

Research on the construction of prison library at home and abroad

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Abstract: For the library service, as the prison staff is a special group, the prison library is a special cultural service occasion. Based on the comparison and summary of the development experience of the Prison Library at home and abroad, this paper, combined with the author's years of experience in volunteering and teaching, puts forward a series of suggestions on establishing and perfecting the Prison Library, expecting to provide a certain reference for the development of China's prison library.

Keywords: Prison library, library services

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1 Introduction

Library is an important symbol of a country's cultural development level, and an important place to nourish the national soul and cultivate cultural confidence. Prison library is an important cultural facility in prison, a guarantee for prisoners to enjoy the basic human right of reading freedom, a useful auxiliary educational means for prison reform, and an important indicator of the increasing popularity of public cultural services. The author in the grass-roots library work has more than 20 years, a line in Shanghai qingpu prison, Shanghai new charge make prisons, juvenile all voluntary education experience for many years, contact with various types of education objects, through the in-depth communication with them, to know a lot of education objects within the walls, to oneself the mistakes of the past behavior of deep regret, eager to early return to society. In my communication with them, there are several common concerns: first, the long prison term will cause a disconnect from society, and they will feel confused after going out. Second, there is a lack of effective means to make up for the lack of knowledge in prison. Third, the boring prison reform needs auxiliary means such as knowledge and cultural services to lubricate. The library service can partially solve this problem. The prison library as a specific place should not be forgotten and ignored.

At the same time, we should realize that prison library is not optional, its importance and necessity are gradually forming a consensus with the development and progress

of society. The provision of library services for prison inmates conforms to the international humanitarian spirit and the spirit of the Prison Law of the People's Republic of China. It also conforms to the spirit of "information fairness, service equality, interests of all people, education and enlightenment" in The Declaration of Library Service in China^[1]. This paper also hopes to talk about prison library service through its own practice combined with the mature experience of prison libraries at home and abroad.

2 The current situation of the development of prison libraries

2.1 Development and experience of foreign prison libraries

It is also a gradual process that prison libraries have been studied and valued worldwide. Article 40 of the Minimum Standards for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1955, states: "Each institution shall have a library for the use of different prisoners, which shall contain appropriate books for entertainment and guidance, and which prisoners shall be encouraged to make good use of."^[2] The specialized group of vulnerable People Service Library under THE INTERNATIONAL Federation of Atlas (IITU) has long formulated the service policy of prison library, and the Prison Education Report of the Council of Europe in 1990 specifically discussed the establishment of prison library. In 1992, the Prison Inmates Library Service Guide was

published, which laid down the basic principles of prison libraries. The first revision was made in 1995, and the third edition was published in 2005, providing basic guidance and norms for the international library community to carry out this service.

In the exploration and development of prison library theory and practice, the United States has participated in and led the formulation of relevant international rules. Combining with the relevant rules of the United States government, the American Library Association (ALA) has formulated a series of domestic standards and regulations. In 1981, the Library Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, Library Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities was published in 1999. And local detailed rules are more extensive, targeted, operational stronger.^[3] When the United States built a large prison in 1978, it was necessary to consider the design of the library in the prison planning. Small and medium-sized prisons are served jointly by local public libraries.

In Europe, Italy adopted a new Prison Law (Act No. 354) on 26 July 1975. The new Prison Law emphasizes the guarantee of prisoners' basic human rights, "treatment in prisons shall be humane and respect for human dignity shall be guaranteed" (art. 1, para. 1), and article 12, para. 2, states: "Prisons shall also have a library of books and periodicals, which shall be selected by a committee established pursuant to article 16, para. 2. Representatives of prisoners and inmates participate in the opening of library services".^[4] From the perspective of operation and management of Italian prison libraries, municipal libraries cooperate with prisons to provide librarians and books.^[5] Australia requirements set by the various prisons strictly enforce the sections of the prison library service guide policy, make clear the regulation of the prison library subject, mission, objectives, funding and management responsibility, such as the Australian JUNEE correctional institute library governing body have a clear annual budget, have 3-5 years of planning for a long time, Hardware construction, collection construction and personnel allocation are implemented in accordance with the requirements of The Prison Inmates Library Service Guide^[6].

