

Analysis on Improving Use Ratio of Foreign Literature in Library of Private Universities

Take Huanghe Science and Technology College as Example

Shanling Li

Huanghe Science and Technology College
Zhengzhou, China

Abstract—The article takes private university of Huanghe Science and Technology College as example, analyzes current situation and reasons of use ratio of foreign literature widely existing in private universities and brings forward countermeasures implemented for low use ratio of foreign literature in the era of knowledge economy. Strengthen development, management and utilization of foreign literature, greatly improve use ratio of foreign literature, let limited foreign literature resources furthest come into play, and then drive continuous development of private university.

Keywords—private university; library; foreign literature; use ratio

I. INTRODUCTION

Foreign literature is important channel for teachers and students to thoroughly understand foreign facts and dynamic conditions and the latest information about scientific research, and one of the main sources of library resources in universities. As private college—Huanghe Science and Technology College is a comprehensive and applied university. It shall collect, develop and use document resources according to key discipline, characteristic specialty and excellent courses, follow targeted, systematic, characteristic and economic principle and strengthen construction of foreign literature, expand horizons of students and improve overall scientific research level of teachers and students. With the development of the times, establishment of international college and increase of overseas student in each year, the requirements of teaching and scientific research in private university shall keep pace with the era. Therefore, the utilization of foreign literature resources must cause enough attention.

II. CURRENT SITUATION OF UTILIZATION OF FOREIGN LITERATURE IN PRIVATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Our school is one of the famous private universities in China, pay attention to comprehensiveness and specialty of disciplines. According to school-running characteristics of the school, the allocation of foreign literature in library of our country is relatively definite and detailed. Our school sets up stack room for students to borrow foreign books (especially for readers to borrow and return), reading room of foreign language periodicals and foreign reference books room (only for reading instead of borrowing and returning), collects

foreign literature resources in English, Russian, Japanese and Korean, mainly focusing on English. They are full-open to serve teachers and students, who can read and borrow books with campus card.

Similar to public universities, private universities have the problem that the use ratio of foreign literature is low. According to firsthand experience and investigation of the author, it is found that: 1) there are few people to read in reading room of foreign language periodicals and foreign reference books room. According to statistics, from 2011 to 2012, the numbers of readers received by foreign language stack room are 18,302 and 249,000, with average number of 61 and 83 per day. Although it has rising trend, the number of readers received by Chinese literature stock room is fifteen times of it. 2) Because our school is private university, the capital used to purchase books is short. The price of foreign literature is relatively high. The number of foreign literature resources is only one fifth of Chinese literature resources. The library resource is relatively short. It appears the phenomenon of being out of stock. It cannot meet requirements of readers, so the number of readers reduces to some extent. 3) The actual effective use ratio of foreign literature is low. Even though under the situation of full openness, it seems as though the number of readers increases, compared with Chinese reading room, things are looking blue. Most students just glance over randomly without purpose. Some students even leave without staying in the stack room for five minutes. 4) The use ratio of foreign literature resources in private university is relatively low in general. It is mainly because the books are not targeted and practical enough, which cause a lot of waste of foreign literature resources purchased by limited fund.

III. REASONS WHY USE RATIO OF FOREIGN LITERATURE RESOURCES IN PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IS LOW

A. Subjective Factors

1) *Foreign language level and research ability of readers are relatively low*: The foreign language level and research ability of readers are direct factors of low use rate of foreign literature. The main readers of foreign literature in private university library are teaching staff, scientific research personnel of school, graduate students, students in international college who prepare to study abroad and some

undergraduates. Foreign language level and ability in research on foreign language of them directly influence use ratio of foreign literature. Besides, most foreign literatures in private university are professional document literatures with relatively strong technicality and have high requirements for professional foreign language level of readers. However, the English level of students is different. Only few students can smoothly read and translate materials. Most of them only pay attention to learning basic foreign language knowledge at ordinary times and mainly focus on grade examination of English, and think little of learning and research on professional foreign language. In addition, some teachers who make scientific research have limited English level and only attach importance to collection of Chinese documents and ignore the importance of foreign language and seldom read foreign literature. Therefore, language barrier is difficult for readers to surpass in reading and often make readers direct the eyes upon stack room of foreign literature and step back.

