is a fitting tribute to the native brothers and sisters who have stood as the bulwark of Filipino traditions amidst the strong wave of modernization. It is also an effective means not only to showcase the rich and colourful heritage of the Filipino people but also to promote greater appreciation of the Philippine indigenous peoples' display of strength and patriotism through the years.

The Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines edited by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Rex Book Store, Inc. (84

P. Florentino St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City), 280 x 212 mm, 2000, 86 pages, P1,700 (approx. US\$35), ISBN: 971-23-2985-2

Sri Lanka

The Rulers of Sri Lanka

This represents a new venture in historical writing on Sri Lanka. It is an attempt to appraise the approximately 200 rulers who presided over the destinies of the island for almost 3000 years, an exceptionally long life for a society. The rulers of Sri Lanka are considered under various categories representative of their particular achievements and contributions. These are identified as defense and security, diplomacy and statesmanship, patronage of the religion and economy, which were each vital spheres in the life of the civilisation. It was the role played by the rulers in these respective spheres which enabled Sri Lanka to become one of the renowned and long-standing civilisations of its time.

The focus of this book is on the individual personalities and achievements, which at the same time served as a record of the historic process itself. The merit and distinctive feature of this book is that, while a few books have appeared on specific rulers, this is the first attempt at a survey of all of them.

The author is presently the Director General of the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute of Sri Lanka. He is a diplomat by profession. He has also received two national awards, 'Vishwa Prasadani' in 1996 and 'Deshabandu' in 1998.

The Rulers of Sri Lanka by Vernon L. Mendis, Godage Brothers (675, P. de S.Kularatne Mawatha, Colombo) 2000, 379 pages, SLR750.00 (US\$10.00), ISBN: 955 20 4847 8

Thailand

A Tale from Bamboo Ground

This book received the Grand Prix Award for the most beautiful children's book of the 2001 National Book Contest, written in simple Thai language and accompanied by excellent illustrations in colour.

The author uses the big clump of bamboo to teach the youths to understand the spirit of harmony and peace, and gain awareness about conserving natural resources and the environment.

GATHERINGS

Date	Title	Country (City) Organisers	Content
2001 Apr. 21	New Century Reading Plan	China (Beijing) 17 culture and publishing houses	The theme of this activity was to seek knowledge, to bring forth new ideas and to give aid to Olympics games. The activity lasted four months.
Apr. 29	World Book Day	Nepal British Council	This was a reading event consisting of a recital of poems and excerpts from novels at a ceremony held at the Council premises. The gathering included journalists, educationists, academicians and literary writers.
May 20 -July 31	Songkran Calendar Exhibition	Thailand (Suphan Buri) National Museum, U-Thong, Suphan Buri	An exhibition on the history of the Songkran (the traditional Thai New Year) Calendar, with displays many calendars, drawing techniques, and the philosophy and story of Songkran Festival. Contact: National Museum, U-Thong, Suphan Buri, phone: 66-035-551-040
May 21	The 4th Science Publishing Fund	China Chinese Academy of Social Science	The 4th Science Publishing Fund Committee of the Chinese Institute of Social Science was established. This is the largest sum of funds used to finance books and magazines of science and technology to date.
May 21 -24	The 7th World Printing Meeting	China (Beijing)	It was organised by Press and Publication Administration of China, Ministry of Science and Technology, etc. About 3,000 representatives of printing and relative fields from 25 countries and regions around the world attended the meeting.
June 5	The 3rd Seminar Against Piracy of Books	India (Bangalore)	Organised by the Federation of Publishers' & Booksellers' Associations in India, following 1st seminar at Chennai, 2nd at Mumbai, this seminar was held to provide a good deal of food for thought, generate greater awareness, and impel all concerned to fight the menace of piracy tenaciously. Piracy has been causing heavy loss of national income besides hitting the book industry hard in the southern and western regions of the country.
June 1 -30	A Realistic Painting and Drawing Exhibition	Thailand (Bangkok) Lido Movie Theatre, Siam Square, Bangkok	An exhibition of a new Silpakorn University graduate, Mr. Jaruwat Boonwaedlom, portrays the life of teenagers around Centre Point (the place where teenagers come to meet each other with very modern clothing and hairstyles) in oil paintings and charcoal drawings. His works address the issues of peer pressure and materialism among the younger generation in Thailand. Contact: phone (66) 2 658-3857
June 27	Poster Contest	Philippines (Manila)	This poster-making contest was launched last 23 April on the celebration of World Book and Copyright Day. The contest is open to high school students and the winning poster shall be submitted to UNESCO as the Philippine entry to the Poster Making Contest of UNESCO. Judging was held on 27 June at the National Book Development Board.

