

k Funções da Biblioteca

A Biblioteca é uma das organizações educativas da sociedade que oferece actividades multi-direccionadas com o intuito de ajudar os leitores a adquirirem conhecimento e excelentes qualidades culturais. As bibliotecas sob a alçada do Instituto para os Assuntos Cívicos e Municipais realizam, anualmente, muitas actividades bibliotecárias, dirigidas à população de Macau. As actividades incluem: Jovens Voluntários; Jogo/Questionário de Leitura; Concurso de Design de Marcadores de Livros; Concurso de Composição; Concurso de Contadores de Histórias; etc. Desde 2003 e em cooperação com a Biblioteca Central, é realizada a "Semana da Biblioteca".

1 Recrutamento de Jovens voluntários

O Serviço de Voluntariado funciona com a participação de estudantes do nível básico, 2º ciclo, até ao secundário, incentivando-os a serem generosos e a servir com boa-vontade.

2 Semana da Biblioteca

São organizadas Actividades Bibliotecárias multi-direccionadas, em cooperação com as diferentes bibliotecas e livrarias, para fazer despertar, novamente, na população de Macau, o interesse pela leitura e respeito pelos direitos de autor.

5. Conclusão

É necessária a cooperação e participação de todos para que a motivação para a leitura seja eficaz. Desejamos que toda a gente tome parte nos programas de leitura de maneira a que se consiga abrir um caminho que permita a esta harmoniosa terra de Macau, encher-se de vozes audíveis e claras, de leitura e recitação. 📖

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1 Let us all read! Reading overcomes ignorance



1. Introduction

There was an old gentleman who had no chance to attend school in his childhood. When he worked in the society, he felt the difficulty of being illiterate and took up self-learning industriously. He had gone into business as far as Peru in his manhood and returned to Macau when he retired from work twenty-odd years ago. Recalling the learning experience of his youthful days, he perceived the merit of the library in imparting knowledge. Wishing to benefit all those who were sharing the same misfortune of his young days, this elderly gentleman decided to establish libraries in Macau with the purpose of offering to the population an ideal place for reading, and furthermore, a place for them to practise self-learning and acquire knowledge. To manifest the function of the library and promote Chinese Culture, he donated all his savings to set up an organization of a Foundation of fifteen million dollars. This organization would subscribe to the Government for establishing two libraries: Vong Ieng Kuen Library in Dr. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park and Vong Ieng Kuen Library in Camões Park. This venerable aged person who had offered so much is the Peruvian Chinese Mr. Vong Ieng Kuen.

From the honourable Mr. Vong's experience of continuing study and ever learning, as well as presenting to the society with what he had gained, we come to understand his philosophy of life.

2. The importance of reading

a Nurture the fondness of reading at young age

The world is merging into an information era with competitions and values basing upon a good command of knowledge. Since the source of knowledge lies in reading, many countries are all trying their best to promote the said movement, hoping it would become a habit, nourishing an active spirit of learning. Last year, OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) made a worldwide investigation into the reading ability of the fifteen-year-old secondary students from thirty-two countries. This was meant to set a significant guideline for an international education system and the competition of the talented persons. The

study suggested "the target of the foundation of education is to help the students to nourish the interest to read and then nurture it into a habit so that the practice of continuing learning is developed." If this habit was being cultivated when a person was small, it means he/she will possess lifelong wisdom. Only through reading that the classroom teaching can be complemented and continuing learning is acquired.

b Reading helps job development

Being in this informative and economic epoch, we are facing the tide of globalization and stepping into an unknown future. The capacity of continuing learning is therefore, the greatest protection. The report of a research on adult reading ability shows those possessing strong reading capacity not only hold better opportunities of employment and are even better paid. Of course the level of education does affect the chance of employment, but, when all have reached a certain standard of education, only the one who has the potential of reading will have a more prominent chance of promoting to a higher position. Furthermore, professional development depends on the reading capacity more than the level of education. It is because the greater reading potential one possesses, the greater power of collection, understanding and judgement he/she will have. With all these talents, he/she may well accomplish the required goal, widen the scope of knowledge, manifest the innate energy and apply the acquired information to the operation of the complex modern society.

