Thoughts on the Establishment of Urban Archives for Serving Our Economy

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Urban archives are the results of the efforts and wisdom arising from city planning, construction and management. They reflect the level of economic, social, technological and cultural development in an era. For the past years, the urban archives of Shanxi province have undergone the processes from construction to development of a basic system, and have played an important role in social and economic development and urban construction. At present, Shanxi is at the critical moment of leap-forward development of evolving to a moderate well-off society. We must consider and study how to fully utilize urban archives to better serve economic construction.
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1. The all-embracing integrated concept of urban archives

A. Main coverage

B. Main contents and categories

C. Implications of Urban Archives
Urban archives are the index of evolvement of historical and cultural deposits and assets

Cities at early times were mainly used for military defense. With social advancement and economic development, the trading function of cities gradually strengthened. To facilitate management of city construction, records on certain important activities about city construction and management were taken, which became the early form of city archives. In January 1972, a silk of Changsha garrison was unearthed from Han Tomb at Mawangdui, and that was the earliest available outline map of the Changsha city. Urban archives contain the history and culture of urban construction, and share the same roots and origin of urban construction and development. They not only record the historical facet of cities, but also influence the contents and direction of urban construction to a certain extent.
Urban archives reflect the reality of socio-economic development

The large amount of systematic information on economic statistics, urban development planning, urban construction and design, and urban management, etc. is the genuine record of socio-economical development of cities, reflecting in detail the reality of city development from various perspectives.
Urban archives are records of change and development of the territorial resources of cities.

In the process of urban economic and social developments, records of land, mineral deposits, irrigation works, biological resources, industries, agriculture, construction and human resources, and basic amenities serving human (such as education, culture and technology, etc.), have all formed the important components of urban archives. Urban archives can be treated as the annals about cities and their residents who make use of the territorial resources to develop, prosper and facilitate social and economic advancement. It is the overall reflection of the changes in the development of the urban territorial resources.
Urban archives are technical information presented in different formats such as words, tables, images, electronic book, etc. From the perspective of historical calendar, urban archives contain such information as urban construction, historical and cultural changes, socio-economic development, hydro-geology geography, etc. From the perspective of types of socio-economic development, urban archives include rural-urban coordination, industrial structure, urban construction, urban livelihood, urban ecology, etc.
Categories of Urban Archives

- Categorized urban archives
  - Including: city distribution, mainly geographical locations of cities, city scale, city population and city types, etc.; city statistics by district, mainly covering the three areas in eastern, central and western, and categorizing city scale by urban non-agricultural population.
Categories of Urban Archives

- Statistical information of city economy
  - Including: main indicators of urban national economy, city population and land area, urban national income, urban gross industrial output, total profits and tax, fiscal revenue, fixed assets investment, etc.
Categories of Urban Archives

- Information of social development of city

  Including: indicators of city construction, green area per capita in city, emission of the three types of wastes (gas, water and industrial residue), city livelihood indicators, city education, technological development, medical and health services, transport, and law and order.
Categories of Urban Archives

- Other city information
  Important policies and laws of city, research of city issues, scientific study of city, etc.

The all-embracing integrated concept of urban archives
The all-embracing integrated concept of urban archives

Urban archives are important references for city planning, construction and management

Formulation of scientific, practical and forward-looking city planning, upgrading of city quality and shaping of city culture, as well as promotion of urban socio-economic development, must depend on the archives which truthfully record the process of city construction, especially renovation of old districts, development of new districts, reconstruction of infrastructure and extension, etc. If there are insufficient urban archives for reference, it will be very difficult to carry out such work. Therefore, a good grasp of systematic, complete and reliable urban archives is the prerequisite for city planning, and is also the important reference for urban construction and management for future development.
The all-embracing integrated concept of urban archives

Urban archives are important safeguard of citizen’s life and work

The premise of the urban construction and development is to safeguard citizen’s daily life and work. Normal supply of water, electricity and warm air, and facilities like communication, transport, housing and green areas are indispensable to urban residents. To ensure that the information on the above infrastructure is complete, precise and systematic is critical to safeguarding citizen’s life and work.
● Urban archives are important references for the upgrading city capability on disaster mitigation and prevention

