

The Role Positioning and Development Strategies of Departmental Libraries in Applied Undergraduate Colleges in the Construction of First-Class Majors

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Abstract: This paper explores the significant role of the departmental library in the construction of first-class majors in applied undergraduate colleges. By analyzing its role in teaching support, scientific research assistance, promotion of discipline construction, and cultural heritage, the challenges faced by the library are elaborated, and corresponding development strategies are proposed, including resource integration, service innovation, personnel quality improvement, and cooperation and exchange. The aim is to provide references for improving the service quality of the departmental library and promoting the construction of first-class majors.

Keywords: Departmental Library; Role Positioning; Development Strategy

1. Introduction

With the rapid development of higher education, applied undergraduate colleges have occupied an important position in China's higher education system. These colleges play an indispensable role in cultivating applied talents and serving local economic development. The departmental library, as an important support for college teaching and scientific research, its role and function in the construction of first-class majors are becoming increasingly prominent. Especially in applied undergraduate colleges, the library is not only a hub of information resources but also a key factor in promoting professional development and improving teaching quality. However, in the face of new educational demands and technological changes, the construction and development of the departmental library are facing unprecedented challenges and opportunities.

At present, research on the departmental library in applied undergraduate colleges has made certain progress. Studies have shown that the library has significant value in providing professional intelligence services, promoting discipline construction, and enhancing talent training capabilities. At the same time, the digital construction of the library, the improvement of management personnel quality, and the innovation of service content and methods have become hot topics of research. In the context of first-class major construction, the role positioning and development strategy of the library have attracted widespread attention. Therefore, clarifying the role positioning of the library in the construction of first-class majors and formulating reasonable development strategies are of great significance for improving the educational quality and discipline level of applied undergraduate colleges.

2. Role Positioning of the Departmental Library in the Construction of First-Class Majors in Applied Undergraduate Colleges

2.1 An Important Resource Library for Teaching Support

(1) Providing Professional Course-related Materials

The departmental library houses a large collection of materials closely related to professional courses, including textbooks, reference books, academic journals, and teaching courseware. These materials can meet the diverse needs of teachers in the teaching process. For example, when explaining a certain professional knowledge point, teachers can obtain different versions of textbooks and related reference books from the library to better present the multi-angle interpretation of knowledge to students^[1]. For students, the library is an important place to obtain extracurricular learning materials. In the learning

process, students can deepen their understanding of classroom knowledge, broaden their knowledge base, and cultivate independent learning abilities by consulting the materials in the library.

(2)Assisting in Practical Teaching

In applied undergraduate education, practical teaching is an important link. The library can collect and organize materials related to practical teaching, such as case collections, experimental guidance books, and enterprise research reports. These materials can provide rich materials for practical teaching, helping teachers better design practical teaching content and improve students' practical operation abilities and problem-solving abilities in real situations.

2.2 A Capable Assistant for Scientific Research Assistance

(1)Providing Scientific Research Literature Support

Scientific research work requires a large number of literature materials as a foundation. The departmental library provides a wealth of scientific research literature resources for teachers and researchers through subscribing to professional academic journals, purchasing professional databases, and collecting academic monographs. These documents cover the latest research results, classic theories, and research methods in the discipline, providing important references and inspiration for the research work of scientific researchers^[2].

(2)Assisting in the Conduct of Scientific Research Projects

In the process of carrying out scientific research projects, the library can assist researchers in literature research, data collection, and organization^[2]. For example, in some interdisciplinary scientific research projects, the library can use its rich resource advantages to help researchers obtain relevant materials from different disciplines, promote interdisciplinary integration, and provide guarantees for the smooth progress of scientific research projects.

2.3 A Driving Force for Discipline Construction

(1)Promoting the Inheritance of Discipline Knowledge

The departmental library preserves historical documents and classic works in the discipline, which are important carriers for the inheritance of discipline knowledge. Through the organization and utilization of these materials, new generations of teachers and students can understand the development history and academic traditions of the discipline, draw on the wisdom and experience of predecessors, and lay the foundation for further development of the discipline.

