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Post-Prints in Subject Resource Development for Fine Arts Libraries in Universities Under the New Situation

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Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] Discipline resource construction constitutes a vital component of library discipline services, serving as the foundation and prerequisite for enhancing service quality and the fundamental guarantee for conducting such services. Whether the discipline resources constructed by the library are effectively revealed and whether subject librarians can provide precise services directly affect the ultimate academic value generated by these resources at the user end. This paper contributes to professional discipline services by systematically reviewing the content and methodologies of art discipline resource construction and summarizing comprehensive solutions for professional discipline resource construction in libraries. [Method/Process] This study investigates the content configurations of various disciplinary levels within art majors, analyzes in detail their disciplinary characteristics and literature resource requirements, proposes specific frameworks for construction content, institutional systems, implementation forms, and evaluation methods for art discipline resource construction, and utilizes the Libguides discipline resource navigation platform to effectively organize and reveal art discipline resources. [Result/Conclusion] Based on art discipline resource construction, this paper presents specific processes and content for the construction and revelation of art discipline resources, offering valuable reference for resource construction across various types of professional libraries.

Full Text

Subject Resource Construction for Art Libraries in Universities Under New Circumstances

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Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] Subject resource construction constitutes a crucial component of library subject services, serving as both the foundation and prerequisite for enhancing service quality and the fundamental guarantee for delivering such services. Whether the constructed subject resources can be effectively revealed and whether subject librarians can provide precise services directly affect the academic value ultimately generated for end users. This paper examines the content and methods of art subject resource construction, summarizes solutions for specialized subject resource construction in libraries, and contributes to the advancement of professional subject services.

[Method/Process] The study investigates the curriculum structure of art majors at various levels, analyzes in detail their disciplinary characteristics and literature resource requirements, proposes frameworks for content development, institutional systems, implementation forms, and evaluation methods for art subject resource construction, and utilizes the LibGuides subject resource navigation platform to effectively organize and reveal art subject resources.

[Result/Conclusion] Based on art subject resource construction, this paper presents specific processes and content for resource construction and revelation, offering valuable reference for resource development across various types of specialized libraries.

Keywords: art subject; specialized library; subject resource construction; subject service; LibGuides

Tsinghua University Library established its subject librarian system in 1998, making it one of the earliest domestic libraries to implement such a system. The primary objective was to strengthen connections between the library and various academic departments, establish channels for communicating needs and ensuring support, and help faculty and students fully utilize library resources. Subject librarians abroad first emerged in the 1950s within specialized branch libraries, subsequently evolving to provide resource guarantees for professional libraries or academic departments, selecting subject resources that meet disciplinary requirements, and evaluating these resources. Subject resources serve as the basic guarantee for teaching, research, and discipline construction, as well as the foundation for libraries to provide professional subject services to academic departments. Since 2008, Tsinghua University Library's subject librarians have participated in resource construction, piloting direct responsibility for selecting foreign-language books.

Under China's new development strategy, the "Double First-Class" initiative (world-class universities and first-class disciplines) was proposed. In August 2015, the Overall Plan for Coordinated Advancement of World-Class Universities and First-Class Discipline Construction was reviewed and approved, followed by its official issuance in November 2015. In September 2017, the Ministry

of Education published the list of Double First-Class construction universities and disciplines. Under these new circumstances, subject resources must increasingly conform to disciplinary requirements and provide diversified resources to supply important materials for teaching and research. However, current research on library subject services for art majors, particularly fine arts, remains insufficiently extensive and in-depth in China.

Tsinghua University Library comprises a main library, specialized libraries, and departmental reference rooms, forming a three-tiered literature guarantee system. The university currently operates six specialized libraries: economics and management, architecture, law, humanities, fine arts, and finance, each serving its respective discipline. The Art Library, formerly the Central Academy of Arts and Design Library established in 1956, was renamed Tsinghua University Art Library after the academy merged with Tsinghua University in 1999. When the Academy of Arts & Design relocated to Tsinghua's campus in 2005, requirements for art subject resource construction and subject librarian services were further clarified.

1. Analysis of Professional Discipline User Resource Needs

1.1 Art Major Discipline Content Structure

According to the *Catalogue of Academic Disciplines for Degree Conferral and Talent Cultivation (2018)* issued by the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council and the Ministry of Education, 13 first-level disciplinary categories are established. The arts discipline includes five first-level disciplines: art theory (1301), music and dance studies (1302), drama and film studies (1303), fine arts (1304), and design studies (1305). Comprehensive universities with art academies (such as Tsinghua University's Academy of Arts & Design) and specialized art institutions (such as the Central Academy of Fine Arts and China Academy of Art) generally establish programs related to these three first-level disciplines: art theory, design studies, and fine arts. [Figure 1: see original paper] illustrates the discipline and program structure of Tsinghua University's Academy of Arts & Design.

