Analysis and Implications of the IFLA Green Library Award: Postprint

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Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] This study introduces and analyzes the "Green Library Award" established by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), aiming to provide references for the sustainable development of libraries in China. [Method/Process] Employing web survey and literature survey methods, the award is introduced from perspectives including its historical evolution, establishment purpose, and award mechanisms, with a relatively in-depth analysis conducted on award-winning cases. [Results/Conclusion] Through investigating nine award-winning projects, this paper summarizes their common characteristics: emphasizing youth and user participation and the cultivation of environmental awareness; focusing on resource conservation (energy saving, water saving, material saving, and thermal insulation); and prioritizing green initiatives such as recycling. Implications for China's library community are proposed: leveraging the roles of government and professional associations to construct and develop green library award programs; emphasizing sustainable architecture including the reuse of waste materials and factory buildings; focusing on user participation in environmental activities and environmental literacy education; and implementing green operations and services.

Full Text

Preamble

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Analysis and Enlightenment of the IFLA Green Library Award
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Abstract: [Purpose/Significance] This paper introduces and analyzes the "Green Library Award" established by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), aiming to provide reference for the sustainable development of libraries in China. [Method/Process] Using network investigation and literature survey methods, the award is introduced from the aspects of historical evolution, establishment purpose, and award methods, with in-depth analysis of winning cases. [Result/Conclusion] Through investigation of nine award-winning projects, the common characteristics of winning projects are summarized: emphasis on youth and user participation and cultivation of environmental awareness; focus on resource conservation (energy, water, materials, heat insulation); and attention to recycling and other green initiatives. Enlightenment for China's library community is proposed: leverage the roles of government and professional associations to construct and develop green library award programs; emphasize the reuse of waste materials and factory buildings for sustainable construction; focus on user participation in environmental protection activities and environmental literacy education; and develop green operations and services.

Keywords: IFLA Green Library Award; Green Library; Sustainable Development
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Faced with severe resource constraints, environmental pollution, and global climate warming, human society's sustainable development is encountering serious challenges. Environmental pollution has become one of the most concerning environmental issues in the international community. Libraries and other information service institutions are significant consumers of environmental resources, consuming substantial amounts of energy in the process of providing paper resources, digital resources, and digital equipment, as well as in content creation and long-term preservation [1-6]. To address global challenges of resource shortages and climate change, nations and relevant organizations have taken action, such as the United Nations releasing the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," multiple countries signing the "Paris Climate Agreement," and China proposing the "Five-in-One" overall plan and the "Five Major Development Concepts." The construction of ecological civilization and the concept of green development are being accelerated with unprecedented intensity. Library pro-

fessional organizations and relevant associations have gradually recognized the adverse environmental impacts generated during library operations and services, establishing special groups or introducing relevant policies to guide libraries in reducing their carbon footprint during operations and services. For example, IFLA established the Environmental Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group (ENSULIB), the American Library Association (ALA) set up the Task Force on the Environment (TFOE), and the Library Society of China (LSC) issued the "Proposal on Cherishing Environmental Resources and Building Conservation-Oriented Libraries" at the closing ceremony of the 2010 annual conference. Notably, in 2016, ENSULIB and De Gruyter publishers established the IFLA Green Library Award, aiming to enhance libraries' social responsibility and environmental awareness by rewarding libraries that demonstrate environmental sustainability and green development [7]. This study analyzes this important award and the characteristics of award-winning libraries to better understand the Green Library Award and provide reference and enlightenment for the green and sustainable development of libraries in China.

2 Literature Review

Internationally, library awards are categorized into those granted to librarians or librarian organizations, and those granted to library institutions and users, commending and incentivizing achievements in innovative services, academic research, marketing, and green development. By establishing various types of awards for different libraries, library staff, and library users, these initiatives have promoted library development to a certain extent. Domestic scholars have researched awards established by organizations such as IFLA, ALA, ACRL, PLA, CILIP, and the Library Society of China. Many scholars have explored marketing awards such as the "IFLA International Marketing Award" initiated by IFLA's Management and Marketing Section, CILIP's "Marketing Excellence Award," and ACRL's "Best Marketing Award" [8-13]. Liu Ying and others analyzed various awards in the American library community (such as 127 professional recognition awards, the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, and library undergraduate research awards), proposing references and enlightenment for Chinese libraries [14-22]. These studies show that the United States, with its well-developed library sector, attaches great importance to library awards, characterized by diverse award types and quantities, continuity, relatively complete application and evaluation processes, and broad funding sources. Meanwhile, China's library academia has increasingly emphasized library awards, with multiple articles studying the aforementioned awards. However, since the establishment of the IFLA Green Library Award in 2016, no relevant research has emerged even though Chinese libraries have won the award. Climate warming, resource scarcity, environmental pollution, and ecological imbalance have become widely concerned environmental issues in the international community. As important public cultural infrastructure and institutions inheriting human spiritual civilization, libraries should make their due contributions to alleviating or improving global environmental pollution.

