

The Application of University Archives in the Ideological and Political Education of College Students in the New Era

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Abstract: University archives, as the historical memory and cultural precipitation of university development, can provide valuable educational materials and resources for the ideological and political education of college students, and further enhance the vividness of ideological and political education. Therefore, their role in the ideological and political education of college students cannot be underestimated. Based on a brief elaboration of the application value of university archives in the ideological and political education of college students in the new era, this paper focuses on exploring the effective strategies for applying university archives in the ideological and political education of college students in the new era, to give full play to the educational role of university archives, comprehensively improving the quality of the ideological and political education of college students, and contributing to the construction of the “Three-dimensional Education” system in universities.

Keywords: Universities; Archives; College students; Ideological and political education; Application strategies

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1. Introduction

The ideological and political education of college students, as a crucial part of enhancing their ideological and moral cultivation and cultivating noble characters and excellent qualities, has always been at the core of the university education system. University archives are regarded as a microcosm of the school's development history, a manifestation of educational concepts, and a showcase of the demeanor of teachers and students. Therefore, they contain extremely valuable educational resources. In the past, university archival resources were often left untouched, and their unique educational value and functions were not fully explored and utilized^[1]. In the context of the new era, with the deepening of the concept of “Three-dimensional Education,” the unique educational value of university archives has become increasingly prominent. Flexibly applying them throughout the entire process of the ideological and political education of college students is not only conducive to enhancing the appeal and vividness of ideological and political education but also has a profound impact on university

archival management.

2. The application value of university archives in the ideological and political education of college students in the new era

2.1. Conducive to cultivating students' innovative spirit

In order to build an innovative country, all walks of life in China have ushered in new opportunities for comprehensive reform. As a result, society has an increasing demand for innovative talents. Currently, in addition to professional knowledge and skills, a series of new indicators, such as innovation ability, moral character, and professional literacy, have been added to the criteria for measuring professional talents. As the main front for cultivating innovative and professional talents, universities should always prioritize the key factors influencing the growth of college students in education. In particular, efforts should be intensified to cultivate students' innovation ability. Only in this way can they stand out in the fierce market competition and flexibly cope with various challenges in their future careers^[2,3]. Regarding the ideological and political education of college students, university archives can provide diverse learning resources for them, effectively stimulating their innovative thinking and enhancing their innovative ability. The reason is that university archives not only record the growth trajectories of numerous students and the innovation stories of outstanding experts and scholars but also gather rich educational experiences and scientific research achievements, such as reports, papers, and monographs. These materials provide vivid cases and solid theoretical support for cultivating students' innovative spirit. Influenced by the spirit of predecessors, college students can draw nourishment from them. Inspired by the power of role models, they can gradually form an innovative consciousness of perseverance and dedication to scientific research, and fully stimulate their innovative potential, enabling them to move towards a new life through continuous innovation.

2.2. Conducive to improving students' practical ability

Cultivating students' practical ability is an important part of the ideological and political education of college students. Practical ability is one of the key abilities for students to enter society, and its importance is self-evident. University archives play an irreplaceable role in improving students' practical ability. Specifically, university archives not only record the development history and important event information of the university since its establishment, but also record the project case information of school-enterprise cooperation, as well as the information of college students' volunteer services and social practice activities. These can serve as valuable sources of educational materials for the ideological and political education of college students and also provide useful inspiration and effective reference for the organization and implementation of current and future ideological and political education volunteer activities and social practice activities^[4]. By deeply exploring the hidden educational value in the archives, students can be guided to continuously discover, analyze, and actively solve problems, thus helping them successfully transform from "school-goers" to "professionals."

3. Application strategies of university archives in the ideological and political education of college students in the new era

3.1. People-oriented, emphasizing the synergy of archival education

To give full play to the educational role of university archives, it is crucial that university archivists actively

change their concepts, fully and deeply understand the unique role of archives in the ideological and political education of college students, and further establish the advanced concept of “archival education.” At the same time, they should attach importance to the coordinated development of archival management and the ideological and political education of college students to pool their efforts and achieve a multiplier effect in education. Specifically, first, university archivists should regard the ideological and political education of college students as an important part of archival work, actively participate in relevant activities, provide rich and valuable educational materials for ideological and political education, consolidate the position of archival materials in the ideological and political education of college students, and give full play to their role.

Second, archivists should pay attention to the cultivation of their own ideological and political education awareness and the improvement of relevant abilities. This requires not only that archivists fully explore the hidden educational elements in university archives but also that they establish close contacts with the ideological and political educators in universities. The two sides should work together to promote the coordinated development of archival management and the ideological and political education of college students. The most important thing is to be good at discovering and firmly grasping the common ground for education, pooling their efforts, and jointly escorting the all-around development of students. In this process, in addition to doing their jobs well, archivists should actively participate in the entire process of the ideological and political education of college students as “assistants” and “supporters,” highlighting the unique educational role of archival materials^[5,6]. To achieve the above goals, universities should comprehensively improve the ideological and political education capabilities of university archivists through forms such as special training, seminars, and case sharing, helping them understand and master the characteristics and laws of the ideological and political education of college students to provide strong support for the scientific and effective application of archival materials in the ideological and political education of college students. Eventually, truly make archival materials a fertile ground for cultivating students’ correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values.

