

Testing Mechanism and Its Practice on Library System Construction in Colleges and Universities

Yang Hanni, Hu Binggui

Library of Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan, P.R.China, 430070

(Email: hubg@whut.edu.cn, yhanni@163.com)

Abstract: The construction of Colleges and universities' library system is known as colleges and universities' library league in foreign countries. This paper refers to library (reference room) system construction between each department (ministry, institute) in colleges and universities. Take the library system construction test mechanism as the example, from the measurement program, measurement organization, evaluation methods, evaluation and other aspects, to set up a more complete evaluation of the university library system construction mechanisms, and promote the steady development of this library system construction.

Key words: Colleges and universities' library; System construction; Testing mechanism

1 Introduction

According to current situation of foreign research on construction and practice of colleges and universities' testing mechanism^[1], open resource under certain protocols has become irresistible trend in library development. Internal reference room in colleges and universities could be replaced by central-branch library system. This system has long time been the basic model for libraries in Europe, U.S and Japan^[2].

Joint-development of central library and reference room has widely existed in colleges and universities in our country. Consider the actual situation, practical implementation of central-branch library system has been very rare in our country. The testing mechanism for library system we pursued is aimed to regulate internal library management in advance; formulate unified managing model and execute dispersive services. College (department, institute) branch library entering library system construction has profound meaning. It increases the amount of characteristic literature collection and improves overall collection quality in digital library. Complementation of standardized central library management and branch library's characteristic collection and human resources opens the mutually beneficial situation of libraries, library system constructors and readers.

Colleges and universities' library system construction indicates branch library (reference room) system construction in department (section or institution) inside colleges and universities. There are many related aspects in library system construction and practice of Wuhan University of Technology (WHUT), yet construction of testing mechanism played irreplaceable role. Take establishment and practice of library system construction testing mechanism in WHUT as an example, we explored the value of colleges and universities' library system construction testing in terms of testing establish scheme, testing organization and testing implementation and so forth to promote the steady development of this business.

2 The Establishment of Colleges and Universities' Library System Test Mechanism

Wuhan University of Technology Library System builds the first steps in the National University Library field. Under the leadership of school managers and library managers, in the management of innovation aspect, we earnestly implement the construction of this innovative library system theory, to achieve "five uniforms, one dispersion" at the very beginning. Five uniforms are: uniform management model, uniform document purchase recommendation, uniform new book process, uniform used book backtracking and storeroom installing, uniform complementing book purchasing funds assignment; one dispersion means dispersive service. Advanced ideology; scientific and creative management motivates steady development of colleges and universities' library system construction. It lays a solid foundation for colleges and universities' library test mechanism installation^[3].

2.1 Guidance, purpose and meaning for colleges and universities' library test

The testing task of library system department branch (storeroom) was originally the combination of education ministry's teaching quality evaluation (TQE) on colleges and universities. The aim of the testing task is to "encourage construction, encourage innovation, encourage management, combine

construction and testing, focuses on construction". Through testing, library system construction should be propelled; the inner-library management should be regulated in advance; unified management model is formed; dispersed service has been executed. Library system provides dispersive service under the same management model of central library. The "Library system and service extends to wherever readers exist" ideology is being practiced. Applying INTERLIB central-branch library system platform, the literature resource of the whole university is being shared and acknowledged authentically.

For colleges and universities' library; department (ministry, institute) library branch (reference room) getting into library system has profound meaning. It increases the amount of specific collection of books and advances the overall collection quality of digital library system. It makes feasible the book information professor system in colleges and universities' library system construction; completely utilizes the high-calibre human resources outside library. The special service and other services provided by workers in library system college branch (reference room) promote the all-round service quality of colleges and universities' library.

On the other hand, the implementation of library system construction encourages the reasonable development and usage of college branch library (reference room) resources. Also, management standardization of reference room is enhanced as well as the all-round management level and stuff book information quality.

