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Postprint: Research on the Development Practice of Red Reading Spaces in Libraries in the New Era

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Abstract

In recent years, education, training, and learning related to red culture have emerged as a new growth point in the cultural demands of the people, making the construction of red culture-themed reading spaces a key research focus. This paper analyzes the construction background and current status of red reading spaces in libraries across China, and conducts an in-depth exploration of red reading space design, red reading space services, and the development of literature resources for such spaces. It offers novel insights for libraries to innovatively promote reading of red resources and dissemination of red culture, thereby facilitating the upgrading of red space services.

Full Text

Research on the Construction Practice of Library Red Reading Spaces in the New Era

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Abstract

In recent years, education, training, and learning related to “red culture” have emerged as a new growth point in cultural demand among the Chinese public, making the construction of red culture-themed reading spaces a key research focus. This paper analyzes the current background and status of red reading space construction in Chinese libraries, offering an in-depth exploration of red reading space design, services, and literature resource development. The study provides new perspectives for libraries to innovate in promoting red resources and red culture dissemination, and to enhance red space service upgrades.

Keywords: New Era; Red Reading Spaces

In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, red culture education has become one of the new cultural demands of the people, and the construction of red-themed reading spaces has garnered increasing attention. As General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized in his discourse on “passing down the red legacy from generation to generation,” library professionals must inherit red culture. The Yan’an Zhongshan Library, established after the founding of the Communist Party of China, was the first red public library and made indelible contributions to the victory of the Anti-Japanese War and the Chinese revolution, as well as to red cultural construction. Although physical red reading spaces are being constructed vigorously across China, research on their practical construction remains scarce. This paper analyzes the current status of red reading space construction in Chinese libraries from three dimensions—space design, services, and literature resources—to provide new pathways for their development.

1. Research Content and Methodology

This study employs network investigation and content analysis to examine the design, services, and literature resource construction of red reading spaces in 20 representative libraries across various provinces and municipalities in China. The investigation, conducted from January to June 2023, selected libraries with regionally representative red heritage, including: Peking University Library’s Dazhao Reading Room, Renmin University of China Library’s Party History Learning and Education Reading Space, National Defense University of the People’s Liberation Army’s Learning Academy, Hunan University Library’s Red Culture Space, Sichuan University Library’s Party Learning and Education Theme Space, Chengdu University of Technology Library’s series of characteristic reading spaces, Guangzhou Library’s Red Reading Corner, South China University of Technology Library’s Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era Study Space, Guangdong University of Technology Library’s Ideological and Political Research Space and Study Hall, South China Normal University Library’s Xi Jinping Governance Library and Party Member Learning Space, Shenzhen Bao’an District Library’s Red Culture Space, Shenzhen Yantian District Library’s Red Spirit Pedigree Themed Pavilion, Hangzhou Library’s Children’s Red Study, Guizhou Provincial Library’s Long March Documents Theme Pavilion, Jiangsu University Library’s Red Learning Space, Jiangxi Provincial Library’s Red Library, Taiyuan Library’s Marx Study Room, Shijiazhuang Library’s Red Study Room, Nanjing Meiyuan New Village Memorial Hall’s Zhou Enlai Library, Yan’an Zhongshan Library, Xi’an Technological University Library’s Red Culture Library, Linyi Lanshan District Library’s Red Study Room, and Harbin Institute of Technology Library’s Party History Learning and Education Reading Space.

2. Design of Library Red Reading Spaces

2.1 Spatial Function Design and Layout

Library interior design directly affects reader experience, with its fundamental function being to satisfy and enhance user engagement. Space planning involves reorganizing and restructuring interior spaces according to functional requirements. When planning red reading spaces, libraries should fully consider the spirit of red heritage, integration, and technological empowerment in the new era, creating dynamic yet quiet zones that integrate ritualistic and interactive elements. Most libraries surveyed have divided their red reading spaces into four functional areas.

First, the **red resources exhibition area** displays special collections, photographs, and other materials to immerse readers in red culture. For instance, Peking University Library's Dazhao Reading Room features exhibitions such as "Li Dazhao and the Communist Party of China" and "Li Dazhao and Chinese Library Career," displaying original books and authentic manuscripts related to Li Dazhao, directly showcasing China's revolutionary history and spirit.

Second, the **study area** creates comfortable learning environments using environmental aesthetics, an effective method for modern libraries to attract readers. Yantian District Library has designed the "Xiaomeisha Sea-viewing Library"—a red spirit pedigree themed pavilion overlooking the Xiaomeisha seascape, located on the coastal boardwalk. This has become a popular red tourism check-in spot among young people, demonstrating the charm of integrating red culture with cultural tourism.

Third, the **smart media service experience zone** represents the vitality source of red reading spaces, with extensive application of virtual reality and augmented reality technologies being a major creative feature in new-era library red reading space design.

Fourth, the **interactive exchange and sharing area** specializes in conducting red reading promotion activities such as red story sessions and Party history learning sharing meetings, continuously enhancing spatial hierarchy. Jiangxi Provincial Library's Red Library utilizes this interactive space to imprint red culture in readers' hearts through a strong red cultural atmosphere.

