

# Research on the Literature Acquisition to Improve the Collection Quality of Library in Independent Colleges

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**Abstract**—This paper introduces the development situation of library in independent colleges of our country and discusses the main problems in collection quality of library in independent colleges like the library in Zhuhai College of Jilin University and proposes the strategies for the acquisition work to improve the collection quality of library in independent colleges.

**Keywords**—*independent college; library; collection quality; literature acquisition*

## I. INTRODUCTION

As of the May 30, 2016, there are 266 independent colleges in China, accounting for 21.5% of the undergraduate colleges. With the development of independent colleges, as a new library type, libraries in independent colleges have gone through the soaring development in more than ten years. However, the operation management model of independent colleges greatly restricts the construction of library resources. The improvement of library resources closely links up with the acquisition work of library. The effective and practical acquisition has a significant effect on the construction of library resources in independent colleges. This paper bases on the actual acquisition in the library and discusses the problems in library collection of independent colleges and how to improve the quality of literature acquisition.

## II. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE LIBRARY COLLECTION IN INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

Taking Zhuhai College of Jilin University where the author is in as an example, we find it ranks top among the independent colleges in recent years and ranks first in the recent two to three years. As the representative college, the library construction is also more representative than other independent colleges. However, the following problems still exist in the quality of library collection.

### A. Large Volume of Copies

In the primary stage of establishment, independent colleges enroll an increasing number of students. Because of the mandatory requirement of the Ministry of Education for the paper books of libraries in the enrollment evaluation, in the primary stage of library construction, many schools purchase large volume of copies to meet the requirements. This method is also restricted by objective conditions because the books published by the publishing house yearly are limited. It results

in the problem of large volume of copies. Some books have copies of ten to twenty and even fifty.

### B. Unreasonable Discipline Structure

Because of the pursuit of quantity instead of the quality of collection books, the collection structure of library is unreasonable. The books purchased don't conform to the major setup. Some books of specialties not provided like law and medical science in our school are purchased.

### C. Low Use Ratio of Books

With the development of libraries, problems gradually appear. For example, the unreasonable purchase results in the extremely low use ratio of books. The professional books required in the school are not purchased to serve the construction of teaching and scientific research in the school.

## III. STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF COLLECTION QUALITY

In order to solve the main problems of "large volume of copies", "unreasonable collection structure" and "low use ratio of books", the following acquisition strategies are concluded according to the physical truth of the library through experience and exploration.

### A. Develop A Variety of Ways to Get the Reader's Demands

Each library has large scale annual procurement, which can rapidly improve the quantity of collection. But because the information of booklist passed to the library bases on the storage of booksellers, it is difficult to conform to reality of the school. Therefore, we need to purchase books closely related to the readers according to their actual demands, so as to achieve the purpose of improving the collection and the use ratio of books. We need to develop a variety of ways to acquire the reader's demands. It is conducive to the acquisition work of library and embodies the importance of library service.

1) *Recommend books online through the automatic management system of book:* The library construction of independent colleges has high starting points. Most of them abandon the traditional manual operation and adopt the digital library management system in the primary stage. Generally speaking, the digital library management system contains a module of "reader recommendation" for readers to recommend books through filling in the basic information of books online.

It is convenient and efficient. Meanwhile, the acquisition librarians of the library can timely get the reader's recommendation information and finish the acquisition work through the digital library management system.

2) *Hold the exchange meeting for readers and listen to their opinions on the collection construction*: Exchange meetings for readers can be held in the library to collect reader's opinions and suggestions for the literature structure and quality of books in the library and strengthen the communication between the acquisition librarians and readers. Meanwhile, introduce the principle and plan of acquisition to promote the external exchange, carrying out the bidirectional promotion between acquisition of reader's demands of the library and the understanding of the library service of the readers.

3) *Use the system of subject librarian to get the demands of professional teachers*: Professional teachers have high scientific research and academic level in a certain subject or professional field. They can grasp the major setup and discipline construction of the department and have enthusiasm for teaching and scientific research. The library can regularly send booklist to professional teachers and collect the books selected by them, so as to make up for the deficiencies of acquisition librarian in the subject knowledge, enrich the collection of reference books and important academic works and improve the quality of selection and the collection level of books.