As urban archives are non-renewable historical records of urban planning and infrastructure, they are important for city prevention and resistance against natural disasters. The incidents of Tangshan earthquake in 1976, “5.12” Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, Yushu earthquake in 2010, and Yaan earthquake in Sichuan this year, all indicated that urban archives have their special functions when a city is damaged by natural disaster. An information map or even a pipes network map can be very important for the quick restoration of urban operation.
Urban archives are important basis for scientific study of cities

Urban science is a science subject on city construction and development. Through observing, analyzing and studying cities from different perspectives, the development pattern of cities could be portrayed. Urban archives can reflect the process of city planning, construction and management in an integrated manner. They have not only political value but also economic and technological value, and definitely become one of the important information sources for scientific study of cities.
2. Gradual formation of the system of urban archives for Shanxi province

As the genuine record of city construction activities, urban archives are the necessary channel and conditions for our city planning, development, construction, management and maintenance. In recent years, officials at various ranks and relevant departments of Shanxi province have paid great attention to the construction of urban archives, and thus such construction has progressed considerably than before. A comparatively comprehensive system of urban archives has gradually been established.
2. Gradual formation of the system of urban archives for Shanxi province

A. Construction of statistical information on socio-economic development has become comprehensive

B. Establishment of urban archives progressively reaches completion

C. Greater development of construction of archives for cultural tourism

D. Gradual establishment of a system of meteorological and hydrogeological data
A 4-tier backbone network of statistical information system has been established with National Bureau of Statistics as hub and provincial statistics bureau as center, linking all municipal, county and district statistics bureaus of the entire province. The network services provided by the Statistical Information Network of Shanxi Province have become an important source of statistical information for party committees at all levels, the government and general public. The statistical information system is becoming a foundation and system of technical security for supporting the operation of government statistical work. A reporting and dissemination system, combining annual, quarterly, monthly data is thus formed. It serves as an integrated information service platform for data collection, transmission, processing, management, dissemination, and application development of data. The overall functionality of this system has been further improved.
Most districts in the province have established their own Urban Construction Records Management Offices. There are altogether 84 Urban Construction Records management offices in the province, with a total area up to about 14,000 square meters. There are 18 main categories of collections and about 510,000 volumes. Websites of data reporting of urban construction and information inquiry are set up in main cities, which have raised the overall management level of urban archives.
Shanxi is a big province abounding in tourist resources. The importance of cultural tourism in our provincial socio-economic development has been generally recognized. After years of endeavor by the relevant departments, the archives construction of Shanxi provincial cultural tourism has been greatly developed, where tangible and intangible heritages of various kinds are excavated and then straightened out by means of photos, sound and video recordings, books, magazines, etc. and therefore a comparatively complete database of cultural tourism is established.
Meteorological data for common sharing is set as the pivotal point of meteorological archives construction. The long historical series of raw meteorological data have, after objective and scientific analyses, become useful data series and data sets for scientific research and thus benefiting the public at large.

Hydrogeological data is very important to engineering construction and its follow-up work. After years of effort, our province has established large quantities of professional geological data including mines, hydrogeology, engineering geology, environmental geology, geophysical exploration, geological surveying and mapping, liquid mineral exploration, geo-disaster management, etc. These provide our country and the market with professional geological services.
3. Important roles of urban archives in serving economic construction

Basic direction: With the development of urban construction, the works of urban archives have undergone changes, and also brought about new opportunities and challenges. Proper undertaking of urban archives work can not only record the historical trail of the urban development, but also provide quality, efficient and comprehensive services for the scientific decision-making of the government and the general society. We must grasp the opportunities of urban and socio-economic developments, innovate and develop the categories and contents of urban archives as well as level of modernized construction, making them in line with urban and economic constructions. This is the definite requirement for urban construction and socio-economic development.
3. Important roles of urban archives in serving economic construction

- A. Useful for urban development and planning
- B. Reference for scientific decision-making
- C. Guidance for enterprise operation and development
- D. Reference for choice of employment
- E. Foundation for shaping and nurturing urban culture
Urban archives are important reference and evidence for such work as planning, construction, management and maintenance, etc. Complete, systematic, precise and reliable urban archives are crucial and evidently beneficial to the development and smooth operation of urban construction in socio-economic context. Urban archives are the foundation for carrying out urban planning work. Urban planning is the target of coordinated deployment of resources for urban development within a specific timeframe. Urban archives genuinely record the formation, development pattern and progress of a city.
Important roles of urban archives in serving economic construction