Therefore, the establishment of the IFLA Green Library Award is particularly necessary. This study discusses the IFLA Green Library Award and analyzes winning cases, hoping to attract more attention from practitioners and scholars, provide new ideas and references for building eco-libraries in China, promote the development of green libraries in China, and encourage active applications for the award to demonstrate Chinese libraries' green operations and information services to the international community.

3 Overview of the IFLA Green Library Award

In 2016, the IFLA Environmental Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group and De Gruyter publishers established the IFLA Green Library Award, which aligns with IFLA's goals and values regarding sustainable library development. The award recognizes libraries that serve as models in promoting sustainable development and green practices, advancing green library development. Winning libraries receive a 500 euro prize sponsored by De Gruyter. The official website announced the call for the third award on January 8, 2018. The website defines a green library as one designed to minimize negative environmental impact and maximize indoor environmental quality through careful site selection, use of natural building materials and biodegradable products, resource conservation (water, energy, paper, etc.), and waste disposal (such as recycling). Libraries should also focus on relevant green operations and information services to demonstrate their social role and responsibility as environmental sustainability leaders [7]. The award's objectives include: (1) rewarding libraries that practice sustainable development commitments; (2) enhancing libraries' social responsibility and leadership in environmental literacy education, encouraging all types of libraries to actively participate in user environmental literacy education; (3) supporting and caring about the global green library movement, such as environmentally sustainable buildings, information resources and operational services, resource and energy conservation; (4) promoting the development of local and global green libraries; and (5) encouraging libraries to actively demonstrate their green operations and services to the international community. Applicant units can be libraries from anywhere in the world, using any language, and can submit applications in any form (such as articles, videos, PDF files, papers, etc.). During the evaluation process, 15 judges from multiple countries worldwide include library and information science students, public and academic library specialists, and architects.

4 Case Analysis of Award-Winning Libraries

As of May 2018, nine libraries have won this award. Data was collected through award information published on the ENSULIB official website, reports from winning libraries' official websites, and coverage from library newspapers and e-line intelligence. The characteristics of all nine winning libraries were summarized, with winning project details shown in Table 1 .

In terms of award quantity, nine libraries won the award from 2016-2017, including three in 2016 and six in 2017, with no fixed number awarded each year. The 2017 Green Library Award received applications from 35 libraries worldwide [32], with China's Guangdong Provincial Sun Yat-sen Library, Chinese University of Hong Kong Library, and Hangzhou Library Environmental Branch (a thematic branch of Hangzhou Library) applying for the 2017 award. The 2018 award required applications to be submitted by April 15 [33]; application numbers and winner lists have not yet been announced. Regarding library types, one academic library and eight public or community libraries have won the award.

Characteristics of winning projects include: (1) emphasis on youth and user participation and cultivation of environmental awareness. For example, the Reading Tree project provides trees to libraries free of charge by Kenya's Forest Service, with schools organizing youth to plant fruit trees and medicinal trees on campus. Through participation, these youth better understand the ecological environment and appreciate planted grass and trees [29]. By participating in this project, local children recognize the importance of planting trees to protect the environment and combat climate change. In Kenya, where malnutrition is common among children in public schools, these fruits planted by children can also serve as a food source. Another example is the Public Library in Uzice, Serbia, which organizes series of activities for children to collect waste materials for handicrafts, including corn dolls, pumpkin and corrugated cardboard decorative boxes, cultivating children's creativity [30]. These handicrafts greatly improve waste material utilization and develop adolescents' creative thinking. Meanwhile, the library raises funds for purchasing books and seminar materials by selling these handicrafts. The Eco-Education Project in Lviv, Ukraine, uses advanced internet technology to develop a sorting game called "Garbage Hero," which not only helps youth learn waste classification but also raises their awareness of environmental issues. The project also serves youth aged 4-10 and their parents and teachers, teaching children ecological thinking, caring for natural resources, reducing waste, and sharing ecological knowledge with relatives and friends, thereby improving youth's environmental knowledge and involving their parents and teachers for better collaborative results [34-35]. Libraries enhance users' environmental literacy and awareness through diverse activities such as environmental exhibitions, special lectures, environmental practice platforms, thematic reading activities, environmental knowledge competitions, environmental education essay contests, and environmental film screenings. (2) Focus on resource conservation (energy, water, materials, heat insulation). For example, Mexico's Little Sun Eco-Library is a green library building project initiated by parents and organized by schools, using waste materials as building materials. Australia's Cockburn Library uses environmentally friendly building materials and natural lighting, ventilation, energy-saving lighting (such as LED installation), clean electricity sources, and water-saving gardens to reduce negative ecological impact. Guangdong Provincial Sun Yat-sen Library collects rainwater and utilizes photovoltaic power generation. The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library makes full use of natural lighting and ventilation. Dur-

