A warm color emerged: the Private libraries in Cities

Wang Zizhou

Professor and Vice Dean, the Department of Information Management, Peking University, Beijing, China

In the recent decade, private libraries in cities have developed very rapidly. There are all kinds of them. Some are of public welfare, some are semi-nonprofit. Some are traditional libraries, some are network libraries. Some are rooted for the inheritance of knowledge & culture, some are aiming at providing information & knowledge service to the community residents. Some are specialized for certain types of readers, some are public for reading promotion. Although the forms and operations of private libraries in cities are different, their functions are in common. Besides the main role in both dissemination of information & knowledge and social education, they also mainly focus on the construction of public space which bring cultural vitality to the development of cities. It is worth mentioning that some private libraries have become the emerging cultural landmarks in the city.