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Postprint of Research on National Standards for New-Generation Library Statistics in the Context of High-Quality Development

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Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] Against the backdrop of high-quality development, the internal and external environments of libraries have undergone tremendous changes, with libraries themselves exhibiting new characteristics. As a crucial instrument for efficient management and scientific decision-making, library statistical work can no longer comprehensively reflect the transformation status of libraries, necessitating the formulation of a new national standard for library statistics. [Method/Process] This study comprehensively employs research methods such as web survey and comparative analysis to summarize the development status of international, foreign, and domestic library statistics standards in terms of development cycles, content structures, and other key indicators. [Results/Conclusion] Based on a comparative analysis of international standards and the development of library statistics standards both domestically and abroad, coupled with an in-depth analysis of the current national standard for library statistics, this study identifies major issues concerning development approaches, standard cycles, statistical dimensions, and statistical indicators. It proposes a construction pathway for a new-generation national standard for library statistics centered on theoretical orientation, guiding capacity, universality, and specialization, aiming to provide references for the revision of national standards for library statistics and to optimize library services and elevate the status of libraries.

Full Text

Preamble

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Research on National Standards for New Generation Library Statistics in High-Quality Development Environment

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Abstract: [Purpose/Significance] Against the backdrop of high-quality development, libraries' internal and external environments have undergone tremendous changes, and libraries themselves have exhibited new characteristics. Library statistics, as one of the important means for efficient management and scientific decision-making, can no longer fully reflect the transformation of libraries. There is an urgent need to construct a new national standard for library statistics. [Method/Process] This study comprehensively employs research methods such as network surveys and comparative analysis to summarize the development status of international, foreign, and domestic library statistics standards, focusing on their formulation cycles, content structures, and other key indicators. [Result/Conclusion] Based on a comparison of international standards and the development of domestic and foreign library statistics standards, and through in-depth analysis of current national standards for library statistics, this paper identifies major issues related to formulation methods, standard cycles, statistical dimensions, and statistical indicators. It proposes a construction path for a new generation of national library statistics standards centered on theoretical foundation, leadership, universality, and specialization. This research aims to provide references for revising national standards for library statistics, optimizing library services, and enhancing the status of libraries.

Keywords: high-quality development; library statistics; national standards; statistical standards; standard revision

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To standardize cultural statistics work, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism issued the "Notice on the Management Measures for Culture and Tourism Statistics" (Wen Lv Cai Fa [2020] No. 54) in accordance with the "Statistics Law of the People's Republic of China" and its implementation regulations. In December 2020, the "National Cultural Heritage and Tourism Statistical Survey System" (Guo Tong Zhi [2020] No. 186) was published. During the "14th Five-Year Plan" period, the state has put forward new requirements for the standardization of cultural statistics work. The "14th Five-Year Plan for Culture and Tourism Development" (Wen Lv Zheng Fa Fa [2021] No. 40) proposes to consolidate the foundation of culture and tourism statistics and improve the statistical system. At the local level, relevant management implementation measures have also been issued to strengthen cultural statistics management, such as the "Zhejiang Province Culture and Tourism Statistics Management Implementation Measures" (Zhe Wen Lv Ke Jiao [2021] No. 1) issued by the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism. The library community continuously de-

velops new local and industry standards according to new business formats to ensure high-quality statistical mechanisms and data, but the national standard for library statistics remains “Information and Documentation—Library Statistics (GB/T 13191-2009)” (hereinafter referred to as GB/T13191-2009), which has never been updated. National standards must keep pace with the times and require attention from both theoretical and practical circles to serve the high-quality development of libraries with high-quality statistics.