2) *The consciousness to make use of information is weak, lacking of attention:* The consciousness of readers to make use of foreign literature information is weak. They do not fully understand function and utilization of information and information environment and the status of information in scientific research and lack the ability to consciously learn foreign language knowledge. Most readers think that there is no need for them to refer to foreign literature to learn professional contents. Besides, Chinese literature is more convenient and time-saving than foreign literature. So they pay inadequate attention to foreign literature and neglect the importance of them, which directly influence development and utilization of foreign literature resources. Therefore, the weak consciousness of readers for information is the direct reason why use ratio of foreign literature in private university is low.

3) *Lack knowledge and skills to search foreign literature:* Solid knowledge and skills of readers on information retrieval are important factors to influence utilization of foreign literature. Among readers in library of Huanghe Science and Technology College, as far as the author knows, quite a few readers are not familiar with search tool of foreign literature and method of application. Some teachers do not master basic method of retrieval very well, let alone knowing about strategy and skill to use electronic resources. When looking for foreign language literatures, many readers lack retrieval knowledge and methods and ways to acquire literature information, so that they cannot use catalogue index and subject index to get document literature of corresponding disciplines. Therefore, they are unwilling to read foreign literature and are unfamiliar with foreign literature.

B. Objective Factors

1) *The intensity of propaganda of library is insufficient:* The low use ratio of foreign literature is not caused by students only. More important, it is because the intensity of propaganda of school is insufficient. The service work is

dissatisfactory. So some students do not know the collection and use condition of foreign literature in library. Many readers do not borrow foreign language books until graduation, let alone using foreign language database. Some readers even do not know foreign language stack room and reading room exist in the library. Besides, the library lacks effective and active service and still stays on traditional borrowing and returning of "pull stakes". Staffs in the library do not actively help readers to use basic methods to search foreign literature. Readers are unfamiliar with foreign literature. The library loses a large portion of readers who read foreign literature.

2) *Document management personnel who are proficient in foreign language and familiar with specialty of library are lacked in the library:* Library in private university is different from that of public university. The staff is short and high level talents are few in private university library. There are one third of the staffs who truly graduate from majors related to books such as library and intelligence information. Quite a few staffs from other departments of the school are "enriched" in the library. The levels of them are uneven. They have limited foreign language level and lack professional knowledge on library science and cannot use computer network expertly as well as cannot comprehensively know about foreign literature resources in library. It leads to the situation that the foreign literature resources in library cannot be developed and used fully. It is difficult to recommend foreign literature resources purposefully to specialty of readers and provide high quality service of preparation for reading for readers. Lacking of staffs that are proficient in foreign language and familiar with the specialty of library seriously influences the utilization of foreign literature.

3) *Lack of foreign literature resources; the resource purchase departs from teaching and scientific research:* The construction of literature information resources in private university library is relatively weak, especially seriously lack foreign literature resources. Private universities are in the development stage. Campus construction, discipline construction and talent construction need financial support. The expenditure used in construction of library is limited. The price of original literature resources such as foreign language books and periodicals is relatively high. So the order quantity of foreign literature reduces greatly. In recent years, with continuous expanding of scale of private universities, change of scientific research direction and major setup, the existing documentary collections cannot meet the requirements of teaching and scientific research development. Purchasing staffs do not devote greater efforts to investigating and surveying feedback information of readers. It leads to the fact that the purchase of foreign literature departs from teaching and scientific research. There is no reader to read these literatures, which cause wasting of library resources.

IV. COUNTERMEASURES TO IMPROVE USE RATIO OF FOREIGN LITERATURE IN PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

With social development and coming of knowledge economy, many private universities pay more and more attention to construction of foreign literature resources in library. Therefore, in order to change the situation that the use ratio of foreign literature in private university library, it is necessary to take the following measures.

A. *Construct High Quality and Efficient Collection System of Foreign Literature Resources*

Reasonably allocate library resources according to limited funds of private universities. Aiming at current situation of foreign language stack room, namely imbalance between supply and demand, the library shall base on actual demand of discipline construction and scientific research construction and furthest carry out purchasing work of foreign literature purposefully. Staffs in the library shall provide comprehensive and active service. Purchasing staffs need to carry out a large number of investigation and survey among teachers and students, ask their opinions on purchase, investigate their requirements for foreign language resources, and let professional teachers purchase with them; besides, seek for opinions of administrators in foreign language stack room or reading room, because they are more familiar with actual situation and needs of readers through serving readers directly. Analyze the above information to determine purchase of resources, reduce and remove literature resources with low use ratio and collection value and carry out reasonable allocation and optimize resource structure. When pay attention to documentary collections, actively use and develop foreign language information resources on the internet and then meet the requirements of readers for foreign literature resources.

