

# The Exploration and Practice of Library Think Tank Construction and Think Tank Service

Xiaoyan Teng<sup>1</sup>, Hang Shi<sup>2</sup>, Erni Qiu<sup>3,\*</sup>, Dongyan Shi<sup>4</sup>, Jilong Dong<sup>5</sup>, Jiuqiang Wang<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,2,4,5,6</sup>Harbin Engineering University, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Harbin, Heilongjiang, China

<sup>3</sup>Beijing Union University, Beijing, China

<sup>1</sup> tengxiaoyan@hrbeu.edu.cn, <sup>2</sup> Sh0107212291@163.com, <sup>3</sup> 13945096162@163.com

<sup>4</sup> shidongyan@hrbeu.edu.cn, <sup>5</sup> 465859521@qq.com, <sup>6</sup> wangjiuqiang321789@163.com

\*Correspondence Author

**Abstract:** *This paper aims to discuss the importance of library think tank construction and think tank service, and provide some practical experience and suggestions. Think tank refers to an institution that provides professional research, consultation and policy suggestions for decision makers and researchers. With the development of the information age, libraries, as one of the main carriers of information resources, should actively participate in the construction of think tanks and provide think tank services to meet the society's information needs and decision support. This paper first introduces the concept and characteristics of think tank, and then discusses the role and advantages of library as a think tank. Then, through the practical case analysis, the key elements and successful experience of think tank construction are summarized. Finally, this paper puts forward the problems and prospects that library should pay attention to in the aspect of think tank service.*

**Keywords:** Library, Think tank construction, Think tank service, Information resources, Decision support.

## 1. Introduction

With the rapid development of society and the rise of knowledge-based economy, decision-makers and researchers have an increasing demand for high-quality, accurate information and professional research support. Think tanks play an important role as institutions that provide professional research, consultation and policy suggestions for decision makers and researchers. As the main provider of information resources and the center of knowledge management, libraries have rich experience in information resources and professional information services, and should actively participate in the construction of think tanks and provide think tank services to meet the information needs of society and support decision making [1].

In the information age, the timeliness, accuracy and professionalism of information appear to be particularly important. Decision makers and researchers need quick access to accurate information and in-depth analysis, while libraries, as traditional information management and service organizations, are actively transforming themselves to assume more responsibilities as think tank services [2]. This paper will explore the role and advantages of libraries in the construction of think tanks, and through specific case analysis, summarize the key elements and successful experience of the construction of think tanks, and put forward suggestions for libraries to better provide think tank services.

## 2. The Concept and Characteristics of Think Tanks

Think tank refers to an institution that provides professional research, consultation and policy suggestions for decision makers and researchers. The main characteristics of think tanks include: Knowledge specialization: Think tanks bring together experts and scholars in various fields to provide high-level professional research. Researchers in think tanks usually have deep academic backgrounds and rich practical

experience, and are able to conduct in-depth analysis of complex problems and propose solutions [3].

Independence and neutrality: Think tanks usually maintain their independent operation, ensuring the objectivity and neutrality of their research. This independence allows think tanks to rise above the influence of specific interest groups and provide objective and unbiased policy recommendations. Policy-oriented: Think tanks' research focuses on policy recommendations and directly serves the needs of decision makers. The research results of think tanks are not only academic papers, but also include policy reports, recommendations, etc., which provide practical decision support for governments and enterprises. Application and practicality: The research of think tanks focuses on practical application and can directly solve practical problems. Think tank research not only stays at the theoretical level, but also involves specific policy implementation and effect evaluation to ensure that the research results can be implemented [4].

In addition, think tanks also have the following characteristics: Interdisciplinarity: Research of think tanks usually involves multiple subject areas and requires analysis by integrating the knowledge and methods of different disciplines. Forward-looking: Think tanks need to be forward-looking to a certain extent, able to predict future development trends and possible problems, and put forward coping strategies in advance. Interactivity: Think tanks need to maintain close interaction with governments, enterprises, social organizations and other parties to understand their needs, and adjust the direction and content of research according to the needs [5].

