Design and Implementation of Humanistic Service in Archives Centered on Citizen's Needs - Chinese Practice

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1 Right Needs
Laws and Regulations, Cross-regional and Cross-archives Services

2 Cultural Needs
Various Services for Citizens of Different Ages and Tastes

3 Emotional Needs
Urban Memory Project, Ethnic Minority Records
01 Rights Needs
1 Rights Needs

Laws and Regulations about Citizens’ Archival Rights of China

• When administrative bodies disclose government information, disclosure being the norm not the exception and the principle of openness, fairness, justness, facilitating the people shall be followed by Administrative bodies.

  Regulation of the People’s Republic of China on the Disclosure of Government Information  Article 5

• Archives repositories shall regularly publish catalogues of records that are open to the public, create conditions and simplify procedures for the convenient use of archives. Citizens and organizations of the People's Republic of China possessing lawful identifications may use archives which are open to the public.

  Archives Law of the People's Republic of China  Article 19

• Units or individuals that have transferred or donated archives to archives repositories or deposited archives with them shall have priority in the use of such archives and may propose restrictions on the use of parts of the archives that are not suitable for accessibility to the public, and the archives repositories shall protect the lawful rights and interests of such units or individuals.

  Archives Law of the People's Republic of China  Article 21

• ...
## Rights Needs

### The Archives Law, 1987

- About the **open time** of archives: Archives kept by State archives repositories shall in general be open to the public upon the expiration of 30 years from the date of their formation.

- About the **services** of archives: Archives repositories shall regularly publish catalogues of records that are open to the public.

- About the **intellectual property rights**: Not involved.

### The Archives Law (Revised draft), 2016

- About the **open time** of archives: Archives kept by State archives repositories shall in general be open to the public upon the expiration of 25 years from the date of their formation.

- About the **services** of archives: Archives repositories shall regularly publish catalogues of records that are open to the public...should compile archives retrieval tools and establish retrieval systems to facilitate the use of archives.

- About the **intellectual property rights**: The use and publication of archives shall **not violate** the legal provisions of the State concerning the protection of intellectual property rights.
Utilization Rate of Some Chinese Archives

◆ National Archives Government Open Information Reference Center:
  • 2011: received 826 people, provided 1,539 copies of government documents and printed 14,162 pages of documents.
  • 2018: received 1,288 people, provided 6,947 copies of government documents and printed 53,363 pages of documents.

◆ Archives of Huairou District, Beijing:
  • first half of 2013: 1,764 people used records
  • first half of 2018: 3,540 people used records
  • …
Many Chinese archives have set up **cross-regional** and **cross-archives** services.

The types of records available to citizens include marriage records, housing records, enterprise staff records, etc.

In 2018, Nanchang Archives developed an Internet records sharing platform, and uploaded more than 900,000 archival information from 9 city Archives. This platform enable people to obtain records they want in one place.
02 Cultural Needs
2 Cultural Needs

For Children:

• make picture books
  *(Suzhou Archives, 2019)*

• organize archives restoration activities
  *(Chengdu Archives, 2018)*
2 Cultural Needs

For College Students: • set up Practice Bases

(Students of Shaanxi University of Technology practice in Hanzhong Archives)

(Archival Science students of Wuhan University go to Hubei Archives for study and Practice)
For Elderly:

- Some activities specifically designed for the elderly: playing old movies, collecting antiques and old photographs, …

(Xinyang Archives hold activities in nursing homes)  
(Changsha Archives Collecting Antiquities from the Elderly)
For Scientific Research:

- compile archival books
  *(Ancient Atlas of Hangzhou, compiled by Hangzhou archives)*
- establish thematic databases
  *(ethnic minorities records database, Yunnan Archives)*

2 Cultural Needs
2 Cultural Needs

For the General Public:

- the archives shoot micro-films, design stationery, handicraft and other archival cultural creative products.
- Qingdao Archives publicizes archival work and retains urban memory by filming micro-films.
  - 2013: the first archival micro-film in China, *Searching for the Lost Memory*
  - 2015: the second micro-film *Silence of History*
  - 2017: *Dialogue across time and space*

So far, the three micro-films has received more than twenty awards in total.
2 Cultural Needs

spread archival, historical and cultural knowledge through social media.

◆ Wechat: 90% of Provincial Public Archives have set up Wechat Account
  ✓ Archives of Jinshan District in Shanghai opened Wechat Account Jinshan Memory
  ✓ a single article can be read thousands of times, and left hundreds of messages below

◆ Weibo(like twitter): 323 Public Archives have set up Weibo Account

(Wechat Account Jinshan Memory and its articles)
(Weibo Account of Zhejiang Archives)
03 Emotional Needs
For Urban Residents:

- 102 cities have carried out "Urban Memory Project" up to 2017
- compiling records, holding exhibitions,…

(Xi’an Archives compiles books based on local city records: the Centuries of Xi’an)

(Dalian Archives hold an exhibition: “City Memory-Dalian History in records”)
For Ethnic Minorities:

- The number of articles on ethnic minority records
  2008: 10 articles;  2018: 40 articles
- Yunnan Archives has completed the rescue and protection of 16 ethnic minority records by 2017.
- Protecting measures: interviews with ethnic minority people, collection of ethnic minority archives, …
Example: the Hani ethnic minority (has no writing system)

- **Protecting measures**: organizes experts to record oral materials by means of script, audio and video, so as to promote the formation of Hani ethnic minority oral records.

*(Archivist of Yunnan Archives is interviewing with Hani people)*
Chinese Archives Institutions will adjust the organizational framework, archives can focus on cultural functions. Archivists will be trained to enhance their awareness and ability of serving the public. Archives will pay more attention to the application of new technologies.

In the Future:
公共信息平台中GIS地图应用

- 建筑
- 交通
- 管网
- 能源
- 传感
- 规划
- 房产
- 城管
THANKS

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