

Research Article

Data Compliance and Legal Adaptation of Human Books in Public Libraries

Xianglong Dong^{1,*}

¹Law School, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, China

*Correspondence: Xianglong Dong, 1271060364@qq.com

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Abstract

In order to enrich collection resources and promote the dissemination of knowledge, public libraries have been actively developing “human books” in addition to traditional print materials. However, the core content of human books consists of real individuals’ personal experiences and stories, which inevitably raises data ethics issues concerning personal information processing, privacy protection, and data compliance. Existing studies remain largely confined to the perspective of traditional copyright law and fail to adequately address the normative demands at the level of data governance. In light of this, there is an urgent need not only to rethink the application of copyright law but also to integrate provisions from the Personal Information Protection Law, the Public Library Law, and the Public Cultural Services Guarantee Law to clarify that human books possess the dual nature of cultural products and collections of personal information, and should therefore be incorporated into the standardized management of library collections. On this basis, it is proposed that data compliance serve as the baseline, with improvements to informed consent and anonymization mechanisms, and optimization of acquisition scope and publicity strategies, so as to promote the healthy development of human books in public libraries while safeguarding personal information rights, thereby highlighting their unique value in nationwide reading initiatives.

Keywords

Human books, Public libraries, Data compliance, Personal information protection, Copyright, Cultural products

1. Introduction

Human books—i.e., employing real persons as “books” who share their personal experiences and

stories to convey knowledge and information—originated in Denmark and have since spread rapidly across the globe. Since 2012, public libraries in China have initiated the development and research of human books, and through the active efforts of libraries at all levels, human books have become an important supplement to the public library service system, with their influence steadily expanding [1]. In 2014, the concept of “nationwide reading” was first incorporated into the Government Work Report of the National People’s Congress and has since been emphasized in each subsequent report. In 2022, the report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China formally proposed the specific policy of “deepening nationwide reading activities.” As an integral part of the nationwide reading strategy, human books play an irreplaceable and significant role in enhancing citizens’ reading literacy and promoting the popularization of reading culture [2].

With the gradual rise and growing attention of human books in China, some public libraries have begun to treat them as collection resources. This indicates that, in practice, human books can be regarded as cultural products with the characteristics of works, and their cultural attributes are no longer confined solely to the category of “cultural activities.” In response, some scholars have perceptively identified the potential interest disputes that human books may trigger and have attempted to regulate and study them from the perspective of traditional copyright law [3]. Although this analytical approach has its merits, it fails to fully comprehend and interpret human books from the perspective of cultural law. In fact, human books are not merely a single copyright issue; their production and circulation involve multiple dimensions, including cultural creation, public service, and social responsibility. Therefore, relying exclusively on the copyright law framework falls short of revealing their deeper legal and cultural connotations.

A literature review reveals that existing studies on human books in public libraries are largely confined to the fields of library science and information science, focusing primarily on comparative analyses between China and other countries [4], technological innovation [5], and service innovation [6]. Although these studies are significant for advancing the application of human books in public libraries, they rarely engage in in-depth discussions on legal norms or resource development. In view of this, this paper aims to address two aspects: first, to comprehensively reflect on the copyright issues of human books in public libraries, and to supplement the gaps left by copyright law with reference to relevant cultural legislation such as the Public Library Law and the Public Cultural Services Guarantee Law; second, to propose concrete and feasible recommendations for advancing the development of human books in public libraries, thereby contributing to the construction of a new ecosystem for nationwide reading. Through the refinement of legal norms and the coordination of resource development, a solid foundation can be laid for the growth of human books in public libraries, enabling them to fully exert their functions of cultural dissemination and social education in the new era.

2. A Reflection on Copyright Issues Concerning Human Books in Public Libraries

The starting point of copyright protection lies in the clear classification of work types [7]. Therefore, accurately determining the work type of human books in public libraries is the first step. Generally speaking, as a cultural outcome with a fixed form, a human book may qualify as a work if it satisfies the relevant provisions of copyright law. Once work status is confirmed, its specific work type may be further determined in accordance with the principle of statutory categorization of work types. Some scholars argue that human books bear certain similarities to oral works [8]. However, human books are not impromptu creations, and their mode of expression often takes the form of dialogue or narration, which makes it difficult for them to meet all the requirements for oral works. Consequently, some scholars have attempted to circumvent the principle of statutory categorization and directly confer copyright on human books in public libraries based solely on the general criteria for works set forth in copyright law [9].