(2)Supporting the Construction of Discipline Teams

The library can provide a platform for discipline teams to exchange and cooperate. Teachers and researchers can consult materials together, discuss academic issues, and promote knowledge sharing and academic exchanges within the discipline team^[3]. At the same time, the library can also organize academic lectures, seminars, and other activities to invite well-known scholars from home and abroad for exchanges, broaden the academic horizons of the discipline team, and improve the overall quality of the discipline team.

2.4 An Important Window for Cultural Heritage

(1)Carrying the College's Cultural Memory

The books, archives, and various materials in the departmental library record the development history and cultural traditions of the college. These materials are an important part of the college's cultural memory. By protecting and utilizing these materials, teachers and students can better understand the history and culture of the college, enhancing their sense of identity and belonging to the college.

(1)Disseminating the Characteristics of Discipline Culture

Each discipline has its unique cultural characteristics. The departmental library can disseminate the characteristics of discipline culture by displaying academic achievements, research dynamics, and the deeds of discipline celebrities in the discipline, creating a good discipline culture atmosphere, and stimulating teachers and students' love and pursuit of the discipline.

3. Challenges Faced by the Departmental Library in the Construction of First-Class Majors in Applied Undergraduate Colleges

3.1 Imperfect Management System

At present, each college's departmental library has its own management system, but the construction of the management system for departmental libraries is relatively lagging. Many colleges and universities include departmental libraries in the work system of the school and library when formulating the library work system at the school and college levels, but there are no clear specific requirements for the training of departmental library staff, leading to a "heavy collection, light use" problem in the management process, which is not conducive to improving the comprehensive quality of library staff. In addition, some colleges and universities treat departmental library staff the same as library staff, leading to mutual shirking and blaming between library and library staff, affecting communication and exchange between the two departments^[4]. Moreover, with the continuous development of digital libraries and the deepening of college teaching reforms, the management model of departmental libraries must also keep pace with the times. Some colleges and universities only focus on the collection of traditional literature resources when establishing digital resource libraries, neglecting the construction and development of online information resources. This will inevitably lead to the underutilization of digital resources in departmental libraries.

3.2 Insufficient Funding

Insufficient funding is a common problem in the departmental libraries of applied undergraduate colleges and universities, mainly for the following reasons: First, as an independent department, the development of departmental libraries must be guaranteed by funds. At present, the main sources of funding for most college departmental libraries are financial allocations and self-raised funds. Some colleges and universities, due to their own limitations, have insufficient funding, which cannot meet the development needs of departmental libraries. Second, some college departmental libraries do not pay enough attention to library resource construction and sharing. Many college departmental libraries are still in the traditional paper book management model and have not achieved electronic, networked, and intelligent management. At the same time, while libraries pay attention to the management of paper books, they neglect the construction and sharing of electronic resources. Finally, there is a significant difference in funding among some college departmental libraries^[5]. Colleges and universities with sufficient funding for departmental libraries can build their own characteristics and continuously expand their service scope; however, those with insufficient funding cannot do so, and their service scope is limited to a fixed area within the school. In addition, some college departmental libraries do not pay enough attention to the construction of literature information resources and lack advanced and applicable technical equipment and management software. The departmental libraries of applied undergraduate colleges and universities are mainly composed of librarians and teachers. Librarians have professional knowledge in library management, literature information resource construction, and services; while teachers have advantages in knowledge and technology. Therefore, to play the role of departmental libraries in teaching and scientific research, the two must be organically combined.

3.3 Single Service Model

College departmental libraries mainly serve teaching and scientific research, and the service model is single. Due to the constraints of tight funding and incomplete equipment, the service methods of college departmental libraries are mainly "borrowing, reading, and collecting," with literature delivery services being the primary focus, and fewer specialized services and reader training are carried out. However, due to tight funding and incomplete equipment, many departmental libraries have not carried out in-depth services. For example, in providing literature delivery services, they generally only provide borrowing within the school, and there is no inter-library lending and return. This leads to many documents not being updated in time, resulting in low utilization of literature resources. In addition, due to the influence of traditional concepts, many departmental library staff believe that service is passive. This ideological consciousness will only satisfy them with passively accepting reader consultations and requests, and will not actively provide in-depth information services to readers. In addition, there are issues such as frequent staff turnover and unreasonable post setting in some departmental libraries. Some departmental libraries have a limited number of staff, and the work they engage in is mostly repetitive, monotonous, and tedious labor with low work efficiency; some departmental libraries also have unreasonable post settings. For example, due to the tight funding of some departmental libraries, many

staff do not have an appropriate number of computer equipment and literature search software, etc.; at the same time, there are no related posts or unreasonable post settings.

