Libraries as Public Computing Center

— Two examples from China

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1 Acknowledgement & Method

- **Acknowledgement:** I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who helped me finishing this research. A special acknowledgement should first be shown to Professor Abdul Alkalimat and Professor Kate Williams, my instructors to do this research. Thank you my research team in China to help me finish the project.

- **Method:** We mainly adopted the D7 Methods (they are: definition of the problem, data collection, digitization, discovery, design, dissemination and difference) which was Abdul Alkalimat taught us in the Community Informatics Summer School in Peking University in 2011. We have the interviews and questionnaires also other methods to have the case study.
As we know that in the information age more and more libraries use the computers and technologies to help more people acquire information. Public computing plays important role in the information society. Based on the concept of the informatics moment, Kate Williams (2011) examines the informatics moment in people’s everyday lives as they sought help at public libraries. Understanding the informatics moment could accelerate people (and society’s) anxious transition to an inclusive digital age. Here are two community libraries examples from China.
3 An-Zhen community library

- (1) Background and History of An-Zhen community library
- (2) About the ICT in An-Zhen community library
- (3) Potential computing center of An-Zhen Community Library
### Table 1. Speed of Internet in An-Zhen community library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Wired/Wireless</th>
<th>Desktop/Laptop</th>
<th>Download Speed</th>
<th>Upload Speed</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 12, 2011</td>
<td>14:40</td>
<td>Wireless</td>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>Kbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 17, 2011</td>
<td>10:26</td>
<td>Wired</td>
<td>Desktop</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Kbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Wired</td>
<td>Desktop</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>Kbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:32</td>
<td>Wired</td>
<td>Desktop</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>Kbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Civilian Mobile Library

- (1) About the Civilian Mobile Library
- (2) Research about the ICT in CML
5 Conclusion

- In all, what we talk about above are two types of Community libraries in China. And actually **MOST** Chinese community libraries are supported by the government.

- There are still some problems such as lacking computer skills training or having not IT person in both government supported libraries and private libraries. Maybe there is some experience to learn from the American’s. Hope to solve the problem in the near future.
Thank you! 😊