1.2 Art Major Disciplinary Characteristics and User Resource Needs

Within the aforementioned first-level disciplines, users share commonalities in their professional literature and information resource needs during learning and research, yet each has distinct characteristics. Fine arts disciplines possess numerous unique features: (1) Art theory users rely on extensive literature for research, whereas fine arts and design studies integrate theory with creative practice, emphasizing hands-on ability and requiring close contact with excellent works for inspiration; (2) Creative techniques in painting, sculpture, and other fields require cultivation through copying and sketching from life. presents these characteristics and requirements.

2. Art Subject Resource Construction

University libraries serve as literature guarantee institutions for teaching and research, where high-quality subject resources constitute the basic condition for high-level disciplinary development. Whether for specialized libraries constructing their own subject resources or subject librarians participating in resource construction, both must adapt to departmental disciplinary development and provide rational guarantees and allocation of subject resources.

Specialized library resource construction is based on departmental program structures, developing content according to disciplinary characteristics and resource demands to ensure subject orientation, depth, and comprehensiveness. By investigating specialized research fields, libraries construct professional materials that meet user needs across broad time ranges and diverse types.

2.1 Types of Art Subject Resource Needs

Based on analysis of art subject characteristics and resource type requirements, presents the findings. The resources that libraries can provide and construct include:

Books: Art monographs include printed books and accompanying CDs, displaying content through multiple media formats. Electronic books have greatly facilitated users, such as art e-book databases like *Chengyi Art Online*, *Artron Art Book Database*, and comprehensive e-book databases like EBSCO that include art subject books. Additionally, book catalog databases record massive publication information for researchers, enabling users to locate books on required topics and recommend purchases to support their research, such as Global Books In Print.

Picture albums, a type of book, typically appear as collections of works, plus loose-leaf printed materials like maps, postcards, and line drawings. Picture databases make images more accessible, with high-resolution images providing significant assistance for user learning and research, constituting key art subject resources. For example, ARTstor Digital Library is an art image database.

Ancient Texts: Ancient texts refer to books written and printed by ancient people, generally referring to manuscripts, block-printed editions, draft manuscripts, and rubbings from dynasties before the 1911 Revolution. Thread-bound books printed after the Revolution, such as the *Sibu Congkan* and *Sibu Beiyao*, also belong to this category. Ancient text databases include *Dianshizhai Pictorial*, *China Basic Ancient Books Database*, *Late Qing and Republican Periodicals Full-text Database*, *Siku Quanshu*, *Sibu Congkan*, *Compilation of Chinese Historical Stone Inscriptions*, and *Dacheng Old Paper Database*.

Journals: Journals are serial publications where specialized academic journals concentrate research papers in specific disciplines. In addition to printed journals, journal databases contain numerous articles. Chinese databases include

CNKI's Academic Journals Full-text Database; foreign databases include ProQuest's *Art, Design & Architecture Collection*, back issues such as *Periodicals Archive Online* and *JSTOR*, and abstract/index databases like *Current Contents Connect—Arts & Humanities*, A&HCI/SSCI, and *Design and Applied Arts Index*.

Newspapers: Newspapers are serial publications with strong timeliness. Beyond content, newspaper layout design provides case studies for art students. Common newspaper databases include CNKI's China Important Newspapers Full-text Database, China's Modern Newspapers Full-text Database, and Gale Scholar's *The Times Digital Archive* (1785-2010).

Dissertations and Research Reports: Dissertations are research reports or academic papers written to obtain degrees, categorized as bachelor's, master's, or doctoral theses. Doctoral and master's theses represent original research and constitute important subject resources. Currently, authorized dissertations are published in collections or collected in dissertation databases such as CNKI's China Doctoral/Master's Dissertations Full-text Database, various university student thesis databases, and ProQuest Dissertations and Theses.

Research reports analyze data trends to generate reports for designer reference, such as Data Park and Worth Global Style Network.

Physical Materials, Exhibition Items, and High-fidelity Reproductions: Physical materials refer to actual works, museum collections, collection images, or audio/video materials—key focuses of art subject resource construction. Relevant databases include Catalog of Art Museum Images Online and Art Museum Image Gallery.

Exhibition items refer to non-published materials like exhibition posters, manuals, T-show videos, museum bulletins, and artist portfolios. High-fidelity reproductions are high-quality copies of calligraphy and paintings. Since precious works are often cultural relics or difficult to access, high-fidelity reproductions are produced through high-resolution scanning, printing, or publishing for observation and copying practice.