1 Research Status and Methods

Current research related to public library statistics mainly covers statistics, annual reports, and system construction [2]. Foreign research on library statistics standards focuses on the revision process and significance of international and national standards, such as the “Information and Documentation—International Library Statistics (ISO 2789)” (hereinafter referred to as ISO 2789) [3] and the “Information Services and Use: Metrics and Statistics for Libraries and Information Providers—Data Dictionary (NISO Z39.7)” (hereinafter referred to as the “U.S. Library Statistics Standard”) [4]. These studies emphasize the functions and significance of statistical standards, such as how Russian national standards create conditions for the accuracy of library planning, budgeting, and forecasting [5]. Domestic research on library statistics standards concentrates on three aspects: First, the introduction of foreign statistical standards, primarily focusing on the 2003 and 2006 versions of ISO 2789 and the U.S. library statistics standard [6], with comparative analyses of domestic and foreign standards [7-8]. Second, the discussion and development suggestions for domestic industry and local standards, such as the “Unified Service Business Statistics Data Specification for Public Libraries (DB4403/T78-2020)” (hereinafter referred to as the “Unified Service Statistics Specification”) [9], the “Library Digital Resource Statistics Specification (WH/T47-2012)” (hereinafter referred to as the “Digital Statistics Specification”) [10], and the “Township Library Statistics Guide (WH/T69-2014)” (hereinafter referred to as the “Township Statistics Guide”) [11]. The library statistics standard systems of various countries mainly consist of national standards, local standards, and industry standards, but existing domestic research pays insufficient attention to the latest developments in national library statistics standards of various countries, especially lacking relevant research on China’s national library statistics standards.

This study employs network surveys to investigate international, foreign, and domestic library statistics standards, focusing on comparative analysis of key indicators between international and domestic national standards. The aim is to identify useful references for formulating China’s library statistics standards and to assist in constructing a new generation of national library statistics standards in a high-quality development environment, thereby promoting the theoretical and practical development of China’s library cause.

2 Development of Library Statistics Standards at Home and Abroad

The international library statistics standard ISO 2789 emphasizes that one of the functions of library statistics is to serve library evaluation. The widely applied “input-process-output-outcome” model in library evaluation concepts is frequently cited and has gained recognition and development in the library science community [12], making it suitable for analyzing library statistics standards. Most library statistics data comes from resources, while capabilities are difficult to quantify, and both capabilities and beneficial effects are challenging to measure. R. Orr proposed the “resources-capability-utilization-beneficial effect” framework among library variables, where “resources” correspond to input measurement, “capability” to process measurement, “utilization” to output measurement, and “beneficial effect” to outcome measurement [13]. ISO 21248-2019 (Quality Assessment for National Libraries) defines “input” as “resources supporting the library, including funding, personnel, collections, space, and equipment,” “process” as “a set of interrelated or interacting activities that transform inputs into outputs (e.g., cataloging volume, lending volume, reference consultation),” and “output” as “the product of library processes (e.g., cataloging, lending, e-resource downloads, reference consultation responses, attendance)” [14]. The Association of College & Research Libraries defines “outcome” as “changes that occur to library users as a result of their contact with library resources and programs” [15].

Using input, process, output, and outcome measurements to analyze domestic and foreign standards, this study examines the main indicators of statistical dimensions, hoping to discover useful references for compiling China’s national library statistics standards and to promote the development of China’s library statistics standards.

2.1 Development of International Library Statistics Standards

By investigating the ISO website, this paper analyzes the development of ISO 2789. To enable data and statistics from individual libraries to be used at regional, national, and international levels for all libraries or different types of libraries, and to ensure comparability among libraries, the International Organization for Standardization first published ISO 2789 in 1974. It has since been expanded and revised four times in 1991, 2003, 2006, and 2013, and on January 13, 2020, it was approved as a new project in TC/SC to replace ISO 2789:2013 [16]. Unlike ISO 2789:2006, ISO 2789:2013 incorporated content related to digital resources and services from “Appendix A” into the main body of the standard, reflecting that these contents have become important components of library activities. The newly added section “3. Current Tasks of Libraries” replaced the previous “2. Normative References” section, reflecting the importance of “library functions,” particularly concerning collection digitization and digital collection preservation, information literacy education, services for disadvantaged groups, social cooperation, and online interactive library services,

as shown in Table 1 .

