

# On the Use of Digital Historical and Cultural Resources in University Course: Taking the Chinese and Foreign Education History Course for Primary Education Specialty as an Example

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**Abstract.** As a compulsory course of primary education specialty in university, the reform of Chinese and foreign education history course is imminent. Under the background of the increasingly abundant digital historical and cultural resources, the position of digital historical and cultural resources in Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty has been gradually improved. Effective use of digital historical and cultural resources has become a hotspot in Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty, thus changing the role and orientation of teacher and student in the learning process.

## 1. Necessity of Using Digital Historical and Cultural Resources

The development of information technology, especially network information technology, has brought tremendous changes in human life, learning and working methods. The Outline of National Medium and Long Term Education Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020) has proposed that "we should strengthen the application of information technology, improve the level of teachers' application of information technology, renew the teaching concepts, improve the teaching methods and improve the teaching effect", "encourage students to use information means to learn actively and independently, and enhance the ability to use information technology for problem solving and analysis". In addition, The Outline of National Medium and Long Term Education Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020) also advocates strengthening the development and application of high-quality education resources, requires "strengthening the construction of network teaching resources system", "introduces international high-quality digital teaching resources", "develop network learning courses", "establishing digital libraries and virtual reality laboratory", "establishing an open and flexible public service platform for educational resources", "promoting the universal sharing of high-quality educational resources". [1]

Historical and cultural resources are created and rendered by people all over the world in social practice. They carry advanced cultures in different historical periods with different carriers. It includes two aspects of material civilization and spiritual civilization and it is the precious material wealth and spiritual wealth of people all over the world. The Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty is based on the development of educational undertakings all over the world, involving various kinds of historical and cultural resources. However, these contents are often scattered all over the world, and a large number of these resources are difficult to obtain. As a result, the teaching of Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty is often limited to the content of books, so how to effectively develop these historical and cultural resources has become a challenging problem. Digital historical and cultural resources will combine digitalization with historical and cultural resources organically, which will address the issue of lack of historical and cultural resources in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty. The introduction to digital historical and cultural resources into the teaching of Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty can not only provide an

effective learning way for students majoring in primary education, but also provide a brand-new teaching mode for teachers.

The application of digital historical and cultural resources in Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty will make the classroom teaching more vivid and lively. Students can change their roles in the Chinese and foreign education history course, and become the center of active learning from the passive object of accepting. Teachers can get rid of the role of full-time indoctrination, from the importer of knowledge to the guide of students' learning. Students' learning content is no longer limited to the book, but can access a large number of texts, pictures, audio and video materials, thereby improving the ability to manage historical materials and interpret history. However, the ratio of teachers to students is too high and teachers are too tired to manage the teaching work now. There are not sufficient teachers to cooperate with the teaching of the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty with digital historical and cultural resources. At the same time, because of their professional background, teachers engaged in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty lack further conditions for the use of modern educational technology. These factors affect the use of digital historical and cultural resources by teachers and students in curriculum teaching. Therefore, digital historical and cultural resources have not been effectively used in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty.

## **2. Relevant Digital Historical and Cultural Resources**

Digital technology can provide a large amount of historical and cultural resources for the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty, including search engines, historical literature databases and history teaching resources websites.

Search engine, based on internet technology, can be seen as a tool resource for the use of digital historical and cultural resources. At present, the most well-known search engines in China are Baidu and Google, which are known as "ask internal affairs which cannot be decided from Baidu, and ask foreign affairs which cannot be decided from Google". Baidu is the largest Chinese search engine in the world, which is developed and managed by Baidu Online Network Technology (Beijing) Co., Ltd. Google, is the world's largest search engine, provided by Google Inc. in the United States. Google Inc. once established Google Information Technology (China) Co., Ltd. and launched Google China Service, which was once the largest Chinese search engine at that time. On March 23, 2010, Google Inc. announced that it would shut down the Chinese version of its search service and switch to a server in Hong Kong to provide simplified Chinese services. [2] Since then, Google's Chinese search business has gradually declined. Baidu and Google can not only provide popular digital historical and cultural resources, but also provide specialized digital historical and cultural resources. Baidu Academic is Baidu's retrieval platform for searching academic resources, which provides a large number of Chinese and English literatures. Through cooperation with professional websites, Baidu Academic has collected tens of millions of academic papers to meet users' primary need for academic resources. [3] Google Scholar is a free online application which can search academic articles, including the most scholarly journals published in the world. [4] The combination of Baidu Academy Search and Google Academy Search can basically cover important digital historical and cultural resources all over the world.