I submit that the protection of copyright should be approached with restraint and prudence. If the principle of statutory categorization is abandoned and all heterogeneous objects are indiscriminately brought within the scope of protection, the risk of abuse of rights will inevitably arise. Conversely, one should not unduly narrow the scope of protected subject matter, thereby depriving creative outputs that deserve copyright protection of their due safeguards. On this basis, this paper conducts a multi-perspective inquiry: from the perspective of creative output, human books in public libraries, by virtue of their value and scarcity, should be regulated by copyright law; from the perspective of creative process, human books in public libraries are essentially composite works, and their typology may be approached through a “disaggregative” framework; from the perspective of creative subjects, the ownership of copyright in human books in public libraries should be arranged as a form of joint ownership.

2.1. An examination from the perspective of creative output: the value and scarcity of human books

The utilitarian theory of works posits that if an object possesses value and scarcity, and there is a conflict between supply and demand, then such an object should be permitted to fall within the scope of copyright protection [10]. Compared with the potential suppression of innovation that may result from refusing protection, or the high transaction costs arising from improper legal adjustments, copyright law provides a low-cost mechanism for balancing interests, which can effectively alleviate supply-demand tensions and serve the goals of self-determination, stability, and prosperity. In other words, whether an object possesses value and scarcity becomes the key criterion for determining

whether a human book in a public library qualifies as a work.

Since the introduction of human books to China, their localization process has progressively deepened, and they have gradually become closely aligned with China's cultural values, modes of thinking, personality traits, communication habits, and cultural perspectives. An increasing number of human books are not only able to meet the needs and expectations of "Chinese human book readers" and "Chinese human book authors" [11], but have also progressively taken on local characteristics in both form and content, incorporating connotations more in line with Chinese cultural traditions and contemporary social features. In the human book programs carried out by public libraries, the authors invited are mostly representatives of China's diverse local cultures, encompassing individuals from various ethnic groups and social backgrounds. These authors include not only cultural celebrities from all walks of life but also witnesses to history, such as war survivors, participants in social movements, and witnesses to historical events. In addition, there are authors with extraordinary experiences, such as explorers, travelers, survivors of extreme environments, and disaster survivors, whose personal experiences are rich in vivid stories and irreplicable life trajectories.

It is precisely these authentic and unique life journeys that endow each human book with irreplaceable scarcity and value. The experiences and wisdom of these authors not only offer readers unique insights but also stimulate profound reflection and identification with different lifestyles, historical events, and cultural backgrounds. Thus, human books provided by public libraries are, in essence, not only carriers of knowledge but also bridges for cultural and experiential transmission, bearing rich historical memories and contemporary currents of thought, with cultural and educational significance that cannot be easily substituted.

It is evident that human books in public libraries possess value and scarcity. Therefore, they should be granted work status, receiving due recognition and protection within the legal framework. At the same time, from the perspective of legal costs, utilizing copyright law to regulate and protect human books is clearly a more preferable path. Copyright law operates on the principle of automatic acquisition: once a work possesses distinctive expressive features (scarcity) that satisfy human spiritual needs (value), it essentially meets the constituent elements required for protection under copyright law. On this basis, employing copyright law for preliminary classification of subject matter can not only avoid excessive consumption of legal resources but also prevent undue legal protection from being afforded to objects lacking scarcity and value, thereby reducing unnecessary institutional costs. Furthermore, it can effectively prevent the suppression of creative motivation that may occur when truly scarce and valuable objects lack adequate legal safeguards [12].