In terms of main indicators of international standards, compared with previous versions, ISO 2789:2006 gave more consideration to digital library resources and services, with richer content focusing particularly on the statistics and evaluation of library inputs and outputs. ISO 2789:2013 includes input, output, and outcome dimensions, and newly adds “services” and “management” compared to ISO 2789:2006. In summary, ISO 2789:2013 establishes rules for library and information service communities regarding statistical data collection and reporting, and serves library performance evaluation standards by providing statistical data needed for performance indicators in ISO 11620, as shown in Table 2 .

2.2 Development of Foreign Library Statistics Standards

Through website surveys of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), British Standards Institution (BSI), European Committee for Standardization (CEN), Standards Australia (SA), New Zealand Standards Organization (NZSO), German Institute for Standardization (DIN), Korea Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS), Spanish Association for Standardization (UNE), French Association for Standardization (AFNOR), and Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC), this study selects representative national standards for analysis.

Regarding update cycles of foreign statistical standards: First, some countries improve their national standards based on the update cycle of international standards. Based on ISO 2789:2013, the Spanish Association for Standardization released the library statistics standard (UNE-ISO 2789:2014) on March 26, 2014 [19], and the French Association for Standardization released the library statistics standard (NF Z48-001*NF ISO 2789:2014) on May 16, 2014 [20]. Second, some countries proactively update their standards. The latest international standard has not yet been released, but the U.S. library statistics standard plans to launch a new version in 2022.

Regarding content structure of foreign statistical standards, library statistics standards in Canada, Germany, the UK, Sweden, and other countries are formulated based on ISO 2789 [21], but different countries have different situations, mainly falling into two categories: First, content-based borrowing, such as the UK’s “Library Statistics Standard (BS ISO 2789:2013)” (hereinafter referred to as the “UK Library Statistics Standard”), which completely copies ISO 2789:2013 [22]. Second, content localization, such as the U.S. NISO Z39.7, which, although referencing ISO 2789:2006, has its own relatively independent system for identifying data dictionaries related to U.S. library statistics practices, describing common factors related to various types of libraries in the U.S., and using useful quantitative information to measure library resources and performance [23], as shown in Table 3 .

Regarding main indicators of foreign standards, the UK and U.S. standards are consistent with international standards in focus, with most data revolv-

ing around input and output dimensions, and a small amount involving outcome dimensions. The U.S. national standard also covers services, personnel, collections, facilities, and finance, but differs in lacking a “management” dimension because its content, while having unique features, is still based on ISO 2789:2006 and has not been updated according to ISO 2789:2013. This demonstrates that keeping synchronized updates with international standards facilitates global data comparison, as shown in Table 4 .

2.3 Development of Domestic Library Statistics Standards

China’s domestic library statistics standards mainly reference relevant international library statistics standards: GB/T 13191-2009 and the “Library Statistics Standard (CNS 13151)” (hereinafter referred to as CNS 13151) formulated in China’s Taiwan region. China’s national library statistics standard has experienced two generations: “Information and Documentation—Statistics Standard for Information and Documentation Work Institutions (GB/T 13191-91)” [24] and GB/T 13191-2009 [25]. CNS 13151 initially referenced the international standard ISO 2789 when it was formulated in 1993, using previously collected statistical data to create a library statistics standard suitable for Taiwan’s region. With the changing times, it has been revised by preserving the original framework and local characteristics while referencing the latest ISO 2789 content [26].

GB/T 13191-2009 was proposed and approved by the National Information and Documentation Standardization Technical Committee and was compiled based on ISO 2789:2006. Therefore, its content structure is consistent with ISO 2789:2006 (see Table 1), and its main indicators are also basically consistent with ISO 2789:2006, focusing on input and output dimensions. CNS 13151:2007’s content structure includes “Scope, Terms and Definitions, Submission of Statistical Data, and Collection of Statistical Data,” with main indicators being libraries, collections, library services and resource utilization, information access and space equipment, funding, and library staff [27], similar to ISO 2789’s content structure but highlighting local characteristics.