Urban archives are important reference for scientific decision-making. An important role of urban archives construction is to facilitate scientific decision-making. To this end, we need to have foresight and proactive thinking, and closely follow the core work of urban and socio-economic development. We also need to make clever use of urban archives by providing the most updated and cutting-edged information crucially required in scientific decision-making in a timely and pertinent manner.
Along with the continuous economic and social development, enterprise development is fundamental and also of paramount importance. To facilitate socio-economic development is one of the important functions of urban archives. Being an important component of urban archives, information on economic and social developments reflects not only directly the status of enterprise development, but also portraits the big picture of socio-economic development.
Important roles of urban archives in serving economic construction

Urban archives can serve as an important repository for government to release information to the public. Though regular release of information to the public, it helps enhancing public awareness and understanding, raising the level of transparency and promoting public trust. The urban information platform can be further utilized by the government to guide the public in choice of employment.
Shaping and nurturing of urban culture is closely linked with the history of urban development. For a city, culture concerns city spirit, city brand, and is an important expression of the core competitiveness of urban development. A city without a rich historical contents means a city with no culture. As records and reflections of historical changes and cultural formation, urban archives are the foundation for shaping and nurturing urban culture.
4. Thoughts on strengthening urban archives for securing economic development

Following rapid advancement of urban construction, the breath and depth of urban archives are continuously evolving along with technological progress. We must adapt ourselves to the need of the massive development of urban construction, and be pragmatic to the need of the present era in establishing a comprehensive system of urban archives. We must provide services at different levels and from different angles, and increase the value, status and development capacity of urban archives to the fullest in the society.
4. Thoughts on strengthening urban archives for securing economic development

A. The premise of urban archives for securing economic development is a sound service foundation

B. The premise of urban archives for securing economic development is service innovation

C. The premise of urban archives for securing economic development is to integrate with the trend of urban development

D. The key to establish urban archives is to consolidate supporting services and cooperation
Thoughts on strengthening urban archives for securing economic development

The premise of urban archives for securing economic development is a sound service foundation.

The work of urban archives is a kind of information resources management. Its fundamental role is to serve socio-economic development. We can only realize its value by delivering quality service, as the saying goes “recognition derives from achievement”. We should begin from three aspects: consolidate the resources of urban archives; optimize service channels of urban archives; and strengthen the construction of infrastructure of urban archives.
Thoughts on strengthening urban archives for securing economic development

To raise quality and levels of services of urban archives work, it is necessary to liberate our thinking, adopt a practical approach, progress with time, abandon old ideas and concepts, use new thinking and practices, increase the capability of theoretical and technological innovations, and upgrade services channels.
The premise of urban archives for securing economic development is to integrate with the trend of urban development.

Urban archives are important references for the development of modern cities. Urban archives will become more valuable only when their construction is combined with urban development. Concept of “smart city” must be used to build urban archives. Information and communication technologies should be fully utilized for detecting, analyzing and integrating every piece of critical information concerning the core system of urban operation. In doing so, we can become responsive smartly to various demands including people’s livelihood, environment protection, public safety, urban services and industrial and commercial activities, thereby creating a better urban life for humans. “Digital city” approach must be adopted to integrate with urban archives.
The key to establish urban archives is to consolidate supporting services and cooperation.

For supporting services, it demands a comprehensive and complete legal system of rules and regulations. Policies and regulations concerning urban archives construction enacted by state ministries should be taken care of by such legal system. Complementary local regulations should be formulated to uplift urban archives construction to a higher level commending recognition by various government departments, industries and the general public.
For cooperation, it is necessary to realize that construction of urban management archives is of social nature and in public interest no matter it be socio-economic archives construction or urban archives construction. It demands not only understanding and support from the community, but also close cooperation with functional departments and different industries.
Therefore, proper construction of urban archives depends on collaboration amongst government departments and industries and the deployment of social resources. Coordination is required to ensure the construction of accurate and comprehensive urban archives. In the meantime, coordination and cooperation with relevant departments are also required to strengthen the administrative and legal enactment of urban archives construction. Inaccurate, untimely, illegal and unauthorized construction of urban archives should be penalized. To this end, different aspects of urban archives construction such as urban development, planning, construction, management, etc. should all be legalized.
Thank You!