

DEGREE OF PUBLICNESS AS ACCESSIBILITY IN INDEPENDENT LIBRARY (CASE STUDY: FOREWORD LIBRARY, SOUTH JAKARTA)

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Abstract

Independent libraries have increasingly evolved into third places that accommodate literacy, social interaction, and community activities. This transformation raises questions regarding how public accessibility is maintained within privately managed library spaces. This study aims to examine the accessibility level of Foreword Library, South Jakarta, through an evaluation of its degree of publicness. A mixed-method case study approach was employed by combining field observations during normal operational conditions and semi-structured interviews with library users and management. The collected data were assessed using an integrated publicness evaluation framework consisting of the Publicness Evaluation Model for Libraries (PEML), the Star Model of Publicness, and the Six-Axial Model. The evaluation focused on three dimensions, namely design, management, and use, represented through indicators related to accessibility, physical configuration, management practices, user diversity, and activity patterns. The findings demonstrate that the degree of publicness provides a measurable representation of library accessibility. Foreword Library exhibits a relatively high level of accessibility during normal operations, although several indicators, particularly those associated with physical access and management, remain influenced by its status as an independently managed private library. These results indicate that evaluating the degree of publicness offers an effective framework for understanding accessibility in independent libraries functioning as contemporary third places.

Keywords: accessibility; degree of publicness; independent library; third place.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries have transitioned from being information repositories to public spaces that facilitate social interaction and community building. Rather than being judged solely by their collections, modern libraries are now evaluated by their ability to offer inclusive and accessible environments for diverse groups (Fatmawati et al., 2018). This shift in the library's function aligns with the evolving concept of the "third place" introduced by Oldenburg (1999). This concept explains that, in addition to home (first place) and the workplace (second place), people need a neutral space that allows them to build social relationships, interact informally, and achieve balance in their daily lives. The existence of a "third place" contributes to an improved quality of life by providing a space that supports the formation of social networks and a sense of belonging to a

community (Jeffres et al., 2009). Therefore, an ideal “third place” should be inclusive, open to all segments of society, and provide equal opportunities for every individual to use the space regardless of their social or economic background (Oldenburg, 1999). Littman (2021) explains that this function is not intended as an escape from daily life, but rather as a space that helps individuals achieve a balance between the demands of work, family life, and social needs.

Although not originally categorized as “third places,” libraries are evolving into social hubs that support community building (Fatmawati et al., 2018; Kuno, 2011). This transformation enables libraries to function as public spaces that balance information provision with social interaction. However, this shift creates challenges in maintaining the library’s core mission as a knowledge provider. Balancing these roles is essential, as many users still prioritize quiet study (Lin et al., 2015), and excessive social emphasis may compromise the library’s educational identity (Elmborg, 2011). Thus, the library’s evolution into a “third place” must ensure that social activities do not obstruct access to core literacy services

Independent libraries operate without parent organizations, granting them the freedom to manage their own collections and services. This self-managed structure allows them to flexibly address the needs of communities underserved by conventional libraries (Kerrigan, 2020). In Indonesia, their growth is driven by the demand for inclusive literacy and social spaces that accommodate diversity (Athallah, 2026). While this flexibility aligns independent libraries with the “third place” concept, they simultaneously face significant challenges in maintaining operational sustainability.

One example of an independent library is Foreword Library in South Jakarta. Foreword Library in South Jakarta has evolved from a reading space into an accessible “third place” that facilitates social interaction and serves as a community hub. As a privately managed independent library, it faces the challenge of maintaining operational sustainability without compromising its open, public character. Evaluating its degree of publicness is essential to understanding how the library preserves accessibility under its normal operating conditions.