ing the library building's lifecycle, maximizing resource conservation (energy, land, water, materials) includes fully utilizing rainwater and reclaimed water, rationally using geothermal and solar energy, reusing waste materials (for example, Xiamen Library was transformed from old factory buildings, and Beijing Huairou Liyuan Library's exterior walls are made from local villagers' firewood—branches from over ten tree species such as locust and mulberry, as advocated by many researchers [36]), material recycling, and protecting the original ecological environment to meet green building evaluation standards and provide healthy, applicable, comfortable, and efficient spaces for users. (3) Emphasis on recycling and other green initiatives. For instance, Lviv Library focuses on recycling waste materials and uses computers to develop waste classification games to cultivate correct waste sorting concepts among youth. Uzice Public Library and Chinese University of Hong Kong Library recycle waste materials. Additionally, Chinese University of Hong Kong Library provides double-sided printing and scanning services to reduce paper consumption. Cockburn Library in Australia provides convenient transportation conditions for green travel options. In reality, libraries annually replace computers, monitors, printers, servers, hard drives, keyboards, mice, cartridges, barcode scanners, and other equipment that are basically stored in place or in warehouses or discarded casually, with improper disposal causing large amounts of electronic waste, extremely low recycling rates, and damage to readers, staff health, and the environment. Pan Yonggang, head of the China Association of Recycling and Utilization of Renewable Resources, stated that further promoting the development and utilization of waste electronic products will become an important issue for China's economic, social, and environmental sustainable development [37]. In addition to waste recycling, double-sided printing, and green travel, libraries have many other green operation and service initiatives, such as scientifically disposing of replaced cartridges and toner facilities, turning off unused facilities, encouraging the use of cloth bags, reducing disposable paper cups, using public transportation, and lending energy consumption testers, seeds, drills, sports facilities, etc., to reduce duplicate purchases and waste, which is significant for library marketing and image building [38].

5 Enlightenment for Green Development of Chinese Libraries

The establishment of the Green Library Award and analysis of winning cases provide many insights for library green development and sustainable development, specifically including the following four aspects.

5.1 Leverage Government and Professional Association Roles to Construct and Develop Green Library Award Programs

Library awards have received some attention in China's library community. For example, the Library Society of China has established awards such as "Chinese Library Role Models," "Lee Byung-mo Exchange and Cooperation Award,"

"Most Beautiful Grassroots Libraries," and "Advanced Units in National Reading." However, to date, library awards in China remain limited in number and relatively narrow in coverage, unable to motivate librarians' work enthusiasm and promote library development from all aspects. Moreover, even libraries that have obtained honors such as first-level libraries, advanced units, or civilized units still have relatively low levels of green library construction and energy conservation efforts. From the perspective of ecological civilization, there remains considerable distance from these honors, as environmental performance evaluation is rarely considered in these honor evaluation indicators.

The proposal of new concepts such as ecological civilization and green development both proves the increasingly severe environmental problems and demonstrates human beings' unremitting efforts to solve them. As public welfare cultural organizations inheriting human civilization and promoting social progress, and as one of the most active public cultural service facilities and venues for knowledge services, knowledge exchange, and social education, libraries should assume responsibility for actively saving energy and reducing consumption, becoming social models and pioneers. Therefore, this paper proposes establishing a "Green Library Award," "Ecological Civilization Demonstration Library Award," "Green Library Building Award" [39], or selecting libraries for the "China Ecological Civilization Award" [40] to reward libraries that have made contributions in green buildings, operations and services, management, environmental literacy education, and active participation in solving environmental pollution and resource shortages, leveraging the demonstration and radiation effects of award-winning libraries.

