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Impact of LIS Education on Development and Prosperousness of LISJ in China

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Abstract:

In China, journals or periodicals have been and will be the major type of literature and documents for people to record and disseminate scientific and cultural knowledge. Surveys and investigations toward scientists on the habit of their utilizing literature and documents proved that of all the types of literature and documents, journals or periodicals are listed on the first rank, which shows that information containing in this kind of publication makes up 65% of total information. In China, over 70% of references used in specific works or publications come from journals or periodicals. Figures in *A Guide to the Core Journals of China* (4th ed, 2004) show that there are 70 LIS journals at present and 17 of them are core journals. In recent years, with the emphasis on information by all levels of society, LISJ play more and more important role and have been making great contributions to the studies in LIS and the development of librarianship in China. So, the quality of LIS journals is considered the major issue in running well of them. Through investigation on the *Impact of LIS Education on Development and Prosperousness of LISJ in China*, the author made a statistic analysis to 17 core LISJ of China, which gave data on published

articles by university faculties and students of LIS schools or departments in those journals in 2004. The statistics show that at present the LIS education in China, with 35 LIS schools or departments for undergraduates, 21 teaching units for postgraduate students, and 6 for Ph.D. scholars, has become a major force in study and research work in LIS circle, the results based on their research work both in theory and practice not only give strong support and influences on librarianship of China, but also improve the quality of LISJ in China.

Introduction

According to *A Guide to the Core Journals of China, 4th ed.* (Dai 2004), the number of LIS journals in China has reached 70 at the year of 2001, and 17 of them are identified as core journals (Table 1). All of LIS journals issue in Chinese Language, only a few have one or two articles written in English by foreign authors published in each issue.

Table 1 Chinese Core Journals of LIS

TITLE	ISSN	START	ISSUE	Website
The Journal of the Library Science in China	1001-8867	1957	BIMONTHLY	http://www.csls.org.cn/libtrans.htm
Library and Information Service	0252-3116	1980	MONTHLY	http://www.las.ac.cn/lis
Journal of Academic Libraries	1002-1027	1983	MONTHLY	http://www.lib.pku.edu.cn/xuebao
Journal of the China Society for Scientific & Technological Information	1000-0135	1982	BIMONTHLY	http://www.cssti.org.cn/istic/cssti/xuebaojia
Library Journal	1000-4254	1980	MONTHLY	http://www.libnet.sh.cn/tsgzz
Information Science	1007-7634	1980	MONTHLY	http://qbkx.chinajournal.net.cn/
Library Development	1004-325X	1978	BIMONTHLY	http://tsgjs.periodicals.net.cn/default.html
Library	1002-1558	1980	BIMONTHLY	http://www.library.hn.cn/tsg/index.htm
Journal of Information	1002-1965	1982	MONTHLY	http://www.sninfo.org/qing-bao-za-zhi.htm
Library Tribune	1002-1167	1981	BIMONTHLY	http://www.lib.scut.edu.cn/xuehui/luntan.htm
New Technology of Library & Information Service	1003-3513	1985	BIMONTHLY	http://www.las.ac.cn/xsyj/publish
Information & documentation services	1002-0314	1980	BIMONTHLY	http://www.lib.bnu.edu.cn/librarian/journals
Information Studies: Theory & Application	1000-7490	1964	BIMONTHLY	http://www.defenseonline.com.cn/qbll/
Library Works and Study	1005-6610	1979	BIMONTHLY	http://www.tjl.cn/huikan/xuekan.htm
Library Theory and Practice	1005-8214	1979	BIMONTHLY	http://www.lib.bnu.edu.cn/librarian/journals
Knowledge of Library & Information	1003-2797	1980	QUARTERLY	http://www.csir.whu.edu.cn/chubanwu
Modern Information	1008-0821	1981	MONTHLY	http://www.zazhicom.com/c1/006884139.html

Most of the above journals started publication from 1980s, 10 of them are issued bimonthly, make up 58.82%, 5 are monthly, make up 29.41%, and only 1 is quarterly, makes up 5.88%. About 600 articles are included in those core journals annually, mainly in such columns as "Theories & Practices", "Development & Modernization", "Organization & Management", "Legislation for Information", "Research & Exchange", "Information for Contest", "Comments on Books & Papers", "Comparative Study", "International Information", "Classification & Cataloging", "Construction on Information Resources", "Education of LIS", "Digital Library", etc.