In the study of public spaces, the quality of a space is determined not only by the presence of physical facilities, but also by the extent to which that space can be accessed and utilized by the public on an equal basis. This concept is then explained through the “degree of publicness,” an approach used to assess the extent to which a space possesses the characteristics of a public space. Therefore, privately owned spaces do not necessarily have a low degree of publicness, just as government-owned spaces do not automatically have a high degree of publicness. Assessments of the degree of publicness must be conducted using indicators that can illustrate how that space is actually used and accessed by the public (Varna & Tiesdell, 2010; Varna, 2018; (Nadizti & Hanan, 2022)).

Thus, this study utilizes the Publicness Evaluation Model for Libraries (PEML) (Esquivel Carreón & Marzal García-Quismondo, 2026) to evaluate how design, management, and usage patterns shape a library's public quality. These three dimensions represent how a library's physical characteristics, management systems, and patterns of space usage shape the quality of a library's publicness. However, the PEML is still in the conceptual stage and therefore does not yet have operational indicators or a standardized measurement system. This means the model cannot yet be used directly to produce a quantitative assessment of a library's degree of publicness. Because the PEML is currently conceptual and lacks standardized measurement systems, this research integrates it with the Six-Axial Model (Mantey, 2017) and the Star Model (Varna, 2018) of Publicness to provide operational indicators such as activity diversity, ownership, control, and physical or financial barriers.

Table 1. Six Axial Model & Star Model Indicators Integrated with PEML

	Scoring			
	Less public			More public
1.Design	1	2	3	4
Access & Connectivity (Varna, 2018)	Entrance enclosed by a tall opaque fence (higher than average eye level)	Lower opaque fence (below average eye level)	Lower transparent fence (below average eye level)	No fence or boundary
	Connected from one cardinal direction	Connected from two cardinal directions	Connected from three cardinal directions	Connected from four cardinal directions
Comfort & Engagement elements	No seating provided	Limited seating in uncomfortable locations	Comfortable seating available in many areas	Abundant comfortable seating throughout the space
	Circulation is obstructed (walkways too narrow for two people to pass)	Good circulation in less than half of the space (walkways can be passed with two people)	Easy circulation in most areas (walkways can be passed with three people)	Easy circulation throughout the entire space
	No discovery or engagement elements	One discovery or engagement element	Two to three discovery or engagement elements	More than three discovery or engagement elements
2.Management	1	2	3	4
Ownership	Private ownership	Mixed public–private ownership		Public ownership
Management type	Private management	Non-profit management	Management with a public service mandate	Public management

	without public input			
Civility & Maintenance	Dirty and poorly maintained	Untidy and visibly worn	Neat with only minor signs of wear	Clean and well maintained
	No toilet, or toilets are locked/paid	Toilets available but difficult to access and poorly maintained	Toilets easy to access but poorly maintained	Clean and easily accessible toilets
	Poor lighting with dark areas	Adequate lighting in most areas, but not throughout	Good lighting with only a few poorly lit areas	Good lighting throughout the entire space
Freedom of use, access and behavior	Highly restricted access (paid or membership required) and very strict rules	Open access but strict rules governing use and behavior	Open access with only limited rules	Open access with minimal restrictions (within normal social norms)
Financial barriers	High cost or membership required to access the primary function	Low fee required to access the primary function	Voluntary payment only; primary function remains free	Primary function is completely free
Control	Clearly visible CCTV covering more than half of the space	Some clearly visible CCTV covering less than half of the space	Minimal or hidden CCTV	No CCTV or completely concealed CCTV
	Security guards visibly present always	Security guards occasionally visible	No visible security guards	No security guards; only staff members
	Many hostile design elements	Two hostile design elements	One hostile design element	No hostile design elements
3.Use	1	2	3	4
Diversity of activities	Only one type of activity occurs at any given time	Two activity types occur simultaneously	Three to five activity types occur simultaneously	More than five simultaneous activities
Diversity of users	Small homogeneous group (≤ 10 people)	Small diverse group (≤ 10 people)	Large homogeneous group (> 10 people)	Large diverse group (> 10 people)
Animation	No activity/ engagement areas are not visited	One engagement point is visited briefly	One or two engagement points receive sustained visits	Multiple engagement points are actively used without staff encouragement

