

Library Science Postprint for Promoting Cultural Confidence and Self-Strengthening

Authors: Ke Ping

Date: 2022-11-28T00:00:00+00:00

Abstract

Cultural confidence represents a more fundamental, profound, and enduring force in the development of a nation and its people. The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China provided the first comprehensive exposition on the significance of “cultural confidence.” The 20th National Congress further reinforced the importance of cultural confidence, advancing the 19th Congress’ s formulation of “firmly establishing cultural confidence and promoting the prosperity and flourishing of socialist culture” to “advancing cultural confidence and self-improvement, forging a new brilliance of socialist culture.” If the 19th National Congress raised the banner of “cultural confidence” and set forth the objective of building a socialist cultural powerhouse, then the 20th National Congress sounded the clarion call for “cultural confidence and self-improvement,” emphasizing not only confidence but also self-improvement, formulating comprehensive deployments for realizing a socialist cultural powerhouse and delineating key construction priorities and implementation pathways. For library science, which shoulders the responsibility of inheriting human culture, this undoubtedly establishes a new guiding principle for disciplinary development and points out the direction for disciplinary construction.

Full Text

Preamble

Cultural confidence represents a more fundamental, profound, and enduring force in the development of a nation and its people. The report of the 19th CPC National Congress provided the first comprehensive exposition of the significance of “cultural confidence.” The 20th CPC National Congress further reinforced this importance, evolving the 19th Congress’ s call to “firmly establish cultural confidence and promote the flourishing of socialist culture” into a new directive to “advance cultural confidence and self-strengthening, forging a new brilliance for socialist culture.” If the 19th Congress raised the banner of

“cultural confidence” and set the goal of building a strong socialist cultural nation, then the 20th Congress has sounded the clarion call for “cultural confidence and self-strengthening,” emphasizing not only confidence but also self-strengthening, and making overall deployments to identify key construction priorities and implementation pathways for achieving a socialist cultural powerhouse. For library science, a discipline entrusted with the mission of preserving human cultural heritage, this undoubtedly establishes a new guiding principle for disciplinary development and points out the direction for disciplinary construction.

For a long time, Chinese library science has emphasized its orientation toward library undertakings, strengthening the integration of theory and practice to become a highly applied social science. Following the 19th CPC National Congress, library science began to adopt a strategic orientation toward national major needs, strengthening research on public culture and cultural heritage protection, and elevating its focus from the narrow confines of library undertakings to the level of national strategy. The report of the 20th CPC National Congress will guide library science to a new realm that is intimately connected with human development, social progress, and the nation’s future, endowing library science with a more important new mission: advancing cultural confidence and self-strengthening. Based on studying the spirit of “cultural confidence and self-strengthening” in the 20th CPC National Congress report, I believe that library science should proceed from the following aspects to make new disciplinary contributions to advancing cultural confidence and self-strengthening.

Author Information: Ke Ping (ORCID: 0000-0003-4038-6377), male, professor, doctoral supervisor, research interests include knowledge management, information consulting, library and information management, and public cultural services. Email: ke2002@nankai.edu.cn.

Citation: Ke Ping. Library Science for Advancing Cultural Confidence and Self-Strengthening[J]. Journal of Literature and Data, 2022, 4(4): 004-006.

DOI: 10.31193/SSAP.J.ISSN.2096-6695.2022.04.01

1. Theoretical Support for Cultural Undertakings Development

Library science is a discipline concerning library undertakings, which occupy an important position within cultural undertakings. Article 22 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China, adopted on March 11, 2018, by the 13th National People’s Congress, stipulates: “The state develops literary and artistic undertakings, press, radio and television, publishing and distribution, libraries, museums, cultural centers, and other cultural undertakings that serve the people and socialism, and carries out mass cultural activities.” Among the cultural undertakings listed here, libraries are ranked first. Building upon the foundation of “increasingly flourishing cultural undertakings” emphasized in the 20th CPC National Congress report, the Party has further called to “prosper and develop cultural undertakings” and “improve the modern public cultural

service system.” How, then, can library science provide theoretical support for cultural undertakings development in the new era?

First, library science must provide theoretical support for cultural legislation. Building upon the Public Cultural Service Guarantee Law and the Public Library Law, China should construct a cultural legal system with distinctive Chinese characteristics, research the Chinese path toward the rule of law in cultural undertakings, and provide theoretical foundations for governance of Chinese cultural institutions as legal entities. Second, it must provide theoretical support for high-quality development of public cultural service systems. On the basis of achieving standardization and equalization of basic public cultural services, and in accordance with the 20th Congress’ s requirement of “people-centered” development and “enhancing people’ s spiritual strength,” library science should summarize Chinese experiences and models in public cultural innovation since the 19th Congress, and explore institutional designs and implementation pathways for high-quality development of modern public cultural service systems. Third, it must provide theoretical support for national reading initiatives. Building upon the inclusion of national reading in government work reports, national reading legislation, and library reading promotion efforts, and guided by the spirit of the 20th Congress and library science theory, China should promote reading among its 1.4 billion citizens to unite hearts and cultivate new generations, meet people’ s growing spiritual and cultural needs, and strengthen the spiritual power for realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Fourth, it must provide theoretical support for public digital culture and smart cultural undertakings. Building upon the “smart libraries” proposed in the national 14th Five-Year Plan, China should establish a theoretical system for smart culture encompassing smart libraries, smart cultural centers, smart museums, and smart art galleries, addressing the profound impacts of new information technologies such as big data, 5G, artificial intelligence, and blockchain on cultural needs, cultural scenarios, and cultural institutions, and exploring strategies for technological application and the feasibility and policy basis for China to take the lead in realizing a public cultural metaverse.