2.2. An examination from the perspective of creative process: the composite nature of human books

Since it is established that human books in public libraries qualify as works, the next step is to determine their specific work type. In this regard, a step-by-step approach should be adopted: first, they must satisfy the general characteristics set forth in Article 3 of the Copyright Law of the People's Republic of China, namely, "intellectual creations in the literary, artistic, and scientific domains that are original and capable of being expressed in a certain form"; second, they must also conform to one of the nine categories of works enumerated in the Copyright Law and meet the specific characteristics prescribed for each category in Article 4 of the Implementing Regulations of the Copyright Law. Such determination requires an examination of the creative process of human books in public libraries.

The creative process of human books in public libraries generally involves five key steps: First, conceptualization and planning. The public library, as the organizing body, determines the thematic direction and target audience, and plans the overall creative trajectory. Second, recruitment and training. The public library selects suitable individuals within a defined scope and provides relevant training to ensure that the authors master clear expression and interactive skills. Concurrently, materials related to the human book, such as photographs and documents, are collected in preparation for subsequent sharing. Third, collection and organization. The public library records the authors' personal stories through interviews, in textual, audio, or video formats, and organizes the content into a coherent narrative. Fourth, editing and polishing. The initial drafts are reviewed to ensure factual accuracy and authenticity, and language is refined to make the stories more vivid and accessible. Fifth, publicity and presentation. The public library employs multiple channels to attract target audiences, and the authors present their stories through oral narration, performance, or interactive discussion, aiming to provide a rich experience for the audience.

From the perspective of the creative process, human books are jointly completed by the public library and the human book authors. Their themes encompass literary, artistic, and scientific fields, and each human book is an original intellectual creation that meets the general criteria for works. However, the specific typology of human books in public libraries remains ambiguous. This is because the forms of expression in the creation of human books are diverse, potentially including text, audio recordings, video recordings, etc., and live events often contain impromptu oral components, making it difficult to generalize their final form.

At different stages, the specific characteristics of the works presented by human books vary. Both the public library and the authors themselves may repeatedly perform or process the work, resulting in a non-constant work type. Accordingly, it is plausible to regard human books in public libraries as composite works and adopt a "disaggregative" interpretive framework [13], subdividing them into two components: First, the initial form of the human book work originates from the oral content narrated by the author during the interview process, which can be clearly identified as an "oral work." At this stage, the author's words and ideas have not undergone textual processing, and the work is expressed

in its direct form, reflecting the author's immediate thoughts and emotions. Second, the public library organizes, processes, and revises the existing oral content, thereby generating a "written work." This process involves not merely simple organization of content but also linguistic refinement, structural reorganization, and many other details, endowing the work with a new mode of expression and enhancing its literary quality and readability. In sum, human books in public libraries are composite works consisting of both "oral works" and "written works."

2.3. An examination from the perspective of creative subjects: joint ownership of copyright in human books

Although human books are composite works, the creative outcome they present is unitary, which also determines their indivisibility. This indivisibility preserves the integrity of the work, preventing it from being arbitrarily segmented or fragmented [14]. Precisely because of this characteristic, the copyright in human books cannot be "split" according to the specific contribution ratios of each creator. In other words, the copyright holders of a human book should be regarded as a "unity," coalescing into an indivisible whole rather than scattered individuals. Therefore, how to reasonably define the copyright holders of this unity becomes the key to understanding and interpreting the copyright protection of human books.

Under the current provisions of the Copyright Law, if an employment relationship exists between the author of a human book and the organizing institution (i.e., the public library), the work may be deemed an "ordinary service work" pursuant to Article 18(1) of the Copyright Law. Under this provision, the copyright in a service work belongs to the author, but the organizing institution, due to operational needs such as organization, preservation, and exhibition, may enjoy a priority right to use the work. In this case, the organizing institution enjoys a certain period of exclusive rights, and the author may license the work for third-party use two years later. However, in the actual creative process of human books, there is no employment relationship between the author and the public library; rather, theirs is more of a cooperative relationship. The author's creative activities are not carried out in fulfillment of any specific job duties.

