A Case of Overcoming the Difficulties by Collective Participation

The Process of solution to the Scheme on How Communitywide Service and Shared Resource from the Senior High School and Vocational School Can be Open to the Citizens

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Abstract

The Central Office in the Ministry of Education demands that the senior high school and vocation school library authority should make the communitywide service since August 30, 2004. The related problems involved are so complicated that all the school authorities have to be prudent. Those who undertake the plan cannot avoid feeling nervous because in general the number of the school librarians is insufficient.

Basically, the function between the school library and the community library is different. If the unpredictable strangers are allowed to enter the campus, the school security and teachers’ teaching activities may be threatened and disturbed. Therefore, the scheme on communitywide service from the school library will influence not only the library management but also the school management.

After the library law is made known to the public on January 17, 2001, the concerned authority may organize a committee to promote the nationwide library business development. As a result, the Central Office in the Ministry of Education invites scholars, professors and the high school librarians to form School Library Program Consultative Team.

In order to better understand how the school library service can be open to the community, Feng-Hsin senior high school is engaged in a survey on the issue and collect all the experience from the school libraries which have undertaken the communitywide service. The following steps show the procedure of how the research is developed.

1. To design an on-line questionnaire.
2. To discuss and correct the content of the questionnaire with the help of the members of SLPCT through e-mail.
3. The questionnaire is focused on the shared experience from the schools whose service have been open to the community.
4. After collecting the approaches adopted by different school, a draft about the scheme will be completed and the result will be reported and discussed in the
meeting for nationwide senior high school and vocation school library development.

5. Through discussion based on democracy, the common cognition among all the school libraries can be established. Then after the meeting, each school may offer the community service according to each one’s concrete circumstance.

The purpose of SLPCT is to inspire the creative opinions and active attitude and we anticipate the trend of good library service will come. SLPCT, based on the principle of democracy and resource sharing, helps promote the library business. We are convinced that more school librarians are willing to take part in the communitywide service and we look forwards to seeing Taiwan as a cultivated and cultural society.

[Keywords] : Communitywide Service, Shared Resources

I. Preface

The Central Office in the Ministry of Education demands that the senior high school and vocation school library authority should make the communitywide service since August 30, 2004. The related problems involved are so complicated that all the school authorities have to be prudent. Those who undertake the plan cannot avoid feeling nervous because in general the number of the school librarians is insufficient.

Minister Du in Ministry of Education stressed on the library exhibition on September 16, 2004 that the reward of the library investment is very high and beyond estimation. Actively speaking, it may create the readers’ benefits from reading; passively speaking, it may prevent people’s mind from corrosion. As a result, Minister Du appeals to the people for thinking highly of the reading problems. He claims that our society will become a cultivated and cultural one when people borrow books from the library as the usual. (electronic newspaper in the Ministry of Education, 2004)

On October 4, 2004, a report on the sixth session of the fifth term in education and culture committee in Legislative Yuan emphasized the promotion of combining senior high schools and vocation schools with the local community and the establishment of the interactive pattern in such a community with resources shared together when the next four years of main administration was mentioned. All of these facts reveal that Minister Du values very much an organized community based on proper learning. (Du Jeng-sheng, 2004)

II. Research Question

After the library law is made known to the public on January 17, 2001, the authority concerned may organize a committee to promote the nationwide library business development. As a result, the Central Office in the Ministry of Education
invites scholars, professors and the high school librarians to form School Library Program Consultative Team.

In order to better understand how the school library service can be open to the community, Feng-Hsin senior high school is engaged in a survey on the issue and collect all the experience from the school libraries which have undertaken the communitywide service. The following steps show the procedure of how the research is developed.

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2. To discuss and correct the content of the questionnaire with the help of the members of SLPCT through e-mail.
3. The questionnaire is focused on the shared experience from the schools whose service have been open to the community.
4. After collecting the approaches adopted by different school, a draft about the scheme will be completed and the result will be reported and discussed in the meeting for nationwide senior high school and vocation school library development.
5. Through discussion based on democracy, the common cognition among all the school libraries can be established. Then after the meeting, each school may offer the community service according to each one’s concrete circumstance.

