

## A Comparative Study of Public Library Laws in China and the UK: Based on Library Governance Theory (Postprint)

**Authors:** Zhu Zhipeng

**Date:** 2023-07-26T00:00:00+00:00

### Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] This study compares the similarities and differences between the public library laws of China and the United Kingdom from the perspective of library governance, reveals the distinctions between the two countries' public library laws, and thereby obtains beneficial insights for China's public library law. [Method/Process] First, it respectively elucidates the basic situations, legislative purposes, and governance objectives of the public library laws of both countries; second, it analyzes the governance structures embedded in the two countries' public library laws, summarizing their governance units, governance subjects, and governance evaluations; finally, it compares the similarities and differences in the governance elements of the public library laws of the two countries, and conducts summary and reflection on this basis. [Result/Conclusion] China's public library law should flexibly apply library governance theory, appropriately expand governance units, strictly distinguish between establishing entities and management entities, further advance the corporatization of management entities, and provide adequate supervision of establishing entities.

### Full Text

## A Comparative Study of Chinese and British Public Library Laws—Based on Library Governance Theory

**Zhu Zhipeng**

School of Economics and Management, South China Normal University,  
Guangzhou 510006

## Abstract

**[Purpose/Significance]** This paper compares the similarities and differences between Chinese and British public library laws from the perspective of library governance, revealing distinctions between the two legal systems to derive beneficial insights for China's Public Library Law. **[Method/Process]** First, the basic circumstances, legislative purposes, and governance objectives of both countries' public library laws are expounded. Second, the governance structures embedded in these laws are analyzed, summarizing their governance units, governance subjects, and governance evaluation mechanisms. Finally, the similarities and differences in governance elements are compared, leading to conclusions and reflections. **[Result/Conclusion]** China's Public Library Law should flexibly apply library governance theory, appropriately expand governance units, strictly distinguish between construction subjects and management subjects, further promote corporatization of management subjects, and fully supervise construction subjects.

**Keywords:** Chinese Public Library Law; British Public Library Law; public library governance; China-Britain comparison

---

## 1. Overview of Library Governance

Public library law constitutes the fundamental institutional framework for a nation's public library governance, and its promulgation and refinement ensure the normal conduct of library governance activities [13]. Since public library law and public library governance are inseparable, applying library governance theory enables in-depth analysis of public library laws and facilitates targeted comparisons between the two countries' legal systems.

**1.1 The Connotation of Library Governance** According to Jiang Yongfu, library governance refers to the process by which governmental and other organizational entities acting as library owners or representatives plan, organize, coordinate, and act upon library affairs. This process involves three structural elements: governance units, governance subjects, and governance evaluation. A governance unit refers to the specific region where library governance is implemented—a library group managed by the same competent authority. Governance subjects comprise library owners and agents representing owners' interests within a governance unit, including executive subjects, owner subjects, construction subjects, and management subjects. Governance evaluation involves assessing governance activities and outcomes against certain standards to examine governance effectiveness [14].

**1.2 Research Progress on Library Governance** China's library governance research began in the early 21st century, yielding a series of theoretically significant achievements over the past decade [15]. The research has evolved

through three stages: introduction of governance concepts [16], optimization of governance structures [17], and specialized studies on library board systems [18]. Current research focuses on introducing foreign library corporate governance [19] and developing domestic corporate governance structures [20]. Notably, because China's Public Library Law was enacted relatively late while library governance research began earlier, few studies have integrated the law with governance theory. Only Yang Juan and Liu Shu [21] have applied library governance theory to amend the Public Library Law (Draft). Therefore, employing library governance theory to study public library law not only expands the application space for governance theory but also provides new perspectives for legal research.

---

## 2. Overview of Public Library Laws in Both Countries

State support and protection are indispensable conditions for library development, with legislation serving as a primary means of state intervention and an important guarantee for library development [22]. Library law reflects not only the state's emphasis on library affairs but also its intended objectives and governance pathways for achieving them. This section elaborates on Chinese and British public library laws from three aspects: basic circumstances, legislative purposes, and governance objectives.