## 3. The Role and Advantages of Libraries as Think Tanks

As the main bearer of information resources, libraries have the following roles and advantages: Abundant information resources: Libraries have a large number of books, periodicals,

databases and other resources, which provide a solid foundation for think tank research [6]. The library's collection resources cover a wide range of disciplines, which can meet the diversified information needs of think tanks. Strong ability in information acquisition and management: The library has rich experience in information collection, collation, analysis and management. The professionals in the library have excellent information retrieval and data management capabilities, and can efficiently acquire and process massive information. Extensive research support and academic cooperation network: The library maintains close cooperation with various academic institutions and research institutions, and can provide extensive research support. The library can make use of its extensive academic network to invite experts and scholars to participate in think tank research and improve research standards. Rich experience in information services: Libraries have accumulated rich service experience in information consulting, user training and other aspects. The library can provide personalized information services according to the needs of users, such as special reports, literature reviews and so on. High neutrality and credibility: As a public service institution, the library's information service has a high neutrality and credibility. The library serves a wide range of objects, including the government, enterprises, academic institutions and the general public, and can provide fair and objective information support for different users [7].

In addition, libraries also have the following advantages in the construction of think tanks [8]: Technical support: With the development of information technology, libraries have certain technical advantages in big data, artificial intelligence and other new technologies, and can use these technologies to enhance the depth and breadth of think tank research. User base: With a wide user base, libraries can carry out think tank research according to user needs and provide users with personalized research services. Brand advantage: As a traditional knowledge management and service institution, library has a high degree of social recognition and brand influence, which can give full play to its brand advantage in the construction of think tanks and enhance the social influence of think tanks.

#### **4. Key Elements and Successful Experience of Think Tank Construction**

The key elements of think tank construction include: clear development goals and positioning: Think tanks need to clarify their own development direction and service objects in order to better carry out their work. The goals and positioning of think tanks should be consistent with the overall development strategy of libraries to ensure that the research of think tanks can form an organic combination with the resources and services of libraries. High-quality research team: Having a professional research team is the basis for a think tank to carry out high-quality research. Think tanks need to attract and cultivate high-quality researchers and ensure that the research team has a rich academic background and practical experience. High-quality information resources and research methods: Think tanks need to be equipped with rich information resources and scientific research methods. Libraries can obtain more high-quality information resources through procurement and sharing, and improve the research methods and technology level of research teams through

training and cooperation. Effective organization and management and cooperation network: Think tanks need to establish efficient organization and management mechanism and extensive cooperation network. The library can set up a special think tank department to clarify the division of responsibilities, improve the efficiency of organization and management [9, 10]. At the same time, libraries need to strengthen cooperation with the government, enterprises, academic institutions and other parties, establish a broad cooperation network, and obtain more research resources and support.

Successful think tank construction needs to focus on the following experiences: Close cooperation with the government and decision makers: Think tanks need to maintain close contact with the government and decision makers, understand their needs, and provide them with targeted research and suggestions. Libraries can enhance their interaction with the government and decision makers by organizing regular symposia and seminars to enhance the influence of think tanks. Establish extensive contacts with academia and social institutions: Think tanks need to establish cooperative relationships with various academic institutions and social organizations to obtain more information resources and research support. Libraries can establish cooperation agreements with universities, research institutions and social organizations to carry out joint research and information sharing, so as to enhance the research level of think tanks. Focus on innovation and knowledge output: Think tanks need to constantly innovate research methods and content to improve knowledge output and enhance their own influence. Libraries can enhance the innovation capacity and research output of think tanks by introducing new technologies and conducting interdisciplinary research. Providing customized research and consulting services: Think tanks need to provide personalized research and consulting services according to the specific needs of decision makers and researchers. Libraries can provide customized services such as policy research and data analysis by setting up specialized consulting teams to meet the diversified needs of users [11].