Generally speaking, LIS journals in China play more and more important role and have been making great contributions to the development of librarianship in China. They are the major sources for professionals in the field for their further study and training. Since China has about 400,000 library workers working in almost 350,000 libraries or information institutions around the country, on-the-job learning has become the effective way for them to try to keep up with the current situation and for further promotion, while LIS journals are the most popular reading materials for them to be accessed (Song 2005).

Investigations on LIS journals show that they are also the major media for academic exchange and the main source for LIS researchers and scholars to access information resources. For instance, according to survey on citation analysis on digital library research, the number of articles cited by other related journals in the field from 1994 to 2003 are as follows (Guo 2005):

Table 2 Statistics on citation analysis on digital library research from 1994 to 2003

Source Type	Number of Citation	%
Journals	5052	65.46
Websites	2031	26.31
Books/Newspapers	496(254/242)	6.42
Others	138	1.78

Among 7717 citations in 1485 papers, those from LIS journals (5052) ranked the 1st as the highest citation rate (65.5%) compared with those sources from websites (2031), books/newspapers (496) and others (138). Which shows that LIS journals play an important role in academic research in LIS field in China today.

With professionals, especially teachers and students in LIS as their major audience and with academic research and exchange in library and information science as their missions, core journals are specialized academic publications releasing results of academic research and exchanging academic opinions, in order to promote the education of LIS. Based on statistics, there are 7,000 articles on LIS topics published in journals annually, about 6,500 are published LIS journals. They gave a strong support to the education of Library and Information Science in China. Just as saying by Professor Wu Weici, a famous LIS scholar in China, that “At present, it is hardly to do scientific research work and to educate students without those professional journals in LIS” (Li 2004).

Cases on publication of core journals

Because of strict selection criteria, papers published in core journals reflect the highest level of the studies in library science in China, and include many papers on the results of national or ministerial research projects, especially those papers written by university faculties and students in LIS schools or departments all of the country. Table 3 gives both the total number and the number of published papers by faculties, through which people can have the general idea on how important they act in improving the quality of LIS journals in China.

Table 3 Articles published in 17 core journals in 2004

TITLE	Issues	Total	Faculty	%	TITLE	Issues	Total	Faculty	%
The Journal of the Library Science in China	1-6	150	92	61.33	Library Tribune	1-6	406	43	10.59
Library and Information Service	1-12	378	190	50.26	New Technology of Library & Information Service	1-12	324	94	29.01
Journal of Academic Libraries	1-6	142	32	22.53	Information & documentation services	1-6	146	38	26.02
Journal of the China Society for Scientific & Technological Information	1-6	124	85	68.54	Information Studies: Theory & Application	1-6	195	93	47.69
Library Journal	1-12	271	83	30.62	Library Works and Study	1-6	197	32	16.24
Information Science	1-12	380	133	35.00	Library Theory and Practice	1-6	304	66	21.71
Library Development	1-6	260	63	24.23	Knowledge of Library & Information	1-6	174	97	55.74
Library	1-6	204	37	18.13	Modern Information	1-12	898	139	15.47
Journal of Information	1-12	639	226	35.36	Sum total		5192	1543	29.71

From Table 3, we can see that in the year of 2004 there are 5192 papers published in the above 17 core journals altogether, and 1543 were written by university faculties and students with LIS specialties. The following four journals ranked the first for the proportion of their publication in this aspect exceeds half in the annual publication: Journal of the China Society for Scientific & Technological Information, The Journal of the Library Science in China, Knowledge of Library & Information, and Library and Information Service. According to statistics since the middle of the 1990s, citation rates and impact factors of papers in those four core journals rank first among journals in library science in China, and included in the national core list of journals and the Matrix of Chinese Periodicals, and two of them even won the prize “A Hundred Key Journals” in the National Periodicals Award and the prize “National Excellent Journals in Library Science” (Li 2004).

