

Copyright Challenges of Public Digital Libraries in China: the Status quo and Tactic Research

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Digitalization of public libraries is now in fast development in China. In this process, an essential challenge is still copyright, more specifically, the conflict of interests among the copyright owners, libraries and the public users. The poster aims to illustrate what kinds of challenges digital public libraries are facing in terms of copyright and analyze what kinds of tactics need to be taken.

The poster will first aim to prove that the current regime of exceptions for libraries of copyright law can not meet the requirements of the digital libraries, and at the same time, the copyright collective societies in China now is not efficient enough to exercise the function of collective licensing. It will then describe how non-profit libraries are practicing in terms of copyright and point out the potential risks of copyright infringement. In this part, it will explore two aspects of libraries practicing, i.e., reproducing materials for the library itself (preservation and replacement) and making copies for users (document delivery, library loan, and electronic reserves). In the third part, it will try to propose the possible solutions to the copyright challenges of digital libraries on the basis of a reference of experiences in other countries and an in-depth exploration of the unique context in China. It will advocate a more user-friendly copyright regime in China with the aim to obtain the balance of interests of public and copyright owners.

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