2.4 Comparison of International and Domestic Standard Indicators

By comparing the international standard ISO 2789:2013 with the domestic standard GB/T 13191-2009, this study identifies new trends in library development. ISO 2789:2013’s first-level indicator changed from “6.3 Library Use and Users” to “6.2 Services and Use,” and newly added “6.5 Management” as a first-level indicator. These two changes reflect increased emphasis on library services and management. The original “6.5 Expenditure” indicator became “6.6 Assets and Expenditure.” Although the content remained unchanged, the name change of the first-level indicator highlights the status of “assets.”

In the “6.2 Services and Use” indicator, the focus remains on output dimensions (as shown in Table 5). Placing this first-level indicator before “6.3 Collec-

tions” reflects the transformation of libraries from “collection-centered” to “use-centered,” establishing “people-centered” libraries. In terms of newly added second-level indicators, the “6.2 Services and Use” module added “Use of Electronic Resources and Services,” “Virtual Visits,” “Mobile Device Services,” and “Interactive Services,” indicating that network services and information services have become normal in libraries. The addition of “Services for Special Needs of Target Groups” reflects the transformation toward personalized and precise library services. The expansion of the “Information Requests” indicator to include reference consultation content reflects the shift from information services to knowledge services, hoping to impact users’ learning and work, which can demonstrate outcomes to some extent.

In the “Management” indicator, newly added items include “6.5.1 Cooperation (Cooperative Projects and Partners),” “6.5.2 Research Publications of Library Staff,” “6.5.3 Library Publications,” “6.5.4 Preservation,” and “6.5.5 Digitization.” “6.5.1 Cooperation” reflects that cooperation and librarians’ collaborative abilities are crucial for library development. “6.5.2 Research Publications of Library Staff” and “6.5.3 Library Publications” reflect libraries’ research capabilities and librarians’ academic abilities. Although these measure output data, they can reflect libraries’ academic influence to some extent. “6.5.4 Preservation” and “6.5.5 Digitization” reflect libraries’ technical levels and cultural preservation awareness.

In the “Library Staff” indicator, the focus is mainly on input dimensions. The “6.7 Library Staff” indicator added two second-level indicators: “Librarians Positioned for Professional Services” and “Librarians on Governing Boards of Parent Institutions.” “Librarians Positioned for Professional Services” reflects that librarians spend time on diverse capabilities beyond basic service tasks, including library evaluation, preservation work, interactive services, and training preparation. “Librarians on Governing Boards of Parent Institutions” reflects libraries’ social influence and can demonstrate outcomes to some extent, as shown in Table 6 .

Other changes include the addition of “E-book Readers” in the “6.4 Access and Facilities” module to adapt to changes in user reading habits. In terms of deleted indicators, the “6.3 Collections” module removed “Computer Files,” reflecting changes in physical carriers.

3 Dilemmas of National Standards for Library Statistics in China’s High-Quality Development Environment

As China’s library cause enters a new development stage, significant changes have occurred in library resources, services, and management. The current national standards for library statistics can no longer fully meet the needs of high-quality library development, mainly including dilemmas in formulation methods, standard cycles, statistical dimensions, and statistical indicators.