According to the present information offered from various schools on 10 October, 2004, there were 295 schools in the questionnaire including 169 senior high schools, 116 vocation schools and 10 special education schools. If the generalized explanation is adopted that to be open to the community means to be open to the students’ parents, 75 percents of these schools have been open to the community while 25 percents of them have not. Among 25 percent of those which have not been open to the community, there are 45 high schools (which occupy 27% of the high schools in the questionnaire), 22 vocation schools (which occupy 19 % of the vocation schools in the questionnaire), and 6 special education schools (which occupy 60 percent of the special education schools in the questionnaire)

Synthesizing all the information filled out by various schools as a questionnaire, a description of the result concerning opening hours, service object, service method and other questions are as follows.

1. Service time open to the community
   (1) The library is open to the community primarily when the librarians are on duty.
   (2) The location of the library may be on loan on holiday.
   (3) Other opening hours include the time of holding the study clubs and the activities of arts and literature.
   (4) Network service is open around the clock.
2. Service object in the community
   (1) mostly the family members of the teachers and administrative staff and the retired ones.
   (2) the school students’ parents
   (3) senior high schools, vocation schools, universities, colleges and institutes in the neighborhood on the mission of cooperation.
   (4) the community populace invited to participate in the book exhibition and the activities of arts and literature held by the library

3. Service method to the community
   (1) to read the books, newspapers and magazines inside the library
   (2) the books out on loan under the following condition of holding the post of the volunteer, having credentials, deposit, or the teaching and administrative staff guarantees
   (3) reference consultation and xerography service
   (4) to hold a computer seminar for the community adults
   (5) to hold a series of lectures on knowledge and to form a study club for the parents or the community
   (6) to provide the resources to university students in the community
   (7) to exchange the good books with the community libraries
   (8) electronic resources service
   (9) the service to subscribe the electronic newspapers
   (10) to post bills of theme reading, good articles and activities of arts and literature in the community

4. Some problems occurring in different situation in various schools
   (1) To offer the community service involves the campus security.
   (2) It is not easy to get back the books out on loan because those who borrowed books from the library may move or leave the community
   (3) The library only can be open to the community on duty time because of the problems of manpower and funds.

   All the above present situation has been reported and discussed in the national seminar for the deans of the libraries from senior high schools and vocation schools in 2004 and also in the national workshop for the senior high school library. These participants elaborated their experiences and even exchanged them one another to follow Minister Du’s instruction.
III. Strategy establishment

In addition to the manpower insufficiency and the busy work, to offer the community service has been a strenuous work for various schools. However, they take pleasure in serving others and establish a community to share the resources in an interaction pattern to attain the goal of community service. The plan draft based on eager discussion and common consensus is believed to be able to conform to various schools to use and also can benefit more community populace.

According to the cooperative attitude and the discussion by School Library Program Consultative Team, I draw up a tentative plan, the library service open to community and resources sharing plan, which may give an impetus to the community service. This draft purely is a suggestion from SLPCT instead of official stipulation. The draft can be chosen partly to serve various conditions in various schools. Certainly, more innovative methods are welcome to provided to share with other schools to strengthen the library service.

The plan for the library’s being open to community and sharing resources
1. Aim: to strengthen the combination of school resources and community resources, to develop the library service in various respects, to lead all the people to bring about study atmosphere and to build a lifelong learning environment
2. Basis: the Central Office in the Ministry of Education
3. Service items: (Please consider various schools’ actual conditions to select a implementation)
   (1) to read the books, newspaper, or magazines inside the library
   (2) books out on loan under such conditions as holding the post of the volunteer, having credentials, deposit, or the teaching and administrative staff guarantees
   (3) reference consultation and xerography service
   (4) to hold seminar, community lectures and to form a study club for the parents or the community
   (5) to exchange the good books with the community libraries
   (6) electronic resources service
   (7) to offer the service to subscribe the electronic newspaper
   (8) to post bills of activities of arts and literature in the community
   (9) the others besides the above
4. Service time: to be regulated by each school authority
5. Service object: senior high school and vocation school in the community, students’ parents, culturally influential people, society of superior achievement and community populace
6. Service method: direct service in the library, telephone consultation and website use
7. The service unit and personnel
(1) Books circulation: the present libraries and community volunteers
(2) Campus location maintenance: General Maintenance Office, Student Affairs Section
8. Book collection development: to develop the community characteristic and fill the community’s needs
9. The plan concerning campus security and library use are set up as part of school’s regulation.
10. The plan passes after the library board and is implemented when the principal agrees.

