

A Feasibility Study for Renovation of Public Libraries in South Korea

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BACKGROUND

- Influx of western civilization after 'the Korean War (1953-1955)' and advent of 'modern' public library**
- Remarkable growth of public libraries since 1990s**
 - Cultural & economic development
 - Emphasis on social responsibility to meet intellectual needs for the public
 - Continuous efforts by the government & professionals for developing public libraries
- Efforts for qualitative growth of public libraries since 2009**
 - Diversifying, segmenting and specializing library services
 - Improving old-aged library facilities: 31% of total public libraries are old-aged libraries

PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

- To analyze current physical and functional status and needs of old-aged public libraries in Busan, South Korea
- To specify the justification to renovate old-aged public libraries in Busan, South Korea
- To suggest the strategies to renovate old-aged public libraries in Busan, South Korea

1 A Case Study: 8 public libraries in the Busan Metropolitan city area

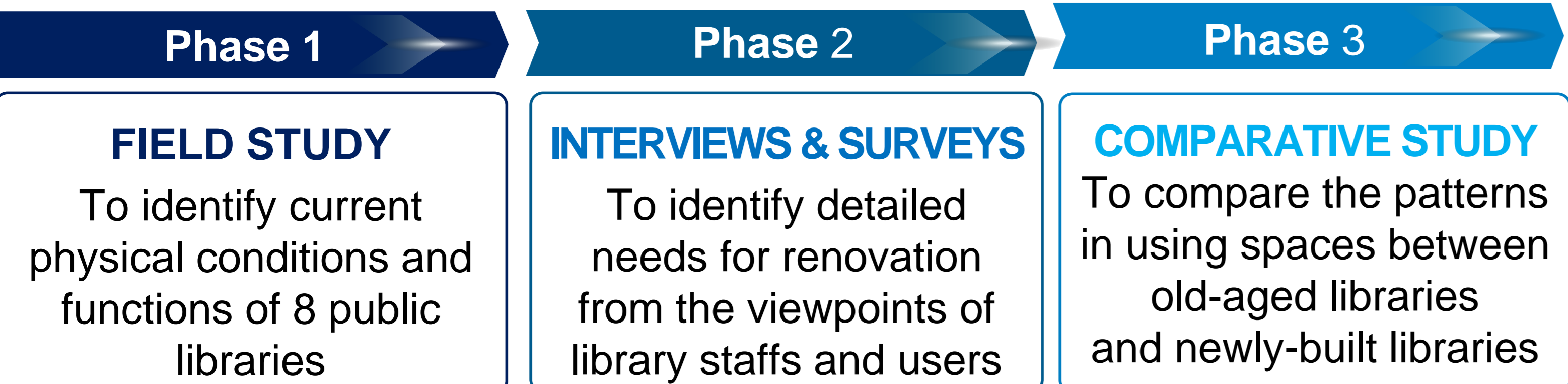
- 8 old-aged public libraries established between 1970s and 1980s among total 38 public libraries in Busan, South Korea

Name of PL	Established Year	GFA (Gross Floor Area)	# of Collection	# of Librarian (Library Staff)	# of Population Served
A	1978	1,803m ²	219,692	8 (16)	44,521
B	1982	12,558m ²	819,464	29 (45)	134,505
C	1982	1,496m ²	157,726	2 (3)	109,799
D	1983	1,072m ²	164,744	8 (16)	160,549
E	1984	1,716m ²	195,808	8 (15)	136,092
F	1987	1,370m ²	180,562	8 (15)	251,229
G	1990	6,170m ²	330,628	14 (33)	131,595
H	1994	1,670m ²	233,640	7 (16)	238,228

2 Criteria for Analysis

Criteria	Detailed Contents
Integrated / common Approach	Political Factor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitability of laws and regulations Relation to higher policy
	Economic Factor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic efficiency of renovation Economic value of the library building after renovation
	Social Factor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in the role and function of public library
Individual Approach	Physical Factor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building aging level Appropriateness of building size Appropriateness in composing space
	Professional Factor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriateness of space and facility from the view point of practitioners (library staffs)
	Use Factor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriateness of space and facility from the view point of users Connection with the local community

METHODOLOGY



FINDINGS: Justification for Renovation of 8 Public Libraries

1 Political Feasibility

- Revision of Library Act in 2007 : renovation to observe related regulations and rules as well as Library Act are required
- National library policy to renovate old-aged libraries was announced in 2014

2 Economic Feasibility

- Citizens' willingness to pay for the renovation of public libraries; the economic impact of the investment is proven as follows:

Annual WTP (Willing To Payment)	\$99.89
ROI (Return On Investment)	3.66
Investment Cost for Renovation	20~90% of rebuilding costs