Alternatively, another possible scenario in a cooperative relationship is that the organizing institution commissions a third party to create the work. Under Article 19 of the Copyright Law, the organizing institution may enjoy the copyright only if it has prior agreement with the commissioned party; if no explicit agreement is made, the copyright belongs to the commissioned party. This means that the key to copyright ownership in commissioned works lies in the existence of a clear contractual provision. However, most current forms of human book creation typically rely on volunteer recruitment, with authors participating voluntarily and without compensation, and most do not expect material rewards. Moreover, because the content of human books usually involves the authors'

personal experiences and stories, bearing a strong individual character, stipulating at the initial stage of creation that the copyright belongs to a third-party institution such as the public library would undoubtedly undermine the authors' creative enthusiasm.

To this end, the rules on joint ownership of copyright under Article 14(1) of the Copyright Law provide a legal avenue for resolving this tension. According to this provision, the public library and the author should jointly share the copyright in the work. As a cultural carrier that integrates multiple creative elements, the creation of a human book is not only the product of the author's personal thoughts and expressions but also includes the organizational, communicative, and promotional functions provided by the public library as a platform. This dual creative contribution renders the copyright difficult to attribute to either party alone and should instead be regarded as a joint outcome of public and individual collaboration. In this context, applying the joint copyright ownership system can more reasonably protect the interests of both parties, respecting the author's original contributions while also acknowledging the indispensable role of the public library in disseminating and serving the work.

3. Cultural Law Responses and Data Compliance Review of Human Books in Public Libraries

The foregoing discussion on the application of copyright law to human books in public libraries is conducted at the level of legal dogmatics, through a systematic interpretation and application of the existing copyright legal order. This analysis aims to clarify the normative boundaries of copyright law in practice. Nevertheless, the debate over whether human books can be collected and what their nature truly is has not yet been fully resolved. The discussion of this issue clearly extends beyond the scope of copyright law, involving the rational allocation of public cultural resources, the balance of public interests, and profound reflections on multiple legal dimensions. Furthermore, because human books are based on personal experiences, they inevitably touch upon the core ethical issues of personal information protection and data compliance, which urgently require examination from the perspective of data governance.

In response to these issues, I propose to further address such concerns from the perspectives of cultural law and data compliance. First, based on the relevant provisions of the Public Library Law and the Public Cultural Services Guarantee Law, human books may be defined as cultural products that can be collected as library holdings. Second, with the aid of the fair use doctrine, the promotion and dissemination of human books can be facilitated without infringing copyright. At the same time, strict compliance with the requirements of the Personal Information Protection Law should be ensured, guaranteeing that informed consent, purpose limitation, data minimization, and security safeguards are implemented at every stage of collection, storage, use, and dissemination.

3.1. Analysis under the public library law: human books as collectible holdings

According to the general provisions of the Public Library Law, which clearly define the duties and functions of public libraries, public libraries shall provide diverse documentary resources and cultural services in accordance with social development needs and readers' cultural demands. This provision establishes the core functions of public libraries, namely, to continuously enrich their collections and provide diverse cultural services, thereby serving as a vital force for cultural dissemination and knowledge popularization. Traditional collections are centered on "objects," specifically manifested as static documents such as printed books and digital materials, whereas human books are centered on "persons," with content embodied in personal stories and experience sharing. Precisely because of this significant difference, whether human books should be regarded as collection materials and incorporated into the management scope of public libraries has become a question warranting in-depth analysis.

Under Article 2(2) of the Public Library Law, "documentary information" includes books, newspapers and periodicals, audio-visual products, microforms, digital resources, and the like. Although this provision employs an enumerative approach without expressly defining documentary information, it can be inferred that documentary information is a form of carrier. Therefore, the prevailing academic view holds that documentary information refers to all carriers capable of recording and transmitting information and knowledge [15]. Human books, in their unique form, carry interpersonal knowledge, experience, and cultural exchange, and thus, to a certain extent, conform to the definition of "documentary resources" under the Public Library Law. Furthermore, pursuant to Article 3(1) of the Regulations on the Work of Provincial (Autonomous Region, Municipal) Libraries, the principles for supplementing books and materials may be determined in light of the existing collection base. On this basis, public libraries may, without altering the traditional collection system, reasonably incorporate human books into their holdings as supplementary resources. Hence, human books may be managed as collection materials in a standardized manner.

