

Leveraging the Role of Party School Libraries to Support the Construction of New-Type Think Tanks (post-print)

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Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] As an important component of Party School think tank construction, serving new-type think tanks has become a new development direction for Party School libraries, thereby meeting the demands of library service transformation. [Method/Process] This paper explores the diverse consulting services provided by Party School libraries in think tank construction. [Results/Conclusions] This paper proposes measures such as aligning with think tank demands, strengthening service support, and participating in think tank promotion, to fully leverage the proper role of libraries in Party School think tank construction and continuously enhance the influence of Party School think tanks.

Full Text

Play the Role of Party School Libraries in Supporting New Think Tank Construction

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Abstract:

[Purpose/Significance] As a vital component of Party School think tank construction, serving new think tanks represents a new developmental direction for Party School libraries, addressing the imperative of library service transformation. [Method/Process] This study examines the diversified consulting services that Party School libraries perform in think tank construction. [Result/Conclusion] The paper proposes measures including aligning with think tank needs, strengthening service guarantees, and participating in think tank promotion, thereby fully leveraging the essential role of libraries in Party School

think tank construction and continuously enhancing the influence of Party School think tanks.

Keywords: Party School library; think tank; service

Classification: G250

Think tanks, as non-profit decision-making consulting organizations engaged in developmental research, gather intellectual resources from high-end talent to advise policymakers. They have become critical support for national soft power construction and governance systems, performing functions such as policy advising, enlightenment, checks and balances, talent aggregation, and national strengthening [1]. As think tank influence grows, their construction has emerged as a prominent research topic in academic and theoretical circles. As important institutions of Party committees and governments, Party Schools leverage their advantages in intellectual density and talent concentration. Aligning with new requirements, positioning, and directions for new think tank construction, they play an intellectual supporting role in teaching, research, and policy consulting, taking a leading position in new think tank construction and promoting scientific government decision-making and socio-economic development.

The deepening concept of new think tanks presents both a novel challenge and a rare development opportunity for Party School libraries, which serve as important bases for knowledge dissemination and cultural inheritance. Libraries must clarify the direction of think tank construction, define their role, and provide systematic, authoritative, efficient, and convenient services through new content, models, and approaches.

1 Achieving Precise Service Positioning and Providing Diversified Reference Consulting Services

As a core business of Party School libraries, consulting services focus on collecting and storing knowledge and information while serving new think tank construction. Based on users' diversified and personalized information needs, libraries work on the application of knowledge and information by dynamically tracking, recording, and analyzing users' information behavior patterns. Combined with policy trends, they help users excavate and screen valuable information, deliver targeted information and consulting services, and serve as "advisors" for think tanks and support for decision-making. This enables libraries to secure their position in think tank construction while pursuing their own transformation and development, creating a win-win outcome for both users and libraries.

1.1 Government Decision-Making Consulting Services

Currently, as China's economy develops rapidly, the nation is experiencing social transformation and a critical phase of reform. Governments at all levels face multifaceted challenges [3]. Promoting social management system reform and innovation while maintaining social harmony and stability to adapt to new

circumstances has become an important issue that governments must address, urgently requiring pragmatic policy advisors and practical, applicable recommendations. As important departments of Party committees, Party Schools' role in providing policy consulting services has become increasingly vital. In new think tank construction, libraries seize the opportunity to serve think tanks by analyzing and researching government users' needs and excavating their potential demands. They construct mechanisms that embed professional, forward-looking, objective, and neutral information services into the policy agenda, becoming an important force relied upon for government decision-making and facilitating the transformation toward service-oriented government functions.

On one hand, government policy formulation and major decision-making require information support based on investigation and practice. Party School libraries closely focus on the central "five-in-one" overall layout, monitor changes in domestic and international situations, and comprehensively and systematically collect forward-looking, valuable policy information in politics, economics, science, technology, and other fields. Utilizing skilled policy research techniques and profound academic literacy, they seek the optimal integration point between policy interpretation and strategic forecasting, striving to transform complex theories into government decisions that are easy to understand and convenient to implement. They deliver these directly to users through internal reference documents or through irregular high-level lectures that provide comprehensive and systematic interpretations of relevant policies, helping solve various problems encountered in policy implementation and offering one-stop think tank services integrating research, analysis, and decision-making solutions for governments.

On the other hand, with the arrival of the internet era, social public emergencies spread rapidly and widely, inevitably mixed with various factors that interfere with the public's correct judgment [4]. To help governments handle crises correctly and promptly and eliminate factors that may threaten social stability, libraries have an undeniable responsibility to conduct public opinion monitoring and analysis services. They strengthen the connection and interaction between think tanks and Party committees, governments, and the public, promptly push analysis results, and assist government departments in effectively guiding and controlling public opinion.

