

# **An Analysis of Public Library Service Standard of China : An Information-rights Point of View**

**Zhou Yi**

Associate Professor, School of Information Management,  
Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

Public Library Service Standard (GB/T28220—2011) was published by General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ), and Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China (SAC) on May 1st, 2012, which is the first national service standard about public culture, and also the first in library standard system of China. The Standard includes 8 parts: area of application, standard files cited, items and definitions, general rules, resources, efficiency, promotion, supervision and feedback. The standard bases on the construction of public cultural service system covering the whole of society, and focusing on building public library service system with the main line of provinces, cities, counties, towns and villages. Meanwhile, the standard identifies the basic principle of basic service free, and defines the rights and duties of the various levels of government, directors and librarians, and users. By analyzing the Public Library Service Standard in the view of information-rights point, the paper thinks that the indices of the standard reflect the Chinese social cognition for the public library which is an information center, a culture center, and a facility for social education and leisure. But the standard evaluates public libraries by quantitative methods and pays attention to the input of public libraries. The ideas and method of the evaluation is different from the international trend. From the beginning of 1970s, the new trend encourages public libraries to develop and implement individual plans based on needs of the local community. The changes indicate the transformation from the input to output model library as well as from national standards to local standards based on the community needs. From this perspective, Public Library Service Standard doesn't emphasize the measurement of the effectiveness of library services and the needs of the local community. However, the ideas and method of the standard takes full account of the current actual level and conditions of economy, culture and social development of China. There are several phases of protecting citizen's information rights. And at this stage, the urgent priority for China is establishing public library service system.