

Library Information Resource Allocation: Problems and Countermeasures

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Abstract: The library is the center of information gathering of a school. The collections present in the library can be regarded as a huge resource of information, consisting of rich knowledge contents from various disciplines. However, the access to this information is still considered imperfect, where many of these knowledge contents are rarely used or even touched while other resources were often left vacant which has led to many contradictions in the application of information resources in higher learning institution libraries. This article focuses on the analysis of the problems existing in the allocation and management of library information resources, with proposed corresponding solutions.

Keywords: *configuration problem; countermeasure; information resources; library*

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0 Introduction

With the advent of the information era, information resources have become a key resource for the development of various industries at present. Concurrently, it is also a resource that every field is competing for eagerly. Hence, information resources have received widespread attention, and their importance has been constantly highlighted. To improve the application efficiency of information resources, the sharing of information resources is an important method of information management. The library is the main place for information storage and application, and the way information resources are allocated in the

library directly affects the effective application of this information and its future development. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the research on the allocation of the library information resources by optimizing the allocation of these resources in the current library system.

1 The need in optimizing library information resources

Higher learning institution libraries are the main resources for teachers and students to obtain relevant information. With the expansion of numerous colleges and universities in recent years, the number of students has continuously been increasing, leading to a significant increase in the demand for library information resources. At the same time, considerable higher education institutions were seen to have set up multiple campuses, which has led to the scattered distribution of resources in the library, making it difficult to fulfill the information acquisition needs of teachers and students. To better serve the teachers and the students, it is necessary to rationally allocate the existing resources of the library, improve the sharing of library information resources, and improve the rate of information resources utilization^[1]. Through the optimal allocation of library information resources, funds invested by the library can be made more efficient, an integrated information resource can be build, allocation cost of information resources can be reduced and improve the overall efficiency of information resource allocation. In recent years, the education department has paid special attention to the library construction of higher education institutions and proposed the CALIS “ninety-five” construction plan. In our education system, there is a need to have a combination of science

and technology, information technology and networking to build a higher education literature framework and system. This, in turn, promotes the optimization of resources in higher education institutions, to implement the coconstruction and sharing of information resources, improve the development and utilization of resources to raise scientific research level of higher education^[2]. Taken altogether, it can be seen that the optimization of information resources allocation in libraries of the higher learning institutions is an inevitable choice.

2 Existing problems in the allocation of library information resources

To better analyze the problems in the allocation of information resources in libraries of the higher education institutions, this paper has selected the libraries of 20 colleges and universities to conduct its investigations and obtained the following information.

2.1 Lack of planning in the constructing information resources of a library

Although libraries are one of the indispensable supporting facilities in various higher education institutions, the management of the library's resources has only received extensive attention in recent years^[3]. In this, the construction of information resources in the library must be first analyzed and planned from the macro level, the goal of library information resources construction should be clarified, and the rationality of information resource allocation ratio should be ensured. At the same time, the allocation of funds, as well as the software and hardware used in information resources, should be well organized. However, the survey showed that most libraries lack reasonable planning in the construction of information resources. The procurement of information resources was carried out blindly and randomly, resulting in low utilization of the resources which has led to a big contradiction between the reading needs and information resources [Table 1].

2.2 Lack of variety in library information resources

Due to the absence of clear goals in the construction of library resources, there is a lack of effective planning in the process of resource procurement, especially in some merged higher education institutions. Most of the libraries were constructed late and in poor condition with less number of collection or information resources. Of these, 85% of the information resources in the libraries are document resources in the form of paper-printed hardcopies with a small total collection of resources structured unreasonably as well as an extremely small proportion of electronic resources, databases, and multimedia resources^[4]. Moreover, the collection of paper-form books in some colleges and universities is only in tens of thousands or <500,000 volumes, which has been deemed unable to meet the requirements of the state for the running conditions of libraries in higher education institutions (the collection resources should be between 550,000 and 750,000 volumes) [Table 2]. With the development of higher education institutions' teaching and scientific research as well as the increase in the number of students and professional adjustments, the information resources of the existing libraries are unable to meet the needs of teachers and students at hand. From the perspective of the long-term development of higher education institutions, libraries will not only need to provide favorable resource information for colleges and universities but will also affect the development of these colleges and universities.