3 Social Feasibility

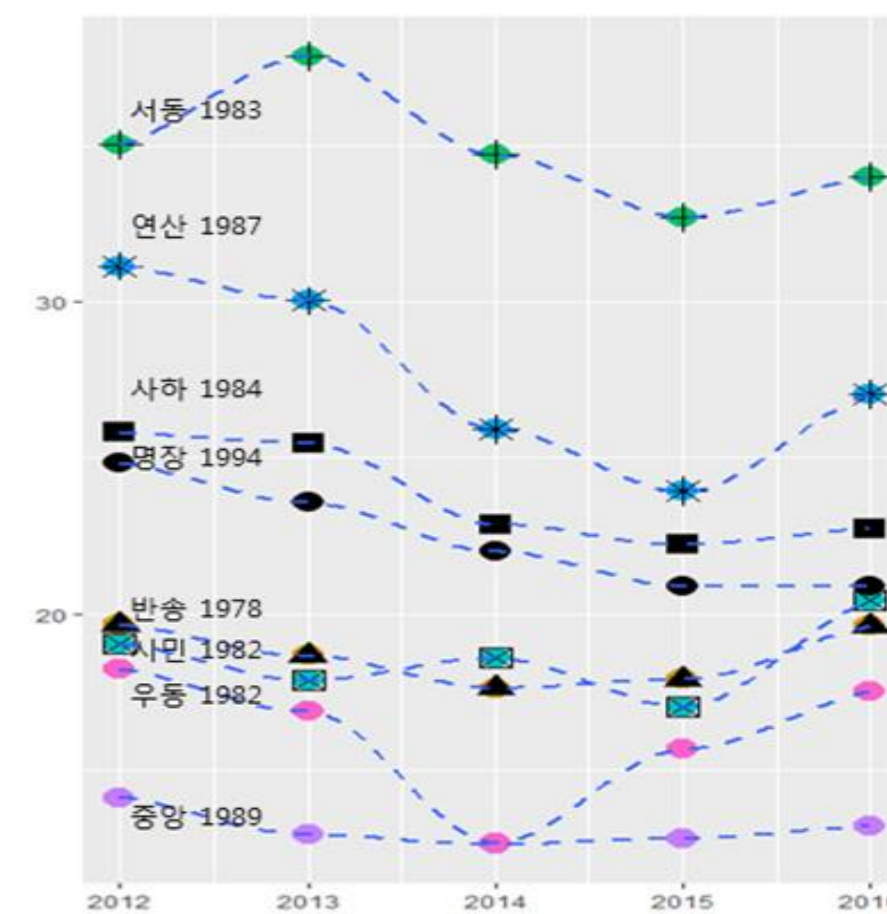
- Changes in the roles and functions of libraries in social changes



4 Physical Feasibility

- Deterioration in building & Low structural stability
- Inefficient use of energy

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Established Year	1978	1982	1982	1983	1984	1987	1990	1994
Lifespan	39yr	35yr	35yr	34yr	33yr	30yr	27yr	23yr
Structural Stability	22.54	26.62	26.62	27.68	28.75	32.06	34.37	40.52



- Component ratio of library space

Name of PL	Space for Adult Collection	Space for Children's Collection	Space for Education	Space for Study Room	Office Space	Repository (Storage facility)	Others (Lounge etc.)	Total
A	25.0	7.6	11.2	7.0	9.8	13.3	26.2	100.0
B	26.8	4.1	5.6	12.6	12.1	9.4	29.3	99.9
C	22.3	7.2	10.6	13.2	4.7	9.9	32.1	100.0
D	26.1	6.2	10.2	14.7	11.7	11.2	19.8	100.0
E	26.9	11.2	8.1	9.1	13.9	5.5	25.4	100.0
F	26.1	7.5	3.0	12.5	9.4	5.8	35.7	100.0
G	18.1	3.9	11.8	11.7	7.2	5.7	41.6	100.0
H	32.2	5.0	8.3	9.8	8.7	9.5	26.5	100.0

5 Professional Feasibility

Library staffs' perception in problems of 8 old-aged libraries [the result of interview]

- Closed spatial structure, low accessibility, inefficient space application
- Insufficient storage space for library collection
- Lack of various spaces for educational and social activities (i.e., lecture room, audio-visual room, group study room, book café, etc.)
- Excessive space for studying
- No consideration for the disabled and the elderly

6 Use Feasibility

488 library users' perception and proposal [the results of survey]

- High demand to improve current library facilities [5 scale]

Name of PL	Appropriateness Of Scale/Size	Appropriateness of Configuration	Optimized Space Placement	Accessibility	Ease of movement in the Room	Sufficiency of Children Space	Average
A	3.35	3.45	3.16	3.43	3.30	2.37	3.18
B	3.41	3.47	3.16	3.21	3.22	2.51	3.16
C	3.18	3.50	3.41	3.62	3.73	2.58	3.34
D	3.15	3.60	3.47	3.62	3.55	2.88	3.38
E	2.61	2.97	2.84	2.87	3.16	2.15	2.77
F	2.82	3.40	3.16	3.33	3.36	2.30	3.06
G	3.59	3.48	3.28	3.21	3.48	2.91	3.33
H	3.02	2.42	3.15	3.32	3.57	2.82	3.22

IMPLICATION OF THE FINDING

1 Priority-setting for renovation of 8 public libraries for national and local government's economic support

- The oldest library in the year of construction/establishment
- Less energy-efficient library
- Library with higher demand for renovation
- Library to require more space reconstruction

Priority	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Name of PL	F	E	D	B	A	G	H	C

2 Suggestions for renovation of old-aged public libraries in Busan, South Korea

- Creating 'innovative' space to play new roles and functions of public libraries in the 21st century (freeing from physical facilities for studying space in the traditional libraries)
- Rearranging from collection-centered spaces to service-centered spaces
- Expanding the library functions from a repository of library collection into educational and cultural centers
- Reorganizing the library spaces from quiet reading rooms into active interaction
- Designing open, inviting, accessible space
- Accepting social changes and demands such as an aging society, multi-cultural society, eco-friendly society, technologically innovative society, etc.
- Distributing library functions through collaborating with local libraries, (e.g., a special library for business services, a special library for rich user experience with high-tech, etc.)