3.4 Disconnection between Professional Construction and Talent Cultivation

The teaching and talent cultivation goals of applied undergraduate colleges are based on discipline construction, oriented by social needs, and aimed at cultivating applied talents. The discipline professional construction of the school should serve talent cultivation, talent cultivation should be oriented by serving local economic and social development and serving the school's own development, and it should also serve the school's discipline construction. The library is an important part of the library, and its main function is to serve teaching and scientific research. The construction of the library should be combined with the characteristics of the professional discipline to serve the construction of the professional discipline. With the improvement of the school's educational level and the expansion of the scale, it is necessary to equip with professional books and materials to meet the needs of students' learning and teachers' scientific research. The departmental library of applied undergraduate colleges is an important place for teachers and students to obtain various materials and information. Therefore, in professional construction, the collection, organization, preservation, and utilization of books and materials by the library should be valued to give full play to the role of the library in the construction of professional disciplines. At the same time, library management personnel should make full use of existing resources, and while doing a good job in book material procurement, strengthen cooperation with other departments within the school to carry out the construction and sharing of literature information resources, and give full play to the role of the library in the school's professional discipline construction.

4. Excellent Case Experience Reference

Zhejiang Ocean University is a general undergraduate institution featuring oceanography. The university focuses on scientific research and serving society to provide high-quality services for local economic development. In order to better serve discipline construction and talent cultivation, the university integrates ocean-related courses of the university's ocean disciplines into the curriculum system of this university based on the discipline characteristics of the university. To serve discipline construction and talent cultivation, the university's departmental library has strengthened the construction of professional course literature resources and digital resource construction on the one hand, and on the other hand, it has also actively carried out special services.

4.1 University Level: Building a High-Level Professional Construction Team to Provide Strong Support for the Construction of First-Class Majors

In the process of professional construction, the university attaches great importance to the construction of departmental libraries. In order to improve the professional ability of teachers, the university has formulated a series of relevant systems and measures according to the actual situation. For example, the university encourages teachers to apply for scientific research projects to drive scientific research and promote the improvement of teachers' teaching abilities through projects. The university has established the "Teaching Quality Award" to reward teachers who have made outstanding contributions in classroom teaching and scientific research. These measures have greatly promoted the improvement of professional abilities of college teachers and also provided strong support for the construction of first-class majors in the university.

In the process of constructing first-class majors, departmental libraries, under the leadership of college leaders, actively exert their advantages, starting from teaching work, aiming to improve teaching ability, and fundamentally improving the professional ability of teachers. Based on the actual situation of college teaching development and combining the characteristics of the profession and the actual needs of teaching work, the university has formulated targeted, effective, and operable professional construction plans. On this basis, departmental libraries actively arrange and deploy work. For example, the library provides relevant reference materials, electronic textbooks, teaching courseware, and other materials for teachers; after the course is over, it promptly provides teaching feedback, class notes, related exam questions, etc., for teachers. With the joint efforts of college leaders and library staff, the discipline construction team has grown continuously, strongly promoting the construction of first-class majors.

4.2 Departmental Level: Actively Carrying Out Special Services to Provide Strong Support for Professional Construction

To better serve discipline construction, departmental libraries give full play to the advantages of professional disciplines and actively carry out special services, providing strong support for the discipline construction and talent cultivation of the university. For example, the Ship and Ocean Engineering major of Zhejiang Ocean University is a provincial first-class major construction point in Zhejiang Province. The construction and development of this major cannot be separated from professional literature resources and digital resources, and these resources are all based on the literature resources of the Ship and Ocean Engineering discipline for construction. To this end, the library actively communicates with the School of Ship and Ocean Engineering to obtain the required literature resources in a timely manner, and through careful selection, provides a series of high-quality literature resources for teachers and students of the major. For example, in the Ship and Ocean Engineering major, there are literature resources from the second-level colleges of Ocean Science, Materials Science, and Water Conservancy and Hydroelectric Power of the university, such as the more common "Modern Ship Design Principles" and "Basics of Ship Design" and other related courses. Therefore, by providing high-quality literature resources, not only has it helped teachers and students of the major to improve their professional knowledge level and practical ability but also provided strong support for the discipline construction and talent cultivation of the university.