### 2.1 Basic Circumstances

**2.1.1 China's Public Library Law** China's current Public Library Law was adopted by the National People's Congress on November 4, 2017, and officially implemented on January 1, 2018. The law comprises six chapters—General Provisions, Establishment, Operation, Services, Legal Liability, and Supplementary Provisions—with a total of 55 articles. In legal terms, this law represents a milestone marking China's public library undertaking's entry into the rule-of-law stage and constitutes an important achievement in constructing the public cultural service system [23].

**2.1.2 Britain's Public Library Law** Britain's current Public Library Law (the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964) applies to Scotland and Wales. Passed by the House of Commons on July 31, 1964, it was implemented in April 1965. The law contains four sections—Public Library Services, Museums and Art Galleries, General Provisions, and Appendices—with 26 articles total, 17 concerning public libraries. Despite being over 40 years old and subsequent library legislation, it remains Britain's operative public library law [24], profoundly influencing British library development. Its enactment marked a watershed moment, as it first stipulated that “the government assumes responsibility for supervising library services” [8], with its provisions incorporated into library development reports [9].

**2.1.3 Differences in Basic Circumstances** As shown in Table , China’s Public Library Law was enacted and implemented much later than Britain’s, though it contains more articles. Overall, both laws are products of different historical backgrounds and national conditions, exerting significant influence and profound meaning in their respective countries.

**Table Comparison of Basic Circumstances of Chinese and British Library Laws**

Item	China’s Public Library Law	Britain’s Public Library Law
Adoption Date	November 2017	July 1964
Implementation Date	January 2018	April 1965
Number of Articles	55	26
National Impact	Milestone significance	Milestone significance

**2.2 Legislative Purpose** Legislative purpose represents lawmakers’ ideals and goals. Typically stated at the beginning, it serves as the law’s guiding principle, clarifying its value orientation, defining its nature, and determining the architecture of specific provisions [25].

**2.2.1 China’s Legislative Purpose** Article 1 of China’s Public Library Law stipulates its purpose: to promote public library development, leverage library functions, safeguard citizens’ basic cultural rights and interests, enhance citizens’ scientific and cultural quality and social civilization, inherit human civilization, and strengthen cultural confidence [26]. In terms of content dimensions, the law articulates its purpose from four perspectives—citizens, libraries, library undertakings, and national society—to protect citizens’ public cultural rights. Structurally, it encompasses five aspects: General Provisions, Establishment, Operation, Services, and Legal Liability, covering multiple rights-and-responsibilities subjects with both obligatory norms and rights protections.

**2.2.2 Britain’s Legislative Purpose** Britain’s Public Library Law also states its purpose in the introduction: (1) empowering the Secretary of State to supervise public library services in England and Wales, and (2) managing and improving public library, museum, and art gallery services [8]. Content-wise, it addresses only the library dimension, aiming to govern libraries. Structurally, it centers on library committees and competent authorities.

**2.2.3 Differences in Legislative Purpose** As Table shows, fundamental differences exist in the starting points: China’s law aims to protect public cultural rights, while Britain’s aims to govern libraries. Consequently, they differ in content dimensions and structural architecture—China’s law features multiple dimensions and comprehensive provisions, whereas Britain’s has a single dimension with more targeted provisions.

**Table Comparison of Legislative Purposes**

Aspect	China's Public Library Law	Britain's Public Library Law
Starting Point	Public cultural rights protection	Library governance
Content	Citizens, libraries, library undertakings, national society	Public libraries
Dimensions	General Provisions, Establishment, Operation, Services, Legal Liability	Library committees and competent authorities

**2.3 Governance Objectives** Similar to legislative purpose, governance objectives represent ideals and goals that governance subjects hope to achieve through library governance. Since library governance is closely related to law, legislative purposes reflect national public library governance objectives, which therefore differ between the two countries.