Source: Prasanti, 2026

This integrated approach addresses two significant research gaps. First, it provides a specialized evaluation framework for libraries that includes the standardized measurement instruments currently lacking in existing models. Second, it shifts focus toward privately owned independent libraries in Indonesia, a subject largely ignored by previous research which primarily examines government or academic institutions. Ultimately, this study aims to determine how the accessibility of Foreword Library is derived from its degree of publicness, thereby expanding the application of evaluation models within the library context.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a case study approach with mixed-methods design to analyze the level of accessibility of the Foreword Library based on its degree of public access. The mixed-methods approach was chosen because it allows for the integration of qualitative and quantitative data within a single research design, thereby providing a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon than would be possible using only one approach (Creswell, 2021).

The case study approach draws on the concept proposed by Yin and Campbell (2018), namely an empirical investigation of contemporary phenomena in real-life contexts where the boundary between the phenomenon and the context cannot be clearly distinguished. This approach was chosen because the study seeks to understand the public nature of Foreword Library as an independent library that functions as a “third place,” while also identifying how this character affects the level of accessibility of the space under normal operating conditions. In this article, the scope of the analysis is limited to the relationship between the degree of publicness and accessibility.

The subject of this study is Foreword Library, an independent, nonprofit public library that began operations in mid-2023 in South Jakarta. The selection of this subject was based on the established research criteria, namely a small-scale, privately owned public library with “third place” characteristics.

Data collection was conducted through observation and semi-structured interviews. The observation phase was aimed at identifying the library’s physical conditions, circulation patterns, facilities and user activities related to public access indicators. Meanwhile, interviews were conducted with library staff and visitors to gather information regarding their perceptions of accessibility, comfort, freedom of space use, library management, and various indicators that cannot be directly observed through fieldwork. In line with the focus of this article, the data used were collected solely under normal operational conditions so that the evaluation results would not be influenced by changes in space usage resulting from special events.

The research analysis was conducted by integrating the Publicness Evaluation Model for Libraries (PEML), the Star Model of Publicness, and the Six-Axial Model. PEML (Esquivel Carreón & Marzal García-Quismondo, 2026) was used as the primary

framework because it is an evaluation model specifically developed for the library context through three main dimensions: design, management, and usability. However, this model is still in the conceptual stage and does not yet have operational indicators or a standardized measurement system. Therefore, the evaluation indicators were adapted from the Six-Axial Model developed by Mantey (2017) and the Star Model of Publicness developed by Varna (2018), so that each dimension of the PEML could be operationalized into measurable indicators in accordance with the characteristics of independent libraries.

The design dimension is evaluated using indicators of access and connectivity, as well as facility & comfort. The management dimension includes indicators of ownership, management type, civility and maintenance, freedom of access, usage and behavior, financial constraints, and control. Meanwhile, the use dimension is evaluated through activity diversity, user diversity, and animation. All of these indicators were developed based on the integration of the PEML with the Six-Axial Model and the Star Model, so no additional indicators were included outside the research framework.

The assessment of the degree of publicness is using a 1–4 scale, where a score of 1 indicates a more private character of the space, while a score of 4 indicates a more public character. Scores were assigned to each indicator based on the results of observations and interviews, then averaged to obtain scores for each dimension as well as an overall score for the degree of publicness of the Foreword Library. Based on the research framework, a higher degree of publicness represents a better level of accessibility (Varna, 2018). Therefore, the scoring results were used as the basis for explaining how the Foreword Library's level of accessibility is derived from its degree of publicness under normal operating conditions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Observation Findings

Foreword Library is an independent, nonprofit library located at Teras Sebelas, Jalan Jeruk Purut Dalam No. 11, Cilandak Timur, South Jakarta. The library began operations in mid-2023 with the goal of providing access to high-quality books while offering an open literacy space for the community. Unlike libraries operated by government institutions or universities, Foreword Library is independently managed, giving it the flexibility to determine the nature of its services, manage its collection, and utilize its space according to the needs of its users. These characteristics make Foreword Library a relevant case study for evaluating the relationship between the degree of public access and accessibility in independent libraries.

