Scientific Information Resources Development in Chinese Agricultural Scientific Library and Information Centres: a situation analysis

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Abstract

Increasing capacity of accessing to scientific information resources is one of key objectives for scientific library and information centres to improve their library and information services, particularly for those centres which information resources development budgets are especially limited. Based on the outcomes of the situation analysis of our Study, this poster (a) describes development trends, key issues related to information resources development under a networked environment; (b) put forward some recommendations on how to maximize efficiency of budget spending on information resource development from different perspectives; and (c) finally attempts to find a solution to reduce digital divide between different regions of China due to different economy development level.

Conclusion

Through the situation analysis, our study carried out some discussions on the key issues of information resources development in Chinese agricultural scientific library and information centres. It was suggested that information resource development should be end users' needs-oriented process. It is important that strengthening collaboration to establish a proactive information supply chain among all library and information centres, rather than just an information 'repository'.

Main Results

Development Trends

- The proportion of electronic resources has increased significantly, and the open access journals resources have became one kind of burgeoning information resources at most of library and information centres, which start to develop their own directory of open access journals to improve accessibility this type of information resources by the users.
- Collaboration on information resources co-development and sharing between different centres

have become common practices. Most of centres have attached great importance to joining library consortia.

- Resources purchasing methods are varied from single library purchase, library consortium purchase to national license. Publishers are now encouraged to play a positive role in information resources development of these centres, rather than regarded as opposition who just want to make profits

Key issues

- Duplicated information resource development is one of the serious issues in some relatively developed regions. Digital divide between different regions of China also exist in the field of information resources development.
- Sustainability of information resources co-development and sharing are relatively low in agricultural library information community. Many information systems established by a project/programme cannot continue to provide services when the projects/programme are finished.
- Permanent preservation and access to purchased electronic resources are an outstanding problem.

Recommendations

- The related government agency should develop a national strategy and plan on information resources development to avoid duplicated resources development. It would be helpful if the Chinese Government can set up some special funds to encourage and support collaboration and resource-sharing among different information institutions sustainably.
- Library and information centres at the national level provincial and grassroots level should adopt different resource development strategies. For the national level centres, systematic and integrated approaches should be adopted in information resource development. However, for the centres at grassroots level, specialized information resources would be most important.