1.2 Enterprise Smart Party Building Innovation Services

The 19th Party Congress report clearly emphasized the importance of strengthening grassroots organization construction. Party building work has become a crucial aspect of enterprise grassroots Party organization construction—when done well, it becomes productivity; when done meticulously, it becomes cohesion. Long-term practice has proven that enterprise Party building and enterprise development always resonate at the same frequency and complement each other. While serving their own school's teaching and research, Party School libraries fully leverage their advantages in characteristic resources and quality services to

extend their reach to enterprises. Through consultation, interviews, questionnaires, and other methods, they understand enterprises' Party building needs and provide corresponding services.

On one hand, they utilize Party School faculty resources for expert recommendations, giving play to the “mouthpiece” role of Party School teachers. They conduct “menu-style lectures” for enterprises, thereby cultivating an excellent talent team with strong political qualities and continuously creating new ideas, methods, and carriers to comprehensively support enterprise Party building. This continuously enhances the cohesion of enterprise grassroots Party organizations, integrates Party building into production operations and talent cultivation, and ensures that wherever the enterprise develops, the battle fortress role of Party branches is reflected there.

On the other hand, constrained by scale and funding, most enterprise information departments focus on collecting comprehensive information such as market research, sci-tech novelty searches, risk assessment, and industry policy trends. They often lack the ability to collect, integrate, and even develop and reprocess Party building information. In the process of carrying out Party building work, most enterprises eagerly desire support from relevant information resources. As the main position for Party building literature and information resource distribution, Party School libraries possess advantages in human resources and literature information and should shoulder the responsibility of serving society. Based on big data technology, they collect, process, and integrate corresponding Party building resources, reserve think tank resources, promote enterprise Party building intelligence and networking, and create an enterprise “smart Party building” brand.

1.3 Knowledge Support Services for Teaching and Research

As a furnace for strengthening Party spirit education for Party and government leading cadres, Party Schools deepen theoretical Party education and Party spirit education in their training and teaching. To highlight core courses, libraries cooperate with academic affairs departments to carry out “excellent classroom” activities, reserve courses for various training programs, and transform Party Schools into “red halls” for Party members and cadres to receive Party education. Simultaneously, as fundamental and supporting work that measures Party School educational level and quality, scientific research has gradually taken root through concepts like “promoting teaching through research” and “revitalizing schools through scientific research” in Party School education reform. Party Schools at all levels have increased investment in academic research activities, continuously expanding research project fields and effectively improving comprehensive research levels.

Party School research teams also undertake heavy teaching tasks. Faced with massive literature resources in the big data era, libraries have shifted from traditional information consulting and reference services to innovative services such

as knowledge consulting, sci-tech novelty searches, intelligence consulting, and thematic customization to help researchers successfully complete teaching and research tasks within limited time [5]. On one hand, they utilize the unique resource and environmental advantages of Party School libraries, rationally optimize spatial layout, create humanized physical spaces that inspire creativity, and provide basic service guarantees such as literature borrowing, databases, and network access. On the other hand, based on cultivating researchers' information acquisition capabilities, they provide corresponding collaborative information behaviors by integrating into research projects. During the topic selection stage, they conduct theoretical research around practical problems and teaching needs, as well as the latest economic development hotspots and people's livelihood issues. They collect, process, integrate, and analyze targeted information, select advantageous fields, and establish research directions to improve topic targeting. During the research process, they timely track project progress and needs, analyze and filter out erroneous and redundant information for research teams, thereby establishing the image of libraries as intelligent analysts. In the project completion stage, they collect and organize journal submission scopes according to research fields, clarify submission guidelines and platforms for researchers, assist researchers in adjusting paper formats and submitting timely, and strengthen the collection, organization, processing, and release of research results to enhance their influence.

2 Aligning with Think Tank Needs and Consolidating Service Guarantees

Innovative services serve as an inexhaustible driving force for library development. Serving think tanks requires guarantees of rich information resources and professional information teams. To enhance service capabilities, levels, and tiers, comprehensive changes are needed from resource construction to service construction.

2.1 Strengthening Think Tank Talent Reserves

Talent is the most valuable asset in think tank construction and a prerequisite for providing think tank services. Think tank service talent must possess keen insight and discernment, be skilled at analyzing, researching, and optimizing information from different channels and carriers, achieve information value-added, and provide effective references for decision-making. Since think tank research inevitably involves sensitive issues such as national security, political and people's livelihood concerns, cutting-edge scientific and technological issues, and commercial secrets—content that loses its think tank service value if leaked—librarians must possess information security awareness and confidentiality discipline.