Multi-type Databases: These integrate multiple resource types—including books, journals, manuals, images, audio/video—making them comprehensive resource databases, typically large in scale. Examples include EBSCO's Art & Architecture Source.

Self-built Characteristic Resources and Open Access Resources: Libraries' characteristic self-built resources represent another focus of art subject resource construction, developed through cooperation and sharing for materials difficult for readers to obtain. Using Tsinghua University Art Library as an example, characteristic resources include the Wu Guanzhong Art Materials Database built in cooperation with the Wu Guanzhong Art Research Center, the Sculpture Creation Drafts learning database cooperatively built with the Sculpture Department, the Graduate Works Database built with the Academy

of Arts & Design, and the high-fidelity reproduction catalog database built with reproduction publishers, plus self-built e-book collections like the required reading list for the Art History Department, Republican period thread-bound books, and loose-leaf albums.

Additionally, valuable OA resources can be selected from openly accessible online resources as supplements. Foreign examples include the Bridgeman Art Library, Getty Museum, Princeton University Gest East Asian Library's Chinese Shadow Puppet Database, and the International Dunhuang Project IDP. Chinese examples include the China Art Museum (National Library), James Cahill Digital Library, and Capital Library's Ancient Book Illustrations Database—all freely accessible online.

2.2 Institutional Guarantees for Art Subject Resource Construction

Stable and sustainable development of art subject resource construction requires comprehensive regulations and guidelines as guarantees. When formulating these systems, thorough investigation and analysis of art subject user needs characteristics must inform systematic planning, construction, and development of the subject resource system. These regulations and guidelines encompass five aspects: subject resource construction development policies, organizational systems, implementation regulations, funding systems, and evaluation systems.

Subject resource construction development policies clarify the overall objectives, vision, and principles for art subject resource construction, including development purposes, principles, and goals. Organizational systems and implementation forms establish resource procurement principles and procedures, interlibrary exchange policies, gift acceptance and transfer policies, and cooperative construction frameworks to fully protect rights and obligations in interlibrary resource co-construction and sharing. Funding systems stipulate funding sources, allocation, and use for various subject resource categories to ensure efficient and rational utilization. Evaluation systems establish procurement assessment, weeding assessment methods, and indicators to evaluate the rationality, scientific nature, and implementation strength of art subject resource construction processes.

After establishing these systems, implementation requires detailed operational guidelines under the overall framework. First, continuous funding guarantees are essential. Second, procurement principles must be clear and procedures explicit—for example, not selecting resources outside designated disciplines to ensure precise subject content, and controlling funding use by setting single-item price limits within which individual selection is permitted, with over-limit purchases requiring team discussion and established approval procedures including price inquiry mechanisms and reader feedback mechanisms. Third, effective quality control methods must be employed, such as regular subject resource evaluation and gap-filling mechanisms, ensuring recommended resources are processed within specified timeframes.

Domestic art book publishers are mostly small-scale, with relatively few annual publications. Based on these characteristics, new book procurement can follow longer cycles, such as biweekly or monthly selection through contracted vendors. Supplementary selection through irregular participation in book fairs, domestic and international book expos, visits to specialized bookstores, and monitoring publisher websites constitutes an important resource construction method. Some art academic journals lack stability, with irregular publication or frequent title changes; these require tracking and gap-filling after ordering through vendors to ensure serial completeness.

Excellent domestic and foreign art e-books, image, and audio/video databases represent important resources for professional users. Procurement can involve negotiating purchases of required or authoritative databases or participating in consortium group purchases. Beyond active procurement, receiving donated resources constitutes another supplement. Libraries should attract alumni, graduates, current students, and concerned professionals to contribute donations through their own development efforts.

Art teaching and research particularly require physical materials, exhibition items, and high-fidelity reproductions—high-quality resources prioritized in subject resource construction. Physical materials are typically procured through auctions, expos, and collector markets based on expert recommendations. Exhibition items are collected through field visits to exhibition venues and art districts. Establishing good cooperative relationships with museums and galleries can also yield high-quality exhibition materials. High-fidelity reproductions, such as those of calligraphy and paintings housed in the Palace Museum, Taipei Palace Museum, and Liaoning Museum, as well as Dunhuang murals and Yongle Palace murals, are essential for teaching and research. Procurement differs significantly from other resources, requiring understanding of reproduction sources and quality assessment of printing and mounting. Superior reproductions require providers to employ professional artists for color matching against originals; collaboration with departmental faculty for evaluation is recommended.

Characteristic art subject resources often require cooperative construction, including various forms of interlibrary cooperation and resource sharing. Active participation in domestic and international cooperative organizations and programs expands collection scope and provides access to unique resources unavailable locally. Additionally, characteristic resource construction requires tapping internal resources and personnel for self-building.