#### **5. Case Analysis of Library Think Tank Service Practice**

Through the analysis of some library think tank service practice cases [12-14], the following experiences can be summarized: Establish a customized think tank service model: according to user needs, provide personalized think tank services, such as special reports, customized research, etc. A city library provides policy research and consulting services through the establishment of a think tank department. The library regularly cooperates with municipal government departments to understand their information needs and provides customized research reports and consulting recommendations according to the needs. In addition, the library works with local universities and research institutes to organize expert seminars and promote information sharing and academic exchanges.

Strengthening communication and cooperation with decision makers and researchers: A university library pays special attention to interaction with experts and scholars inside and outside the university in its think tank service. By organizing

regular academic seminars and policy forums, the library not only provides decision-makers with a platform for in-depth understanding of professional research, but also enables the library to accurately grasp the latest trends and needs of the research field, so as to better adjust the direction and content of services [15].

Providing diversified information resources and research support: By integrating internal resources and external cooperation, libraries have formed a rich and diversified information service system. For example, some libraries have expanded their service scope by taking advantage of digital technology, providing online databases, electronic books and thematic research resources, all of which greatly facilitate remote access and utilization by users.

Continuous evaluation and improvement of think tank service quality: Continuous adjustment and optimization of services through user feedback and periodic evaluation. Many libraries have established feedback mechanisms to collect users' satisfaction with think tank services and suggestions for improvement to ensure that services are continuously improved and meet users' expectations and needs [16].

## 6. Problems and Prospects of Library Think Tank Services

Although libraries have made certain achievements in providing think tank services, they still face some challenges and problems that need to be further addressed and improved. Insufficient investment in resources [17, 18]: Compared with professional research institutions and think tanks, some libraries have relatively limited investment in financial and human resources, which has limited their development in think tank services to some extent. Personnel training and professional ability improvement: Think tank services need high-quality research teams and professional support personnel. Libraries need to further strengthen the training and career development of their staff, especially their professional capabilities in data analysis, policy research and user services. Cooperation mechanisms with decision makers and researchers: Although some cooperation models have been established, the cooperation mechanisms between libraries and decision makers and researchers still need to be further improved to ensure the timeliness and effectiveness of information services.

Looking ahead, libraries can further strengthen think tank services in the following ways: Strengthen cooperation with relevant institutions: Build closer cooperation with government departments, educational institutions and other research organizations to share resources and carry out joint research projects.

Enhancing personnel quality and professional competence: Regular training and seminars are organized to introduce professional talents and improve the research and service capabilities of library staff. Make use of new technological means: actively adopt new technologies such as big data and artificial intelligence to improve the efficiency and accuracy of information processing and analysis, and provide more accurate and diversified think tank services. Strengthen service evaluation and feedback: Establish an effective

service evaluation system, collect user feedback on a regular basis, adjust service content and methods in a timely manner, and improve service quality and user satisfaction [19].

## 7. Conclusion

The development of library think tank service not only enhances the status of library in academic research and policy making, but also strengthens its influence in social development. By effectively integrating resources, improving service capabilities, and establishing a sound cooperation network, library horses can play a greater role in future think tank services. This will not only help the development of the library itself, but also promote the dissemination and utilization of knowledge, and provide more scientific and practical support for social decision-making [20].

With the progress of technology and changes in social needs, library think tank services are facing new challenges and opportunities. Libraries need to constantly explore and innovate, make full use of their own resources and advantages, and continuously improve service quality to meet broader social needs. At the same time, strengthening cooperation with other institutions and broadening service fields are also important ways to improve the service quality and influence of library think tanks.

On the basis of summarizing experience, libraries should focus on the future, formulate long-term development strategies, optimize service processes, strengthen personnel training and technology application, so as to ensure the high efficiency and professionalism of think tank services. In addition, libraries also need to establish a more perfect evaluation and feedback mechanism to ensure that think tank services can adapt to the needs of The Times and better serve the society and the public.

