

Project Close Summary - Electronic Resource Management at Chinese Academic Libraries

In the summer of 2004, while I took my family to China for a home visit, I conducted this research project by visiting several universities from different geographical locations and difference sizes. From the city with most colleges and universities clustered to relatively small sized city with only one college to represent the various situations they are in the development of electronic resources at the libraries. I did not visit any economically backwards area because I know that it will generate very little information that I hope to get. From Beijing, I visited three universities, two comprehensive universities, and one technology institute. In Shanghai, I visited one large university and one midsized college. In suchou I visited my alma mater, Suchou University, a comprehensive university that has a traditionally wonderful library. In Nantong, I visited a teacher's college, and in my hometown – Changshu, I visited the college that I had worked for five years.

During these visits, I primarily had a tour of their libraries, looked at their facilities, and had a conversation with some library personnel. Some of them are reference librarians, some are directly managing electronic resources, but others are library management people. I also solicit numerous library literatures, pamphlets from these libraries, used their online resources.

I have planned to visit 10 libraries, but found it unpractical so I scaled down to 7 in the end. One reason is during the hot summer weather, the dwelling and transportation condition do not permit me to run from one city to another without exhausting myself. The other reason is that my budget plan became insufficient for too much intercity travel. I did not anticipate that the cost in China have been raised so much that my original concepts of cheap living there is no longer true.

The data I have gathered combining with the research I have done after the project, finally generated a paper that was submitted to the Journal of Library & information Science for publication. Acceptance decision will be made in September 2005.

The data will be further studied and may combine with other researches for future publication or representation.

Cordially submitted by

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