



**On the Idea Evolution of People's Rights of
Accessing Public Information Services in China:
In the Sight of the *Southern Weekend*
Newspaper (1984-2012)**

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Outline

- Definition of the Terms
- Methodology of the Research
- Discussion of the Results

Definition of the Terms



Definition of the Terms

- **Public Information Services**
 - ✓ public, equitable and free
- **Public Information Services Institutions**
 - ✓ the National Cultural Information Resources Sharing Project
 - ✓ public libraries
 - ✓ information institutions or services open to the public

Definition of the Terms



Library Rights

- ✓ 日本図書館協会
《図書館の自由に関する宣言》 & ALA's
Library Bill of Rights
- ✓ Libraries

Rights of Accessing Public Information Services (RAPIS)

- ✓ Library Rights
- ✓ Equalization (or Balanced
Supplying) of Public Services
- ✓ Public Information Services
Institutions

Definition of the Terms



- **Idea of the RAPIS**
 - ✓ the different opinions on the system & attitude
 - ✓ hold by the subjects of the right (right holders), by the state authority, by the public information professions & professionals
 - ✓ also, hold by the **mass media**

Methodology of the Research

Methodology of the Research

- *Southern Weekend or Southern Weekly*
- founded in 1984
- "China's most influential liberal newspaper" (*New York Times*)

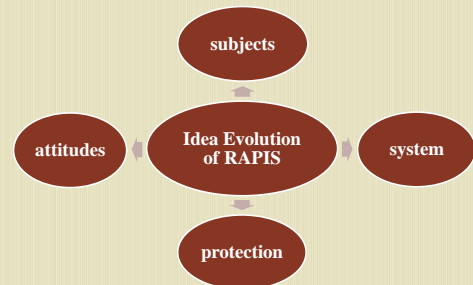


Methodology of the Research

- **Collecting**
 - ✓ from Feb. 1984 (the opening issue) to Dec. 2012
 - ✓ system keyword search for electronic issues
 - ✓ artificial browse retrieval for print issues & further selection of electronic ones
 - ✓ 296 reports into the list

Methodology of the Research

- **Content Analyzing**

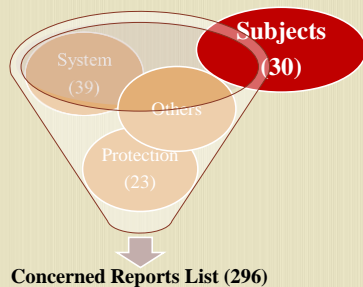


Discussion of the Results

Discussion of the Results

- **On the Subjects of RAPIS**
- **On the System of RAPIS**
- **On the Protection of RAPIS**
- **On the Attitudes to RAPIS**

On the Subjects of RAPIS



On the Subjects of RAPIS

Table I: Level of Concern for the Subjects of the RAPIS

period	A	B	level of concern for the subjects of RAPIS (B/A*100%)	C	level of concern for the SVGs as the subjects of RAPIS (C/A*100%)
1980s (1984-1989)	6	1	16.67%	0	0
1990s (1990-1999)	93	8	8.60%	4	4.30%
2000s (2000-2009)	158	17	10.76%	8	5.10%
2010s (2010-2012)	41	4	9.75%	1	2.43%

A: number of reports concern RAPIS

B: number of reports with attention to the subjects of RAPIS

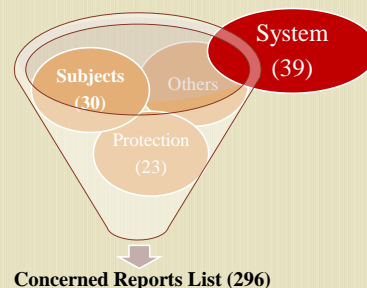
C: number of reports with attention to the Social Vulnerable Groups as the subjects of RAPIS

On the Subjects of RAPIS

Findings

- ✓ Important mass media **increasingly** pay attention to SVGs as the subjects of RAPIS.
- ✓ Among different kinds of SVGs, **migrant workers** have received the most attention, especially during 2000s.
- ✓ **More** attention to social disadvantaged group, **less** attention to physical disadvantaged group.

On the System of RAPIS



On the System of RAPIS

Table II: Contents of the RAPIS

services providers	1980s (1984-1989)	1990s (1990-1999)	2000s (2000-2009)	2010s (2010-2012)	total
library			5		5
archives			2		2
museum			1		1
media (broadcast/TV/newspaper, etc.)		2	2	1	5
government		4	17	5	26

On the System of RAPIS

Findings

- ✓ The **right to know** is the major content of RAPIS which the mass media focus on.
- ✓ The scope of RAPIS providers which the mass media focus on has **expanded** since 2000.
- ✓ Equal & free access to the library, public access to the archives, as well as free access to the museum, have caught the media's attention, which means that the RAPIS has a **wider range of content**.

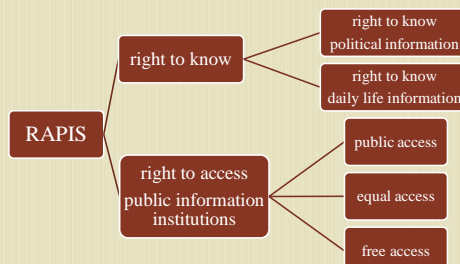
On the System of RAPIS

➤ Findings

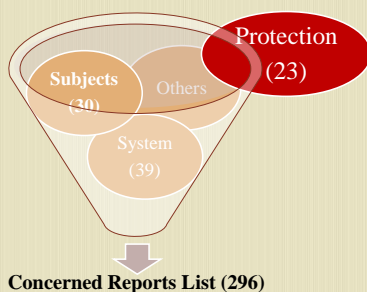
- ✓ **Public information institutions**, such as libraries, archives & museums, are surpassing mass media like broadcast, TV & newspaper, & becoming important providers of public information services.
- ✓ Among the 39 materials, only three of them focus on SVGs as the RAPIS holder, while the services providers are all **libraries**.

On the System of RAPIS

Figure I: Current System of the RAPIS



On the Protection of RAPIS



On the Protection of RAPIS

➤ Findings

- ✓ in 17/(23) reports, the protector of RAPIS is the **government**
- ✓ in 5/(23) reports, the protector of RAPIS is **mass media**
- ✓ in 1/(23) reports, the protector of RAPIS is the **public**
- ✓ 6/(23) reports refer to protection of SVGs' RAPIS

On the Protection of RAPIS

➤ Findings

- ✓ The government protects the RAPIS in three ways.
 - guarantee places for public information services
 - establish communication channels between the protectors & the right holders
 - develop relevant policies and laws

On the Protection of RAPIS

➤ Findings

- ✓ The mass media protect the RAPIS in two ways.
 - provide sufficient and reliable information
 - improve the mechanism for the public to express their interest

On the Attitudes to RAPIS

Table III: Attitudes to the RAPIS

attitudes	1980s (1984-1989)	1990s (1990-1999)	2000s (2000-2009)	2010s (2010-2012)
strongly opposed	0	0	0	0
general opposed	0	0	0	0
neutral	3	81	111	28
general agreed	2	1	15	5
strongly agreed	1	11	31	7

On the Attitudes to RAPIS

➤ Findings

- ✓ Mass media have an increasingly clear positive attitude to RAPIS.
- ✓ Through questioning and criticizing the provider of public information services, mass media express their strongly supports for RAPIS.

Conclusion

- proper occasion to discuss and practice
- transformation are taking place
- development of the Chinese library and information profession

The 5th International Conference on
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Thank you for your attention!

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