**2.3.1 Governance Objectives in China's Law** China's legislative purpose—safeguarding citizens' basic cultural rights and improving their scientific and cultural quality—reflects societal-level governance objectives [26]. From a societal perspective, library governance aims to enable library services, as important components of the public cultural service system, to better realize citizens' cultural rights and enhance national cultural strength [14].

**2.3.2 Governance Objectives in Britain's Law** Britain's legislative purpose—"Secretary of State supervising public library services and managing and improving services" [8]—reflects public library-level governance objectives. From the library perspective, governance coordinates and mobilizes stakeholders' shared interests to form a universal and equitable public library service network [14].

**2.3.3 Differences in Governance Objectives** As Table shows, differences exist in three aspects: governance level, object, and nature. China's law reflects societal-level objectives targeting comprehensive governance of the national library undertaking, while Britain's reflects library-level objectives targeting specialized governance of library authorities.

**Table Comparison of Governance Objectives**

Aspect	China's Public Library Law	Britain's Public Library Law
Governance Level	Societal level	Public library level
Governance Object	National library undertaking	Library authorities

Aspect	China's Public Library Law	Britain's Public Library Law
Governance Nature	Comprehensive governance	Specialized governance

### 3. Governance Elements of Public Library Laws

Public library governance involves three structural elements: governance units, governance subjects, and governance evaluation [14].

**3.1 Governance Units** China's public library governance units align with administrative divisions. Article 5 of China's Public Library Law stipulates that county-level and above local people's government cultural authorities manage public libraries within their administrative regions [26]. Britain differs, as its governance units can cross administrative boundaries. Article 4 of Britain's Public Library Law states that library authorities exercise functions within their administrative areas ("library service areas") or, when joint committees are established under Article 5, form combined service areas, potentially extending beyond administrative boundaries [8]. This means that in England and Wales, governance units align with administrative divisions where no joint committees exist, but can be cross-regional where joint committees are formed.

**3.2 Governance Subjects** Governance subjects include executive subjects, owner subjects, construction subjects, and management subjects. Executive subjects implement management decisions (typically directors and deputies). Owner subjects are residents with final decision-making power over library affairs. Construction subjects are governments, groups, or individuals ensuring funding within a governance unit. Management subjects are substantive departments responsible for major library development decisions, proposed by construction subjects and approved by owner subjects [14].

**3.2.1 Executive Subjects** Both laws impose qualification requirements. China's law requires directors to possess appropriate educational levels, professional knowledge, and organizational management capacity, and staff to have corresponding professional knowledge and skills [26]. While Britain's law lacks specific director/staff provisions, it addresses library committee members: Article 2 requires each library advisory committee to include persons with public library service management experience and those with library management experience in other institutions [8].

**3.2.2 Owner Subjects** In both countries, the owner subject is the people. China's law safeguards owner rights under certain conditions, specifying rights and categorizing owner groups. Article 33 requires public libraries to provide services based on equality, openness, and sharing [26], detailing four service

aspects: document information services, venue access, lectures/training, and other services. Article 34 further categorizes owners into children, elderly, and disabled persons, providing specialized services. However, rights are conditional: Article 44 stipulates obligations to comply with regulations, maintain order, protect resources, and return borrowed materials on time [26].

Britain's law similarly safeguards owner rights conditionally. Article 7 requires library authorities to provide comprehensive and efficient services to all who wish to use them [8], specifying that services must meet adult and child needs in quantity, scope, and quality. Owners are divided only into adults and children without further special group categorization. Article 19 allows local governments to regulate behavior in library premises, prohibiting and ejecting violators [8].

**3.2.3 Construction Subjects** Construction subjects can be single-level independent or joint subjects. Single-level independent subjects refer to one government providing services within a governance unit; joint subjects involve two or more governments jointly providing services [27].

Legally, governments mandated to provide public library services are statutory construction subjects [14]. China's law designates county-level and above governments as construction subjects (Article 14) while allowing foreign natural persons, legal entities, and organizations to participate through donations (Article 6) [26]. Since no provisions allow joint library establishment by multiple governments, China has only single-level independent construction subjects.