2.3 Forms and Evaluation of Art Subject Resource Construction

Subject resource construction generally includes procurement principles and procedures, interlibrary exchange, and gift acceptance/transfer policies. By resource type, construction can be categorized as general book selection, serials selection, electronic resources, multimedia resources, large sets, thematic

resources, special collections, and physical resource selection. Different resource types require selection based on their characteristics under established procurement principles and procedures to guarantee academic quality and applicability.

Art subject resource construction evaluation differs from general library resource assessment due to unique types and content characteristics. The most important indicators are user-centered art professional perspectives: whether resources demonstrate strong professional quality, align with user research fields and directions, and meet disciplinary needs. Evaluation can employ external collection and internal self-assessment. External methods include reader surveys, random interviews, reader symposiums, and expert evaluation. Internal methods include procurement evaluation software, authoritative index comparisons, usage statistics, and horizontal reference checks for resource completeness and key resource guarantees, such as reviewing publisher annual lists, comparing peer library holdings, and examining industry award lists and online evaluation results.

3. Implementation of Art Subject Resource Services

3.1 Revelation and Service of Art Subject Resource Construction

Art subject resources feature rich types, numerous images and multimedia materials, self-built and cooperatively built characteristic resources, and online OA resources. Subject resource construction forms the foundation for subject resource services, which in turn reflect the applicability of resources to researchers. Effective revelation is the prerequisite for service. Subject resource revelation involves selection, classification, description, organization, and presentation, with subject navigation providing centralized revelation.

LibGuides is a Web 2.0-based content management and knowledge navigation platform designed specifically for libraries, launched by Springshare in 2007. It enables subject resource construction librarians or subject librarians to quickly organize and navigate various types of subject resources, providing users with subject resource navigation.

[Figure 2: see original paper] shows Tsinghua Art Library's use of LibGuides, based on the aforementioned resource needs for art teaching and research. According to resource carrier types, special content formats, and user service implementation needs, the navigation is organized into eight modules: "Art Resources Portal," "Find Art Books," "Find Art Journals & Papers," "Find Image Resources," "Open Courses & Free Resources," "Art Website Links," "Academic Writing & Submission," and "FAQs & Help."

This navigation design thoroughly investigates art faculty and student resource needs, providing retrieval access to library holdings including books, journals, newspapers, and dissertations, with links to other major art academy libraries in China. Database resource lists are revealed separately by Chinese and foreign languages, including purchased databases and OA resource links, plus self-built subject resource database links. Additional features include museum and gallery

links, CNKI access, library announcements, rules and service links, resource recommendation requests, and new book notifications.

Through the LibGuides navigation page, users can access all types of art subject resources constructed by the Art Library in one stop, conveniently obtaining various art-related links collected by subject resource construction librarians and subject librarians, as well as library utilization and reader service links. Subject navigation effectively reveals constructed resources, assists subject librarians in providing fast and precise resource services, ultimately enables high-academic-value resource guidance for professional learning and creative research, and improves service efficiency and quality.

3.2 Application and Development of Subject Resource Construction in Subject Services

Subject resource construction is an important component of strengthening library subject services and the foundation for improving them.

First, analyzing disciplinary characteristics and configuring various resource types enables users to conveniently locate needed resources. When faculty can easily obtain teaching materials from the library rather than habitually relying solely on the internet, and when these resources successfully embed into teaching and research activities as course references, teaching aids, or sample images, they play a more effective role.

Second, subject construction librarians or subject librarians must thoroughly understand departmental professional situations, follow departmental development strategies, comprehend cultivation plans, communicate with faculty and students, update information promptly, broaden procurement channels, carefully select resources, and match the latest disciplinary construction and teaching/research requirements.

Finally, post-construction processes are crucial as they initiate the next construction cycle. These processes include revealing, publicizing, promoting, serving, evaluating, and collecting feedback on constructed resources. These stages enable resource construction to deliver value, demonstrate effectiveness, and provide reliable evidence for 下一轮 construction, guiding future development. Thus, subject resource construction operates as a closed-loop system: analyzing needs, constructing resources under institutional guarantees, implementing resource applications, and obtaining new demand feedback through evaluation to regulate subsequent construction.

In summary, this paper comprehensively introduces various aspects of art subject resource construction in specialized libraries using art subject resource construction as an example. Under the Double First-Class context, providing the most complete and effective professional subject resources for departmental teaching and research presents both challenges and opportunities. The professionalism, completeness, embedded interactivity with readers, close link-

age with departments, and integration with disciplinary construction represent contemporary requirements for specialized library subject resource construction and manifestations of professional library specialization, enabling specialized libraries to play greater roles in building world-class disciplines.

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

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