Research on Archival Storytelling in the Digital Age

Lulu Wang & Yongjun Xu & Li Niu

Renming University of China

E-mail: wanglulu555@163.com;luna.wang555@gmail.com
Contents

1. Research Backgrounds
2. Theoretical Research
3. Practice Research
4. Conclusions
1

Research Backgrounds
Why do we choose this research topic?

The spread of historical information is inseparable from the storytelling.

• 史之为务，必藉于文——刘知几
  Writing history must rely on literary talent
  ——Liu zhiji

• 言之无文，行而不远——孔子
  Non-elegant words will not become popular
  ——Confucius
Theoretical Research
## Document Retrieval Strategy

Retrieval time: until October 10, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keywords</th>
<th>Databases CNKI&amp;DuXiu (journal articles)</th>
<th>CNKI&amp;DuXiu (thesis or dissertation)</th>
<th>National Library of China (Books)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archive(s)/Historical data(information) +storytelling</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archive(s)/Historical data(information) +narrative</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE:* CNKI\&DuXiu almost cover all of the Chinese papers and dissertations, and the National Library of China can retrieve all the published Chinese books.
1. **Archive & Folk literature & Story**
   - **Idea:** Using archives for storytelling is mainly from the perspective of ordinary people.

2. **Archive & PRC & Story**
   - **A common slogan:** Tell the Chinese story well with the archives. ("讲好中国故事")

3. **Archive & Utilization & Exhibition**
   - **Application:** Archival exhibition

4. **Other keywords:** Memory; Oral history; National minority; Digital humanities; Family archives...

5. **Archive & TV show**
   - **Concept:** Storytelling is combined with TV media research refers a TV narrative skill

**Analyzing Software:** http://sati-online.cn/#!/
3 Practice Research
3.1 Online exhibition—presented by themes

HK MEMORY: https://www.hkmemory.hk/
3.2 Online exhibition—presented by time

SHANGHAI URBAN MEMORY SPACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE: http://www.memory-space.org/map.aspx
3.3 VR Exhibition— presented by Space

The memory of Ningbo Port in Yuan Dynasty: NVIDIA Joint-Lab
3.5 TV shows & Oral history—Presented by historical figure or event

A TV Show from BTV: ARCHIVE

An old soldier is in an interview
3.5 Online game

绘真·妙笔千山（A Thousand Miles of Rivers and Mountains）produced by NetEase Games & The Palace Museum
Conclusions
4.1 The archival storytelling in the digital age

1. Based on the archival materials

2. Experienced the process of destructing and reconstructing

3. Need some narrative techniques

4. Used to perceive information:
   - *perceiving*(VR exhibition; TV show; game) VS. *cognizing*(exhibition on websites)

5. TV show, VR or 3D exhibition and game are the new trends in China
4.2 What role do archive can play during the storytelling?

The defender of the truth:

the duty is to make sure the developer is telling a true story rather than creating a new story. (to verify the reliability of blocks)

Note: Danielle Parker. Grounded Theory & Qualitative Research. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUqAgp5ZJXI
4.3 What’s the future of the archival storytelling?

The language can be divided into four levels: self-expression, communication, description and argumentation

—–Karl Popper, 1972
Thank you for listening!