Britain similarly designates governments as statutory construction subjects. Article 7 mandates each library authority to provide comprehensive services [8]. However, Article 5 permits two or more authorities to form joint committees replacing individual authorities [8], enabling both single-level independent and joint construction subjects.

**3.2.4 Management Subjects** China's management subjects are government cultural authorities. Article 5 assigns the State Council cultural authority to manage national public libraries and local cultural authorities to manage regional libraries [26]. While Article 23 promotes corporate governance structures with stakeholder participation, government remains firmly dominant. The law further clarifies management functions: Article 18 requires cultural authorities to promptly publish regional public library information on their websites [26].

Britain's management subjects are not government but library committees. The law elaborates on their composition and functions: Article 3 requires the Secretary of State to designate library districts and establish district library committees composed primarily of authority members to arrange and supervise district library work [8].

**3.3 Governance Evaluation** Governance evaluation comprises supervision/assessment and punishment. Supervision/assessment involves overseeing

competent authorities and evaluating library performance; punishment involves penalizing derelict governments and correcting misconduct.

**3.3.1 Supervision and Assessment** Performance management is required for governance evaluation [14]. China’s law addresses library performance assessment: Article 47 requires cultural authorities to formulate service standards and evaluate service quality [26]. Britain’s law does not address library performance assessment but explicitly supervises government: Article 1 makes the Secretary of State responsible for supervising local government library services [8], while Article 17 requires annual reports to both parliamentary houses [8], demonstrating layered internal supervision.

**3.3.2 Punishment and Handling** China’s law punishes derelict government departments: Article 52 stipulates that cultural authorities or relevant departments and staff who abuse power, neglect duties, or engage in malpractice shall be disciplined [26], identifying three forms of dereliction and holding responsible persons accountable.

Britain’s law addresses handling of negligent authorities: Article 10 empowers the Secretary of State to penalize non-performing library authorities through warnings, guidance, and orders to remedy within specified timeframes [8], enabling the Secretary to warn and correct authorities’ misconduct.

---

#### 4. Similarities and Differences in Governance Elements

Chinese and British library laws exhibit both distinctions and connections in governance units, subjects, and evaluation. Table summarizes these elements.

**Table Comparison of Governance Elements**

Element	China’s Public Library Law	Britain’s Public Library Law
Governance Unit	Consistent with administrative divisions	Inconsistent with administrative divisions
Executive Subject	Director, staff	Library committee members
Owner Subject	People	People
Construction Subject	Government	Government
Management Subject	Cultural authority	Library committee
Governance Evaluation	Assessment provisions	Supervision provisions

Element	China's Public Library Law	Britain's Public Library Law
Punishment	Punish responsible leaders	Punish competent authorities

**4.1 Similarities** Similarities exist regarding executive subjects, owner subjects, construction subjects, and management subjects.

**4.1.1 Clear Executive Subject Qualifications** Both laws specify qualifications for executive subjects (directors, staff). China's law requires cultural literacy, professional knowledge, and capacity; Britain's law requires management experience for committee members. Both legally establish thresholds, demonstrating that library governance requires professional competence.

**4.1.2 Protection of Owner Subject Rights** Both laws explicitly identify the people as owner subjects and protect their rights. China's law details four service aspects, categorizes owner groups (children, elderly, disabled), and specifies obligations. Britain's law details services in quantity, scope, and quality for adults and children, while imposing legal constraints. Both ensure free, equal access to document information services while requiring fulfillment of obligations.

**4.1.3 Punishment of Derelict Construction Subjects** Both laws punish derelict construction subjects (governments). China's law enumerates three dereliction types and holds responsible persons legally accountable. Britain's law empowers the Secretary of State to supervise and penalize authorities, with warnings, orders, and potential dissolution of relevant institutions. Both regulate construction subjects through punitive measures.

**4.1.4 Promotion of Management Subject Corporatization** A legal person is an organization with civil rights and capacity, independently enjoying rights and assuming obligations [28]. Management subject corporatization involves independent organizations (separate from government) serving as management subjects—essentially corporate governance. Both laws address this: China's law promotes corporate governance as a national advocacy without mandatory requirements, while Britain's law mandates it through library committees as quasi-autonomous bodies [29] between government and libraries. Both promote corporate governance in public libraries.