The Library Society of China establishing these new "green library" awards and conducting standardized evaluations annually aligns with China's new era, new development concepts, and the actual development of the library industry. It would not duplicate existing awards and could adopt various reward forms such as cash prizes, certificates, participation in the Library Society of China annual conference, and attendance at academic conferences hosted by the Society. A specialized award evaluation committee could be formed, or the Library Society of China's Library Architecture and Equipment Professional Committee could be responsible for specific tasks including award rule formulation, promotion, application, evaluation, announcement, and reporting. Specialized library environmental interest groups could also be established to promote green library development and address ecological environmental issues. Award establishment could be jointly managed by database vendors, integrated automation system providers, and book suppliers, similar to how the Green Library Award was jointly established by ENSULIB and De Gruyter publishers, and how the Library Marketing Award was launched in 2001 with 3M Library Systems, later joined by sponsors such as SirsiDynix automation integration system company, Emerald publishers, and French Biblibre company. This award establishment also aligns with the "Proposal on Cherishing Environmental Resources and Building Conservation-Oriented Libraries" issued by the Library Society of China at the closing ceremony of its 2010 annual conference and the

State Council's "Twelfth Five-Year Plan for Energy Conservation and Emissions Reduction" regarding the creation of 2,000 conservation-oriented public institution demonstration units [41-42].

Constructing and developing green library award programs is a pioneering practical activity to create libraries with economic development, social equity, and good ecology, laying a solid foundation for coordinated and sustainable development of economy, society, and environment. It plays a positive role in changing traditional development models, optimizing library service methods, improving environmental awareness of practitioners and users, shaping library image, enhancing equal dialogue with other institutions, improving user satisfaction, promoting cultural construction and ecological civilization, demonstrating good ecological balance, and elevating environmental management to a strategic level. It is an important measure and effective approach for libraries to implement sustainable development strategies at present and in the future, enabling libraries to embark on a path of rapid, healthy, and sustainable development. Additionally, the author hopes that environmental factors will be considered in library evaluations, "National Public Cultural Service System Demonstration Zone" construction, "National Advanced Units in Cultural System," and "National Civilized Units" selection, so that environmental performance indicators are reflected.

5.2 Emphasize Reuse of Waste Materials and Factory Buildings for Sustainable Construction

Some award-winning libraries use waste materials or sustainable building materials to reduce adverse environmental impacts. P. Hauke and K.U. Werner propose that as non-renewable resources gradually decrease, reuse and recycling will become increasingly important, advocating the transformation or expansion of old buildings and materials into new libraries. Reusing old buildings means reducing libraries' ecological footprint and costs and reducing impact on the Earth's environment. It is an effective approach that, compared to entirely new construction, has very important significance not only in "green" aspects but also in water conservation, energy saving and emission reduction, recycling or sustainable building materials, and indoor air quality. They also cite successful cases from Germany and other European countries [43]. The "Opinions on Accelerating the Construction of a Modern Public Cultural Service System" points out the need to integrate and utilize existing urban and rural public facilities such as idle schools, rely on urban and rural community comprehensive service facilities, strengthen urban community and rural cultural facility construction, and according to urban and rural population development and distribution, adhere to principles of balanced allocation, strict reservation, appropriate scale, functional priority, economic applicability, energy conservation, and environmental protection to reasonably plan and construct various public cultural facilities [44]. China and other countries have successively issued building energy conservation regulations reflecting sustainable development concepts in the con-

struction field, aiming to promote energy-saving design of public buildings and improve energy use efficiency. For example, the "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" (LEED) system established and promoted by the U.S. Green Building Council and the BREEAM green building assessment system by the UK Building Research Establishment are considered relatively complete and influential assessment standards among various building environmental protection, green building, and building sustainability evaluation standards worldwide. China has issued the "Library Building Design Code," "Public Building Energy-Saving Design Standard," "Green Building Evaluation Standard," and the State Council's "Regulations on Energy Conservation in Public Institutions," which play important roles in promoting green buildings for libraries as public institutions. Currently, 14 libraries in China have obtained China's green building label, and Shenzhen Library and Shenzhen Bao'an Library have obtained LEED certification.

5.3 Emphasize User Participation in Environmental Activities and Environmental Literacy Education

Winning projects show great emphasis on youth participation in environmental protection activities and cultivation of environmental awareness. For example, holding exhibitions, organizing local residents and youth to participate in green library practice activities, and cooperating with schools to conduct activities guiding students to establish green environmental concepts. Emphasizing the cultivation of youth environmental awareness and conducting targeted activities for children of different ages supplements classroom teaching, influencing and shaping young students in a subtle way, arousing, establishing, or enhancing their environmental awareness for practice in daily life and future work. As one of the most active institutions and venues for social education activities, libraries should use various opportunities to raise public environmental awareness. Libraries should further enrich user education content, focusing on major needs of ecological civilization and Beautiful China construction, leveraging their collection resource advantages and roles, such as offering sustainable development courses, promoting reading and literature guarantee of ecological and environmental books, establishing environmental education columns, and building platforms for readers' environmental practice, making environmental education an important content and component of user education and actively extending it to colleges and communities to promote library environmental education [45]. Additionally, users' environmental literacy education can enhance librarians' environmental awareness and promote green library construction.