5. Development Strategies of Departmental Libraries in Applied Undergraduate Colleges in the Construction of First-Class Majors

From the perspective of the university, it is necessary to form a "one university, one characteristic" discipline professional development pattern and regard discipline professional construction as an important measure to enhance the competitiveness of universities. Therefore, various universities are actively creating their own discipline characteristics, and departmental libraries are an important support for discipline characteristic construction. From the perspective of the department, as an important part of the teaching and scientific research service system of universities, the main functions of departmental libraries include: (1) literature resource construction. The library should strengthen the collection, organization, preservation, and management of professional literature information resources to provide professional literature material consultation and service for teachers and students of the department; (2) information resource construction. The library should strengthen the collection, organization, storage, and management of information resources for professional construction, course construction, and scientific research work of various departments; (3) personnel training. The library should enhance professional service capabilities and enhance the service awareness of library staff through professional training; (4) publicity and promotion. The library should actively publicize the development of discipline professionals to teachers and students through various publicity platforms, providing relevant information services for teachers and students of the department.

From the perspective of the department, departmental libraries are important literature information guarantee institutions in teaching and scientific research work, and their staff must fully recognize their role positioning and responsibilities in teaching and scientific research work, providing high-quality literature information guarantee services for the university's professional construction.

5.1 Constructing a Literature Information Guarantee System Centered on Departments

With the rapid development of modern information technology, departmental libraries play an increasingly important role in providing literature materials for teachers and students of the department, and there is a varying degree of homogenization between colleges and universities, which is essentially caused by the irrational structure of university discipline professional structure and department setting. Therefore, in order to better provide literature information guarantee services for teachers and students of the department, it is necessary to construct a literature information guarantee system centered on the department. The construction of this system should follow the following three principles: First, it is necessary to highlight discipline professional advantages and avoid homogenized development. Departmental libraries should combine their own advantages, choose literature information resources closely related to the department's professional as the direction of characteristic resource construction, and build a literature information guarantee system with their own characteristics based on this core.

Second, it is necessary to highlight the service concept and provide differentiated services for teachers

and students. There are differences in discipline professional construction among colleges and universities, so departmental libraries should carry out literature resource construction work based on the discipline professional construction direction and advantages of each college.

Third, it is necessary to highlight service innovation and continuously improve service quality. Colleges and universities should break the traditional "self-governing" pattern of literature information guarantee system construction and actively explore new models of cooperation and win-win with departmental libraries.

5.2 Playing Professional Teaching Functions to Promote Discipline Construction

From the perspective of professional teaching functions of the department, the library should not only serve the teaching of the department but also serve the discipline construction of the university. In the practical teaching link, the library should regard the collection, organization, and utilization of literature information resources as an important task. By providing literature material consultation services for teachers and students of the department, helping them understand the development status of the profession, the latest research results and development trends of the discipline, mastering the basic knowledge involved in the profession, and understanding the frontier information and professional development dynamics of the profession, thereby cultivating students' scientific research capabilities. In the practical teaching link, the library can also improve students' ability to use literature information resources and enhance students' professional quality by providing professional literature material inquiries and helping students solve literature information problems. In addition, the library can provide an academic exchange platform for teachers and students of the department by carrying out various types of academic lectures and academic exchange activities.