**4.2 Differences** Differences exist in governance units, construction-management subject relationships, and construction subjects.

**4.2.1 Governance Unit Alignment with Administrative Divisions** China's governance units align with administrative divisions, while Britain's can cross them. China's law lacks provisions for joint library establishment by

multiple governments, resulting in single-level independent construction subjects and governance units consistent with administrative divisions. Britain's law permits joint committees, enabling cross-regional governance units that extend beyond individual administrative boundaries.

**4.2.2 Construction-Management Subject Integration** China's construction and management subjects are integrated (both government), whereas Britain's are distinct (government construction subjects vs. library committee management subjects). This separation facilitates governance by: (1) separating decision-making, execution, and supervision layers—a characteristic of corporate governance [30]; and (2) preventing excessive government interference in library operations. This separation is particularly necessary in governance units with local governments as construction subjects, avoiding governmental power's "unimpeded access" and embodying the separation of ruling and management authority [27].

**4.2.3 Construction Subject Functions** China's construction subjects have richer functions than Britain's because they also serve as management subjects. China's construction objects include not only libraries but also public library service networks, digital service networks, and main-branch systems, whereas Britain's construction objects are limited to libraries. China's functions feature: (1) contemporary characteristics—promoting modern IT, digital networks, and website information disclosure; and (2) Chinese characteristics—extending services to urban-rural grassroots to narrow gaps and supporting border and impoverished areas to reduce regional disparities. Britain's functions merely involve providing library services.

**4.2.4 Construction Subject Supervision** China's law lacks provisions for supervising construction subjects, whereas Britain's law includes detailed supervision mechanisms. Britain's law makes the Secretary of State supervise library authorities, who in turn report to parliamentary houses, reflecting layered internal supervision. This not only standardizes governance but also improves quality. While China's law mentions supervision, its target is limited to libraries alone. Britain's supervision covers both government and library committees, providing broader coverage.

---

## 5. Strategies for Improving China's Public Library Law

Legislative absence has been the main obstacle to legalizing China's library governance [15]. While China's Public Library Law has alleviated this issue since implementation, it remains unresolved. Comparison with Britain's law reveals deficiencies in China's library governance, prompting these recommendations grounded in governance theory.

**5.1 Flexible Application of Library Governance Theory** Governance theory is both an important basis for formulating public library law and its theoretical foundation. China's law should flexibly apply governance theory to enhance its managerial nature through two aspects: optimizing legislative purpose and improving governance elements.

Regarding legislative purpose, China's law adopts a macro-societal perspective with broad coverage and strong comprehensiveness, reflecting societal-level governance objectives. While comprehensive, it lacks depth. It should learn from Britain's law by optimizing legislative purpose to focus governance objects, enhancing specialization and targeting to highlight public library-level governance objectives.

Regarding governance elements, although China's law addresses governance units, subjects, and evaluation, it lacks explicit provisions. The law should clearly define governance units, construction subjects, and management subjects.

**5.2 Appropriate Expansion of Governance Units** China's governance units align with administrative divisions. However, given widespread regional development imbalances, library governance unit construction is constrained by local conditions. Underdeveloped regions face relative difficulties. The provision that governance units must align with administrative divisions should be broken, and units should be appropriately expanded.

How to expand? Britain's law allowing local governments to form joint committees for library construction provides a model. China's law could emulate this, enabling governance unit expansion through multi-government library co-construction. Notably, this differs from library consortia: the former represents horizontal linkage in construction, while the latter represents inter-library cooperation in management. Co-construction based on main-branch systems enables both vertical integration and horizontal linkage, promoting comprehensive library network coverage.