B. *Devote Greater Efforts to Publicize Foreign Literature*

The traditional management mode of private university libraries is that they "pay attention to collection and think little of utilization" and neglect use of resources. It makes readers pay no attention to making the best of foreign literature resources. Because of seriously lacking propaganda, some valuable foreign literatures are left without anybody to care for it. Therefore, staff members of foreign literature shall take the initiative to serve readers comprehensively. Firstly, actively introduce them to readers and teach students how to use foreign language resources and foreign language database in entrance education for freshmen annually; secondly, compile library catalogue and send it to departments, get in touch with academic leaders of the college through delivering information on the internet, introduce foreign literature collected in the library to them; thirdly, introduce and publicize foreign literature in forms of bibliographical description, abstract and brief introduction through library website, let readers have a comprehensive understanding for library resource and increase interest of readers for reading. Only through devoting greater efforts to publicizing foreign literature can improve use ratio of foreign literature.

C. *Arouse Interest of Readers in Learning and Overcome Language Barrier*

Language barrier is direct factor to influence utilization of foreign literature. Readers shall greatly improve the ability in foreign language reading, make efforts to overcome language barrier and improve use ratio of foreign literature. Except for encouraging readers to improve English level, staffs in library shall also actively take series of corresponding measures to eliminate mental factors of readers in language barrier, such as equip foreign language dictionaries in foreign language stack room or reading room. Administrator of foreign literatures shall communicate with readers and make friends with them, use smile, passion, considerate and comprehensive service mode to influence and attract readers and create relaxed and pleasant learning atmosphere for readers, arouse learning enthusiasm and interest of readers and let them smoothly read foreign literatures. Nowadays, the society has increasingly demand for inter-disciplinary talents. College graduates often encounter problems such as translation of foreign literature and academic writing in work. Therefore, staffs in library shall strengthen the cooperation with departments such as foreign language teaching to introduce foreign literature into foreign language teaching, and then improve comprehensive ability of students in reading, listening, writing and translation, and increase use ratio of foreign literature.

D. *Strengthen Information Consciousness of Readers and Improve Retrieval Capability of Readers*

With rapid development of network information, the information requirements of readers are diversified, so foreign literature information is more important under new situation. The library shall start from the perspective of readers and make efforts to improve ability of teachers and students in information retrieval. In entrance education for freshmen, on one hand, recommend the library; on the other hand, focus on training consciousness of readers in information retrieval and emphasize importance of information retrieval technique. Besides, they can teach information retrieval course once a week, start from requirements of readers and select topic and organize teaching contents according to different levels and requirements, let readers get close to foreign literate and easily and freely use information retrieval, and then strengthen information consciousness of readers, improve their ability in information retrieval. It is the urgent task to make the best of network resources and train consciousness of readers for network information.

E. *Strengthen Comprehensive Skills of Librarians and Improve Service Level*

Nowadays, under the background of informatization and electronization of library, in order to keep pace with trend of the times, on one hand, librarians in private university library shall pay attention to knowledge update, strengthen vocational study and improve knowledge level, keep pace with the times and realize service innovation. On the other hand, librarians shall learn some knowledge of computer hardware, multimedia and database and expertly use computer to search, analyze, organize and manage information, as well as make efforts to deeply develop and use document resources. Meanwhile,

librarians of foreign literature shall not only master professional knowledge and application of computer, but also improve ability in foreign language reading, translation ability and practical ability of foreign language, actively participate in teaching and scientific research, clearly understand characteristics of disciplines, majors and application of readers, requirements of readers for foreign literature, adjust foreign language resources in the library and improve use ratio of foreign literature.

V. CONCLUSION

To sum up, under new situation, foreign literature resources play a very important role. Its value can be embodied only through utilization of readers. For this purpose, private university library shall take a series of corresponding measures according to practical situation, strengthen development, management and utilization of foreign literature and greatly improve use ratio of foreign literature and let limited foreign literature resources furthest come into play, and then promote sustainable development of private university.

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