3.1 Dilemma of Formulation Method: Insufficient Extraction of Chinese Characteristics

GB/T 13191-2009 constructed national standards for library statistics based on international experience, which can only be considered a “Chinese solution” for statistical standards, failing to reflect “Chinese experience” and lacking sufficient applicability to China’s actual conditions. How to transform from a “Chinese solution” to “Chinese experience” and make China’s voice heard in the international library community is a key consideration. Can existing library statistics indicators reflect new changes? Can foreign standards be directly borrowed? If so, are some foreign standards inapplicable, or are all of them inapplicable? What does the “Chinese experience” library statistics indicator system include? Currently, China’s library community has created many “Chinese models,” with distinctive library construction models such as the “Jiaxing Model,” “Hangzhou Model,” and “Guangzhou Model” emerging domestically. Both the Jinan Library in China, which won the 2021 IFLA International Marketing Award, and the Pingshan Library in Shenzhen, which won the Green Library Award, have gained international recognition and are full of Chinese characteristics. Reviewing China’s current other library statistics standards, most of them borrow from international standards and have certain gaps with practical applications. How can they reflect Chinese characteristics? The formulation process of the “Unified Service Statistics Specification” is a successful example. It fully summarizes and refines the experience of Shenzhen’s public library statistics work and widely solicits expert opinions. In terms of indicator setting and data collection method description, it is closer to actual public library statistics work and has high applicability [9]. Under the premise of aligning with international standards, national standards need to consider whether the formulation method should be based on borrowing or innovation. Additionally, how national standards for library statistics can generate international influence is also closely related to their formulation methods.

3.2 Dilemma of Standard Cycle: Lagging Standard Revision Work

From the perspective of practical application and relevant regulations, the revision cycle of China’s current national standards for library statistics is relatively slow. In terms of standard cycle practice, the International Organization for Standardization began the fifth revision of ISO 2789 in 2020 to replace the current ISO 2789:2013. The U.S. library statistics standard has begun updating its sixth version. These experiences in developing international standards provide certain references for GB/T 13191. In terms of relevant regulations, standards formulated by the International Organization for Standardization are generally updated every five years [28]. The “Standardization Law of the People’s Republic of China” stipulates that “a standard implementation information feedback and evaluation mechanism shall be established, and standards shall be reviewed based on feedback and evaluation. The review cycle of standards generally does not exceed five years. After review, those that do not meet the needs of economic

and social development and technological progress shall be revised or abolished in a timely manner” [29]. Currently, China’s national library statistics standard has only released two versions since 1991. The current GB/T 13191-2009 was formulated by referencing the international standard ISO 2789:2006. As libraries are organic entities that grow, how to formulate the standard revision frequency is a very important issue. It should follow the regular five-year cycle while absorbing foreign experience and keeping pace with practical development to determine the standard revision cycle.

3.3 Dilemma of Statistical Dimensions: Low Matching Degree Between Standards and Statistical Trends

The main purpose of library statistics at home and abroad is to enable better comparison among libraries. Previous library statistics did not focus on performance indicators themselves or how to best collect data to generate these performance indicators, but they stipulated the data provision required for library performance indicators. The 2019 domestic “Library Statistics Consensus” emphasizes “collecting as comprehensively as possible data related to library service performance.” Currently, the evaluation trend of libraries at home and abroad is shifting from performance evaluation to outcome evaluation, with emphasis on the integration of performance and outcomes. The performance dimension focuses on data such as library input, process, output, and effects (user satisfaction rate), while the outcome dimension includes data on library value and impact. Traditional library statistics focused on library input, ownership, and funding, but have recently expanded to focus on output, utilization and availability, results, and impact [30]. Reviewing GB/T 13191-2009, libraries, collections, and library staff all belong to input dimensions, access and facilities include input and output dimensions. Although some data can serve as references for outcome data to some extent, they do not include outcome data. The collection mainly focuses on input and output dimensions, while library use and users belong to output dimensions. Some output data can serve as references for value and influence factors and provide basic data for performance evaluation. The dimensions of statistical standards cannot cover the content of development trends. Whether the new generation of library statistics standards should increase the collection of data on effects, value, and impact should be given attention.