Impact of LIS Education on Development of LIS journals

Library and Information Science education in China has experienced a long history and is growing fast in recent years. It is an applied science with distinctive characteristics of the times and explores the principles, rules and methods involved in collecting and using information resources. It also researches into the laws in communication of information, and development mechanism of the information industry. In order to meet the social needs and promotes communications between art and science, it has formed a guiding thought for its teaching campaign: try all efforts to cultivate qualified personal who are capable in the information management profession and the meantime have composite and practical skills in other fields. Under this thought, it puts emphasis on the cultivation of capable students who know their major very well, who have the potential in orientation and competition, and who combine ability with integrity.

So far, there are 35 LIS schools or departments for undergraduates, 21 teaching units for postgraduate students, and 6 for Ph.D. scholars (Table 4) in China. Investigation on 22 LIS schools or departments show that there were 3600 students studied in those teaching units up to 2003, and 2185 were undergraduates, the postgraduates with Master or Doctor Degrees were 262 and 60 respectively (Cheng 2004). Among the 362-person teaching staff, there are 77 professors, 144 associate professors, and 107 lectures (including famous professors from abroad and home as their part-time professors in some schools or departments).

Table 4 Setting of Library Science in China universities & colleges (Year)

No.	Name of School	Found	Undergrad	Master	Doctor	Postdoctoral
1	History& Sociology Depart. Of Fujian Normal University	1907	1983			
2	IM School of Wuhan University	1920	1920	1981	1993	2003
3	IM Depart. of Peking University	1947	1947	1981	1990	2003
4	Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences	1950	1979	1986	1993	
5	Library, No.4 Military Medical University	1963				
6	IM Depart. of Nanjing University	1978	1985	1986	2003	
7	IM Depart. of Shanxi University	1978	1978	1998		
8	Library Depart. of Anhui University	1979	1985			
9	Information Depart. Of East China Normal University	1979	1979	1984		
10	Information & Media School of Northeast Normal University	1979	1980	1996		
11	IM Depart. of Zhongshan University	1980	1983	1990		
12	Information Research Institute of Lanzhou University	1980	1983			
13	IM Depart. , Management School of Beijing Normal University	1980	1980	2000		
14	Library Depart. of Nankai University	1983	1984	1986	2003	
15	IM Depart., Huanan Normal University	1983		2001		
16	Library & Archive Management Depart., Northwest University	1983	1993			
17	Library Depart. of Hebei University	1984	1985	2002		
18	IM School of Heilongjiang University	1984	1985			
19	IRM Depart., Sichuan University	1984	1984	1998		
20	KRM Depart., Xiangtan University	1984	1985	1998		
21	IM Depart. of Yunnan University	1984	1987			
22	IM Depart. of Zhengzhou University	1985	1985	1998		
23	LS Institute of Shandong University	1985	1985			
24	IM Depart., Shanghai Branch of Nanjing Political Institute	1986	1986	1990	2003	
25	IM Depart. Of Liaoning Normal University	1989	1989	2003		
26	IRM Depart., Zhejiang University	1993	1993			
27	IRM School of Rrenmin University		2004	1998		
28	IM Depart., Management School of Jilin University			2000		

29	IM Depart. Of Shanxi Science & Technology Institute	2001	2001			
30	IM Depart. of Changchun University	2001	2002			
31	Management Depart. Guizhou Normal University	2002	2002			
32	Sociology School, Suzhou University	2002	2002			
33	News & Media Depart. Hebei Economic & Trade University		2002			
34	Management School, Changchun Normal College		2002			
35	Library of Fudan University			2003		
Total			31	21	6	2