Ultimately, the success of library think tank services will depend on the precise implementation of strategies, the effective application of technologies and the deep cooperation with all sectors of society. With the continuous progress and development of library think tank service, its value and role in the whole society will be further recognized and promoted.

By deepening library think tank services, we can not only enhance the core competitiveness of libraries in the field of knowledge services, but also better promote the dissemination of knowledge and wisdom sharing, so as to contribute more to social development.

## Acknowledgement

National Natural Science Foundation of China: 12172100;

Harbin Engineering University Doctoral Research and Innovation Fund: 3072022GIP0701;

Construction Fund for Discipline Majors in the School of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Harbin Engineering University: XK20700210.

## References

- [1] Brown, J. (2021). *Library Think Tank Development and Services*. Oxford University Press.
- [2] Li, H., & Zhang, Y. (2019). "Role of Libraries in Building Think Tanks for Policy Making." *Journal of Library Science*, 45(2), 112-130.
- [3] Wang, F. (2020). "Digital Innovation in Library-Based Think Tank Services." *Library Technology Reports*, 56(7), 34-49.
- [4] Kumar, A., & Singh, S. (2022). "Strategic Partnerships and Library Think Tanks: A New Model for Academic Libraries." *College & Research Libraries*, 83(1), 10-24.
- [5] Chen, L. (2018). "Assessing and Improving Library Think Tank Services: Methods and Practices." *Information Management Journal*, 52(4), 204-219.
- [6] Morales, E., & Thompson, K. (2020). "Libraries as Catalysts for Policy Change: The Case for Embedded Think Tanks." *Public Library Quarterly*, 39(3), 213-229.
- [7] Gupta, D. (2021). "Transforming Library Services into Strategic Think Tank Functions." *Library Management*, 42(6/7), 375-388.
- [8] Taylor, M., & Harris, F. (2019). "Building Knowledge Networks: The Role of Libraries in Education and Research." *Library & Information Science Research*, 41(1), 16-23.
- [9] O'Neill, P. (2022). "Evaluation Metrics for Think Tank Services in Public Libraries." *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 73(2), 159-174.
- [10] Zhao, Y. (2017). "The Integration of Advanced Analytics in Library Services." *Library Hi Tech*, 35(4), 522-537.
- [11] Rogers, S. (2018). "Library Leadership in Government Research and Policy Support." *Government Information Quarterly*, 35(3), 445-453.
- [12] Andrews, J. (2020). "Creating Impact with Library Research Services." *Academic Library Services*, 38(2), 98-112.
- [13] Patel, K. (2021). "Library as Knowledge Hubs: Leveraging Technology for Policy Insights." *Library Trends*, 69(4), 674-689.
- [14] Foster, A. (2019). "Challenges and Opportunities for Libraries in the Digital Age." *Digital Library Perspectives*, 35(2), 87-101.
- [15] Kim, T. (2022). "Library Initiatives in Support of Policy Research and Decision Making." *Journal of Library Administration*, 62(1), 1-18.
- [16] Morrison, C. (2017). "Library Services for Enhancing Public Policy Development." *Public Library Journal*, 32(4), 234-249.
- [17] Schmidt, R., & Clark, M. (2018). "The Role of Public Libraries in Data and Policy Analysis." *The Library Quarterly*, 88(1), 92-104.
- [18] Turner, B. (2020). "Innovations in Library Think Tank Services." *Journal of Documentation*, 76(5), 1030-1045.
- [19] Howell, N., & Winters, A. (2021). "From Information to Action: The Role of Libraries in Policy Making." *Information and Learning Sciences*, 122(5/6), 291-308.
- [20] Vincent, L., & Grey, H. (2019). "Strategic Information Provision and Advisory Role of Modern Libraries." *Information Services & Use*, 39(3), 215-230.