3.2. Analysis under the public cultural services guarantee law: human books as cultural products

Under Article 2 of the Public Cultural Services Guarantee Law, public cultural services refer to public cultural facilities, cultural products, cultural activities, and other related services provided by the government with the participation of social forces, for the primary purpose of satisfying citizens' basic cultural needs. According to this standard, public cultural services may be broadly divided into four categories: cultural facilities, cultural products, cultural activities, and other related services. Since its introduction to China as a new form of cultural service, the human book, despite its innovative nature, still suffers from numerous deficiencies in development and regulation. In particular,

in practical application, many cultural activities such as thematic lectures and reading salons are often promoted and operated under the name of “human books,” leading to misunderstandings and conceptual confusion. Some public libraries even treat human books as a new type of reading-sharing activity, failing to fully explore their connotations and distinctive features. These practical misconceptions not only affect the realization of the true value and role of human books but also give rise to academic disagreements regarding their nature.

Generally speaking, cultural activities encompass a wide range of forms, including but not limited to artistic performances, exhibitions, festive events, mass cultural activities, public lectures, and nationwide reading programs. In contrast, cultural products mainly refer to products that exist in tangible forms, such as books, audio-visual products, and calligraphy and paintings, as well as intangible products such as films, music, dance, and theater. Cultural products undoubtedly align more closely with the definition of works under copyright law. Defining human books as cultural products not only enables them to be integrated into the classification system of public cultural services but also allows them to find a proper place within the copyright law framework. It should be particularly noted that those activities that are merely labeled as “human books” but are in essence lectures, forums, etc., should not be included in the category of human books, nor should they be regarded as collectible and disseminable cultural products.

3.3. Analysis under the personal information protection law: data compliance obligations of human books

Because human books center on real individuals’ personal experiences and stories, their creation and dissemination necessarily involve the collection, processing, and disclosure of personal information, and must therefore be examined within the framework of the Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL). Under Article 4 of the PIPL, the names, occupations, life experiences, health conditions, and even political opinions and religious beliefs of human book authors may constitute personal information or even sensitive personal information, requiring differentiated protection rules. At the preparatory stage, public libraries should identify and conduct classification assessments of information types. For sensitive personal information, separate written consent must be obtained from the author in accordance with Article 29, and the purposes, methods, categories, retention periods, and channels for exercising rights must be clearly communicated, ensuring that the “notification-consent” principle is dynamically implemented at every stage—recruitment, interviews, editing, and publicity—and that blanket authorization is not used as a substitute for item-by-item consent.

Throughout the entire life cycle of information processing, public libraries should strictly adhere to the principles of purpose limitation and data minimization (Article 6), ensuring that human books are used solely for the legitimate purposes of cultural dissemination and nationwide reading, and that

information is not diverted to unrelated uses such as commercial marketing or user profiling [16]. During collection, the thematic scope should be clearly defined to avoid excessive excavation of private details unrelated to public reading value, and unnecessary identifiable information should be deleted or anonymized. Meanwhile, to balance dissemination efficiency with privacy protection, libraries should prioritize the use of anonymization techniques to render identifiable information irreversibly non-personal; if complete anonymization is not feasible due to narrative requirements, at a minimum de-identification should be implemented, with the decryption keys stored separately and access strictly restricted. In online publicity, recorded publication, or inter-library sharing, identifiable visual, audio, or textual information must be technically processed or used only upon explicit authorization; when third-party transmission or cross-border exchange is involved, statutory obligations such as security assessments and agreement signing must be fulfilled.

In addition, public libraries should establish a dynamic response mechanism to protect authors' rights, ensuring that authors can exercise their rights of access, copying, correction, and deletion in accordance with the law (Article 47). When the purposes of processing have been achieved or the author withdraws consent, the library should proactively delete the relevant information within the statutory timeframe, with the exception of anonymized portions that can no longer identify any individual. If the information has already been partially disclosed, the library should also make reasonable efforts to notify third parties to cease use and eliminate the impact. By embedding technical measures such as encryption, access control, and security auditing, and by integrating data compliance requirements throughout the collection, storage, use, and dissemination of human books, libraries can not only mitigate legal risks and privacy infringements but also enhance institutional trust among authors and the public, thereby laying a solid ethical and legal foundation for the sustainable development of human books. The issue of fair use under copyright law should be addressed in passing within the foregoing framework and should not be conflated with personal information protection matters.