2.3 Outdated library resources with the low utilization rate

The expansion of colleges and universities makes the existing software and hardware facilities and teaching resources of the higher education institutions insufficient and is lagging behind. Due to financial constraints, the library has no way to replenish and improve the existing information resources in a timely

Table 1. Plan and build the structure of information resources checklist

	Information resources with macro planning	Developed short term information resource planning	Without clear planning goals
Number of people (%)	2 (10)	12 (60)	6 (30)

Table 2. Library paper based collection quantity

	Volumes < 100k	100k < Volumes < 500k	Volumes > 500k
Number of people (%)	2 (10)	6 (30)	12 (60)

manner according to the construction and reform of the school disciplines. The development aspect of information resources is also lagging behind [Table 3]. Although the resources in higher education institution libraries have hundreds of thousands of books, most of the books are in an idle state, and the utilization rate of information resources is seriously inadequate. In addition, the presence of books which are already obsolete and the extremely low checking out rate as well as inability to replenish the new books in a timely manner has resulted in the books being outdated and in turn, damages the library's paper-based information resources.

2.4 Serious duplications in the construction of information resources

Due to the weak foundation of information resources and the lack of original accumulation in the construction of higher learning institutions' library resources, these colleges and universities will focus on improving the construction of library resources by increasing investments and purchasing books in large quantities within a short period of time^[5]. However, with the presence of time constraints in the construction of the information resources, heavy tasks, insufficient funds, and the lack of effective supervision mechanism, the existing libraries may have some replicas or unpopular books in the process of purchasing, to increase and improve the library's collection volume. Consequently, the quality and quantity of the books purchased with above procurement method would not be align with actual scientific research of the colleges and universities^[6], resulting in a blindly constructed library's information resources, with too many irrelevant information resources and less effective literature resources, making the information resource network system meaningless.

3 Countermeasures for the optimization of library information resources allocation

It can be seen from the above analysis that there are still many problems in the allocation of the library information resources. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze the problems and propose corresponding optimization measures.

3.1 Establish scientific information construction goals and improve information resource development

In terms of the goal orientation of library construction, higher learning institutions must strictly study the development of their respective disciplines according to the requirements and goals of their schools, understand the pattern of requirements for literature resources and formulate a scientific method of a construction plan on the existing resources of the libraries. To do so, the libraries must adhere to a people-oriented concept, formulate supply plans according to current needs and formulate the amount of resources through quantity demand to ensure the integrity and rationality of the library's resource system. This also requires that the libraries must clarify the relevant objectives of the construction in the process of practice and always adhere to the principle of using the resources to improve the construction of the resources^[7]. This is to ensure full use of these resources through the improvement of the construction and management of library resources.

3.2 Optimize the allocation of information resources to promote the sustainable development of the libraries

Higher learning institution libraries are the main places for the storage, accumulation, and dissemination of information resources. Therefore, it is important to maintain a good standard in preserving the literature/information resources so that to better serve the teachers and students. In this, the libraries are required to ensure not only to accumulate the library collections but also in the scientific nature of the purchase of these resources during the process of building up the library or its information resources. Here, it is highly discouraged to purchase blindly to increase the amount of collections^[8]. In the purchase of library collection resources, both quantity and quality must be ensured to be equal, where quality is placed as the main priority to ensure the practicability and professionalism of the collection resources. At the same time, libraries will need to strengthen the understanding of the professional development of their respective schools in the purchase of the collection resources to ensure the

Table 3. Results from the survey on the library books update situation

	Ability to replenish books in a timely manner based on subject changes	Unable to replenish books in time
Number of people (%)	6 (40)	12 (60)

comprehensiveness and integrity of the key discipline resources of the schools. In addition, the libraries will also need to increase the procurement of books and make a reasonable allocation for key and general library purchases. Moreover, the ratio of traditional and new professional book purchases should be reasonably planned to ensure that the book procurements are focused and planned, thereby optimizing the library collection resources, improving the utilization of library information resources and reducing procurement costs.