(continued from p. 17)

A Tale from Bamboo Ground by Sirimala Suwanphokhin (text), Preprem Phlianbham-rung (illustrations), Kurusapa Business Organization, 2000, 203 x 266 mm, 23 pages, 90 Baht (approx. US\$2.00), ISBN: 974-00-8307-2



A Tale from Bamboo Ground (Thailand)

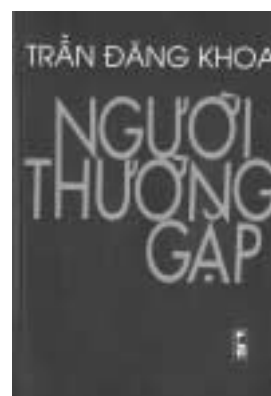
Viet Nam

The Ones You Meet Often

Being a famous poet since his early childhood, Tran Dang Khoa is now a famous writer with a unique style of writing. A new collection of people's portraits has just been published, titled *The Ones You Meet Often*. Among them are the ordinary people, peasants, veterans, writers, poets, journalists, and the well-known general Vo Nguyen Giap, who once captured the former Ambassador of the US in Hanoi, Pete Peterson. The book immediately attracted readers' attention as usual, and some of the stories are being considered for screenplays.

Each portrait not only reflects the very person's life or destiny, but is a reportage of the good and bad things in the society, of the daily life of Viet Nam on the move of development.

Ngươi Thương Gáp by Tran Dang Khoa, Youth Publishing House, 130 x 190 mm, 225 pages, VND21,000 (approx. US\$1.50)



The Ones You Meet Often (Viet Nam)

Asian/Pacific Publishing Scenes



Asian Children's Festival (ACF) 2000
(Singapore)

Date	Title	Country (City) Organisers	Content
June 29	Book Development Congress	Philippines (Manila)	This is an annual event culminating varied book-related activities held every June in observance of Philippine Book Development Month, which was institutionalized by Executive Order 120 signed by the President of the Philippines declaring June of every year as Book Month. About 500 publishers, printers, booksellers, authors, media practitioners and other stakeholders attended this event.
June	Conference of Librarians	Myanmar	Myanmar Library Association held its third annual conference attended by veteran librarians, members of academic institutions and literati.
July 14 -22	Jakarta Book Feast	Indonesia (Jakarta) Indonesian Book Publishers Association, Jakarta Chapter	It was presented by some authors, held with launching of new books, book discussion, a photo contest, musical performances, mini football game, etc.
July 20	National Heritage in Myanmar Literature	Myanmar	Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association enlisted four noted writers, including a poet, to read papers on national heritage in the current Myanmar Literary scene.
July 20	Montana Poetry Day	New Zealand	Events in main centres throughout New Zealand provided a platform for new and established poets. Contact: Booksellers NZ Ltd. fax: (64) 4 472 8628, e-mail: johnpilley@booksellers.co.nz
July 28 -30	Training Course on Publishing Management	Thailand (Bangkok) Sukhothaihammathirat Open University	This course was provided for publishers and interested people with the aims of helping the participants to understand and get experience on business management philosophy. Contact: National Printing Technology Training Center, phone: 662-5034909
July 28 -31	Booksellers Conference 2001	New Zealand (Napier)	This annual meeting included trade displays and addresses by prestigious New Zealand and overseas authors and publishers. Contact: Booksellers NZ Ltd. fax: (64) 4 472 8628, e-mail: johnpilley@booksellers.co.nz
July	Training Workshop on Reading Promotion for Children	Lao PDR SVA (Shanti Volunteer Association)	This was one of the training courses, organized in co-operation with National Library and Children's Home for Culture and Education.
Aug. 20	Deadline for Submission to 9th Course of the World Award for the Book of the Year	Iran	According to the plan, the books published in the preceding year in different languages on the subject of "Islamic Studies" and "Iranian Studies" are taken into consideration and evaluation, annually. The aim of the plan is to identify and introduce distinguished books, published in other countries except Iran.
Sep. 12 -16	Indonesia Book Fair 2001	Indonesia (Jakarta) Indonesian Book Publishers Association (IKAPI) P.T. Dyandra Promosindo	Book fair, backed up by the Department of Education, the Department of Industry and Commerce, the Department of Culture and Tourism, with special stands designated for foreign participants, located at Hall B. Balai Sidang Jakarta Convention Centre. Contact: Permata Plaza Fl: 7, Jl.Thamrin 57, Jakarta 10350, phone: (62-21) 350 3820, Fax: (62-21) 390 -3824/25, e-mail: dyandra@dyandra.com
Nov. 2 -11	Asian Children's Festival (ACF) 2001	Singapore National Library Board (NLB), National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS) and others	Debuting in 2000, ACF aspires to connect people and institutions related to children in the literary, publishing, library, book information, and the creative world of arts together to network, share, learn, research, write and develop Asian content, products and services that meet the child's educational, creative and emotional needs. These range of services and products would subtly promote a deeper understanding of the Asian way of life. ACF 2001 will be a multi-faceted, week-long programme in 9 domains including Asian Storytelling Carnival, Asian Congress of Storytellers, Asian Congress of Children's Librarians, Asian Children's Film Festival, Asian Children's Expo, Children's Drama Fiesta, Infoskills for Children, Budding Writers 2001, and fringe events. Contact: Boon Leng Choo, phone: 332 1892, fax: 332 3616, e-mail: Leng_Choon_BOON@nlb.gov.sg
Dec.	The Annual National Book Week	Lao PDR	Organized by the National Library, Ministry of Information and Culture, with the aim of supporting book production, distribution and reading promotion.