5.3 Integrating Resources to Serve Professional Construction

To better serve professional construction, it is necessary to integrate departmental libraries, strengthen communication and cooperation with libraries and professional teachers of various departments, understand relevant information in a timely manner, and better serve professional construction. A "professional + departmental library" cooperation mechanism should be established to achieve resource sharing. Through professional construction, the library collection of the departmental library should be strengthened to improve the quality and quantity of the collection, and further integrate resources on the basis of existing resources to improve the utilization rate of the collection. At the same time, the library should continuously optimize its service model and content and actively carry out service work through various information platforms. In addition, it can also cooperate with libraries of various universities to establish a sharing service platform. The establishment and improvement of the network resource sharing platform can further improve the utilization rate of information resources, extend the collection time, save procurement expenditure, improve the utilization rate of collection literature, better play the literature resource advantages of the departmental library, and improve service quality. It can also achieve teaching and scientific research resource sharing and online exchange through network technology. Through the integration and sharing of resources of the departmental library, it is not only conducive to strengthening the exchange and cooperation between the departmental library and professional teachers of various departments, achieving resource sharing and improving the utilization rate of materials, shortening the retrieval time of materials by users, and improving the satisfaction of users with the services of the departmental library.

5.4 Increasing Promotion to Enhance Influence

In the new media era, departmental libraries should also use various promotional platforms to improve their visibility. On the one hand, they can use college websites, WeChat public accounts, official microblogs, and other carriers to regularly push literature information resources to teachers and students of the department; on the other hand, they can improve the scientific research level and academic influence of college teachers by holding various academic activities, providing them with high-quality academic services. Strengthening the training of departmental library staff to make them understand the professional knowledge and business capabilities that library staff should have is an important guarantee to improve the service level of departmental libraries. Departmental library staff should improve their professional level and comprehensive quality, learn professional knowledge, and master service skills through various channels. At the same time, when training teachers, they should also publicize the nature of the departmental library's work and its content to students. Let students recognize that the departmental

library is an institution that provides information services for the school's professional construction and teachers' teaching and scientific research. It should be closely linked with other departments and various professionals in the school in learning and life.

To further improve the visibility and influence of the departmental library, each college should actively cooperate with various functional departments of the school to carry out various forms of promotional activities. At the same time, it should actively publicize the contributions of the college library to the school's discipline construction and talent cultivation, as well as advanced experiences, to improve the visibility and influence of the college library among teachers and students.

5.5 Carrying Out Special Services to Give Full Play to Professional Advantages

Under the background of "first-class professional" construction, colleges and universities are actively promoting discipline professional construction, which is inseparable from the collection and management of literature information. As a part of the school library, the library should give full play to its advantages in the construction of literature information resources and provide characteristic and personalized information services for departmental professional teaching and scientific research. Departmental libraries should carry out targeted characteristic literature information services around professional construction and discipline professional development, according to the layout and construction needs of the school's discipline professionals, and combine the library's characteristic resources and advantageous discipline professionals. In addition, the library should give full play to its advantages in academic research, scientific cooperation, and academic exchange, actively promote academic exchange and cooperation between departments, and make full use of network technology platforms to carry out personalized services based on the department, providing high-quality information resource services for teachers and students of the department.

Departmental libraries in applied undergraduate colleges have an important role positioning in the construction of first-class majors. They are an important resource library for teaching support, a capable assistant for scientific research assistance, a driving force for discipline construction, and an important window for cultural heritage. In future development, departmental libraries should continuously adapt to the changes of the times and the needs of discipline construction, continuously improve and improve their own services and management, and make greater contributions to the cause of education in colleges and universities.

6. Conclusion

This paper has delved into the role and development strategies of departmental libraries in the construction of first-class majors at applied undergraduate colleges. The study found that departmental libraries play a crucial role in teaching support, scientific research assistance, promotion of discipline construction, and cultural heritage. Faced with challenges in the construction of first-class majors, such as imperfect management systems, insufficient funding, singular service models, and the disconnection between professional construction and talent cultivation, this paper has proposed corresponding development strategies. These strategies include building a literature information security system centered on departments, leveraging professional teaching functions to promote discipline construction, integrating resources to serve professional construction, increasing publicity efforts to enhance influence, and developing distinctive services to capitalize on professional strengths.

In summary, departmental libraries have an irreplaceable role in the construction of first-class majors at applied undergraduate colleges. To fully exert this role, departmental libraries need to continuously adapt to changes in the times and demands of discipline construction, and persistently improve services and management to better serve the development of higher education.

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