Historical literature database is an effective combination of historical data and information technology, which can provide a large number of original historical data onto a fast speed. So far there are many historical literature databases which can provide digital historical and cultural resources. ProQuest historical newspapers, full text database of late Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China's periodicals, digital resource database of books of the Republic of China, treasure books of Chinese study, modern electricity library of the National diet Library of Japan, and digital public library in the United States, are often used in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty. Especially the Chaoxing Digital Library, which belongs to Beijing Shiji Chaoxing Information Technology Development Co., Ltd., provides a large number of digital historical literatures, and its Duxiu academic search can accurately provide the address of the

historical literatures collected by the Chaoxing Digital Library. Beijing Shiji Chaoxing Information Technology Development Co., Ltd. provides another product, Bailianyun Library, which is a new generation of library resources solution and co-construction and sharing scheme. Its rich full-text resources are intended to provide readers with resources to fill the gap. By establishing location links between metadata warehouse data and user's local resource distribution, we can complete one-stop retrieval of academic resources, realize the interconnection, co-construction and sharing between local library and other libraries, and ultimately help readers find and obtain the required resources through the original link and cloud service mode. [5]

Compared with the historical literature database, the historical materials collected by the history teaching resources website are basically processed, and can be directly used by the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty. Until now, a large number of history teaching resources websites have been built, which can be divided into two types: comprehensive resources websites and Thematic Resources websites. Due to the large amount of materials required by the comprehensive history teaching resources website, the manpower and material resources required are not affordable to individuals, so the construction of its website is basically carried out by relevant research institutions or commercial institutions. The "Column of the Republic of China" of the National Library of China's website, the website of Universities Service Centre For China Studies in the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the website of the History Resources Network of the Faculty of Education in the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the History Education Network are all comprehensive historical teaching resources websites commonly used in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty. The Thematic Resources websites are characterized by special topics, which require less manpower and material resources than the comprehensive history teaching resources website, so the relevant research institutions, commercial organizations and even individuals can build it by themselves. Among them, the more famous ones are the ivory tower, the Network of Ancient World History Research in China and the online search of the full text of Combination of The Twenty-Four Dynastic Histories and The New History of Yuan Dynasty, which are closely related to the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty.

### **3. Effective Use of Digital Historical and Cultural Resources**

Now all kinds of digital historical and cultural resources have been widely disseminated, but the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty in relevant universities have not entered the digital era. Most of these related digital resources are distributed among various search engines, historical literature databases and history teaching resources websites, and there is no independent digital resource database of Chinese and foreign education history course. It is necessary in order to find a practical way to ensure the effective use of digital resources in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty.

Up till the present moment, in order to effectively use digital historical and cultural resources in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty, the most feasible approach is to build a network sharing platform. Building a network sharing platform of digital historical and cultural resources with abundant resources is the basic guarantee for the effective use of digital historical and cultural resources in the Chinese and foreign educational history course for primary education specialty. The continuous progress of digital publishing and digital communication technology provides a superior platform for the digital sharing of historical and cultural resources. At present, educational administrative departments at different levels and relevant enterprises can provide many kinds of network sharing platform, which can be used not only as a teaching platform for relevant classes, but also as a resource platform for other personnel. These platforms to break the time and space restrictions, and teachers and students can share resources any time without blind angles. They provide technical promise of the use of digital historical and cultural resources in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty.

Digital historical and cultural resources are of great help to the teaching efficiency's improvement of Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty. We should rely on

the network sharing platform to reorganize and establish our own teaching resource repositories. Both teachers and students should gradually collect relevant digital historical and cultural resources in the process of teaching and learning. As a teacher, this kind of resource repository should provide pertinent teaching materials on the premise of considering students' learning ability. As a student, this kind of resource repository should be a place to create and publish their own learning work. With the joint efforts of teachers and students, the teaching resource repositories will be gradually improved on more and more classes, which greatly enrich the content of the network sharing platform of the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty.

In fact, the application of digital historical and cultural resources in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty is an organic combination of pedagogy, history and educational technology. It emphasizes the cultivation of students' comprehensive ability with the point of view that information technology has penetrated into all aspects of social life. The application of digital historical and cultural resources in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty does not simply emphasize the application of digitalization or information technology, but also means the change of educational methods and learning ways. Digital learning has the advantage of optimizing the process of schooling and teaching. It can give full play to the initiative and creativity of students, and make the best teaching environment for the cultivation of students' innovative ability and information acquisition, analysis, processing and application ability. [6] Teachers should focus on cultivating students' mastery of learning methods and understanding of learning process, thus change the phenomenon of full-time teaching in the Chinese and foreign education history course for primary education specialty in the past.

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