Spotlight on: Chinese Language Collection @ Liliha Library
By Sylvia Mitchell, Library Manager, Liliha Public Library

For nearly 10 years, the Chinese language collection at the Liliha Public Library has blossomed and grown like a well-cultivated garden. In 1995, this collection began as a project and occupied four shelves. Today, it takes up one corner of the library, filling more than 67 shelves with 2,000 fiction, 1,800 non-fiction, and 515 books for children.

Audio materials include: 66 bags of books & tapes for children, and a 24-volume set of video for learning Mandarin. The most popular of these are the 70 videos and 60 DVDs in Chinese with English subtitles. In addition to entertainment value, they offer a painless way to improve one’s understanding of English!

Comparative statistics were used to monitor growth. The pre-1996 circulation of Chinese materials was 3,890. According to the database, cumulative circulation for the total adult print collection is 115,449 and 9,618 for the children’s collection, for a grand total of 125,067. Annual circulation of the Chinese collection is now about 20,000.

The primary goal of this project was to build a magnet collection to attract the 5,000 Chinese-speaking community residents to the library. A library card application and an information sheet were translated into Chinese to assist with communication. Immigrants felt free to request help from a library staff member who spoke five dialects. Thanks to the statewide listing of Chinese materials, the library is now able to serve beyond the Liliha area. Requests are received from the Neighbor Islands as well as from other areas on O‘ahu. Finally, since business experts are suggesting a bright future for those who master Chinese, the library offers a good place to work on language skills.

This fantastic growth could not have happened without the dedication and skills of Julian Hui, a staff member who was born in China. He channeled the original fund raiser that collected over $6,000 start-up money when budgets were tight.

Hui selected popular titles and removed those which were not circulating. He supervised and trained volunteers, making best use of their talents. Unfortunately, Hui retired on Sept. 30, and although he will be missed, Liliha Library staff will try its best to maintain this special Chinese language collection.

Celebrate Teen Read Week
By Paul H. Mark

In celebration of Teen Read Week 2005 (Oct. 16-22), the Hawai‘i State Public Library System will present three programs featuring noted local and Mainland storytellers at selected libraries statewide. Admission is free.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Hawai‘i and the UH-Mānoa Outreach College’s Statewide Cultural Extension Program, the programs are: “Bamboo Ridge Tales” starring Eric Mita and Janice Terukina, veteran stage and screen actors; “Home-Fried Tales” featuring nationally renowned Ohio storyteller Lyn Ford; and “Gonna Getcha Deep Night Creepers – Tales from the Dark Shadows of Alton Chung” featuring award-winning storyteller Alton Chung, a former O‘ahu resident who specializes in ghost stories. These programs are suitable for ages 12 to adult.

Mita, who has made appearances on Mognum P.I., the Discovery Channel, and various Kumu Kahu Theatre productions, teams up with Terukina, an actor with the East West Players in Los Angeles. Since returning to Hawaii, Terukina has appeared in numerous stage, film, and television roles. “Bamboo Ridge Tales,” a selection of comical and poignant stories from Bamboo Ridge Press including: “Honeymoon Hotel” and “Fourth Grade Ukus,” is scheduled for performances at seven libraries statewide: Oct. 11, Kahuku at 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 18, Wahiawa at 6 p.m.; Oct. 22, Liliha at 3 p.m.; Oct. 19, Makawao at 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 20, Kåtea at 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 25, Kålihi-Kåpa at 5:30 p.m.; and on Oct. 26, Moloka‘i at 2:45 p.m.

Ford, a fourth-generation storyteller, shares “Home-Fried Tales – well-known, unknown, home-grown, or my own – stories seasoned with humor, hope, and her multicultural African American heritage. She has performed at many storytelling festivals throughout the nation, and was a featured teller at the prestigious National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tenn. Enjoy some “Home-Fried Tales” at four libraries:

Students, Enter the Letters About Literature Contest
The Hawai‘i Center for the Book invites young readers to write a letter to their favorite author, and enter the 2005 Letters About Literature contest.

To enter, readers must write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre – fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. Letters About Literature, a writing contest for readers in grades 4 through 12 is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target Stores.

Top essayists in the state for each of the three competition levels: Level I for children in grades 4 – 6; Level II for grades 7 – 8; and Level III, grades 9 – 12, will be selected by the Hawai‘i Center for the Book. State winners advance to national competition and receive cash prizes plus a $50 Target GiftCard.

The Then for the Center for the Book in Washington, D.C. will select six national winners who will each receive an expenses-paid trip to the nation’s capital to read their letters during the National Book Festival in the fall of 2006. In addition, they will receive a $500 TargetGift card redeemable at any Target or at target.com. Target is the presenting sponsor of Letters About Literature.

Mark Your Calendars
-Nov. 11 – Veterans Day holiday, all libraries closed. Check with your local library for holiday hours or visit the HSPLS website: www.librarieshawaii.org.
-Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Day holiday, all libraries closed.

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About Literature.
ARE WE THERE YET? Rapper and actor Ice Cube shows his softer side in this family-friendly comedy. Nick offers to take Suzanne and her kids cross-country in an effort to win her heart. He must survive 24 hours with two kids bent on destroying him. Through all the roadblocks, he impresses not only Suzanne, but himself as well.

COACH CARTER Samuel L. Jackson stars in this true story, based on an inspirational account of a high school basketball coach who received high praise, and staunch criticism, for benching his entire undeveloped team due to their poor academic performances.

VERA DRAKE Set in England in the 1950s, Vera Drake is devoted to caring for her family, but secretly aids women who want to terminate unwanted pregnancies. When the authorities find out, Vera’s world and family life rapidly unravels.

WHAT THE BLEEP DO WE KNOW? Oscar winner Marlee Matlin stars as Amanda, a signed photographer, who finds herself in a fantastical Alice in Wonderland experience when her unsupervised life begins to fall apart, causing her to question reality. The film blends interviews with scientists, neurobiologists, quantum physicists, and a 35,000 year old being with live action, and mind-blowing special effects.

ROBOTS Ewan McGregor lends his voice to this heart-warming animated feature about Rodney Copperbottom, a young robot inventor who dreams of making the world a better place.

JACQUES COUSTEAU: COMPLETE SERIES Relive all 12 episodes from the 1978 television series featuring the research adventures of Jacques Cousteau, the most celebrated maker and presenter of documentaries about the underwater world. See multiple Cousteau explorations including shipwrecks, mystery islands, the Nile River, and more.

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LOL (Laugh Out Loud) ... with New Teen Titles

Davidfoo GIRLS FOR BREAKFAST

Nick Park, a graduating senior, describes the trials and tribulations of growing up Korean in suburban Connecticut. Yearning for attention, he blames his Korean looks for his lack of popularity and girlfriends.

Jon Scieszka, Editor GUYS WRITE FOR GUYS READ

Hilarious short stories about boyhood written by over 80 “guy” authors that we love!

Jim Benton IT’S HAPPY BUNNY: LOVE BITES

To know him is to love him. It’s time for wit and wisdom from the bunny with attitude.

Meg Cabot PRINCESS IN TRAINING

The series continues with Michael off to college, and Mia facing her arch rival by running for president of the school council.

Louise Remison THEN HE ATE MY BOY ENTRANCERS

More Georgina, more Angads, more laughs per page! In this book, she’s still looking for love and visits the U.S.

LOTUS (Laugh Out Loud) • new Teen Titles

Matsumaru Tokihiko TUXEDO GIN (MANGA)

True love is tested when Gin dies in a motorcycle accident just before his big date with Minako. To keep his romance alive, he chooses to be reincarnated into Minako’s favorite animal, a penguin!