2.2 Development of prison libraries in China

The research on prison library in Our country is relatively late. Firstly, the theoretical research on prison library develops slowly: experts and scholars do not pay attention to it; The research intensity is small, the direction is not comprehensive; Valuable research results are scarce. Taking "prison library" as the search term, the author searched the Chinese literatures on CNKI through the subject search portal, and the result was 58 literatures.

From the statistical results, the number of literatures in 2018 was 0, and the number of literatures in 2019 was only 1. The stagnation of domestic prison library research also reflects the difficult situation of prison library development^[7].

Relevant laws and regulations emerged after the 1990s. With the extension of public library service in Our country, public library's concern and service to vulnerable groups will also become an important part of its work content, and the conventional education of prison includes ideological, cultural and technical education, prison cultural construction, social help and education, psychological treatment and other contents, the two can be effectively combined. Since 1984, when zhejiang Provincial Library and the sixth prison established book circulation, libraries all over the country have established connections with prisons and provided services for prisons. Therefore, research on practice gradually began. Chen Junmin discussed in detail the social benefits gained after the preparation, attempt and establishment of the library circulation station in Jiangxi Province under the Administration of Reeducation through Labor^[8]. Liu Yiding summarized the work of zhejiang Library in establishing library circulation station in prison and the achievements of promoting prison education and reforming prisoners. Yin Meihua Ye Gan-lin Wang Junyi respectively introduced the ways and contents of public libraries in Shanghai, Dexing city and Chaoyang County to provide services to prison inmates, and Yang Mingying discussed the characteristics of changde City library prison branch, and proposed the enlightenment to prison library construction^[9]. The combination of prison education and library conforms to the requirement of The Times.

3. Problems existing in the development of prison library

3.1 Policy and Legislation

The main reason for the slow development of prison libraries in China is the lag of policy and legislation. Without the basis of policies and regulations, the funds and personnel of prison library can not be effectively guaranteed. The existing prison libraries are generally small in scale, with incomplete facilities and functions, outdated collections, unreasonable structures, and many of them are mere formalities. At present, many prison libraries lack of unified coordination and management, and are still going the same way and facing the same difficulties.

Among the existing laws, article 66 of the Prison Law passed by the National People's Congress in 1994 states:

"Cultural and vocational education of prisoners shall be included in the educational plan of the region where they are located. A prison shall set up necessary educational facilities such as classrooms and reading rooms."^[10] In 1995, the Ministry of Justice stipulated in the standards and Implementation Opinions on the Establishment of modern and Civilized Prisons: "Improve educational reform institutions, implement educational reform management system, and ensure educational reform funds. There are fixed places for teaching, necessary educational facilities, audio-visual educational facilities, and cultural and sports facilities such as books, reading rooms and playgrounds."^[11] Although the Public Library Law promulgated in 2018 takes vulnerable groups as service objects, it does not specify that vulnerable groups include prison inmates. Therefore, it is urgent to formulate a prison library regulation which includes responsibility subject, service standard and operation mechanism

3.2 Degree of attention

Prison is a special school, is the place that reforming prisoners, prison library development largely depends on the understanding of the prison management degree and emphasis, prison management comparison pay attention to the education of inmates thought and culture, but ignored the books and other cultural services in the process of transformation of prisoners exerts the dominant role. Due to the heavy daily workload and safety concerns, corrections officers often have neither the inclination nor the ability to carry out book-related services.

3.3 Support from social forces

Prison inmates are different from ordinary vulnerable groups in society. Due to their closed environment and security, the service mode cannot be carried out in a traditional way. Prisons also have detention centers, new inmates prisons, juvenile reformatories and other types, all of which have their own characteristics. Even if social forces want to help prison libraries, they often face many obstacles, and prison management will have different considerations when seeking support from social forces.

3.4 Attitudes of detainees towards libraries

Due to the limited types of books provided by prison libraries, delayed updates, imperfect services and many restrictions, prisoners are not enthusiastic or indifferent to using libraries. In addition, prisoners are in a special environment, so they tend to be cautious about related activities.

4. Construction of prison library

4.1 System construction

Combined with the experience of the development of prison libraries at home and abroad, from the perspective of policy, the first step is to establish and perfect the legal norms and policy basis that can guide the construction of prison libraries. From the perspective of micro, each prison library must establish a regular book classification system and various management systems. Such bodies as library expert groups could be set up, with the participation of library professionals, prison authorities and detainees. Expert group members participate in decisions on the establishment of the library's basic framework and important issues. The basic system includes the library entry instructions, the library borrowing system, the library staff system and so on.