3.3 Highlight the characteristics of the discipline and build characteristic information resources

In the management of library resources, higher learning institution libraries must be in accordance with the "Regulations of the Library of Higher Learning Institutions." In building characteristic information resources for the library, the information resources should be rationally arranged and coordinated according to the libraries respective local region library collections, follow the heading of well-defined scientifically documented information construction plans, to form a characteristic information resources system^[9]. In the construction of university libraries, it is also necessary to pay attention to the prominent characteristics of the region and the university according to the actual situation of the school and the problem of specialty setting, so as to ensure the pertinence and professionalism of collection resources construction and meet the needs of building characteristic majors in universities.

3.4 Adhere to the principle of people oriented principle and meet the needs of readers

Higher learning institution libraries are mainly to serve the teachers and students within colleges and universities. Therefore, the main purpose for the library information resources construction is to meet the learning and research requirements of teachers and students. With this in mind, in the process of building the library information resources, emphasis should be placed on the studies and research done by teachers and students, taking into consideration on the needs of both teachers and students in procuring reference books and examination grade materials or documents. At the same time, with the development of science and technology, network resources are becoming more abundant, which contains vivid, intuitive, and easy to understand electronic documents and databases,

which are beneficial to teachers and students' learning and data acquisition^[10]. From the perspective of information resources of the teachers, it requires more than published documents to also include some internal materials or featured documents which are not publicly released. Therefore, libraries will need to dynamically change to the new construction of information resources. Detailed analysis ensures the rationality of the library's resources and can meet the needs of the readers.

3.5 Attention to the construction of information resources

As the main storage place of knowledge and information, the library has been receiving widespread attention and regarded as a place with high social status. However, with the rapid development of social economy as well as science and technology, people in general are paying too much attention to the current economic development, making the libraries less attentive which, in turn, has affected the gradual decline of the status of libraries in the current society resulting in a reduction of funds from government for library development^[11]. Although libraries purchase equipment and books every year to ensure the richness of the collection resources, the speed of procurement is still relatively outdated when compared with the rapid development of information technology. To effectively improve the efficiency of the allocation of library information resources, more attention should be placed to the electronic information resources of libraries. To reduce the cost of digital information construction of the libraries, improvement can be done on the existing equipment and network technology by gradually eliminating or upgrading some outdated equipment. In the meantime, libraries may opt to develop a good information infrastructure plan, expand the transmission channel, and introduce a satellite communication network to upgrade the level of service of the existing information service of the library^[12]. Furthermore, improvement construction of the library database information service system and optimization of the library information configuration through the application of big data, cloud computing, and other technologies.

3.6 Emphasize on the cultivation of library informatization talents

For an effective use of optimize library information resources, aside from improving the management of the collection resources and reasonable planning, there

is also a need to build a library informatization team of talents. Particularly, the development of library informatization demand higher requirements for library talents with strong professional information acumen and good digital information resources operation capabilities to meet the requirements of library resources information management^[13]. In the construction of library electronic collection resources, it is insufficient if only advanced information management service systems and supporting facilities are available as it is difficult to achieve resource optimization if there is a lack of information management professionals to operate these systems and facilities. Therefore, it is particularly urgent to improve the cultivation of library talents. First, library leaders need to recognize the importance of the talents in the construction of information resources and information management and conduct targeted training for managers based on the management of library resources^[14]. Second, upgrade the level of advertising and promotion of library services toward higher learning institutions and the public to recognize the important role of libraries, improve the status of the library team personnel in enabling them to acquire their own sense of honor and to be aware of their responsibilities. The efficiency of library resource management, improve the effectiveness and quality of information resource optimization. In addition, improve the efficiency of library resource management and improve the effectiveness and quality of information resource optimization.

4 Conclusion

In summary, the higher learning institution library is a center for cultural information and literature knowledge and also a major channel of resources for teachers and students to learn and acquire knowledge. To effectively improve the information resources of the libraries, it is necessary to improve the construction and the quality while ensuring sufficient quantity of the library information resources and allocate the information resources based on the needs of readers. Emphasis should be placed on the construction of library resources and the cultivation of informatization talents

to ensure the scientific nature of information resources' allocation and to better serve the readers.

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