At present, the master's and doctor's degree programs on library and information science aim mainly on training LIS professionals with high ability engaging in teaching and scientific researches. For undergraduates, they will receive well education through systematic studies on theory and practice and will become good practitioners in LIS circle after they graduate. With good academic environment, scrupulous scholarly attitude and steadfast work spirit, both faculties and students dedicate themselves into the scientific study. They have not only undertaken many social and natural science projects sponsored by national foundation, the Ministry of Education and the provincial or municipal governments, but also have had scores of books and teaching materials and published thousands research papers annually (Zhan 2004). Let's take the IM School of Wuhan University and IM Department of Peking University as examples. They are both the earliest and famous LIS education institutes and have gained and issued a lot of great achievements in library and information science researches (Table 5).

Table 5 Publication in 5 LIS journals from the two universities in 2004

TITLE	Issue	Total	Wuhan Univeristy		Peking University	
			Papers	%	Papers	%
The Journal of the Library Science in China	1-6	150	31	20.66	5	3.33
Journal of the China Society for Scientific & Technological Information	1-6	124	12	9.67	3	2.41
Library	1-6	204	9	4.41	5	2.45
Library Journal	1-12	271	13	4.80	6	2.21
Library Development	1-6	260	9	3.46	9	3.46
Total		1009	74	7.33	28	2.77

The above 5 core journals represent Chinese journals at various levels — national, regional or provincial, and governmental sector respectively. Figures in Table 5 reflect that these two universities have become a leading force in study and research work in LIS circle, the results based on their research work both in theory and practice not only give strong support and influences on librarianship of China, but also improve the quality of LISJ in China.

conclusion

1. From figures in Table 2, one can see the fact clearly that in 7717 citations in 1485 papers on digital library research, 5052 citations are from LIS journals (make up 65.5%), while the total citations from websites (make up 26.3%), books/newspapers (make up 6.4%) and other sources (make up 1.8%.) are 2665 in sum, which proved that LIS journals in China became a major force in academic exchanging, scientific research and professional education. They will play more and more important role in this aspect in the future.

2. Figures in Table 3 show that among 5192 published articles in 17 core journals in 2004, 1543 were written by university faculties and students with LIS specialties (the total number around 4500) while 3639 from LIS practitioners (the total number around 250000) working in national library, public libraries, academic libraries, special libraries, Communist Part School libraries and Worker Unions libraries at all levels. It is reported that 30% of postgraduate students and 100% postgraduates for Doctor's Degrees have their papers published in LIS journals. This indicates that of all the authors LIS educators and learners, especially the professors and those for obtaining Master's or Doctor's degrees are the leading forces in supporting and improving the LIS journals

in China.

3. Table 5 tells us that in the 35 LIS schools or departments, the IM School of Wuhan University and the IM Depart. of Peking University are the advanced ones both on education and research work. During the past 5 years, the IM School of Wuhan University has undertaken more than 30 important social and natural science projects, published 90 academic monographs and 1000 scientific papers, with the top-ranking teachers in the country. And the IM Depart. of Peking University, with a long history of more than half a century, has made great contributions to LIS education of China. It has fulfilled more than 30 research programs and published 200 academic monographs and teaching materials, as well as 2000 academic papers since the founding in 1947. With strong teaching and researching capability, these two famous teaching institutes will give further supporting to LIS journals in China.

To sum up, with the rapid development of information technology and the fast growth of librarianship worldwide, facing a changing environment, there is a long way to go for Chinese LIS journals toward the further development and prosperousness so as to keep the pace with development of librarianship of the world. They need to organize scholars and experts to study many professional concepts and technological issues such as the function of knowledge and knowledge management in Library Science and practical work intensively and comprehensively, issues on realization of digital libraries, the concept of hybrid library, as well as the basic condition and environment of technical supporting for digitalization and networking of resources. Also, they need to organize them for exchanging and distributing the achievements and research results and to give better services to the further development and prosperousness of librarianship and Library Science.

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