

# Research on the Role of University Department Resource Rooms in Supporting the Construction of "First-Class Majors" Strategy

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**Abstract:** The reference room of colleges and departments in colleges and universities is an important part of teaching and scientific research, an organic combination of teaching and scientific research, and an important support for the development and construction of the school. Strengthening the construction of reference rooms of colleges and departments in colleges and universities is helpful to meet the individual needs of students, improve the quality of service and promote the professional development of teachers. It is found that there are some problems in the reference rooms of colleges and departments, such as insufficient allocation of resources, low utilization rate, backward management mode and so on. We should start with optimizing the allocation of resources, improving the utilization rate and strengthening professional services, so as to improve the service level of the reference room of colleges and departments and play its role in the construction of first-class specialties.

**Keywords:** first-class professional construction; department reference room; service

## 1. Introduction

In March 2021, the Office of the Ministry of Education issued a notice on the implementation of several measures to promote the development of first-class undergraduate education, which clearly stated the need to "promote the deep integration of professional construction with disciplinary construction, teaching reform, etc." in order to improve the quality of undergraduate majors and talent training. In response to the rapid development of information technology and the knowledge economy, and in line with the requirements of building first-class majors, the university library is facing new challenges and new opportunities. On the one hand, with the increase in informatization, the continuous popularization of network technology, and the continuous upgrading of data management tools, the demand for information resources from discipline and professional construction is increasing, which puts higher requirements on the college and department libraries in terms of literature resource guarantee, digital resources, and services<sup>[1]</sup>. On the other hand, building first-class majors and improving talent training require the college and department libraries to meet new requirements and higher standards. They not only need to cultivate students' professional knowledge and skills, but also need to help them improve their innovation and practical abilities. Therefore, to better serve the construction of first-class majors, it is urgently necessary to strengthen the management and service level of college and department libraries.

## 2. University department resource rooms are an important pillar for the construction of first-class majors

### 2.1 The functional positioning of university department resource rooms

The university department resource room should be centered around teaching, serving teachers, students, and disciplinary development, providing professional literature and information support for teaching, scientific research, and disciplinary construction. Specifically, the university department resource room should have the following functions: First, it should serve the teaching work of teachers. Different types of teaching content are specified in various professional talent training programs<sup>[2]</sup>. Relevant literary information resources should be matched according to the actual needs of the school and teaching characteristics to meet professional teaching needs. Based on the needs of teacher

professional development and student professional learning, the literary resource construction should be continuously optimized to provide literary data support for teaching. Second, it should serve disciplinary construction. The department resource room should collect relevant professional literature resources in the related disciplinary fields of the college, and categorize and organize them to provide literary information services for disciplinary development. Third, it should serve the professional learning of teachers and students. The department resource room should actively collect the latest research results and development trends in the related disciplinary fields of the unit, and provide them for teachers and students to consult. Fourth, it should serve teachers' scientific research. The university department resource room should provide literary and information support for school teaching and research, and organically integrate literary resource construction with disciplinary development. The sources of teachers' research topics come from frontline professional practice. The department resource room should give full play to its own advantages and characteristics to provide high-quality literary information services for teachers. The department resource room should build a literary information service platform for "library-resource room" around professional setting and disciplinary development, and promote the organic combination of disciplinary knowledge with teaching and scientific research.

### ***2.2 The organizational positioning of university department resource rooms***

The resource room is an integral part of the teaching management department of a university, mainly responsible for collecting, organizing, and preserving literary information resources in various disciplinary fields, and providing literary information services for teachers' teaching and students' learning<sup>[3]</sup>. The resource room has a cooperative relationship with the teaching management department and plays an important role in teachers' teaching work. However, the university department resource room cannot be simply regarded as a subsidiary of the teaching management department, but should be an integral part of university teaching work. In order to better serve teaching, the resource room must maintain good communication and cooperation with the teaching management department of the college.

Firstly, the university department resource room should regularly organize business exchanges and training activities to enable teachers and students to better understand the school's relevant regulations, professional development trends, etc., ensuring that they have a better understanding of the school's requirements for professional construction and laying a foundation for improving their professional level. At the same time, the university department resource room should regularly provide the latest professional information and academic research results to the relevant departments of the university, assisting the college's teaching management department in improving the talent training programs. Secondly, the department resource room should actively cooperate with the heads of various disciplines and excellent teachers and communicate closely with relevant departments of the college to play a positive role in professional construction, faculty training, student ideological and political education, etc. Thirdly, the department resource room should promptly feedback students' learning needs to professional teachers and actively assist them in improving textbook construction. Teachers can obtain information to improve teaching plans and teaching content through resource room materials and textbook purchases. Finally, the department resource room should assist teachers in professional scientific research by actively providing literary information services<sup>[4]</sup>.