3.4 Dilemma of Statistical Indicators: Absence of New Indicators for High-Quality Development

With the high-quality development of public libraries, many new characteristics have emerged in library development in the new era. Professor Ke Ping proposed that new themes for public libraries during the high-quality development period include: public digital culture and high-quality service system construction, culture-tourism integration and thematic libraries, digital intelligence technology empowerment and smart libraries, data management and big data

services, service contextualization and online-offline experience services, think tank services and strategic knowledge services, library service brand marketing, etc. [31]. These new themes will bring new changes to library resources, management, and services, but the current national standards fail to reflect these high-quality new themes. Although local and industry institutions are continuously developing new statistical standards, such as the “Digital Statistics Specification” formulated to meet the urgent need for digital resource statistics, the “Township Statistics Guide” formulated in 2014 applicable to township libraries and township comprehensive cultural station reading rooms, and the “Unified Service Statistics Specification” implemented in October 2020 to adapt to the domestic public cultural service system construction, these local and industry standards cannot cover all the new characteristics of high-quality development. Moreover, the indicator systems mostly revolve around input and output dimensions, with few outcome dimensions reflecting library influence. Therefore, how to strengthen tracking research on new technologies, new services, and new management to develop applicable statistical indicators and how to add new indicators are urgent problems for national standards. Identifying key areas and essential elements in new library themes is the primary task.

4 Construction of New Generation National Standards for Library Statistics

The construction of new generation national standards for library statistics in a high-quality development environment should both respect historical experience and reflect new characteristics and trends of libraries. Based on inheriting existing standards and according to the actual development status and trends of libraries, this study discusses the construction from four aspects: theoretical foundation, leadership, universality, and specialization, drawing on experiences from international standards and statistical standards of other countries.

4.1 Theoretical Foundation: Empowering Standard Top-Level Design with Theory

Practice cannot be separated from theoretical guidance. The methodological content of standard formation includes: formatting of top-level relationships, proceduralization of standard establishment processes, structuralization of standard content, conceptualization of standard expression, and systematization of inter-standard relationships [32]. Standard compilation and development are two forms of standard formulation. Development-type standards are mainly used as benchmarks, models, evaluation tools, application methods, application data, and unified patterns. The national standard for library statistics should adopt the standard development approach. Standard developers should typically be scientists or experts with deep academic achievements and strong research capabilities in corresponding scientific or technological fields [33]. Development-type standards have strong universality and are usually established to address commonly concerned benchmark and unification issues.

Reviewing the theoretical foundations of the library standard system itself, the “World Three” theory explains its possibility, the “Five Laws of Library Science” explains its necessity, and “Social Epistemology” explains its reality [34]. The “14th Five-Year Plan for Public Cultural Service System Construction” (Wen Lv Gong Gong Fa [2021] No. 64) proposes to adapt to high-quality development requirements and promote the transformation of public libraries toward “people-centered” services. “People-centered” can serve as the top-level design concept for national library statistics standards in the context of high-quality development. Only with scientific theoretical guidance can we ensure authentic data sources, standardized statistical processes, and comparable statistical results.

4.2 Leadership: Keeping Standard Content Current with the Times

National standards play a leading role by keeping pace with developments in domestic and international environments. Leadership is reflected in both domestic and international aspects. On one hand, national standards play a guiding role in domestic library statistics standards and statistical work. Other domestic library statistics standards must refer to national standards. China’s current statistical standards mostly borrow from foreign experience. How to construct a new system of library statistics standards in the context of high-quality development? Professor Li Guoxin believes that during the “14th Five-Year Plan” period, the expected indicators for public libraries should focus on service effectiveness [35]. Big data, artificial intelligence, and other digital intelligence technologies bring new opportunities and challenges to libraries, and the content of library statistics will also undergo new changes. Statistical standards must keep pace with the times. In addition to national standards, domestic library statistics standards include types such as systems, guidelines, and specifications according to their required degree. In terms of applicability scope, standard categories are mainly local standards and industry standards. In addition, business work annual report systems have been established, including public library business annual reports (limited to county-level and above public libraries) and township comprehensive cultural station business annual reports. Local public library regulations and management methods also involve relevant provisions on library statistics, and national standards should provide guidance for all of them. On the other hand, national standards should voice China’s perspectives and generate international influence in the international library community. Standard content must keep up with global library development trends and possess industry foresight. The “14th Five-Year Plan Outline for National Library Standardization Work” proposes forming an evaluation feedback mechanism, timely reporting the latest standardization achievements in the library field through online media and newsletter columns, and conducting pilot demonstration projects for library standardization through trial implementation [36]. These methods are conducive to the external promotion of standards.