Figure 1. Front Façade of Foreword Library



Source: Prasanti, 2026

The library building consists of two floors housing several spaces with different functions, namely the General Reading Room, the Tweens and Teens Room, the Lounge, the service area, and the outdoor reading area. This spatial arrangement allows visitors to choose an environment suited to their activities, whether reading, working on a laptop, discussing topics, or interacting informally. During the study, all observations were conducted under normal operating conditions, so the observed spatial configurations and activity patterns reflect the library's everyday use without being influenced by special events.

Observations were conducted under normal operating conditions to document the physical characteristics of the space, circulation patterns, facilities, and activities taking place at the Foreword Library. The observations were carried out while the library was conducting its daily operations without any special events, ensuring that the conditions observed accurately reflected the actual use of the space. This approach allows each indicator of public accessibility to be evaluated based on operational conditions consistent with the research objective, namely to identify the relationship between the degree of public accessibility and library accessibility.

The results of the observations show that access to the Foreword Library can be achieved through two entrances, one from Jl. Jeruk Purut and the other from the Gordi HQ Café area. Both entrances converge at the main corridor, which connects the parking area, lockers, librarian's desk, stairs, and reading room. This corridor serves as the primary distribution route to all spaces, making it the area with the highest traffic intensity. The corridor's width of approximately 1,2 meter still allows two people to pass each other, but maneuvering space becomes limited as visitor numbers increase. This condition is one of the key findings in the evaluation of connectivity and spatial circulation indicators.

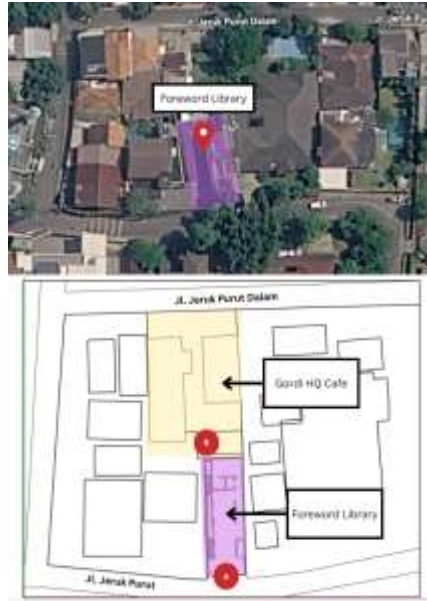


Figure 2. Location and Main Entrance of Foreword Library

Source: Prasanti, 2026



Figure 3. Main Circulation Corridor of Foreword Library

Source: Prasanti, 2026.

In addition to circulation aspects, observations show that each space has a distinct usage pattern. The General Reading Room is dominated by reading, working on laptops, and writing. This space is equipped with open bookshelves, reading tables, individual chairs, and sofas, allowing visitors to choose their reading position according to their needs. In contrast, the Tweens and Teens Room features a more flexible layout with bean bags, sofa beds, and carpeted areas to support reading, discussions, and board games. Meanwhile, the Lounge area serves as both an informal workspace and a merchandise sales area, while the outdoor area provides an alternative for visitors who still wish to use electronic devices during the “No Gadget Hour” policy in the indoor spaces.