4. Concrete Pathways for the Development of Human Books in Public Libraries

Through the reflection on copyright and the responses from cultural law, certain normative issues concerning human books in public libraries have been alleviated to some extent. However, relying solely on legal norms may not fundamentally resolve all practical difficulties. In reality, public libraries still face numerous challenges and obstacles in advancing the development of human books. Therefore, more practical and feasible countermeasures are urgently needed to promote the healthy development of human books.

4.1. Promoting the localized development of human books based on their nature

as cultural products

Given the positioning of human books as cultural products, the primary task is to reasonably design their functions and forms as cultural products, thereby establishing their unique place in modern cultural services. Through proper design and development, human books can fully embody the diversity and depth of cultural dissemination, thereby providing the public with both intellectually stimulating and artistically enriching experiences. In this process, it is essential to ground the work in China's distinctive socio-cultural background and historical traditions, deeply exploring pathways for the localized integration of human books so that they can better serve the inheritance and innovation of local culture [17].

First, the design principles of human books as cultural products should be clearly defined. The first principle is cultural embeddedness: each human book should serve as a living carrier of local culture, bearing and disseminating local customs, traditions, and historical memories. The second is individual distinctiveness: each human book is not merely a presentation of a person or a story; rather, through the manifestation of individual differences, it shapes cultural symbols with distinctive characteristics and charm, thereby offering audiences more choices and richer cultural experiences. The third is interactive experience: although different from traditional cultural activities, human books as cultural products should still emphasize interaction with the audience. By incorporating interactive elements such as Q&A sessions and dialogue, the audience can not only acquire knowledge but also form a deeper emotional connection with the content of the human book through engagement.

Second, the essential differences between human books as cultural products and as cultural activities should be distinguished. The first difference lies in the temporal dimension: cultural activities tend to have a strong temporal nature, occurring as immediate events at specific times and places, whereas cultural products possess continuity and repeatability. Human books as cultural products are not merely instantaneous activities but can be repeatedly accessed and experienced across time and space through various media. The second difference lies in form: cultural activities emphasize on-site interaction and immediate perception, focusing on direct contact between participants and the event. In contrast, cultural products emphasize diversity of form and innovation of thought, striving to present rich cultural connotations in different ways. As a cultural product, the presentation of human books is not limited to traditional live expression but can also be innovatively realized through emerging technologies such as audio, video, and even AR/VR, enabling multidimensional creative presentation.

Finally, the localized understanding of human books should be strengthened. Public libraries should fully leverage their service platforms to conduct in-depth social research. Only through a profound understanding and accurate grasp of local culture can public libraries achieve greater pertinence and effectiveness in selecting and cultivating human books. In this way, public libraries can

identify human books with strong local characteristics, present their unique cultural value to the public, and embody the far-reaching significance of cultural inheritance and the fundamental function of social service.

4.2. Expanding the scope of acquisition to ensure the resource richness of human books

Due to their broad popular base, public libraries exhibit more significant advantages over university libraries and civil organizations in promoting and popularizing human books. Compared with the latter, public libraries serve a much wider audience and generate a more profound social impact, endowing them with incomparable social service functions and cultural dissemination capabilities [18]. For this reason, public libraries should, on the basis of their inherent advantages, further expand the scope of human book acquisition, incorporating more diverse cultural content to meet the increasingly varied and diversified needs of their audiences.

First, the range of human book authors should be expanded. On the one hand, public libraries should fully tap into and showcase local historical figures, folk artists, local experts, and other such groups as human book authors. This not only helps to enhance the sense of identification with local culture but also opens up broad spaces for cultural innovation and transmission. This integration of inheritance and innovation can help contemporary society better understand and inherit local culture, fostering deep cultural identity and pride. On the other hand, public libraries should actively engage groups with special life experiences and identity backgrounds. The elderly, veterans, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups are often on the periphery of society and may not receive sufficient attention and respect. However, the stories and experiences of these groups often contain unique value, worthy of being heard and reflected upon by more people. By integrating their personal experiences and life wisdom into the creation of human books, not only can more diverse cultural perspectives be offered to society, but social inclusivity and pluralism can also be effectively enhanced.