As the saying goes, “To do a good job, one must first sharpen one's tools.” To enhance team combat effectiveness, libraries must improve team quality through

internal resources and external forces to cultivate a composite think tank service team [6]. On one hand, through a “revolving door” mechanism, they attract wisdom and talents, selecting through public recruitment individuals with both theoretical foundation and practical understanding. They reasonably determine the proportion of management to research personnel, achieve professional talent reserves for serving think tanks, and add vitality to the team. Simultaneously, they integrate outstanding talents with relevant professional backgrounds from school teaching and research departments and external research institutions, bringing in individuals with practical experience and research capabilities to drive overall service capability improvement.

On the other hand, they create diversified training and incentive mechanisms, adopting a training-while-constructing model. They hire senior scholars from various disciplines as business consultants and mentors to play a “mentoring” role in enlightening librarians’ wisdom, and actively create conditions for librarians to conduct learning exchanges, investigation and research activities, and embed in various teaching and research departments’ topic research and project planning to broaden horizons and improve service and academic quality. They also establish a perfect incentive system, create a favorable atmosphere for attracting talent, and provide due honor and welfare benefits to librarians with outstanding performance to motivate better service to think tank construction.

2.2 Enriching Characteristic Collection Resources

Accurate and reliable information resources are the lifeblood of new think tank construction. To possess unique knowledge and information resources, libraries—as centers for resource collection, integration, and dissemination—should strengthen targeted resource procurement, build their own knowledge repositories, meet think tanks’ demands for comprehensive information such as policy consulting and local characteristic resources, determine collection positioning according to regional and disciplinary characteristics, continuously adjust resource collection directions and content, and ensure collection quality meets the professional and forward-looking needs of new think tank research, thereby safeguarding Party School characteristic think tanks.

On one hand, beyond collecting publicly published literature, they strengthen the collection of think tank achievements to provide valuable first-hand materials for researchers. They also expand the collection of their institution’ s grey literature resources, including teaching courseware, lesson plans, student theses, question banks, meeting records, and scientific and technical reports, purposefully collecting these materials to reflect the latest policy trends from different perspectives and provide rare materials that enhance research value.

On the other hand, Party School library collections must balance the proportion between paper and digital resources, abandon single paper-based access methods, conduct procurement through resource suppliers, and utilize information technologies such as big data and cloud computing to retrieve and download

various data from open databases on the internet and private databases for governments and enterprises. Through in-depth processing and integration of information in different carriers, they develop and build high-quality collection databases such as local Party history, provincial conditions, think tank achievements, and thematic Party building, establish a Party School characteristic resource system, improve the construction of teacher databases, course databases, and case databases, form a strategic awareness of knowledge reserves and an open access model for think tank information resource platforms, and provide targeted services for think tank construction.

2.3 Seeking Win-Win Cooperation

Decision-making consulting services cannot rely on fighting alone or working behind closed doors. Although Party School think tanks have solid academic and theoretical foundations, they lack practical work experience and find it difficult to propose feasible suggestions. To provide comprehensive and professional service guarantees, they must utilize the strength of other institutions to form resource integration, coordinated division of labor, and collective wisdom, achieving the fusion of explicit and tacit knowledge.

Therefore, Party School library think tank services must break information barriers between institutions, adhere to collaborative cooperation methods such as “going out” and “inviting in,” strengthen discussion and exchange with public libraries, universities, and brother Party Schools, deepen contact with relevant government functional departments, build consensus on development, and jointly build alliance think tanks with regional characteristics. On one hand, while embedding librarians in scientific research services, they collect information to form a win-win situation where teaching, research, and services promote each other and develop synergistically [7]. They also strengthen cooperative collection and sharing of information resources with government departments, Party and government organs, and the Party School system. Government departments hold substantial authoritative social information resources. Party School libraries establish close contact with information departments at all levels of decision-making by sending relevant personnel to provincial, prefecture, county, and township decision-making departments for temporary positions, internships, and extended field investigations, understanding work realities and mastering decision-making procedures. Under non-confidential circumstances, they extensively collect, integrate, and excavate government information, mastering first-hand materials while experiencing decision-making processes and accumulating practical experience.

On the other hand, based on industry-academia-research-government cooperation and relying on project-driven methods, they strengthen contact with experts and scholars in various professional fields and other think tank experts, establish think tank alliances, and actively promote cross-institution, cross-department, and cross-regional cooperative relationships. High-quality think tank products are generated through the collision of collective wisdom, thereby

facilitating think tank “archipelagos” and “alliances,” forming a pattern of mutual supplementation and common development, and enhancing the influence of Party School think tanks in policy, academic, and social dimensions.