#### *B. Improve the Collection Quality and Adhere to the Acquisition Principle for the Practicality of Collection Books*

Because of the special nature of independent colleges, the library funding is often restricted. Libraries of independent colleges cannot purchase books on a large scale like that of the comprehensive public universities. The acquisition of library in independent colleges shall not pursue the quantity of collection books because it is adverse to the effective utilization of literature and wastes the small number of purchasing funds of the library. Therefore, the library acquisition of independent colleges should aim at improving the collection quality. "The improvement of collection quality must base on the practical principle. That is to say, the collection quality depends on the scientific and cultural values of the literature as well as the strong practicality and high service efficiency of collection books. If the collection books are not practical and targeted, it is meaningless to pursue the high quality of contents. Therefore, the quality of collection books based on the practicality is the integration of quality in content, formation and use". Therefore, the practical principle is the basic principle in the construction of literature resources, to which the acquisition librarian should adhere in the acquisition.

1) *Get familiar with the overall collection structure and establish the reasonable acquisition methods*: The independent colleges in our country depend on the advantages of parent universities. The major setup bases on the dominant specialties of parent universities, resulting in the incomplete major project and unsound discipline categories. Besides, in order to make

rational use of the purchasing funds, the acquisition librarians must find out reasonable acquisition methods in purchasing books for the library. For example, the library of Zhuhai College of Jilin University purchases books according to the following requirements: firstly, combine with the major setup of the school, choose books in accordance with the physical truth of the school, get rid of purchasing or seldom purchase books having no relationship with the specialties of the school; secondly, get familiar with the overall collection structure of the library, establish a scientific dynamic structure of collection books and choose books reasonably; thirdly, do not purchase books with strong timeliness; fourthly, do not purchase books not conforming to the collection principle of the library. The above reflect the practical, systematic, integral, stable, scientific and timely principle of literature acquisition.

2) *Carry out the acquisition based on the reader's demands*: Ways to get reader's demands have been mentioned above. The acquisition work can go smoothly through these ways. The acquisition librarians need to carry out the duplicate checking for the books recommended by readers and properly delete the books recommended by readers on the online recommendation platforms according to the categories of books, in order to improve the accuracy of book information. Moreover, the acquisition librarians can purchase the selected books from the bookseller. For books urgently required by the teachers for teaching and scientific research, the acquisition librarians can purchase it from the convenient online bookstores.

3) *Make up for deficiency, improve the books in several volumes and series of books*: The books in several volumes and series of books are very special. Some are not published and distributed in the same period. Some are not complete in the library because of problems left over by history. Some only have one because readers only recommend one of them online. Although these problems are common in library of independent colleges, it is adverse to the continuity of collection books. Therefore, in order to improve the integrity of collection books, the acquisition librarians should pay attention to the information of discontinuous books in several volumes and purchase them the next time.

#### *C. Improve the Acquisition Librarians' Professional Knowledge and Pay Attention to the Talent Construction*

The quality of acquisition librarians is the key to the acquisition of books. Their occupational quality and professional knowledge relate to the quality of book acquisition. The improvement of their integrated quality can truly guarantee the quality of collection books and activate the literature resource construction of library, contributing to the virtuous cycle.

1) *Pay attention to the knowledge education and professional training*: Most acquisition librarians in the library of independent college are fresh graduates. Some of them did not major in the library and information. Although they are full of enthusiasm, the lack of professional knowledge troubles them greatly. Therefore, it is necessary to train the professional knowledge of acquisition librarians, in order to improve the acquisition quality of the library.

2) *Strengthen the self-cultivation and adhere to the accumulation of experience*: The acquisition librarians should also learn continuously, improve their knowledge structure and broaden the scope of knowledge. Furthermore, the library also needs to insist on the continuity of acquisition librarians' work. The experienced acquisition librarians are also great wealth of the library.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Independent colleges are emerging. Although the Ministry of Education issued the *Measures for the Establishment and Management of Independent Colleges* in February 2008 to guide the independent colleges to move toward the private management, the five years of transitional period have passed, few of them make changes, accounting for only 18% from 326 independent colleges in 2008 to 266 in 2016. No matter how the orientation of schools changes, we cannot slack off in the management of collection quality in libraries of independent colleges. The function of library will not change. Libraries of universities need to play a role in teaching and scientific research. Therefore, the acquisition department of library should keep pace with the times, learn and make progress continuously, in order to furthest exert the function of library in assist teaching.

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