IV. Solving efficiency
According to the issue on the community service discussed by the deans of the senior high school library and vocational school library in a seminar, on 4 December, 2004, the deans finish filling out a form to show various schools’ achievement of initial execution. There are 407 schools filling up the form as a questionnaire including 255 senior high schools, 137 vocational schools and 15 special education schools. Among them are 310 schools open to the community and 97 schools closed to the community as the table 1 shows in the following. Chart 1 presents the proportion of community service offered by various schools.

Among 310 schools which are open to community, 259 schools have regulated the methods of community service and 51 schools open to community without regulating those of community service. Among all the community service items, the most are consultation and the photographic printing service. What is the least is the electronic newspaper service. Each school opens about 7.5 service items on the average. The statistics are as follows in table 2 and the comparison of all the service items is revealed in Chart 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School items</th>
<th>Senior high school</th>
<th>Vocation school</th>
<th>Special education school</th>
<th>total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the number of the schools in the questionnaire</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have been open to the community</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have been closed to the community</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 1  the proportion chart of community service offered by various schools in the questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>items</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>ranking of the service items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Books and magazines read only inside the library</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Books and magazines out on loan conditionally</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Reference consultation and xerography service</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Hold a community seminar</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. To form a study club for the parents or the community</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>193</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. To invite the community populace to participate in</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>activities of arts and literature</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. To exchange the good books with the community libraries</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Electronic resources service</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. The service to subscribe the electronic newspaper</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>240</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. To cooperate in web-linking connection with other senior or</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>105</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocation schools within the community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. To hyperlink with other community libraries</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The reasons why 97 of the schools filling out the form are not open to the community are as follows.

1. Manpower establishment insufficiency: Most public complete middle schools have only one staff to manage the library. Some schools even don’t have any library personnel organization.

2. Campus security consideration: Because of the manpower problem of the campus security maintenance, the girls’ school will much worry about it.

3. Book collection insufficiency: Most community populace will use the public libraries in their neighborhood which are rich in books and it is more convenient for them to use the books as well. Therefore, comparatively, the community people don’t need to use the school libraries.

4. Remote school position: Some school areas are far away so no populace will go there.

5. Library reconstruction: Some schools are under construction and it is inconvenient to be open to the community.

6. Under construction after disaster: Some schools are stricken by typhoons or floods so it is inconvenient to be open to the community.

The detailed information about these schools which fill out the form as a questionnaire can be read in the following website.

http://itsc.fcsh.khc.edu.tw/openlibrary/database1_interface/Results/results_page.aspx

V. Self response

The purpose of SLPCT is to inspire the creative opinions and active attitude and we anticipate the trend of good library service will come. SLPCT, based on the principle of democracy and resource sharing, helps promote the library business.
The policy that the senior high school and vocation school are open to the community originally derived from the higher authority senior officials’ instruction. However, many librarians and teachers contribute their wisdom on the policy and achieve the goal actively. After collecting and investigating the materials, I would like to share my own response with you. In two-month long time, I complete the investigation and put it into practice rapidly owing to the Internet of science and technology. I am convinced that as soon as everyone can solve the problems by using technology well and learning cooperation, the difficulties are sure to be easily overcome. As a result, let’s organize a study society group altogether and then Taiwan will become a cultural and cultivated society with a more glorious future.

VI. Reference