3.2. Empowered by intelligence, innovating the archival management model

In the digital age, the archival management work of some universities is out of step with the times, with a series of problems such as low digitalization levels and insufficient development and utilization of archival materials. This not only directly restricts the modernization process of university archival management but also may weaken the educational function of archival materials^[7]. This is not conducive to the construction of the “Three-dimensional Education” system in universities and may also affect the overall effect of the ideological and political education of college students. To effectively solve these problems, universities should actively promote the digital construction of archives, rely on advanced information technology, and innovate the archival management model to ensure the efficient use of archival materials in the ideological and political education of college students and flexibly respond to the multiple challenges brought by the digital age to archival management and the ideological and political education of college students. First, universities should establish a new archival management system. To revitalize the archival materials for ideological and political education, it is necessary to actively change the traditional offline-based archival collection method to a close combination of online and offline methods, which can greatly improve the collection efficiency and quality of archival materials. Moreover, universities should rely on cloud technology to build a cloud-based ideological and political education resource library, truly presenting archival materials in a vivid and image-based way and making the originally “dead” archival materials come alive^[8]. According to statistics, more and more universities are setting up cloud-based school history museums, which not only enrich the forms of archival display but also further

enhance the attractiveness and appeal of archival materials in the ideological and political education of college students, making the educational effect more prominent^[9]. After the completion of the cloud-based school history museum, ideological and political educators can directly and vividly display educational content to students. Through advanced VR and AR technologies, students can have the opportunity to experience the development process of the school, enabling them to have a more profound and comprehensive understanding of the school's history. In this process, students' sense of identity and pride in the school can be effectively cultivated. It is worth mentioning that universities should gradually improve the utilization mechanism of archival materials, which is the basis for ensuring the efficient use of archival materials. For example, the archival management department should clarify the principles of archival utilization, standardize the utilization process, and based on effectively avoiding the problem of privacy leakage, open archival materials in an orderly manner to ensure that archival materials truly provide vivid materials and vivid case support for the ideological and political education of college students and meet the diverse and personalized learning and development needs of students^[10].

3.3. Expanding horizons, broadening the channels for archival utilization

University archives, as an important source of educational materials for the ideological and political education of college students, require innovative application methods to ensure the full realization of their value. Therefore, universities should broaden the channels for archival utilization and truly bring archival materials to life. For example, ideological and political educators can flexibly integrate archival materials into the teaching process of ideological and political courses. Relying on the advantages of archival materials, such as intuitiveness, emotionality, and vividness, they can create a "walking ideological and political classroom", further enhancing the attractiveness and appeal of ideological and political courses. Ideological and political educators can skillfully integrate school history archives, alumni archives, archives of scientific and technological celebrities, and student archives into the classroom. By guiding students to deeply explore the hidden educational elements behind the materials, they can drive students to develop in the right direction with the positive power of role models. By vividly telling real cases and typical deeds in the archives, students can be guided to learn from the good and effectively improve their ideological and political awareness^[11]. In addition, the university's archival management department should jointly create ideological and political education brand projects with ideological and political educators. Focusing on the outstanding figures and moving deeds in the archives, they should carefully plan a series of themed educational activities, such as "Inheriting Red Memories" lecture series, "School History" knowledge competitions, and "Alumni Style Exhibition" themed exhibitions. Relying on rich and colorful activities, archival materials can be truly brought to life, fully mobilizing students' enthusiasm for participation and stimulating their learning interest. Students can be influenced by ideological and political education and spiritually baptized in a subtle way, creating a harmonious and pleasant atmosphere for ideological and political education^[12]. For another example, universities can actively draw on the "Living Library" activities in the library field, carefully plan "Living Archives" activities, and actively invite archivists and the creators of the archives themselves to vividly tell the stories behind the archives through "personal testimonials", further narrowing the distance between students and archival materials and effectively enhancing the effectiveness of education^[13,14].

3.4. Full application, creating an educational practice platform

The university archival management department should actively invite students to participate in archival management work, such as the development and sorting of archival materials. Through close contact with the archives, students can have a deeper understanding of the importance of archival materials. Students can also be

influenced by ideological and political education in this process. In addition, universities should actively build an archival education practice platform and carefully create diverse practical projects, such as famous scholars' forums, school history lectures, and alumni lectures, allowing students to participate. By enabling them to fully understand the development history and glorious achievements of the university, as well as the excellent deeds and struggle experiences of alumni and famous scholars, students' love for the school and the country can be further cultivated, and they can be fully inspired to move forward bravely, thus cultivating more new-era youth with ideals, ambitions, beliefs, morality, and a sense of responsibility^[15]. The university's archival management department can provide internship positions for work-study students. In this way, not only can the economic problems of these students be effectively solved, but they can also get close to archival materials, enabling ideological and political education to truly penetrate into every aspect of students' daily lives and studies. In addition, with the in-depth advancement of the modernization of archival construction, university archivists can rely on advanced big data technology to accurately mine and analyze the interests, hobbies, and ideological trends of contemporary college students. Based on this, personalized archival resources can be accurately pushed to them, effectively promoting the continuous penetration of archival culture into students' learning and lives and achieving the goal of archival education in a subtle way. For example, taking school history archival materials as an example, universities should also pool the efforts of multiple departments to form student school-history interview teams and interpretation teams, etc. These teams can vividly explain the development process of the school to people outside the school and actively encourage students to participate in the creation of school-history micro-documentaries, micro-films, and micro-courses, aiming to revitalize the precious school-history archival materials and give full play to the unique educational role of school-history archives.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, from the perspective of the ideological and political education of college students, the effective and flexible application of university archives plays a positive role in significantly enhancing the effect of ideological and political education and activating the vitality of education. Therefore, universities should continuously promote the in-depth integration of archival materials and the ideological and political education of college students, aiming to further enrich the educational content, innovate the educational form, truly build a "Three-dimensional Education" system, and contribute the wisdom and strength of archival materials to improving the effect of the ideological and political education of college students. Only in this way can the ideological and political education work in universities be promoted to a new level, and a strong atmosphere of archival education can be truly created.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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