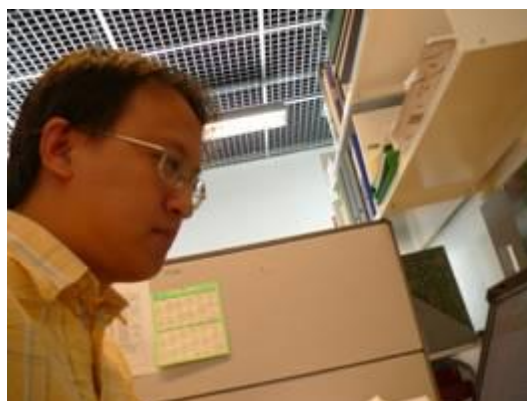


# Practical Library System

*(The text of this article is a shortened version from the original report of Feng Gu.)*

## **Librarian way**

I graduated from Biology Faculty of Huazhong Normal University on 1995. I had been a biology and chemistry teacher in high school for five years. I then came to Wuhan library of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), which changed its name to Wuhan Branch of National Science Library, CAS. At the same time I got my master's degree in Wuhan University. My major was library information management.



When I was working at the library, I was engaged in resource management that combined with Digital Library. The first project was to build the database for collecting the resources of Yangtze River disaster information.

In 2002, the Chinese Science Digital Library (CSDL) project was getting started. There were branches of subprojects on Chinese Mathematics & Physics Sciences Literature Database and Yangtze Basin Resources & Environment Information Portal. The basic platform of the database was on DOS system. It seems surprising today. On the other hand the open access software was SPT (Subject portal toolkit) system, which was developed by University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Many web resources were collected in different portals. Some useful digital library softwares were applied in library development. More and more literature were indexed and classified. Following the increasing information, librarian found that the information flow should be integrated. It was important to simplify the way of obtaining information.

My work was to provide the service in digital library environment. The education in Huazhong Normal University helped my subject library work a lot, because I studied advanced mathematics, college physics and chemistry during those four years. I started to try the new ways of service with the digital library.

## Plans for the visit

Which work should be done by librarian, especially subject librarian, in digital library age? It seems that every place has a computer and a network, every resource could be used freely, and everyone could use the resources by herself/himself. Is Librarian only an indexing, classifying worker or book-manager?

In 2006, I got one year finance from Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) for studying library development abroad. I designed my visit investigation topic: “the influence of the information service mode in digital library”. It included four sub-topics:

1. Scientific-Research-Type Library Information Service Model Research;
2. Information Service Model & Development Strategy in Digital Library;
3. Scientific Research Information Service from Library to Institute;
4. The Subject Librarian Service Pattern.

Finland's library system is famous. Finn's has the highest average per capita of books. China needs examples from other countries about how to build and develop libraries. So I contacted **Kaisa Sinikara**, the director of library coordination office at the University of Helsinki. She provided a chance to let me visit the libraries of University of Helsinki.

## Visiting experiences

I visited Finland from Oct. 11, 2006 to Sep. 28, 2007. **Sirkku Liukkonen** discussed with me about the plan of my visit. According to my major and main research, she arranged four places to visit: library coordination office, Viikki Science Library, Kumpula Science Library, and National Library of Health Sciences (Terkko).

My favourite theme is the information services of Digital Library, because almost half of the staff of my library are engaged in subject librarian service and information consultation. So I concentrated on the field mentioned. My survey included aspects like: special subject virtual library, subject information portal, indexing system keywords and the classification of literature, online database and e-journal use rate analysis system and discussions of the services in different groups (students, researches and readers).

Library Coordination Office, which I called “Center”, gave me fine office place. I like the project organization in different libraries and its coordination, which will help for normal management in library. The office does some important analysis and evaluations for all the libraries in University of Helsinki.



Three branch library directors, **Heli Myllys**, **Kaija Sipilä**, and **Pirjo Rajakiili**, provided nice work unit for me and recommended staff to help my research.

Especially, Teodora Oker-Blom and Kimmo Koskinen designed a wonderful practice to let me know document delivery and store, the DSpace and other library work at Viikki. **Kumpula** had the strong ability in subject services and a same kind of a flow in normal library work as Wuhan branch. **Terkko** was strong on making the interfaces and portals for medical researchers, such as Feed Navigator and “scholar chart”.

Three fields impressed me during my visit.

1. **Common and special platform**
2. **More particular information mining and information access**
3. **Subject liaison**



### **Main impressions**

#### **“Kindness”**

I think kindness is the most important aspect for a librarian. In every place librarian answered the question in detail and with a smile, mild tone and slow speaking. In each library, I first tried the service as a new user of the library. The result was that all this was a part of Finnish library culture.

#### **“Cooperation”**

For example, at Alma (<https://alma.helsinki.fi>), librarians got a way to discuss with each other in group. More communication makes things more efficient and forces staff to accomplish their work in no-paper status.

#### **“Active”**

Librarians enjoyed their library work. One could find exciting emotions on librarians. Maybe it is one of the reasons why library culture filtered into people's minds.

### **Acknowledgement**

During the period of my visit, I was lucky to meet so many Finnish librarians. Their attitude towards the library services affected me a lot.

My best wishes to all the librarians of University of Helsinki, who shared their experience with me over the year. I really got a lot from this visit.



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