### ***2.3 First-class major construction cannot be separated from university department professional resource rooms***

The professional book resource room of a university department is an important place for students in the department to acquire knowledge and an important pillar for the construction of first-class majors. University department resource rooms can effectively support the construction of first-class majors by supporting faculty and student teaching and research. The department resource room is an educational and auxiliary institution that serves teaching and scientific research in the department. It is located at the forefront of teaching and scientific research and can be in close proximity to its service objects - teachers, researchers, and students. It provides professional and personalized services to them while understanding the changes in teaching and scientific research topics. It closely serves the department's teaching, provides various teaching and educational reference materials to teachers, and collects a large number of professional books for this department, which plays an important and far-reaching role in the development of teaching and scientific research in this department<sup>[5]</sup>.

### **3. Analysis of the problems faced by university department resource rooms in serving first-class majors**

#### ***3.1 The inventory resources are relatively outdated and need upgrading***

According to statistics, the total amount of literary materials in university department resource rooms nationwide is more than 1 billion copies, which is equivalent to more than 50% of the total collection of national libraries. However, due to staffing and funding constraints, the department resource rooms often have an abundance of traditional paper-based books and periodicals but lag behind in the development of e-books, databases, and other electronic resources, which affects their support for disciplinary and professional development.

#### ***3.2 Insufficient information service capabilities***

Currently, university department resource rooms generally lack investment and are not adequately integrated into the construction of first-class majors. As a result, many of them have insufficient functions, and some resource room staff have not yet fully utilized their professional skills to provide targeted professional services to teachers or students and to provide high-quality and efficient services for teaching and scientific research.

#### ***3.3 Outdated management systems***

Universities often manage resource rooms manually, with a lack of modern and systematic network information retrieval systems and book data management software, and they cannot share resources. The staff of the resource rooms often lack the professional knowledge and skills required for book collection and cannot provide readers with timely professional services such as library collection information consulting and book recommendations<sup>[6]</sup>. Moreover, affected by traditional concepts, some resource rooms regard themselves as mere "book repositories," "literature rooms," and "resource shelters," which leads to disconnection from teaching and scientific research.

### **4. Strategies to help university department resource rooms support the construction of first-class majors**

#### ***4.1 Leverage on their strengths and support the construction of first-class majors***

Currently, Chinese universities are at a critical period in the construction of "Double First-Class" universities, and the construction of first-class majors is an important foundation for supporting the building of first-class universities and first-class disciplines. Education is viewed as the most important investment for a country and a nation worldwide, and a successful investment in education means the development of new knowledge, technologies, and industries. The construction of first-class majors requires first-class teaching, research, disciplinary leaders, and a team of high-quality professional teachers. Only with deep professional knowledge, scientific and cultural literacy, and comprehensive abilities, can one become a qualified university teacher.

The department resource room is the basic support and guarantee for disciplinary construction, an important place for faculty and student research and learning, as well as a place to enhance research and professional skills. The department resource room should leverage on its strengths to support the construction of first-class majors, conducting scientific and reasonable literary resource construction based on the overall development plan of the university and the objectives of disciplinary construction while taking into account the characteristics and development positioning of the department's major.

#### ***4.2 Providing Professional Services Based on Professional Characteristics***

In terms of professional development, each discipline has its own characteristics. Each department's information library should focus on the disciplinary characteristics of the college, fully leverage its strengths, and provide more professional literature support for teaching and research in the college. For example, the History Department's information library has a strong research interest in historical literature and has conducted extensive research in the fields of Chinese and world history over the years, resulting in a rich collection of literature resources. The History Department's information library offers courses such as "Essential Chinese Historical Texts," "Introduction to Classic Western Literature," and

"Historical Bibliography" to students, and takes advantage of these courses to encourage students to read widely and develop a deeper understanding of the professional curriculum. At the same time, theoretical knowledge is integrated into all teaching activities, helping students to appreciate the organic combination of theory and practice. Every year, the information library should undertake literature resource development and procurement work for the college's key disciplinary construction projects and key research projects. The college should develop corresponding plans every year and organize the information library to collect, organize, purchase, and manage the literature.

#### ***4.3 Strengthening Contact with Academic Leaders to Achieve Resource Co-Construction and Sharing***

Departmental information libraries should fully leverage their own strengths to provide information support and security for their respective disciplines. Strengthening contact and communication with academic leaders can effectively mobilize the enthusiasm of teachers in each discipline to participate in literature resource development, thereby enabling each discipline to gain access to more valuable academic literature. At the same time, this can also promote the professional development of information library management personnel. The information library should provide various forms of services for scientific researchers and teachers and provide information security and support for other departments and disciplines of the college. It should actively participate in various types of publicity, training, and exchange activities hosted by the library, as well as all kinds of academic events and conferences, and reading activities.