Complementation of central library management standardization and reference room human resources, specific collection opens the mutually beneficial situation of library, library system construction and readers.

2.2 Enacts the testing scheme

According to the Regular Institution of Higher Education Library Standards (revised), Regular Institution of Higher Education Undergraduate Teaching Quality Evaluation (TQE) Scheme (trial), and Regular Institution of Higher Education Fundamental School Environment Index (trial) issued by ministry of education, combining the purpose of meeting testing task, boosting the construction, ensure excellence in our school's undergraduate TQE; enacting the Testing Scheme of Library system construction. In the enacting process, considering the characteristics and needs of library system construction development; conveys the testing scheme enacting seminar between each level, consulting different opinions; we both utilize the suggestions of experts and opinion of front-line stuff in reference room. After approval of responsible person in every section, the Wuhan University of Technology Library Branch (Reference Room) Testing Scheme (trial) is formed.

2.3 Forming testing organization mechanism

After enacting of Testing Scheme, leader group of testing task is established; testing task is arranged and aroused.

The testing task leading group is composed of vice chief librarian in charge of library system construction central library (leader) and mainstay in library's every technology department (testing stuffs).

Propagation and implementation of Testing Scheme is done as follows: Testing leading group appoints personnel; conveys library system branch (reference room) working conference, comparing Testing Scheme, explain and propagates the scheme regulations point by point.

2.4 Launch the substantial testing work

According to Testing Scheme; after testing organization mechanism is formed, library system construction testing work spreads out steadily.

Testing work includes: self-assessment; each library branch (reference room) sorts out and collects supporting material by comparing Testing Scheme; analyze and self-check, self-test, scoring point by point, writes self-test report.

Apply expert testing scheme. Library expert testing work group is organized to listen to the library branch (reference room) self-test report, inquire the relative supporting material on spot; check and sum the qualitative results. Quantitative results and scoring results would be announced as document in general testing summary meeting of the university later on.

Testing group leader takes charge of testing work summary meeting. Members give out comprehensive testing of the library branch in different perspective according to their own observation and thinking. Summarize the achievement and existing problem of the library branch; indicates direction of future construction and development.

3 Achievement Made by Colleges and Universities' Library System Testing

3.1 Management achieved initial success

Before library branch was fit into school central library, each branch acts on its own free will, each branch works on its own management regulation. After testing mechanism was enacted, the whole library system construction obtained uniform service quality, model and standards. Also, Wuhan University of Technology Library System Construction College Branch Management Regulation Collection was enacted. Uniform regularly management of library system construction is realized.

3.2 Resource construction achieved outstanding success

3.2.1 Unify internal work management system platform

To unify the literature resource in whole university into same management service platform, sharing library system construction resource, library prepared and organized to install new internal service management system, INERLIB. INTERLIB system formed the joint work platform of all library system in the university.

3.2.2 Unify book catalog

To achieve uniform management and service model, the library system construction must provide digital construction of college library branch, backtrack and catalog the books uniformly. In this way literature resource would be acknowledged and shared all round school as quickly as possible. For used books and new-purchased books, unifies its catalog by library allocating specialized area, appointing specialized staff. To make catalog and process books, new INTERLIB system is required to use. Through Notice about Perfecting Library System College Branch (reference room) Book Cataloguing Management Regulation, library system college branch's book transferring, book verification, book acquiring is reasonably arranged.

Currently, all literature resource book information of the library system college branch is merged into school library book catalog database. Any computer connected to internet used by reader would inquire needed literature resource and information at any time.

3.2.3 Unify book purchase recommendation

Wuhan University of Technology Library System Construction completely utilized the bond effect of staff from library system college branch, who gather the real demand information from readers and feedback the information to central library purchase and catalog department. The information provides important reference information for purchase and catalog department. Purchase and catalog department considers this information and the real central library collection need to select suitable books.