3 Participating in Think Tank Promotion and Expanding the Influence of Achievements

The purpose of think tank construction is to serve localities and industries, influence policy formulation and public opinion guidance, demonstrate think tank value through effective promotion, evaluate and disseminate outstanding research results to make them heard and remembered by every user like music, attract numerous scholars to pay attention to Party School library think tank services, and allow Party School think tanks to stand among new think tank construction efforts.

3.1 Multi-Level and Comprehensive Promotion of Think Tank Resources

In addition to their own teaching staff, Party School libraries serve in-service Party and government leading cadres from various departments and bureaus with different ranks and ages, as well as grassroots township cadres [8]. Their training and rotation cycles at Party Schools vary in length. Given the diversity of Party School library user groups, their requirements for Party School think tank resources also differ. Therefore, as libraries serving vast numbers of Party School students, they must understand the characteristics of students in different classes and master their information needs.

The most direct and effective method is regularly compiling and distributing think tank resource utilization surveys. On one hand, given Party School teachers’ reading habits and the relatively lagging application of new technologies in Party School libraries, library staff can regularly send paper surveys or emails to all school departments to help them understand and use the latest think tank resources as early as possible. This not only strengthens the connection between libraries and professional teachers but also enables timely statistics and analysis of collected materials, information, and data to understand readers’ usage of think tank resources and their suggestions [9]. On the other hand, most Party Schools only offer information technology courses as electives with few class hours, which fails to attract students’ attention. Therefore, when Party School libraries train students, they should increase the weight of literature resource retrieval courses, focusing on introducing think tank resources and utilization knowledge to improve students’ resource retrieval capabilities and autonomous awareness of using think tank resources, making them the main force in using think tank resources. This can not only promote and publicize think tank achievements but also directly provide first-hand materials for leadership decision-making.

3.2 Enriching Display Forms of Think Tank Achievements

Current think tank achievement forms mainly include various reports, academic works, traditional media, and new media in the big data era [9]. To enable Party School think tanks to effectively serve teaching, research, and policy consulting, libraries—as important knowledge dissemination institutions in Party Schools—attract more think tank users through timely and extensive research result publicity and promotion and regular release of think tank achievements. On one hand, Party School libraries should closely combine social hotspot issues, regularly publish and distribute flagship publications with great influence, high attention, and low confidentiality levels to promote think tank research results, including formal publications such as journals, annual reports, and yearbooks, as well as convenient informal publications such as internal references and information bulletins, providing effective policy suggestions for governments and Party committees. They also hold seminars, lectures, and press conferences of various forms and themes to display research results and concepts, inviting experts and scholars from different fields to participate, enabling all sectors of society to timely understand think tank achievements and continuously expand their penetration and influence.

On the other hand, the popularity and easy accessibility of think tank achievements are also key factors that require consideration. Therefore, they should consciously refine research reports, transforming lengthy data and in-depth research into concise, popular booklets suitable for the average reception level of the audience, making them easier to understand and accept by various social groups, and fully playing the role that think tank resources should play in Party School teaching, research activities, and leadership decision-making.

3.3 Expanding Channels for Think Tank Achievement Dissemination

The value of intelligence achievements generated for decision-making is mainly reflected in the conversion rate of achievements and their effect on influencing decisions. Libraries should help think tank researchers quickly obtain relevant data and timely transmit research results to decision-makers. To adapt to the trend of open data and open access in the innovation era, they should find ways and methods for think tank achievement dissemination that meet the requirements of fast-paced and digital environments, increasing the overall influence of think tanks [10].

On one hand, they should open public accounts on popular, easy-to-operate emerging social media, such as publishing the latest think tank achievements on WeChat public platforms and Moments, or set up options such as “interactive Q&A,” “electronic message board,” “WeChat/Weibo forwarding,” and “online opinion collection” on the library homepage to increase user awareness and participation. This promotes the co-construction, sharing, and open access of think tank products, achieves the ultimate goal of knowledge sharing, and increases the dissemination effect and influence of think tank achievements.

On the other hand, by building think tank service platforms, they establish stable and effective integrated comprehensive management services and information release channels for think tank achievements. Users can access the platform through multiple methods according to their personal information reception habits: install touch-screen all-in-one machines in densely populated public areas to timely and intuitively display think tank platform content, including think tank ideas, concepts, and achievements through strong auditory and visual effects; formulate personalized push services through authority management and account binding, allowing users to enjoy efficient knowledge services through various portable terminals such as smartphones and tablets, achieving seamless connection of library services. This compensates for the lack of resource retrieval capabilities among some users, thereby increasing user stickiness, improving user numbers, and enhancing resource sharing and service efficiency.

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