5.4 Develop Green Operations and Services

Winning projects only reflect part of green operations and service practices, such as double-sided printing, material recycling, plant cultivation, exhibitions and lectures, establishing green teams, building partnerships with community centers and citizens, and jointly offering sustainable development courses with

primary, secondary, and university institutions, enabling readers to experience green business processes in libraries and be subtly influenced and improved in environmental protection awareness and literacy. In reality, many related green practices exist, such as setting power-saving modes for computers, monitors, printers, copiers, and other office equipment; turning off equipment and unplugging appliances after work and during long meetings or meals to reduce standby energy consumption; technical librarians reasonably setting the number and operating hours of ICT equipment such as self-service borrowing machines, reader search computers, electronic reading room equipment, e-book borrowing machines, and self-service printing devices, reducing operating units during off-peak hours; vigorously advocating repair and reuse, strengthening maintenance to extend equipment lifespan and reduce replacement; accelerating gradual transformation or updating of high-energy-consumption equipment (such as LCD monitors); adopting green procurement according to national standards and promoting energy-saving products; reducing unnecessary printing and copying and emphasizing paper reuse; conducting book circulation, donation, and exchange activities; intensifying reading promotion efforts and improving collection resource utilization rates to reduce users' costs and environmental costs of purchasing books (energy consumption in production, manufacturing, transportation, and online purchasing); etc. In the process of achieving green library construction, librarians play an immeasurable role. Librarians should fully utilize libraries' rich collection resources to learn and understand how to practice energy-saving and environmental protection concepts in work and daily life, further reducing environmental pollution issues in daily life, improving low-carbon awareness, and strengthening energy-saving technology learning. Libraries are committed to permeating ecological civilization and sustainable development concepts into every aspect of library construction, reader services, and management, effectively playing the exemplary leading role of libraries and other public institutions in the construction of ecological civilization throughout society, demonstrating the mutual promotion of cultural construction and ecological civilization, contributing library strength to building a beautiful world, low-carbon cities, and green campuses, and making library contributions to addressing the global challenge of climate change [46-48].

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Author Contribution Statement

Kang Qi: Determined article structure and research analysis methods, revised the paper;
Su Liru: Conducted research and wrote the initial draft.

English Abstract

Analysis and Enlightenment of the IFLA Green Library Award

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Abstract: [Purpose/significance] Through the introduction and analysis of the Green Library Award set up by IFLA, it aims to provide reference for the green and sustainable development of libraries in China. [Method/process] Adopting network investigation method and literature survey method, this paper introduces the award from the aspects of historical evolution, establishment purpose and reward method, and focuses on the in-depth analysis of the winning cases. [Result/conclusion] Through summarizing the investigation of all 9 award-winning projects, the common characteristics of the award-winning projects are summarized as follows: focusing on the participation of young people and users and the development of environmental awareness, focusing on saving resources (energy saving, water saving, material saving, heat insulation) and focusing on recycling and other green initiatives. It puts forward the enlightenment to the library community in China: play the role of government and society, build and develop a green library rewards program; pay attention to sustainable construction such as the reuse of waste materials and factory buildings; emphasize user participation in environmental protection activities and environmental literacy education; develop green operations and services.

Keywords: IFLA Green Library Award; green library; sustainable development

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Outstanding Reviewers of 2018 for *Library and Information Service*

In 2018, nearly 300 reviewers participated in the peer review of manuscripts for *Library and Information Service*, reviewing over 1,400 manuscripts. More than 100 experts reviewed 6 or more manuscripts. Considering the quantity, quality, and timeliness of reviews this year, 50 outstanding reviewers for 2018 have been selected (list below). *Library and Information Service* will issue certificates to outstanding reviewers and provide free electronic subscriptions for one year.

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Fang Xiangming	Shanghai University Library
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Feng Jia	Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Literature
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Gao Fan	Southwest Jiaotong University Library
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Li Ming	Nanjing University, School of Information Management
Li Wu	Shanghai Jiao Tong University, School of Media and Design
Li Shuning	Beijing Normal University Library
Li Zhuozhuo	Soochow University

Name	Workplace
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Liu Chunli	China Medical University Library
Liu Kan	Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, School of Information and Safety Engineering
Liu Xiaojuan	Beijing Normal University, School of Government
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Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.