3.3 Outstanding Service Effects

3.3.1 Guaranteed service time

Establishment of library system breaks the stubborn and irregular service model of each college library branch, which requires the reader to come between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm each day and neither in weekends nor holidays. Some reference room staff work part-time; the opening time is 32 hours per week or even less. After testing mechanism is set up, average opening time to reader in each college library branch reaches 70 hours to 72 hours per week; some colleges actively executes central library standards and opens their libraries in holidays or vocations, which satisfies the borrowing and studying requirement of readers at great extent.

3.3.2 Testing boosts the featured service of some college library branch

In the establishing and practicing process of library system construction testing mechanism, some college (ministry, institution) refers to the advanced management ideology of foreign library, introduces the concept "library assisting manager". This concept appoints an associate professor to assist the book information service work of documenter. Because the assistant manager provides professional instruction and deep theoretic knowledge; the professor's specific identity provides deep understanding of high-level service needed from leading academic edge teachers. In this way, a high-entry beginning is obtained for library system subject librarian- book information professor co-service model.

Some reference room bring forward the book purchase recommender (composed of teachers owned senior title) system in advance, and give them letter of appointment. In this way, professors who have major background take part in college literature resource purchase recommendation. Book purchase is more featured as a result.

4 Conclusion Advices for Testing Mechanism and Research Prospect

Since 2005 there has been 4 branch library (reference room) testing, we profoundly realized the supporting affects building a perfect testing mechanism has on library system construction, undergraduate teaching, academic research, discipline development.

4.1 Literature resource construction should be deep, specific, and professional

Central library system construction is a big aggregation. Library as the main component is responsible for providing literature resource guarantee for faculties and staffs all round university. Thus, literature resource construction is required to cover all discipline, the range should be wide. When it comes to college library branch, its collection level should be defined as research literature resource. General literature and non-college discipline literature collection should be reduced to avoid repeating resource construction. Literature resource construction should be deep, specific and professional. Several purposes should be reached: Have others does not have;[1] Specific in which others have, Deeper than in which others have. In this way, benefits of concurrent literature resource would be completely utilized. Current literature resource construction funds are effectively used in sharing and joint model.

4.2 Each literature purchase funds should be brought into uniformly management

To regulate the literature resource management around university, each literature purchase funds should be brought into literature resource management. Some college library branch may transfer scientific research funds to buy relative books besides library-invested and self-invested funds. These books are deep, specific and professional. However, they were not registered or processed and were being used by certain individual teachers or staffs continuously. This would make irregular management of book treasure and would be bad for other readers to use and read. For regular management of book treasure, completely exert the efforts of those books, cooperation from college leaders is needed; moving these books to library for catalog making and bring them into college library branch uniform management.

4.3 Personnel allocation should embody sustainable development

As library system construction goes deeper, the start point of college library branch service goes up, the connotation goes deeper, the work load and quality requirements for management and service goes up. This requires higher individual quality and service level for staff. To obtain healthy sustainable development of library system, the ideology that old and incapable staff should be appointed to this position should be abandoned. Therefore, capable staff should be selected actively. Part of the staff in our university's college library branch has high professional title or strong academic background. Development of library system construction requires future staff of college library branch to be professional, high-quality and younger.

In sum, establishing a perfect library system construction organization is a big project. We could only have a splendid future through everyone's concentration and continuous endeavor in our library.

Reference

- [1] Lu Jianfang. Colleges and Universities' Multi Campus Library Literature Resource Integration and Allocation Stratagem[J]. Library Science Study, 2004, (3): 52-54 (In Chinese)
- [2] Shi Jiping. Construction of Multi-campus University's Library Information Resource Optimized Allocation Model[J]. Library Forum, 2007, (2): 90-92 (In Chinese)
- [3] Yan Xinping. Exploration and Practice of University Library System Construction [J]. Colleges and Libraries' Book Information Forum, 2003, (4): 1-4 (In Chinese)