

From Personal Memory to National Archival Resource: a Case Study on Shenyang Family Archives

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Abstract: Family archiving has gained nation-wide attention since 1980s in China and has become significant method for citizens to participate in recordkeeping and archiving. However, how can the scattered family materials become the systematic national archival resource? This poster explores the case experience of Shenyang Family Archives, which is the first digital archives for family memory in Mainland China. In terms of overall design, the family archiving in Shenyang is a social, national and even governmental activity with a developed governance framework. Participatory is the first principle for family archiving, with the participation of individuals, families, archival institutions and funders. Under the mechanism of multiplayer participation, connection, communication and collaboration among different social subjects have been established. Therefore, a multi-level narrative framework is formed, including family stories, local culture and national history. During the whole process of family archiving, many political and technical factors influence the interaction between the family archives and their users, between the creators and the archivists, between the family memory and the trustful storytelling. By the case study, we find out how the Shenyang Family Archives provide opportunities and a platform for citizens in Shenyang to preserve and share their family memories. Family archiving can both contribute to constructing personal memory and preserving national resource through collaboration between the public and professional archivists.

About the Author:

Tianjiao Qi, PhD is a student majoring in archival science in the school of Information Resource Management in renmin University of China. She is also a joint PhD student in the School of Information Studies at UCLA. She is in her doctoral beginning stage now, and her research interest focuses on the digital archives and community memory. She is researching digital archival resource management, development and presentation, based on the research about the rural memory of ancient villages in China. She is the student assistant of the Chinese team for InterPARES. She co-executed the first International Digital Memory Forum in 2015. She has participated in many academic research projects, including one supported by ICA PCOM, two supported by the National Science Foundation of China and several supported by Chinese national or regional archives administration. She has co-authored two books and published several papers in the core journals in China.