**5.3 Strict Distinction Between Construction and Management Subjects** Once local governments co-construct libraries and expand governance units, the law must strictly distinguish construction from management subjects to avoid overlapping authority and management confusion across administrative divisions. Although China's law designates local governments as construction subjects and cultural authorities as management subjects, both responsibilities actually fall to government. While management subjects cannot completely separate from government under the current system, corporate governance structures allow management subjects to be relatively independent third-party organizations—the key distinction from construction subjects.

Strict distinction means not only separating the two entities but also demarcating their power boundaries and clarifying respective responsibilities. Only

when construction and management subjects fulfill their duties can governance effectiveness be ensured. This distinction is also prerequisite for promoting management subject corporatization and supervising construction subjects.

#### 5.4 Further Promotion of Management Subject Corporatization

Based on strict distinction between subjects, corporate governance structures in management subjects should be clarified. China's law merely advocates corporatization without mandatory requirements or implementation guidance. While this leaves room for local initiative, it may cause government inaction or improper implementation. The law should explicitly define corporate governance operations to provide sufficient support.

China's law could emulate Britain's by establishing third-party library boards, granting them management authority, and stipulating their composition, powers, personnel, and operations. Legally establishing boards' management authority over library affairs would truly promote management subject corporatization.

**5.5 Full Supervision of Construction Subjects** Based on strict subject distinction, construction subjects should be fully supervised. China's law only supervises libraries, leaving government supervision blank. Construction subjects should be supervised because: (1) their numerous functions require oversight to ensure implementation and constrain exercise; and (2) while punishment deters construction subjects, supervision similarly provides warning.

China's law should learn from Britain's by mandating layered internal supervision of construction subjects and providing for owner subject supervision of construction subjects. The law must explicitly stipulate supervision of construction subjects and enhance supervision's breadth and depth.

---

## References

- [1] Li Guoxin. Historical contributions of the Public Library Law of the People's Republic of China[J]. *Journal of Library Science in China*, 2017, 43(6): 4-15.
- [2] The Public Library Law of the People's Republic of China provides fundamental guarantee for the development of China's public library undertaking[J]. *Journal of the National Library of China*, 2018, 27(2): 3-7, 13.
- [3] Jiang Yongfu, Sun Hongjuan. Interpretation of basic information of the Public Library Law of the People's Republic of China—Based on “definitive information” and “expectant information”[J]. *Library Development*, 2018(1): 44-47.
- [4] Zhang Fengming. Legalization of “county-level library main-branch system”[J]. *Library*, 2018(5): 6-10.

[5] Yuan Hongjun. Analysis of reader rights norms in library recommendation services[J]. Library, 2018(5): 11-16.

[6] Ren Songjie, Jin Wugang. Perfecting the deposit system—A study on deposit system from the perspective of the Public Library Law[J]. Library Forum, 2017(6): 82-90.

[7] Time for a new Public Libraries and Museums Act[EB/OL]. [2018-08-01]. <http://www.voicesforthelibrary.org.uk/category/50th-anniversary-1964-public-libraries-and-museums-act/>.

[8] Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964[EB/OL]. [2018-08-01]. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1964/>

[9] Independent Library Report for England[EB/OL]. [2018-08-01]. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-library-report-for-england>.

[10] Cao Lei. British public library legal system[J]. Journal of Library Science in China, 2011, 37(2): 90-96.

[11] Guan Fengting. Development and current status of British library law[J]. Library Science Research, 2009(2): 93-98.

[12] Sheng Xiaoping, Zhang Xu. Analysis of American library legal system and its functions[J]. Library and Information Service, 2014, 58(10): 42-48.

[13] Jiang Yongfu. Government responsibility in public library governance[J]. Library Forum, 2009, 29(6): 79-82.

[14] Jiang Yongfu. Research on modern public library system[M]. Beijing: Intellectual Property Publishing House, 2010.

[15] Li Min, Luo Hao. Development review and prospect of China's library governance research[J]. Library Development, 2015(2): 29-34.

[16] Huang Ying, Xu Yinch. Library governance: Concept and meaning[J]. Journal of Library Science in China, 2004, 30(1): 24-26.

[17] Wang Minghui. Three major objectives for optimizing China's public library governance structure[J]. Journal of the National Library of China, 2010(4): 15-20.

