

A Study on the Value Manifestations of Red Archives

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Abstract: Red archives constitute a significant part of archival resources, bearing unique significance for information retention and emotional transmission. In various social practices, red archives provide crucial resource support and exhibit diversified forms of value. In diverse social utilization activities, red archives demonstrate evidential value in testifying history, educational value in reinforcing social education, and emotional value in carrying forward the spirit of predecessors. The realization of the value of archives depends on the needs of the subjects in the process of social practice activities. We need to carry out as many diversified social practice activities as possible, and on this basis, we can maximize the value of the red archive, so that its value can be maximized.

Based on the research of archival historical materials, red archives, as primary historical materials for historical research, lay the foundation for historical research literature. Red archival resources are the primary source type for ideological education in universities, determined by the basic attributes of the original records of archives, and they represent an essential path for realizing the value of archives. Archives are the memory of human activities, and archival work constructs, shapes, and maintains the memory of human history; this is the fundamental role and value of the entire archival work.^[1] In higher education ideological teaching, the value manifestations of red archival resources exhibit diversified characteristics, highlighting the "value functions of the era, maintaining social order, and shaping national spirit."^[2]

1. Meaning and Characteristics of Red Archives Resources

Red archives resources encompass the preserved textual, photographic, graphical, data, audio-visual, and other forms of original records generated by revolutionary ancestors, their leading units, organizations, and individuals during the periods of New Democratic Revolution, Socialist Revolution and Construction, Reform and Opening-Up, and the socialist modernization construction in contemporary China with Chinese characteristics.^[3] Additionally, they include material cultural heritage such as monuments and revolutionary sites, as well as intangible cultural heritage like red stories and red songs. Various archival institutions, libraries, memorial halls, and other cultural organizations in China preserve a rich variety of red archives resources, continuously radiating new vitality under the guidance of the educational philosophy of "learning history to understand reasoning, increase faith, respect virtue, and practice history."

Red archives resources possess distinct political attributes and fundamental original record

characteristics. Unlike other materials, they are evidential data capable of reproducing authentic historical struggle scenes. The basic attribute of archives is their original record nature, serving as genuine records of social activities. Red archives resources chronicle traceable historical facts, preserving the details of red historical events and carrying the evidential chain of red history. ^[4] Archives are products of their time and are original materials that will not be altered by later chroniclers or disseminators' subjective factors. The original record nature of red archives enhances the systematic and comprehensive nature of ideological learning and education in universities, refuting the "voices of falsity" of historical nihilism, establishing correct values, and better preserving the authenticity of history.

Red archives resources, with their unique significance in carrying emotions and transmitting sentiments, serve as an important source to evoke emotional resonance. In the history of the New Democratic Revolution, Socialist Revolution and Construction, Reform and Opening-Up, socialist modernization construction, and the development history of the contemporary era of Chinese socialism with distinctive characteristics, few people can truly feel the past when looking back. Red archives, passed down from generation to generation, vividly depict the authentic situations of the time through yellowed papers, resounding words, black and white photos, and old artifacts. In the process of learning, later generations can genuinely appreciate the moving stories behind each precious archive, experiencing the history of the struggle of the Chinese people for democracy, independence, and the great rejuvenation.

2. Value Manifestations of Red Archives Resources in Social Utilization Activities

The value manifestations of red archives refer to the specific forms in which their archival value is expressed. Archival value is the relationship category in which the archival object meets the needs of the user. Red archives resources, engraved with red memories, have a compelling influence that transcends time and geographical space in the activities of users.

In higher education ideological teaching, red archives resources serve as authentic and reliable information support. As the user's needs and the attributes of the archival object establish a connection, the value of red archives manifests in various forms through continuous integration. Guided by the important spirit of instruction to "make good use of red resources, play well the red tradition, and inherit the red genes," the utilization of red archives resources unfolds throughout society. Their value manifestations exhibit characteristics of diversification, modernization, and uniqueness in the contemporary era.

2.1 Evidential Value: Refuting Historical Nihilism

Archives possess evidential value, determined by the formation laws of archives and their inherent characteristics. Jean-Pierre Wallot, the director of the National Archives of Canada, believes, "Archives are contractual documents, action records, and minutes of meetings. They are reliable evidence and basis for thoughts, emotions, and significant social debates experienced and expressed. Without such archival documents, no family, society, or group can understand and prove various facts and distinguish them from fictional assumptions." ^[5] Red archives have significant evidential value, serving as fundamental evidence to reproduce authentic historical scenes. Red archive resources are products of the historical moment, developed from documents, manuscripts, letters, images, etc., directly used by the involved parties at that time, uncontaminated by the subjective emotions of later researchers, interpreters, or disseminators.

The evidential value of red archives is also reflected in the tangible historical markings preserved in their physical forms. In red archive materials, the handwritten manuscripts of revolutionary ancestors, the personal signatures or approvals of revolutionaries on documentary materials, photos

and videos of historical events, and the historical relics of battlefields are all irrefutable original materials and historical evidence, existing like incontrovertible proof. The faithfully restored western wall of the Shanghai Sihang Warehouse Anti-Japanese War Memorial Hall, with its bullet holes covering the towering wall, serves as a constant reminder to remember that period of wartime. This is the most direct manifestation of the evidential value of archives. Over a century of development, traces can always be traced from red archives and reproduced through archival exploration.