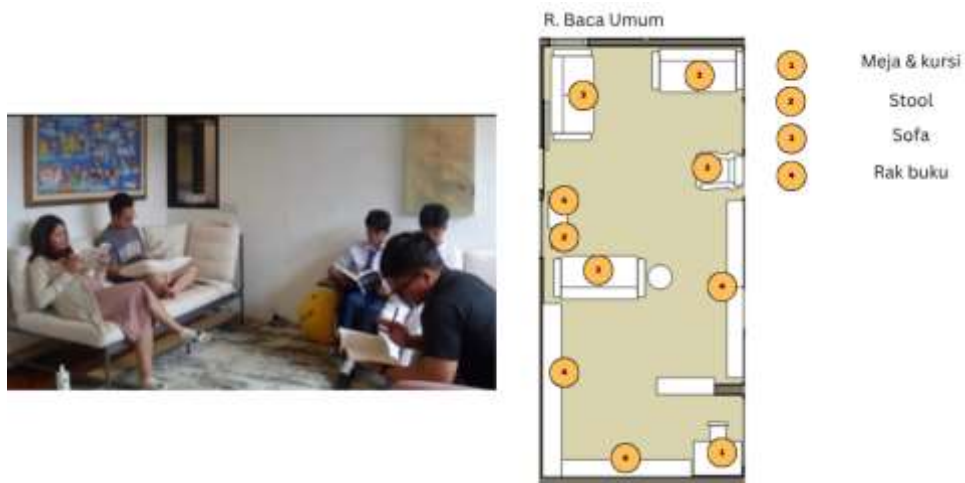


Figure 4. Reading Activities in the General Reading Room
Source: Prasanti, 2026.



Figure 5. Reading Activities in the Tweens and Teens Room
Source: Prasanti, 2026.

The diversity of these spaces' characteristics results in a variety of user activities during normal operations. Based on the observations, the activities observed were not limited to reading but also included working on laptops, using cell phones, engaging in discussions, playing board games, browsing the book collection, purchasing merchandise, and eating and drinking in the outdoor areas. Reading while seated was the most common activity and took place in all reading rooms. In contrast, reading while lying down was only observed in the Tweens and Teens Room, as that space features sofa beds and carpeted areas that support a more relaxed reading posture. These findings indicate that spatial configuration influences the variety of activities taking place within the library.

Table 2. Activities Observed at Foreword Library During Normal Operation

No	Activity	Location
1	Reading while sitting	General Reading Room, Tweens and Teens Room, Outdoor Area
2	Reading while lying down	Tweens and Teens Room
3	Discussion	Tweens and Teens Room
4	Playing board games	Tweens and Teens Room
5	Using laptop	General Reading Room, Tweens and Teens Room, Lounge, Outdoor Area
6	Using mobile phone	General Reading Room, Tweens and Teens Room, Lounge, Outdoor Area
7	Browsing book collections	General Reading Room, Tweens and Teens Room, Lounge, Outdoor Area
8	Purchasing merchandise	Lounge
9	Eating and drinking	Outdoor Area

Source: Prasanti, 2026

Observations also indicate that operational policies influence patterns of space usage. Foreword Library enforces a “No Gadget Hour” from 5:00 p.m. until the library closes. During this period, the use of laptops and cell phones is prohibited in the General Reading Room, the Tweens and Teens Room, and the Lounge, while outdoor areas continue to allow the use of electronic devices. Based on observations, this policy shifts visitors’ activities from working on electronic devices to reading or engaging in face-to-face discussions, but it does not reduce the overall level of library space usage. Thus, under normal operating conditions, the physical characteristics of the space and the operational system mutually shape usage patterns that serve as the basis for evaluating the degree of public accessibility. Additionally, based on observation, visitors of Foreword Library mainly consisted of people of the young adult age.

Interview Findings

Interviews were conducted to supplement the observation findings and to gather information about user experiences and the Foreword Library management system that could not be observed directly. The informants consisted of five visitors selected using purposive sampling, based on the criterion of having visited the Foreword Library regularly, as well as one manager who understood the library’s operational policies. This approach ensured that the data collected not only described user experiences but also provided information on management policies, which are part of the assessment of the degree of public accessibility.