[18] Li Guoxin. Public library corporate governance: Structure, status, problems, and prospects[J]. Library and Information, 2014(2): 1-6.

[19] Zhang Ruhao, Wei Lingxu, Jiang Xiangdong. Enlightenment of British Library corporate governance for Chinese libraries[J]. Library, 2017(8): 75-82.

[20] Chang Dawei, Fu Lihong. Internal logic, practical dilemmas, and implementation strategies for constructing China's public library corporate governance structure[J]. Journal of the National Library of China, 2018, 27(3): 3-10.

[21] Yang Juan, Liu Shu. On legislative presupposition of public library governance models—Based on endogenous development[J]. Library Development, 2018(6): 53-58.

- [22] Wu Weici, Dong Yan. Introduction to library science[M]. Revised 2nd ed. Beijing: National Library Press, 2008.
- [23] Ke Ping. The Public Library Law of the People's Republic of China comprehensively guarantees the systematic construction of China's public libraries[J]. Library Development, 2018(1): 19-23.
- [24] Guan Fengting. Development and current status of British public library law[J]. Library Science Research, 2009(2): 93-98.
- [25] Hu Jun. On legislative purpose of library law[J]. Library Forum, 2007, 27(2): 49-51.
- [26] Public Library Law of the People's Republic of China[EB/OL]. [2018-08-01]. [http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/xinwen/2017-11/04/content\\_{2031427}.htm](http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/xinwen/2017-11/04/content_{2031427}.htm).
- [27] Zhang Shiyang. Research on China's public library governance strategies based on international comparison[D]. Harbin: Heilongjiang University, 2011.
- [28] Su Yan. Research on constructing corporate governance structure of China's public libraries[D]. Xi'an: Chang'an University, 2017.
- [29] Qu Yun, Ma Chun. Research on foreign public library corporate governance policies and practices[J]. Library Journal, 2016, 35(11): 9-13.
- [30] Xu Yunru. On establishing and perfecting corporate governance structure of China's public libraries—Based on comparative analysis of Chinese and American public library governance structures[J]. Library, 2015(1): 59-63.

---

### Call for Papers: International Symposium Commemorating the 110th Anniversary of the National Library of China

2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 110th anniversary of the National Library of China. To promote academic exchange and cooperation and explore prospects for library development in the new era, the National Library of China will host an international symposium on September 9-10, 2019, themed "Libraries: Advancing with the Times." The conference will feature keynote and special reports by renowned domestic and international experts on hot topics, research findings, advanced concepts, and cutting-edge technologies.

**Submission Themes:** 1. Memory & Heritage: Open and Shared Library Document Resource Construction 2. Transformation & Transcendence: User-Oriented Library Information and Knowledge Services 3. Reform & Innovation: Technology-Driven Library Transformation 4. Mutual Learning & Integration: Multi-Directional Library Exchange and Cooperation 5. Openness & Win-Win: Diverse Participation in Nationwide Reading

**Submission Requirements:** 1. Original works not previously published domestically or internationally, non-confidential, non-plagiarized, and not submitted elsewhere 2. Clear research questions, logical structure, well-defined arguments, sufficient evidence, coherent writing, and rich references 3. Minimum 6,000 words, with submission category indicated 4. Order: Title, Author Institution and Name, Address and Postal Code, Abstract, Keywords, Main Text (numbered sections: 1., 1.1, 1.1.1...), References 5. Title, institution, name, abstract, and keywords must be in both Chinese and English 6. Citations and references must conform to publishing standards 7. Word format, submitted electronically to: liuyinghe@nlc.cn (Contact: Liu Yinghe; Tel: 010-88544664) 8. Submission deadline: May 20, 2019

**Review and Publication:** 1. All submissions will be reviewed by authoritative experts organized by the conference committee; excellent papers will be formally published 2. Authors of excellent papers will be exempt from conference registration fees

National Library of China  
January 25, 2019

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

*Source: ChinaXiv — Machine translation. Verify with original.*