In the system construction important attention to several principles:

1. The principle of safety and prudence. Different from ordinary libraries, prison libraries have their own particularity as the readers are prisoners, and there are also many restrictions on the collection of books.

2. On the principle of equal and free service, prison libraries should provide equal and convenient access to library services for all detainees. Prison has its particularity. Under the premise of safety, the opening time of library should avoid the conflict with prisoners' cultural education time and labor reform time. To meet the different needs of detainees of different ages, different educational levels, different cultural backgrounds and disabled detainees with unlimited activities in prison, so that detainees can freely borrow books from open shelves library at specified time and enjoy the freedom of real reading.

3. Principle of autonomy and independence. In terms of funds, the competent authorities should ensure that the prison library is funded as an independent unit, and the budget of funds should cover staff salaries, collection construction, equipment and facilities, academic exchanges, staff training and database purchase, etc. Although the prison library is a part of the prison, it should keep its independent operation because of its professionalism.

4.2 Selection of space

Including location selection, space design, facilities, equipment, etc, for the new prison library, on the choice of equipment, the prison can consider the characteristics of the library, comfortable reading seat, light and bright reading environment, to gradually establish the image of its knowledge, learning center, making it a spirit of de-

tainees have a rest. The design should also consider the specific conditions of the prison and the principle of convenience for detainees to create a quiet, comfortable and safe reading environment. The library should be located in the center of the prison building, which is easy for detainees to access, or near or within the education department, which is easy to manage.

4.3 Collection Development

The selection of materials in the collection should be free from censorship so long as they do not threaten prison security; The education level, age, language and ethnic background of prisoners should be fully taken into account; Their interests and needs should be mobilized in conjunction with educational activities in prisons; The author has also done a questionnaire about the readers, and the popular books mainly include the following categories: ① They like martial arts novels and detective novels, which has a great relationship with the educational level of the prisoners readers. ② They like books on skills. They want to learn skills so that they can earn their own living and integrate into society quickly. ③ Self-taught exam books are also popular, with readers hoping to use the "gap period" to improve themselves and help them find jobs and integrate into the community after they are released from prison.

In collection development, we can also consider the following points:

(1) As far as possible, legal compilations, case compilations and law books should be arranged, because prisoners are in urgent need

Learn legal knowledge to improve their legal awareness.

(2) Configure nine-year education books for those with lower education levels, so that they have basic reading ability, and turn the prison term into "semesters".

(3) provide positive energy and theme of the reader, there are more psychological abnormalities and character defects in the detainees, the need to use the correct world outlook, outlook on life, values to guide them, so that they consciously adhere to the code of conduct, sincerely accept the transformation, can adapt to the society as soon as possible after going out.

3.4 Internal Management

The current management mode of prison library is mostly managed by correctional cadres and prisoners, but because they lack professional knowledge and management experience, they just play the role of book custodian. Through the participation of the public library, the prison

library can train the related skills of the library management cadres and the prisoners, so that they can have the basic knowledge of library business, and can achieve the normal daily operation. North Rhine - west Germany Bavarian Asia munster prison library service innovation is worthy of reference, it USES the three layers of management mode, professional management, professional library administrators to manage the prison library, the first layer by the prison library auxiliary member in charge of routine work for the library, the second layer, the supervision by the library to oversee the day-to-day operations of library, They coordinate the management of prison libraries with prison officers and are responsible for the selection, training and supervision of auxiliary library staff. At the third level, professional librarians coordinate the management of the whole library, so as to make the prison library become professional and sustainable^[12].

5.Cooperation between prison library and regional library

5.1 Considering the territorial management and convenience of administrative regions, the development of prison libraries cannot be separated from the cooperation with regional libraries, which mainly takes the following forms:

(1) Due to limited space and funds, the prison library can accept donations and other forms to increase its collection.

(2) Adopt the form of collective borrowing. After all, the space of prison library is limited, and the collection of books can hardly meet the borrowing demand of all detainees. According to the requirement of 10 books per person, most prison libraries cannot be reached in a short time, and collective borrowing can solve this contradiction well.

(3) To conduct lectures and other forms of knowledge service, in specific environment, prison detainees still exist many common knowledge demand, regional library can try through the menu type on demand and form to lecture service of prisoners, the author in the library has conducted such services for juvenile delinquents in Shanghai, was welcomed by students.