2.2 Spatial Color and Interface Design

Spatial character represents the personification of spatial environment in people's physiological and psychological responses. Libraries should construct spatial environments coordinated with their intended character to enhance readers' psychological reading experience. For red reading spaces, libraries should use red as the unified thematic color to create atmosphere, while incorporating revolutionary cultural elements and local red culture characteristics, supplemented by other colors to create harmonious relationships.

In interior space interface design, libraries must address various interface modeling issues. For example, Jiangsu University Library's Red Memory Remembrance Special Zone utilizes white light strip artistic patterns in its ceiling design to outline a revolutionary base area map, complemented by multiple small red five-pointed star light sources against an entire red wall. Guizhou Provincial Library's Long March Documents Theme Pavilion borrows design elements from the Zunyi Meeting Site architecture, with semi-circular arched tops on bookcases and vertical shelves that echo the arched corridors of the original site.

2.3 Spatial Display and Furnishing Design

Red reading spaces serve as important platforms for libraries to promote red culture. During design, libraries must combine reading culture with red spirit while maintaining overall style coordination and contextual continuity. Furnishing artworks can convey unique spatial character, special commemorative significance, and strong artistic value. Libraries should design historically meaningful decorations—such as small red flags, five-pointed stars, and other ornaments—to reflect red culture and promote red spirit.

Wall design constitutes the core element of red reading space design. South China Normal University's Xi Jinping Governance Library and Party Member Learning Space uses sliding rail equipment and digital intelligence technology to display the Communist Party of China's glorious history on an entire wall, while employing spliced inclined screens for rolling broadcasts to comprehensively showcase the overview of Party building and ideological-political work. Some libraries have created Party history cultural corridors and walls using historical photographs and factual texts to record the Party's glorious journey since its founding. The National Defense University of the PLA's Learning Academy design fully draws on architectural features of the First National Congress Site of the CPC, highlighting red culture.

3. Services of Library Red Reading Spaces

3.1 Red Reading Spaces and “Third Space” Services

Zhang Jing, Vice Dean of the School of Information Management at Sun Yat-sen University, posits that if home is the first space of urban life and workplace the second, then cafes, museums, and other public places constitute the third space, in which libraries should be extremely important components. Red reading spaces align with third space services in providing diverse public services. Libraries utilize red reading spaces to conduct red culture promotion activities including red story sessions and red culture theme speeches, integrating red reading promotion into people's daily lives.

3.2 Educational Functions of Red Reading Spaces

As emphasized by General Secretary Xi Jinping, “We must make good use of red resources, continue the red legacy, and pass down the red foundation from generation to generation.” To further manifest libraries’ cultural education functions, libraries must vigorously promote deep integration between red culture and various services during red reading space construction. Hangzhou Children’s Red Study continuously provides red story sessions, “Red Scarf Medal” social practice, and other educational activities for young readers, fulfilling the fundamental task of cultivating virtue and nurturing talent. This demonstrates unique spatial educational functions and has become an important destination for minors’ red learning, enriching their ideological and moral development.

3.3 Service Effectiveness of Red Reading Spaces

Improving red reading space service effectiveness holds significant practical meaning for libraries. With comfortable reading environments, abundant reading promotion activities, and rich functional facilities, red reading spaces attract increasing numbers of readers. For instance, Taiyuan Library’s Marx Study Room receives an average of 15 visiting and learning groups daily, with service effectiveness far exceeding other reading spaces in the library. The “Red Culture Space” at the same library features multiple digital red literature reading zones, including red thematic book borrowing areas, audio Party building resources, live broadcast and reading experience zones, stepped interactive exchange and sharing zones, and calligraphy copying experience zones, meeting readers’ diverse and personalized utilization needs.

4. Literature Resource Construction for Library Red Reading Spaces

Digital resource construction represents a crucial pathway for red reading space development. With rapid advancement of digital intelligence technologies, red reading spaces have begun using these technologies to provide immersive red culture experiences. Libraries must rely on digital library platforms to increase procurement of Party building e-books, providing readers with learning environments for red literature. Red reading spaces can construct digital red thematic resources through red thematic databases, red digital resource learning platforms, mobile libraries, and audiobooks.

Shaoshan Mao Zedong Library has collected over 110,000 metadata entries of Mao Zedong literature resources, conducting digital processing of Mao Zedong’s works published before 1949, presenting original books and materials, and committed to promoting Mao Zedong and Mao Zedong Thought, playing an important role in inheriting red genes and continuing red legacy.

5. Conclusion

As the entire Party and people of all ethnic groups embark on a new journey to build a modern socialist country and advance toward the second centenary goal, library professionals should firmly grasp the great founding spirit of the Party and further explore new concepts, models, and paths for red reading space construction. This study's investigation of red reading space construction practices in 20 representative libraries reveals that successful red reading spaces should: (1) integrate collection, reading, research, exhibition, and education into a comprehensive red culture space; (2) strengthen research on innovative red reading promotion activities in the new era, skillfully utilizing virtual reality technology; (3) enhance digital construction of red resources to open multi-platform learning channels; and (4) innovate red cultural services by establishing red culture brand alliances to maximize universal red culture learning.

Library red reading spaces in the new era should not only provide environments for literature study but also become exchange spaces for red culture display and practice bases for red education, serving as platforms to inherit red genes and promote red education. However, theoretical research on the positioning and services of library red reading spaces remains underdeveloped, and the dimensions and levels discussed in this paper require further empirical research on construction models and pathways.

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