2. Practical Guide for Cultural Industry Development

The practice of libraries at all levels serving economic construction since China’ s reform and opening up demonstrates that library science theory can not only guide the construction and development of cultural undertakings but also maintains increasingly close connections with economic construction, particularly the cultural industry. In accordance with the 20th Congress’ s statement that “Chinese modernization is the modernization of material and spiritual civilization coordinated development” and its call to “prosper the cultural industry,” incorporating cultural industry research into library science is essential for the discipline to fully align with national cultural strategy. First, library science should leverage its think tank function to establish a Chinese-style cultural modernization strategy that coordinates cultural industry development with cultural

undertakings development, providing scientific foundations for national and regional cultural industry development policies. Second, it should research market cultural demands and cultural consumption, treating content industrialization based on database and search engine industries and digitalization of the cultural industry as important areas of library science, giving full play to the dual cultural and economic value chains of cultural resources, and developing theories of cultural industry management and services. Third, building upon the cultural and creative practices of libraries and other cultural institutions, library science should explore establishing cultural creativity studies as a branch of applied library science to address new problems in cultural product development, cultural markets, and cultural industry development. Fourth, building upon existing research on culture-tourism integration that library science has already incorporated, the discipline should move from fragmented studies on using “culture” to assist “tourism” and using “tourism” to transform “culture” toward integrated research encompassing socialized, digitalized, and smart culture-tourism integration, as well as culture-tourism integration oriented toward rural revitalization and employment priority strategies.

3. Driving Force for Developing Socialist Advanced Culture and Revolutionary Culture

The primary distinction between Chinese library science and its Western counterpart lies in their theoretical foundations and guiding principles. The 19th and 20th CPC National Congresses have established the basic principles of adhering to Marxism as the theoretical foundation and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as the guiding ideology for Chinese library science. Particularly, the 20th Congress’ s emphasis on “taking core socialist values as the guide to develop socialist advanced culture and promote revolutionary culture” has opened new horizons and new spaces for library science research. First, library science should research how to guide cultural undertakings with core socialist values, adhere to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, explore a Chinese path for library undertakings development, and develop foundational library science theories that advance socialist advanced culture to guide industry development planning and innovative practice. Second, building upon recent research on red literature and revolutionary libraries, library science should strengthen research on the management, development, and utilization of red cultural resources, incorporating red literature into library resource studies and red culture into library service studies. Third, guided by the spirit of the 20th Congress, library science should strengthen new theoretical research on literacy education. As international library science has deepened research on information literacy, digital literacy, and data literacy education, Chinese library science has paid greater attention to the general public, expanding from information literacy education for specific reader groups (such as university students) to public information literacy education, and from information literacy research to comprehensive literacy research encompassing culture, science, health, law, and ethics. Going forward, Chinese library science

should widely absorb existing domestic and international research findings and establish a science of public literacy based on reader studies and reader psychology, taking a leading role in global literacy education theory and practice. Fourth, guided by the 20th Congress' s call to "adhere to cultivating talents for the Party and the country and comprehensively improving the quality of independent talent cultivation," library science should strengthen research on high-quality development of library science education in the new era. Although library science education has always been an important area of library science research, it has not truly established its own educational theory due to the influence of global library science educational standardization, particularly the iSchool movement. Going forward, Chinese library science should draw lessons from the historical experiences and lessons of global library science education development, proceed from Chinese realities and talent demands for building a modern socialist strong country, and explore a Chinese path for library science education that provides satisfactory education for the people.

4. Strong Guarantee for Promoting Excellent Traditional Chinese Culture

The 19th CPC National Congress stated that socialist culture with Chinese characteristics originates from the excellent traditional Chinese culture nurtured by the Chinese nation' s 5,000-year civilization history, emphasizing the need to promote the creative transformation and innovative development of excellent traditional Chinese culture. The 20th Congress further stressed inheriting excellent traditional Chinese culture and continuously enhancing national cultural soft power and the influence of Chinese culture. Libraries and library science have always been committed to protecting and inheriting excellent human culture, and Chinese libraries and library science must take promoting excellent traditional Chinese culture as a major mission, providing strong guarantees from theoretical, applied, and methodological perspectives. First, library science should strengthen theoretical and applied research on ancient book preservation, establish ancient book preservation as a discipline, attract and learn from advanced technologies in cultural relic restoration and archival restoration, develop ancient book restoration techniques, and lead global document preservation and cultural protection with Chinese ancient book preservation theories and technologies. Second, library science should strengthen theoretical and applied research on intangible cultural heritage inheritance, combining with intangible cultural heritage studies as a first-level interdisciplinary discipline to construct a global disciplinary system for intangible cultural heritage studies. Third, contemporary Chinese library science should focus on stimulating the cultural innovation and creativity of the entire nation, serving to tell China' s stories well, disseminate China' s voice effectively, present a credible, lovable, and respectable image of China, and promote Chinese culture to the world more effectively. Therefore, library science should strengthen research on Chinese stories in library undertakings, develop comparative library science that provides advanced experiences for global library undertakings, strengthen research on

the history of Chinese and foreign document exchange and cultural exchange to develop library historiography that is both globally oriented and distinctly Chinese, and strengthen research on strategies for cultural institutions such as libraries to expand external cultural dissemination, thereby developing library cultural communication theory.

Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

Source: ChinaXiv –Machine translation. Verify with original.