(4) Can organize to carry out reading groups and other forms of activities, to meet friends, through the discussion of books, improve the understanding of books, increase the interest in reading. However, it is important to note that these activities should be carried out with the approval and control of the management in accordance with the mission of the prison.

5.2 Publicity and communication

In the early years, the author once helped and taught a group of young prisoners aged about 20 in a newly accepted prison. The general characteristics of this age group are low educational background, lack of care in the original family environment, and easy to have the idea of abandoning oneself. The intervention of library professionals takes books as the medium, through letters, face-to-face conversations and other forms, to understand the ideas of the objects of help and education, and provide reasonable suggestions at the right time, often can play an important role in the process of prisoners' reform. On the one hand, the indirect contact between prisoners and the society can make them realize that they have not been forgotten by the society, which can boost their confidence in rehabilitation. On the other hand, the social attention of prisoners can be increased through the influence of helpers in the society.

5.3 Conduct regular surveys on user satisfaction

The readership needs of different prisons varied greatly at different times. It is necessary to carry out a regular survey of readers' satisfaction, not only to meet their reading needs, but also to guide readers to correct reading interest; Set up a reading steering committee composed of correctional cadres and prisoners; More participation in peer communication, the introduction of social resources, change the closed and isolated situation of prison library, accumulate library experience, perfect the theory and practice model of prison library, improve the influence of prison library.

5.4 Change the mind of the majority

Most people believe that the prisoner in prison is a deserved punishment, while limited personal freedom will be deprived of the right of using library, can't get effective information is taken for granted, but the prisoner jailed itself has been punished, what's more, the sentence is time-limited, total want to return to society, the role of the prison is not just a discipline, more important is to reform and education, Library services are one of the means of education.

5.5 Several focus points of prison reading promotion

(1) Do "deep"

Difficulties of the prison culture service is closed, the exchange of asymmetry, the regional library can use push prison information platform of existing resources, also can put the new book and recommend to distribute

content production into small manual, can also introduce the popular exhibition area, such as the memory of the 40th anniversary of reform and opening-up exhibition into prison, through pictures and in-kind and other documents, It vividly reflects the process and achievements of the reform and opening up in their hometown, so that the detainees can personally experience the social change and development, and enhance their motivation to transform and return to society.

(2) Be "long"

No one is born a criminal, the reason why crime is a gradual process of internal and external factors, and education reform also needs this process. And in view of the role of the library to do imperceptibly, quietly, can not expect an immediate effect, overnight, to have long-term combat preparation.

(3) Be "refined"

Prisons and inmates has its own characteristics, can not put all the resources all before them, not reality also doesn't work, can do "private tailored", such as ask an expert lectures, tell a "Chinese traditional culture and serving transformation", can also be reading group discussion of popular books activities video into a CD by their own choice.

(4) To be Shared

The prison library needs to strengthen the connection with the outside world, and employ librarians, judges, lawyers, doctors and writers as library support members. On the one hand, they can make use of their expertise to better play the role of the library, and on the other hand, improve the social attention of all levels. At the same time, the prison library can not only be shared with all kinds of universities and public libraries, but also can be shared among prison libraries for horizontal communication.

6 Conclusion

At present, the services provided by public libraries for the detainees can not be effectively standardized, nor has a complete system been formed, which basically stays at the shallow level of literature borrowing. Libraries and prisons belong to different systems. In order to ensure the development of prison library services, the government, especially the local government, should take the lead to organize prison management and library industry experts to formulate detailed and operable policies on the basis of the existing library regulations and prison regulations. It is necessary to clarify the subject of responsibility and management responsibility of prison library, the long and short term goals and tasks to be achieved, and the source of funds. Due to the advantages of financial management

system in Our country, the top-down implementation is often easier to implement. The competent authorities make a clear position on the main functions of libraries in prison institutions, and determine specific objectives and detailed rules of implementation and evaluation methods. The prison library must be supervised and managed by professional librarians, the main staff must have the corresponding professional and technical qualifications, and must have the knowledge required in the complex prison environment and the interpersonal communication skills with specific groups of people. In accordance with this policy, various types of prison libraries in various regions can make mid - and long-term plans according to local conditions and their own characteristics. Only by establishing the system of prison library itself can detainees enjoy the rights and interests of cultural services. In order to achieve the full coverage of public library services.

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