4.3 Universality: Compatibility and Connection in Standard Establishment Process

The most important characteristic of national standards is their universality. In addition to compatibility with other statistical standards, national standards should also maintain connection with other standards, such as evaluation standard ISO 11620, for which ISO 2789 stipulates the required performance data. When revising domestic national standards, on one hand, they should reference international standards to facilitate comparison with international library data. On the other hand, they can use other domestic standards and specifications as references for statistical standard indicator content and statistical 口径. Domestic standards such as the “Digital Statistics Specification” and basic standards for public library business work, such as the “Public Library Business Specification” series (WH/T 87.1~3-2019) released in 2019, should be fully understood before formulating new generation national standards. Additionally, national standards must address incompatibility and disconnection issues between standards and specifications. For example, the “New Media Services” evaluation indicator in the “Public Library Evaluation Indicators Part 2: Provincial, Municipal, and County-level Public Libraries” (WH/T 70.2-2020) is divided into third-party platform services such as Weibo and WeChat, and mobile services, while the “Digital Statistics Specification” has inconsistent indicator definitions, as “mobile communication users” are not statistically broken down by service platform [10]. These differences should be addressed according to national standards, which is also an issue that needs attention in the national standard formulation process.

4.4 Specialization: Focusing on Core Indicators for High-Quality Development

ISO’s “Strategy 2030” mentions that “although standards are invisible in daily life, they can effectively improve people’s quality of life, with the vision of making lives easier, safer, and better” [37]. Based on international experience and domestic inheritance, attention should be paid to the specialized development of new era national standards to assist high-quality library development. The selection of core indicators highlights important dimensions and key elements of statistical standards. On one hand, new characteristics of high-quality library development determine core indicator items in statistical standards, such as smart libraries, public cultural service systems, and public digital culture. Among them, emphasis should be placed on selecting service effectiveness data as core indicators, highlighting outcome measurement dimensions. On the other hand, qualitative and quantitative indicators should be combined. Measuring the social and economic value of high-quality development libraries relies solely on quantitative data is far from sufficient; qualitative data needs to be added. For example, referencing advanced experiences from foreign library statistics standards, domestic standards can inherit and optimize standard text appendices, formulate statistical collection forms reflecting qualitative data, and de-

velop new types of appendices to supplement the main text, such as “Recommended Categories for Expanded Statistical Analysis” to collect quantitative core indicator items for library statistics.

This study references existing international, foreign, and domestic library statistics standards and finds that the statistical indicator system mainly focuses on input and output data. Although it does not directly 统计 outcome data, a few indicators can simultaneously reflect libraries’ results and influence. Additionally, this study explores the dilemmas of domestic library statistics standards and considers the path for constructing national standards. The question of what national standards for library statistics are has been answered. More importantly, the next questions are how to construct the indicator system of national standards for library statistics, how to realize and implement the construction of new generation national standards, and how to develop the library statistics standard system around national standards. In a high-quality development environment, only appropriate “breaking” and “establishing” can construct a new generation of library statistics standards. How to break the original content framework of library statistics standards and how to construct indicators with Chinese characteristics for library statistics standards are worth in-depth consideration. It is hoped that research on the theory and practice of library statistics standards development can answer these questions.

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Author Contributions:

Peng Liang: Collected and organized materials, wrote and revised the paper;
Ke Ping: Determined research direction, guided research, and proposed paper revision suggestions.

Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

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