Second, the content scope of human books should be expanded. On the one hand, public libraries should gradually introduce more human books with professional and interdisciplinary characteristics, covering fields such as science, technology, history, and tourism. This can increase participation among groups with different backgrounds and interests, and stimulate broader intellectual collisions and inspiration. On the other hand, public libraries should closely align with the actual needs of local communities, carefully planning and organizing human books that correspond to contemporary developmental trends and social hot topics. For example, addressing issues such as aging societies, gender equality, and environmental protection can timely respond to major issues in social transformation and provide a space for exchange and reflection that promotes social progress and civic responsibility.

Third, the channels for acquiring human books should be diversified. On the one hand, public libraries should strengthen cooperation with various sectors of society, particularly establishing extensive connections with social organizations, professional associations, enterprises, and volunteer associations. These institutions generally possess abundant talent pools and can provide diverse and in-depth content sources for the creation of human books. Through collaboration with these organizations, public libraries can not only broaden their sources of resources but also achieve a virtuous cycle of resource sharing, mutual complementarity, and win-win outcomes. On the other hand, public libraries should actively explore and make full use of internet platforms, especially social media, online education platforms, and professional forums. These platforms can effectively publicize the concept of human books and, through online interactive formats, attract more potential human book authors.

4.3. Enhancing the social awareness of human books through publicity efforts

With the rapid development of social networks, many public libraries have been using social media for publicity, seeking to leverage their far-reaching influence to promote various cultural projects, particularly human books. However, relying solely on the communication power of social media to raise social awareness of human books remains insufficient. Although online platforms have a broad audience base, their virtual nature means that the sense of participation and interactivity experienced by audiences cannot compare with offline activities. As a cultural form that emphasizes interpersonal interaction and exchange, the unique appeal of human books lies in the face-to-face dialogue and in-depth communication between real individuals and readers, through which their true value can be fully realized. Therefore, relying exclusively on online publicity cannot adequately reflect the core characteristics of human books. To this end, public libraries should place greater emphasis on actively expanding offline publicity efforts.

On the one hand, public libraries should actively organize lectures, seminars, and other interactive activities to provide the public with more direct opportunities to experience human books. Such activities can not only deepen the public's understanding of the diversity and inclusivity embodied in human books but also effectively stimulate their interest in participation, further promoting the dissemination and popularization of this cultural product. At the same time, this interactive and participatory form of activity will subtly promote the widespread dissemination and development of human book culture. As more people participate, the influence and social recognition of human books will expand, gradually permeating broader social strata and forming a collective societal concern for and support of this cultural product.

On the other hand, public libraries should establish effective feedback mechanisms, encouraging readers to actively provide valuable opinions and suggestions. By promptly incorporating feedback,

public libraries can continuously improve the quality of human book content, enrich their forms of expression, and thereby enhance their appeal and educational significance, enabling them to play a greater role in cultural dissemination and knowledge transmission. At the same time, public libraries can leverage their existing readership to further expand the influence of human books through word-of-mouth communication and extensive promotion on social platforms. Through online and social media promotion, public awareness can be rapidly increased, attracting more potential participants and thus forming a virtuous cycle. The establishment of this bidirectional interactive mechanism likewise constitutes an effective means of publicity.

5. Conclusion

In the context of the new era, advancing the goal of nationwide reading requires even greater reliance on the collective participation of the whole society and the convergence of innovative thinking. The support of various sectors of society should be reflected not only in the active investment of resources but also in the transformation of cultural concepts and the innovation of practical models. In short, promoting the sustainable development of human books as a cultural product requires both refinement at the level of copyright law and guidance and regulation through cultural law. Finally, concrete measures must be implemented to realize the unique value of human books and to fully achieve the goals of nationwide reading.

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