Editor's note: China's first national public library law will come into effect on January 1st, 2018. Below we have stated a few of the highlights brought about by the law.

Services

According to the law, a public library should provide four types of services free of charge, including:

1. offering inquiry and borrowing services for document information
2. opening its public spaces such as reading rooms and study rooms
organizing public lectures, reading promotion activities, training and exhibitions

other service programs in accordance with the national regulation

Priority groups

Government-funded libraries should set up a reading area for children or children’s libraries to provide reading guidance and educational activities.

Government-funded libraries should provide special services and barrier-free facilities to the elderly and disabled.

Open time
Digital service & privacy protection

Government-funded libraries should strengthen their construction of digital resources and provide document resource e-platforms.

Government-funded libraries are responsible for preventing readers' personal and reading information and from being divulged.

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