In general, the interview results indicate that visitors view the Foreword Library as a comfortable space for reading, studying, and working. The variety of seating options, the relatively quiet atmosphere, and the availability of different types of spaces with distinct usage characteristics were the factors most frequently cited as reasons for choosing the Foreword Library. Additionally, most informants noted that the available

space has been utilized optimally despite the building’s relatively limited size. Some feedback related to parking capacity and improving access for users with limited mobility, including suggestions to add vertical facilities such as elevators. These findings provide supporting information for evaluating indicators of accessibility and comfort. An interview with the manager provided further insight into the management style of Foreword Library. According to the manager, Foreword Library is an independent, privately owned library established to provide the public with access to high-quality books. The library is operated on a nonprofit basis, while supervision of visitor behavior is primarily carried out through direct warnings in the event of rule violations. The manager also explained that the “No Gadget Hour” policy is implemented to refocus visitors on reading activities, while also reducing disturbances caused by the sound of laptop keyboards and charging cables, which can hinder circulation within the space.

Table 3. Summary of Interview with Visitors Findings

Interview Theme	Summary of Findings
Spatial comfort	Most visitors find that Foreword Library offers a comfortable atmosphere for both reading and working. The variety of seating options—such as sofas, bean bags, sofa beds, and carpeted areas—provides flexibility in choosing a reading position, while the seating capacity is considered adequate under normal operating conditions.
Space utilization	Visitors use the library for a variety of activities, including reading, doing homework, working on laptops, discussing topics, and browsing the book collection. The availability of several spaces with different atmospheres allows users to choose a space that suits their activities.
Operational policy	Visitors understand that the “No Gadget Hour” policy is intended to create a more conducive reading environment. During that time, activities involving electronic devices are replaced by reading or face-to-face discussions.
Accessibility and facilities	Several informants provided feedback regarding limited parking capacity and suggested adding accessibility features, such as elevators. However, most of the informants felt that the available space was already being used optimally.
Financial access	Participants who have taken part in paid activities believe the fees charged are matched with the benefits received. Several sources also noted that special rates or free access are available to members, so the cost is not seen as a major barrier to participating in certain activities.

Source: Prasanti, 2026.

Table 4. Summary of Library Manager Interview Findings

Interview Theme	Summary of Findings
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Ownership	Foreword Library is an independent, privately owned library.
Management objective	The library was established to provide the public with access to high-quality books.
Management system	The library is managed on a nonprofit basis while ensuring the sustainability of its operations.
User control	Visitors are monitored through direct warnings in the event of violations of library rules.
No Gadget Hour	The policy was implemented to refocus visitors on reading and to reduce disturbances caused by the sound of laptop keyboards and charging cables, which can hinder circulation in the space.

Source: Prasanti, 2026

Analysis/Discussion

Relationship between Spatial Design and Accessibility

Table 5. Scoring Table for Design Dimension

Dimension & Indicators	Observation Score	Interview Score	Description
Design: Access & Connectivity - Boundary	1	–	High, opaque fences/gates (taller than the average human height) at both entrances (observation only)
Design: Access & Connectivity – Route connection	2	–	Two access route from north & south (observation only)
Design: Facility & Comfort – Seating	4	4	All 5 respondents rated the seating as comfortable, noting the variety of options (sofas, bean bags, rugs, and individual chairs); 4 out of 5 rated the number of seats as sufficient. The interview data corroborated the observation scores.
Design: Facility & Comfort – Circulation	3	3	All interviewees rated circulation as smooth under normal conditions, but noted that it was hindered in the locker area, the hallway near

			the librarian's desk, and the stairs during peak hours—in line with the observation scores (narrow hallways, spacious reading room).
Design: Facility & Comfort –discovery/ engagement elements	4	4	Interviewees consistently cited the window area in the General Reading Room, the book curation, and the merchandise in the Lounge as points of interest. In total, from observation, there are more than three elements of discovery and engagement
Average score	2.8		

Source: Prasanti, 2026

The design dimension of Foreword Library scored an average of 2.8, identifying physical characteristics as the primary constraint on its public accessibility. Although the library offers a high-quality interior experience through diverse seating and engaging focal points, its external openness is limited by opaque entrances, fences, and restricted route connectivity. Ultimately, while the interior provides a comfortable environment for literacy activities, the building's physical boundaries represent the most significant area for potential improvement in the library's overall public character.