#### ***4.4 Strengthening Promotion Based on Professional Advantages to Assist Teachers' Development***

College departmental information libraries are important places to showcase teaching and research achievements. Teachers can timely understand the latest academic trends, teaching concepts, and advanced experiences at home and abroad, and use this to conduct research topics, continuously improve their knowledge level, and provide support for the construction of high-level universities and first-class disciplines. At the same time, as a link between teachers, students, and the library, the departmental information library should provide efficient and convenient literature services for teachers and students, realize the sharing and complementary advantages of resources with the library, and allow teachers and students to fully utilize resources to carry out high-level teaching activities. In addition, by strengthening promotion, the information library can further improve its service quality, which is of great significance for the construction of "Double First-Class" universities and first-class disciplines.

#### ***4.5 Conducting Special Information Consultation Services***

College departmental information libraries have professional advantages in collecting, organizing, and transmitting information and materials in various disciplines, and can meet the needs of discipline construction and talent cultivation. College departmental information libraries should carry out special information consultation services around teaching, research, and discipline construction, including: (1) timely collecting and updating professional information based on the overall goal of constructing "first-class disciplines" in the university, with a focus on the core courses of professional ideology and other content, to help teachers and students understand the latest research progress; (2) collecting information on the characteristics of the school's professional construction based on the characteristics of the discipline, including the academic development direction of the teachers, discipline development trends, research project contents, etc.; (3) collecting professional books for the school based on the teaching and research needs of the teachers, such as books on new technologies and methods; (4) collecting academic papers and research results of well-known scholars and experts in the school to meet the needs of students for knowledge in the discipline, such as research papers and collected works; (5) collecting course introductions and the latest industry trends from related industry experts and professors in line with the school's talent training goals; and (6) collecting relevant teaching resources based on teachers' teaching and research needs, such as teaching materials, teaching methods, etc.

#### ***4.6 Develop Reference Consulting Services***

In the increasingly abundant digital information age, traditional paper resources still dominate the mainstream. This presents new demands for professional services in academic departmental libraries. Therefore, the library must constantly expand its service functions. Based on traditional service, the library should fully leverage the advantages of network resources and actively develop reference consulting services. Currently, reference consulting work mainly focuses on providing network

information navigation. Its methods primarily include direct librarian answers, reader letters, and online consultations. Librarians can provide different consulting services according to the needs of different users. Librarians need to formulate corresponding reference consulting work plans based on the needs of users. This requires library staff to conduct in-depth exploration and integration of literature information resources, track, analyze, research, summarize and dig into different types of literature information resources in various databases. Timely integrate various types of literature information into the library database, making it a valuable reference consulting service resource, and realizing the information resource sharing between the library and the departmental library.

#### 4.7 Regularly hold report meetings

If professional teachers are the main participants, invite departmental leaders, related teachers, and students of the major to participate, and invite domestic and foreign experts and scholars to exchange and share academic views and research results around the construction and development planning of the major. Regularly holding report meetings is one of the best service methods, which can play several roles:

(1) To a certain extent, it realizes the sharing of information resources. The library's guarantee of literature information needed for school and college teaching and research is limited and still has a considerable gap when compared with the teaching and research needs, so it requires the library to collect, sort out, enrich, and improve relevant materials through multiple channels.

(2) It is beneficial to strengthen communication and cooperation between disciplines. By holding report meetings, the library can fully play its role in discipline construction, exchange and learn from the professional characteristics and advantages of the department and sister colleges, fill in gaps and promote the sharing of resources and communication and cooperation between disciplines.

(3) It is beneficial to improve the professional quality of librarians. Through exchange activities such as lectures, librarians can improve their communication and coordination skills, language expression skills and academic research abilities, etc., which is helpful in enhancing their professional quality and expertise. By holding report meetings, lectures and other activities, students can participate directly in the research and discussions of experts and scholars, understand the problems they encountered in their research, and directly participate in their research topics.

## 5. Conclusion

First-rate major construction is an important part of talent cultivation in universities, and as an important component of the talent cultivation system, the departmental library has a supporting role in literature information resources, providing better services for students' personalized needs, and teachers' teaching and research. In first-rate major construction, the departmental library should actively play a professional service role, combining new trends in discipline development, personalized student needs, and discipline professional development to strengthen library collection construction and resource sharing. By optimizing resource allocation, improving utilization rate, and strengthening professional services and other strategies, the quality of departmental library services is continually improving, achieving the integration and development of professional and discipline construction.

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