



Submitted on: 5/30/2014

DigiBook MakerSpace in Chinese Public Libraries

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Abstract:

DigiBook MakerSpaces are where readers, including children, can create and publish original content in public libraries. The system provides simple writing tools that are integrated with an easy to use digital publishing platform, which incorporates library collections, text, photography, audio, painting, calligraphy, etc. Libraries encourage children and parents to jointly produce (often multimedia) materials; to edit and display their e-books; and to share the success and happiness of their creations with family and friends.

Installed on library servers, DigiBook MakerSpace enables children and parents to work together in co-creation of family-related materials. This close personal way to learn from and better understand each other can improve family relationships and support children's healthy development. In addition, libraries can then index and incorporate these original and special e-books, which diversify and localize their collections. More and more people in China believe that content creation and digital services have greatly improved the library experience.

The original e-books that capture and retain the highlights of people's and family's lives will become part of a community's and even the country's heritage. This contributes to the preservation of traditional culture. Libraries not only acquire vast amounts of mass published material, but also collect and archive local creations by their patrons (of any age). In this way, libraries will play a greater role in people's lives and help to build the history of their community for future generations.

In this paper, we will describe the current status and challenges in supporting patrons creating their original e-books with resident digital platforms in the public libraries in China. In particular, we will present examples of how DigiBook MakerSpaces help children create and publish their works in 30 public libraries in China.

Keywords: DigiBook MakerSpace, Dyslexia, Chinese Public Libraries

Introduction

Technology has changed our lifestyle. The web, digital technology, and information technology has changed the way we read. By promoting various opportunities for cooperation, Chinese libraries are positively seeking creative services. DigiBook MakerSpace (DBMS) is the achievement of such cooperation and creation. As an application platform made by Shanghai DigiBook Ltd. incorporate digital reading, digital creation, digital storage, and panoramic display for readers, DBMS offers a brand new library experience. Through libraries, DBMS closely links readers, families, communities, and the country. Although DBMS has been installed in 30 public libraries in China and has created numerous benefits, it still faces some challenges. It is supported by the National Social Science Fund, a program that is run on the “theory, methods, and solutions of public library services for dyslexic groups.” Thus, by leveraging on its own advantages and features, DBMS continuously looks for ways to help children who have difficulties in reading and writing.

What is DBMS?

DBMS is a new and reader-centered service for libraries. In addition to applying advanced digital technology and network technology, it adopts a unified interface, software, and management to fully satisfy the creation requirement of children and other groups. With resource sharing and sustainable development, it has six key service advantages, namely, long-distance availability, entirety, fast speed, orderliness, intelligence, and distinction. Diandian Reading Room, Diandian Creation Area, Diandian Display Wall are the three major parts that form the DBMS.

Features of DBMS:

Modern environment: By considering a reader’s preferences about colour and space, it creates a modern and comfortable environment for reading and creation, thus forming a digital library that is audible and visible. Moreover, it cultivates in-library reading and creation to provide readers with an amazing experience.

Audio books: By integrating voice and picture as well as using attractive digital books, it offers children the best reading experience.

Large screen: Large touch screens for digital books displays the DIY works of readers while inspiring enthusiasm for reading and creation. By sharing works through displays, it brings the imagination of children to life.

Works collection: It reserves individual works, increases demand for reading, and enhances reading quality. The library also collects DIY works to encourage readers to read and to create.

On-demand printing: Print books are made according to whether a reader’s DIY digital book is available. Such print books can be shared with family members and friends. With this creative and customized publishing service, you can finally realize your dream of being an author.

DBMS in Chinese public libraries

Now, DigiBook Ltd. has established partnerships with 30 public and children’s libraries where DBMS has been implemented.

Table1. Libraries installed with DBMS

No.	Library Name	No.	Library Name
1	Capital Library of China	16	Changchun Children’s Library
2	Tianjin Children’s Library	17	Dunhua Library
3	Shandong Provincial Library	18	Zhangjiaguang Library
4	Qingdao Municipal Library	19	Jiaxing Library
5	Yantai Library	20	Rugao Library
6	Shanghai Children’s Library	21	Wuxi Library
7	Shanghai Xuhui Library	22	Huishan Library
8	Shanghai Zhabei Library	23	Cixi Library
9	Guangzhou Library	24	Wuhan Children’s Library
10	Guangzhou Children’s Library	25	Fujian Juvenile & Children’s Library
11	Sun Yat-Sen Library of Guangdong Province	26	Hefei Children’s Library
12	Chengdu Wuhou Library	27	Jieshou Library
13	Chongqing Children’s Library	28	Fengyang Library
14	Children’s Library of Yunnan Province	29	Yingshang Library
15	Kunming Wuhua Library	30	Yi County Library

Using the unique creation platform provided by DBMS, libraries have successfully hosted theme activities, which have built closer relationships among libraries, readers, and communities while improving public services.

In general, the activity is divided into four phases: preparation, promotion, implementation, and post-promotion.

Preparation: The activity plan is prepared. Relevant leaders are invited to act as activity advisors to give support. The library conducts pre-promotion with websites, Sina Weibo, WeChat, etc. while preparing such relevant software and equipment.

Promotion: Through relevant websites, Sina Weibo accounts, and Web Chat accounts, activity content is widely introduced to the public, which encourages reader participation to enhance activity influence.

Implementation: The standalone DianDian Bochuang is downloaded on site by the participating family for digital book creation. In addition, the participating family makes a

parenting digital book in accordance with the software's directions and requirements. At the designated time, the participating family goes to the library. The library staff provides additional guidance and advice for revising, improving, and completing the digital book. The family interacts with other participants to share and exchange experiences of digital book creation. The library takes photos and shoots for post-promotion and activity summary. After the participating family submits the finished digital book, the library staff uploads it and displays it on the library's large touch screen so other readers may view it. The parenting digital book also can be made into a print book. The library will collect excellent parenting books and hand out awards together with a certificate of collection.