Under the PEML framework, the design dimension assesses how physical features facilitate public openness. Foreword Library excels in interior spatial quality, providing diverse seating, including sofas and bean bags, and engaging focal points like curated book displays that support literacy activities. However, its physical openness is restricted by fences, opaque entrances, and limited route connectivity via only two entryways. These external boundaries result in lower scores for spatial indicators compared to the high-quality interior experience. Ultimately, while the library's interior is comfortable and functional, its physical design remains the primary factor limiting public accessibility and represents the most significant area for potential improvement.

Relationship between Management and Accessibility

Table 6. Scoring Table for Management Dimension

Dimension & Indicators	Observation Score	Interview Score	Description
Management: Ownership	-	1	Ownership data is derived from official statements &

			interviews with the management.
Management: Management Type	-	2	Management type data is derived from official statements & interviews with the management.
Management: Civility & Maintenance - Cleanliness	4	4	All five interviewees stated that Foreword Library is clean and well-maintained, and observations also rated the library as very clean.
Management: Civility & Maintenance – Basic facility (toilet)	4	–	There are two accessible, free restrooms at Foreword Library.
Management: Civility & Maintenance – Basic facility (lighting)	3	3	Lighting in the main reading area is considered sufficiently bright, though some spots are described as dim or dark (parking corridor, lower-floor lounge, parts of the Tweens & Teens area) fitting the criteria of "good, but with some areas lacking brightness."
Management: Freedom of access, behavior and use	3	3	Four out of five interviewees considered the rules neither strict nor restrictive. One interviewee expressed dissatisfaction with the "No Gadget Hour" rule (17:00–18:00). The situation aligns with the criteria of "open access with limited rules" rather than "minimal restriction." Observations revealed that the rules are displayed on signage in each room.

Management: Financial Barrier	4	-	The primary function (reading/borrowing on-site) is free of charge (observation only)
Management: Control - CCTV	3	3	The majority of interviewees stated they were largely unaware of or unclear about the presence of CCTV, suggesting that CCTV coverage was minimal or concealed. However, two interviewees noted that the CCTV was quite visible, though not intrusive, indicating that some cameras were clearly noticeable.
Management: Control – Guard presence	2	–	Private guard only in parking area
Management: Control – Hostile design	4	–	Direct observation results; no use of hostile design elements.
Average Score	3.0		

Source: Prasanti, 2026

The evaluation results show that the management dimension received an average score of 3.0, indicating that the Foreword Library’s management system plays a crucial role in shaping the library’s level of public accessibility under normal operating conditions. Under the Publicness Evaluation Model for Libraries (PEML), Foreword Library’s management balances its private, nonprofit ownership with policies that ensure broad public access. While private ownership typically results in a lower score for that specific indicator, the library maintains high accessibility by offering free on-site reading services.

Management quality is further reflected in the library’s clean, well-maintained environment and the absence of "hostile design," which ensures the space remains inclusive and comfortable for all segments of society. Additionally, operational policies like “No Gadget Hour” preserve the library's primary literacy function by managing the user experience without reducing overall accessibility or utilization.

Overall, the research findings show that the management dimension makes a positive contribution to the accessibility level of the Foreword Library. Although its status as a privately owned institution affects the scores on certain indicators,

management practices that emphasize service openness, facility maintenance, and user comfort have succeeded in maintaining a relatively high level of public accessibility. Thus, the accessibility of the Foreword Library is determined not only by the physical characteristics of the space but also by management policies that support the inclusive use of the space under normal operating conditions.

