To make a better digital library
—some collaborative efforts in China

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Outline

- The achievements of Digital Library (DL) in China

- The main challenges of further DL development in China

- The mechanism and measures to strengthen the macro-control of DL in China

The achievements of Digital Library in China

Different levels of DL

- There are two kinds of digital library
  - For-profit: made by digital content and service providers, publishers,etc.
  - Non-for-profit: made by libraries or governmental and public sectors
- There are different levels of digital library
  - National level
  - Provincial/regional level
  - Single library/multi-libraries level

Several national-level DL projects

- 1997, China Pilot Digital Library Project
- 1998, CALIS (China Academic Library & Information System)
- 1999, NSDL (National Science Digital Library)
- 2000, NSTL (National Science and Technology Library)
- 2001, National Digital Library of China …

Some cooperative activities

- Large-scale Cooperative purchasing
  - CALIS
  - CAS (Chinese Academy of Science)
  - Local universities/colleges

- Large-scale digitization
  - NDL (National Digital Library)
  - CADAL (China-US Million Book Digital Library Project)

- Large-scale database development
  - CALIS
  - NSTL

In short, DL is no longer a trend in China. It is a growing reality around us, and has been playing positive roles in people's daily work, study and life.

The main challenges of further DL development in China

Several Bottlenecks we are facing

- Duplicate development issue
  - Digitization
  - databases
- Digital copyrights issue
- Standards & Criteria issue
- Long-term preservation issue

"Digital library was established from the technology point at the first beginning in China. However, the problems now mainly concentrate in the management level.

 Objectively speaking, today's problems just reflect our progress."

— Qihao Miao, vice-director, Shanghai Library

The mechanism and measures to strengthen the macro-control of DL in China

The Joint Meeting on DL Development & Services in China

- The meeting aims to strengthen the cooperation and sharing of digital libraries.
- Members include：
  - NLC (National Library of China)
  - NCIRSP (National Cultural Information Resources Sharing Project)
  - CALIS (China Academic Library & Information System)
  - Shanghai Library
  - NSL (National Science Library, CAS)
  - Library of Party School of the Central Committee of C.P.C
  - Library of National Defense University
  - Zhejiang University Library

Operational mechanism of the Joint Meeting

- Both the Department of Community Culture, Ministry of Culture, and the Secretariat of the Library Society of China play the organizing role in the Joint Meeting.

- The Joint Meeting is generally held quarterly, can also be convened according to the needs and common agreements of members.

- The Joint Meeting is funded and operated by members in turn

- The plan of the first-round meetings is as follows:

①　First meeting: NLC, July 2007,Beijing

②　Second meeting: CALIS & CADAL, October 2007, Fenghua

③　Third meeting: Shanghai Library, January 2008, Shanghai

④　Fourth meeting: Library of Party School of the Central Committee of C.P.C, April 2008

⑤　Fifth meeting: NSL.CAS, July 2008

⑥　Sixth meeting: National Cultural Information Resources Administrative Center, October 2008, Beijing

⑦　Seventh meeting: Library of National Defense University, January 2009, Beijing

Main Themes of the Joint Meeting

- First meeting
  - current status communication, questions release, the Joint Meeting mechanism establishment

- Second meeting
  - Functions definition and problems settlement

- Third meeting
  - Publicity promotion, projects discussion (recommended standards and criteria) and cooperative agreement signed by NLC and Shanghai Library

- Fourth meeting
  - Resources investigation and documents discussion, new cooperative agreement signed by NCIRSP and Library of Party School of the C. C. C.P.C

- Fifth meeting
  - Achievements review and new cooperative agreement signed by NLC and CADAL

- Sixth meeting
  - application system release, service policies communication and DL achievements display

- Seventh meeting
  - Service policies discussion, brochures compilation and new cooperative agreement signed by NCIRSP and NSL, CADAL

- Eighth meeting to be …
  - Service Policy Guideline (draft) release, resource-processing discussion

- Website

  http://www.lsc.org.cn/CN/stlxhy.html

The Achievements of the Joint Meeting

- Three documents
  - Draft on Recommended Standards and Criteria of Chinese Digital Library
  - Service Policy Guideline of Digital Library (draft)
  - Brochure on Achievements of Digital Library development

- Two application systems
  - Registration & Navigation system of DL Resources
  - Recommended System of Chinese Digital Library Standards and Criteria

High-Level Forum on DL in China

- The forum was initiated by NSTL, included the experts from professional libraries, academic libraries, public libraries and the institutions of relevant fields (information service and technology, laws, etc.).

- It aims to promote the communication among the institutions about their strategic study and planning on DL.

- It focuses on: important development trends of network information environment and information services, models of modern information development and literature services, the development strategies of library and information service.

- Operational mechanism

  - The forum is operated by the Organizing Committee (once every four years) and the secretariat.

  - The forum is held annually or twice a year, each has a specific theme

  - There is 1-3 Chairmen in every meeting.

  - The chairmen are responsible for the organization of the meeting and the choosing of the topic.

  - Detailed contents can be found on the website.

- Website

  http://dlforum.org.cn/index.jsp

The First Annual Meeting

- Beijing, 2008
- The theme
  - **"The service system development of long-term preservation of digital resources in China"**
- Program
  - Keynote report by Qiheng Hu
  - The relevant reports by selected delegates
  - Discussion by all delegates

The First Annual Meeting (continued)

- The achievement
  - Declaration of Action on Long-term Preservation of Digital Resources
    - Call on the initiation of action on long-term preservation of digital resources by Chinese government
    - Call on the development of storage system on long-term preservation of digital resources under government support
    - Call on the promotion of laws, policies and mechanism on long-term preservation of digital resources by relevant experts
  - The document signed by participants in person

The Second Annual Meeting

- Shanghai, to be held within 2009
- The theme
  - **"DL coordinated service mechanism and its implementation strategy"**
- Program
  - Keynote report by Xiaolin Zhang
  - Other relevant reports (six or seven selected speakers)
  - Discussion
- The achievement
  - Being expected

Conclusions

- The development of DL should start from reality
- The development of DL should strengthen the top-level design
- DL should focus on resource sharing and cooperation
- DL should be widely open
  - Open the Source code , open applications, and open access of literature resources
  - Promote the cooperation with the computer community, the publishing field and the users.

Thanks!
Questions?