Post-promotion: After an activity, an activity record and report shall be completed to discover problems as well as confirm achievements. The activity is broadcasted and feedback is acquired through the web, Sina Weibo, and WeChat. An activity report is submitted to superior departments.

The library generally has a special physical area for DBMS. The physical area is divided into the parenting reading area, the digital book creation area, and the display area. Touch screens, display windows for print books, audio reader pads, eBook creation tables (touch screen and keyboard), and headphones are provided. Children may sit on a comfortable sofa to have discussions with classmates or use a desktop or pad reader. Moreover, a spherical "space capsule" is available where one can enjoy film or music. Fanciful facilities like colorful bookshelves in the shape of a train, an elephant, a crocodile, etc.; cushioned holes; educational toys; and small stages are also available to bring children a delightful stay at the library.

The core value of DBMS is unlocking the joy of reading in children. In an interesting and interactive way, DBMS attracts and encourages children to read freely. It supplies not only a virtual space with a unique reading experience but also a physical reading room that is cozy and warm. At the same time, the physical reading room is fully decorated to capture the interest of children and supplement the reading experience supplied by the virtual space. DBMS leads children into a world of true happiness.

The result of the DBMS project

For juveniles and children, DBMS is an educator of culture, art, and science that inspires imagination, trains one to establish good reading habits and the ability to create, and increases reading interest. It explores children's potential, directs them to feel, find, and create beauty. Together with parents, it guides children's interest in reading and helps them to express themselves. Additionally, DBMS fortifies children's competence in adopting information and eLearning as well as adding an e-Reading experience.

For family harmony and community unity, DBMS improves the relationships and interaction between parents and children. For instance, some parents have asked for a print book when their parenting book was collected as an excellent work. They commented, "A commemorative book is more valuable than any other gift. It records the milestones of a child's growth, strengthens the link between parents and children, and recalls our memories of warm family affection." When each family has harmony, the community is unified. DBMS retains family memories, regional memories, and national memories by encouraging adults

and seniors to create a Family Record, a Digital Family Tree, and other digital books that record family content and culture while promoting culture and carrying it forward. For libraries, DBMS, while adhering to a reader-centered philosophy, assists in work for education, recreation, and storage, signifying a new library service of the 21st century. It builds not only a good reputation for libraries, but also a good foundation for extending its services.

New project and challenges

For groups with invisible disabilities like dyslexia, Chinese libraries have not provided relevant services due to a lack of knowledge about such disabilities. This has also resulted in a lack of knowledge about dyslexics, not to mention relevant information services and legal assistance.

To provide services for dyslexics, a research team is built to study the “theory, methods, and solutions of public library services for dyslexic groups” with the purpose of promoting the collaboration between society, the government, and libraries, and the legal protection of the right for dyslexic groups to read. After an investigation, the research team found that digital picture books, panoramic displays, and parenting works created through DBMS can facilitate reading in dyslexic children and increase their abilities. The Audio Picture Book Bank created by DigiBook also helps dyslexic children. According to *Science & Vie*, contrast experiments made by a French cognitive neurology laboratory indicate that repeated listening and reading helps children acquire correct pronunciation and meaning as well as facilitating word analysis and correct usage. The Audio Picture Book Bank provides a great number of audio books and digital picture books. Readers may click any sentence on the books for repeated listening. Similar to the accompany music found in karaoke, by reinforcing the connection between pronunciation and sentences it highlights the consistency of the picture books, scenes in the pictures, and sentence meaning. As a result, it makes young readers understand a sentence, pronunciation, and meaning, thus generating reading interest.

The libraries introducing the Audio Picture Book Bank are provided with a pad with the Bank pre-installed for dyslexics, which is especially tailored to parental reading. Alternatively, to address the special requirements of dyslexic, the library may gradually transfer collections into audio books available for dyslexic groups. To enhance service awareness and quality, special training and relevant knowledge about dyslexia shall be supplied to the library staff. In addition, parents and teachers need to be aware of dyslexia and the library’s relevant services for cooperation. With the help of the activities focusing on improving children and students’ reading ability, children with dyslexics can grow and develop more healthily.

Though there are substantial foreign cases and achievements for reference, more research and co-op programs need to be conducted in China before a mature dyslexic service can be provided.

Conclusion

The core value of Lib 2.0 is a reader-centered service that encourages participation. As a new library service, it urges users to take part in creating the physical and virtual service that they need while providing continued support through service assessment. At the same time, Lib 2.0 tries to attract new users and improve services for old users by advancing services and facilities driven by existent users. Fundamental principles and the core value of Lib 2.0 are

destined to extend the service scope of a library's upstream (digital publication) and downstream (public reading).

By adhering to a reader-centered service, DBMS publishes digital culture works with Lib 2.0 and other software to improve its users' reading experience. Meanwhile, with the library as a service platform, it publishes reader's original works in the digital version and creates opportunities of being collected by the library. The library selects excellent works and encourages readers or families to supply works for collection. This kind of library service gives priority to families, and community-related content preserves the culture of families, communities, cities, and even the country, passing down perpetual records. When a library contains both enormous scientific and cultural records and family-related information, it will be an indispensable part of life for communities and every citizen, which is the core value of Lib 2.0 as well as the creative service of a library.

Acknowledgments

At the point of finishing this paper, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have lent me hands in the course of my writing this paper. I'd like to express my gratitude to my team members who offered me references and information on time. Without their help, it would be much harder for me to finish my study and this paper.

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