Relationship between Use and Accessibility

Table 7. Scoring Table for Use Dimension

Dimension & Indicators	Observation Score	Interview Score	Description
Use: Diversity of activity	4	4	Reading, borrowing books, using the Wi-Fi/laptop, writing, chatting/socializing with other members, browsing new books.
Use: Diversity of users	3	–	During normal operations, there are more than 10 visitors, but the visitor demographic tends to be homogeneous (young adults).
Use: <i>Animation</i>	3	3	Specific locations (the General Reading Room window corner and the merchandise lounge corner) were observed and repeatedly mentioned in interviews as popular areas where "there are always people," indicating sustained visitation at these one or two key spots; however, there is no evidence or observational data to suggest sustained visitation at other locations.
Average Score	3.3		

Source: Prasanti, 2026

The evaluation results show that the use dimension received an average score of 3.3. This finding indicates that the way Foreword Library is actually occupied and

animated by its visitors contributes as strongly to its public character as the way it is managed. Within the framework of the Publicness Evaluation Model for Libraries (PEML), the use dimension is assessed through activity diversity, user diversity, and animation, representing how patterns of occupation and behavior shape a library's openness to the public under normal operating conditions.

Foreword Library demonstrates high activity diversity, with specialized rooms supporting a range of functions from quiet study to social board games. This versatility is maintained even under policies like "No Gadget Hour," which shifts user focus toward literacy and face-to-face interaction without reducing overall occupancy. User diversity is characterized more by the varied purposes of visitors, such as working, socializing, or browsing, who utilize differentiated spaces simultaneously without conflict. While the library has successfully evolved into a community gathering hub, the study acknowledges that user diversity results primarily represent the existing visitor base rather than a full demographic profile of the surrounding community.

The animation indicator, adapted from the Star Model of Publicness, captures the vitality generated by these overlapping activities. Findings from both observation and interviews indicate that Foreword Library is animated not only by reading-related activity but also by social and commercial elements, including merchandise sales in the Lounge, board games and discussion in the Tweens and Teens Room, and the informal gathering of regular visitors described by the manager. This combination of literacy-based and social activity distinguishes Foreword Library from a purely quiet reading space and reinforces its function as a "third place," consistent with the characteristics identified in the Introduction. However, the manager's reliance on direct verbal warnings to manage visitor behavior, rather than posted rules or structured mediation, suggests that this animation is sustained through informal, personal oversight rather than standardized management protocols, which may affect the consistency of the use dimension's publicness across different operating conditions.

CONCLUSION

Foreword Library's accessibility is defined by its degree of publicness, which arises from the interplay between design, management, and space usage. An average score of 3.03 indicates a relatively public character under normal conditions, representing the cumulative synergy of these three dimensions.

Each dimension contributes uniquely to this accessibility:

1. Design provides high-quality internal comfort and engagement, despite limitations in external physical connectivity.
2. Management ensures openness through inclusive policies, maintenance, and free on-site reading services, proving that private ownership does not inherently hinder public access.
3. Use reinforces the library's function through high activity diversity and social animation, allowing varied literacy and social purposes to coexist.

These findings demonstrate that accessibility is a comprehensive user experience involving comfort, facilities, and engagement opportunities, rather than just the ease of entering the building. Ultimately, Foreword Library's accessibility is a direct product of how its design, management, and patterns of use collectively shape its public character.

This study is subject to several limitations: as a single-case examination of one independent library, its findings are not statistically generalizable to independent libraries more broadly; the interview sample was limited to five regular visitors and one manager (n=6), selected purposively rather than randomly; the degree-of-publicness scores were assigned by a single researcher without a formal inter-rater reliability check; and because the PEML remains a conceptual model without its own validated operational indicators, the integrated instrument used here — while grounded in the Six-Axial Model and the Star Model — has not yet been independently tested for reliability or validity beyond this study.

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