2.2 Educational Value: Reinforcing New Forms of Contemporary Social Education

"Take history as a mirror, and ancient times as a guide." Red archives record history, carrying the tenacious qualities and exemplary conduct of revolutionary ancestors, serving as a support for contemporary social educational resources. Red archives bring together the sublime national spirit of the Chinese nation, embodying the values of truth, goodness, and beauty. They have the social educational functions of guiding thoughts, setting examples, inspiring spirits, and optimizing psychology.^[6]

With its resource advantages, red archives play a crucial role in creating distinctive forms of ideological education courses in universities. By narrating compelling red stories, revolutionary tales, and hero stories, they guide the masses to firm up their ideals and beliefs, establishing revolutionary ideals. In 2021, the National Archives, in collaboration with China Central Television, launched a hundred-episode micro-documentary series titled "Red Archives." It carefully selected precious archival resources, vividly and logically narrating the characters and stories behind the archives, presenting the century-long original intentions and missions from multiple perspectives to the public. It is evident that red archives resources serve as dynamic and intuitive textbooks for ideological education in universities.

2.3 Emotional Value: Continuing the Spiritual Heritage of Ancestors

The century-long journey recorded in red archives carries the spirits of the Chinese people during various historical periods of revolution and construction, such as the great spirit of Jinggang Mountain, the Long March spirit, the Yan'an spirit, and the spirits of Daqing and aerospace after the establishment of New China. "Without spirit, a person cannot stand, and without spirit, a nation cannot be strong." The spiritual wealth embodied in red archives is the main material for summarizing and refining the spiritual lineage.

In 2019, the Liaoning Provincial Archives and Provincial Archives jointly organized the exhibition "Never Forget the Original Intention, Remember the Mission — The Archive Exhibition of Liaoshen Campaign and Liberation of Liaoning." By selecting precious materials, it faithfully reproduced the scenes of the Liaoshen Campaign, deeply experiencing the revolutionary spirit of overcoming difficulties and daring to sacrifice displayed by ancestors in this battle. In various social utilization activities, red archives bridge history and reality, passing on the red genes to every Chinese individual and injecting the spirit of motivation through the reproduction of history.

3. Red Archives' Implementation Paths

The revolutionary spirit encapsulated in Red Archives is the spiritual lifeline of the Chinese nation, a precious spiritual wealth, and a powerful spiritual driving force for the Chinese people in the past, present, and future to forge ahead and pioneer. As history flows incessantly, the spirit is passed down through generations. We must continue to promote glorious traditions, carry on the red bloodline, and forever inherit and enhance the greatness of this spiritual legacy.

3.1 Integration into Education, Cultivating Patriotic Sentiments

Integrating Red Archives into student education nurtures students' patriotism and a sense of responsibility, fostering a deep love for the country. Infusing Red Archives stories into school ideological education enables students to profoundly understand and grasp the core values of socialism. Firstly, it is crucial to protect the precious Red Archives resources, using them as materials for hero stories and vivid examples in textbooks. These materials, derived from archives with evidential value, allow students to more intuitively feel the authenticity of history. Secondly, diverse formats should be employed to develop Red Archives resources, enriching classroom forms and genuinely utilizing the wealth of Red resources. For example, the "Regulations on the Protection and Utilization of Red Cultural Resources in Nanjing" issued on July 1, 2021, stipulates that primary and secondary schools in Nanjing should integrate red cultural education into their learning content, such as creating red culture readers for primary and secondary schools, and encouraging and supporting schools at all levels to conduct study and practice activities. The integration of red cultural resources with school education is an effective pathway to expand the value of Red Archives, guiding students into the realm of red culture, deepening their understanding of the heroic struggles of their predecessors, and instilling a profound sense of patriotism in their hearts.

3.2 Transformation and Inheritance of the Red Cultural Spirit

Archives departments should actively engage in organizing research projects on Red Archives resources, compiling and publishing archival materials, holding academic seminars, and promoting collaborative research and exchanges on Red Archives resources. This collaborative effort aims to generate research outcomes, facilitate the application of research results, delve into the ideological connotations behind Red Archives resources, and vigorously promote Red Cultural spirit.^[6] Red Archives document history, and by strengthening the transformation of research outcomes, its archival spirit can be disseminated more widely.

The proactive factors for realizing archival value and meeting the demands of users, coupled with promoting the transformation of Red Archives resource development outcomes, are integral to the realization of their value. Effective measures involve organizing Red Exhibitions, integrating Red Tourism, achieving cultural and tourism integration, and passing down the spirit of Red Culture. In Ruijin City, Ganzhou, Jiangxi, responsible personnel for Red Cultural and Tourism introduced their approach to displaying revolutionary sites. Following the concept that "the site itself is the most important exhibit and display space," they restored the original appearance based on the original records of Red Archives. Simultaneously, they organized exhibitions, effectively utilizing the original site. By using Red Archives, they replicated and displayed revolutionary stories and historical sites in a realistic manner. Visitors are exposed to Red Culture and education while touring, effectively inheriting the spirit of the revolution.

Moreover, leveraging the trend of new media, maintaining a correct propaganda orientation, and developing and utilizing Red Archives resources can create distinctive and influential platforms and projects for the dissemination of Red Archives culture. Achieving the transformation of audio-visual achievements, through the integration of Red Archives resources with new media forms, contributes to the promotion and inheritance of the revolutionary spirit. On June 24, 2021, China Cultural Heritage News and the video-sharing platform Bilibili jointly produced the documentary series "Flames, Blood, and Flags." Since its release, it has accumulated nearly three million views and nearly a hundred thousand likes. The integration of Red Archives resources with new media forms, transforming them into new resource formats and conducting activities online, serves as a model for innovative ways of spreading the revolutionary spirit, fully realizing the positive role of Red Archives in spiritual inheritance.

4. Conclusion

The value forms of Red Archives are of great significance for contemporary social activities. Society has fully recognized and actively explored its value. The utilization of social activities is the driving force behind the excavation, inheritance, and innovation of Red Archives resource utilization patterns. By fully utilizing these resources, fostering a sense of inheritance, and promoting the full play of their archival forms, we can cultivate patriotism and form socialist core values among the people.

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