Print Coexisting with Digital Collection in Public Libraries of China

Liu Honghui, Huang Qunqing and Mao Lingwen

Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province

Guangzhou, China
Part I  A survey of hybrid public libraries

Part II  De-selecting print is a dilemma

Part III  Circulation in larger zones seems a direction
Libraries have come to a hybrid age, how are things with print in public libraries of China?
Part I

A survey of hybrid public libraries
Acquisition funds in public libraries have been increasing in recent years.
Finances to public libraries vary greatly in different areas, e.g. provincial libraries in 2010.
Digital investment

- Ningxia Library put 20% of its 3 million RMB in 2010
- Shanxi Library put 20% of its 6 million RMB in 2010
- Zhejiang Library put 28% of its 23 million RMB in 2011
- Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province put 22% of its 40.92 million RMB in 2011
Leading common digital resources of books and journals in public libraries
Most provincial public libraries have built up unique databases based on their special collections.
Print and Digital Users

- Those for pastime would prefer reading print while those for research would prefer digital reading.

- A great deal of needs for journal articles or other research materials has turned online.
Blending print and digital collections

- Examining old vs new
- Integrating heterogeneous data
- Provincial public libraries
- Only from e-books to OPAC
Part II

De-selecting print is a dilemma
- 328,387 titles of books were published by 581 publishers in 2010

- But digital formats are produced by other companies

- E-books from Superstar and Apabi in 2010 cover only 15% of all print titles in that year
Should we insist on print books?

... we are facing space problem.
Shall we give up print books?  
... *E-books are limited.*
Should we insist on print journals? … We are paying high costs.
Shall we give up print journals?
… e-journals not owned by libraries.
Should we insist on newspapers? ... News online is everywhere.
Shall we give up newspapers?
... people enjoy reading for pastime.
Part III

Circulation in larger zones seems a direction
Majority of citizens still prefer print, according to the Investigation of Reading Status of Shanghai Citizens
Public libraries in cities are providing creative services to get closer to citizens, e.g. the 24-hour Self Service Neighborhood Library.
Half of the 1.3 billion population is living in countryside, the model of Central-Branch libraries is popular.
Print still prevails, and circulation in larger areas seems to grow.
Thank you!

E-mail:

Liuhonghui@zslib.com.cn
qqh21@hotmail.com
lingwen@zslib.com.cn