c Influence of reading on the aged folk

An investigation in Italy reports that the ratio of having Parkinson's disease for the aged folk of seventy or above who had attended school for only five years (primary education not yet completed) to the illiterate ones of the same age is 1:14. This is a very shocking number. The basic function of the cerebral neuron will "improve through operation and degenerate due to not being used". The nerves of those who often keep exercising the brain, would not deteriorate easily. Therefore, reading bears the advantage of maintaining the brain.

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3. Reading fortifies social competition

At present, 35.7% of the working population holds only a primary education standard or even below and 33.9% of it is in the secondary level. These statistics show that the majority of the working population is below the secondary education standard. To strengthen the potential of competition and to elevate individual as well as social cultural quality, it is necessary to encourage reading for everybody. It is hard to cultivate a reading practice relying on only one party. To make it effective we need the cooperation of all the schools, the libraries, the families, the commercial organizations and mass media to motivate a reading atmosphere, so that the whole society is bathed in the fondness of reading.

a The Government

To motivate reading for all, the Government has to take the lead to invite all walks of life of the society to participate in the program to make it a trend. The financial plan of the 2003 administration report of Macau, SAR, stated: "The community library and cultural & recreational services should be well coordinated. The library is the supportive device for cultural affairs, offering spiritual nourishment to the population and to enhance intellectual development of the society. A hundred-year plan is set for the library service. Besides the arrangement of establishing a new Central Library, we are integrating the installment of books and the theme of collection, to consolidate the function of service for the greater convenience of the readers. At the same time, through relevant activities, motivate reading practice among the students and the citizens."

b The School

The role of the schools is vital to motivate reading. "Besides imparting to them (the students) the academic knowledge in class, we have to draw their attention to the acquiring of extracurricular information" is the statement from the financial plan of the 2003 administration report of Macau, SAR. Reading is the best way to absorb extracurricular information. The schools may help the students to appreciate the joy of reading through different reading programs, reading clubs, utilizing the library for further education.

How should a teacher lead the students to read? Here are some suggestions listed by the Education Department of Queensland:

- Help the students to nourish the pleasure of reading, encourage them to read different types of books to comprehend the joy of detecting.
- Read to your students everyday.
- Encourage the students to comment on the content of the piece being read.
- Encourage the students to sit quietly and read a book a day.
- Encourage the students to share their experience of reading.
- Discuss with the students about the books they have read.
- Ask the students to write a short description on one topic everyday, e.g. operation of family electrical articles, advertisements, a genealogical table (a family tree), how to fly a kite, etc.
- Introduce to the students the different authors.
- List out some masterpieces of the different authors and encourage the students to select one favourite author's work to make a thorough reading to share the essence and fun.

c The families

Parents are the first adults in contact with their children. If they give importance to reading and they themselves often read, their children will be affected and will take up the habit of reading too. Parents may bring their younger ones to visit the libraries and make good use of the public resources so as to nurture a positive practice. Libraries offer fine venues for family reading programs. It is because they possess not only children's collection but also parenting items, holding seminars and activities. With active participations, the parents help the children to appreciate the fun of utilizing the libraries. Parents may also bring their little ones to frequent book exhibitions, book shops etc. to provide them chances to get in touch with books. They may even stimulate and help their children to organize or join a reading club.

d The Libraries

To promote the development of the function of the library is naturally the work of the library management. The Macau library management personnel have suggested "The manifestation of the function of public libraries depends on the effort of the management's achievement of revealing the merit and value of the library. Then the investment and the social position of libraries will be promoted" Therefore the range and service of libraries have to be greatly improved to enable the lagging performance, when compared with the neighbouring regions, to be well elevated.

4. The importance of the library to continuing education

The library, holding a special function for social education, is the classroom for continuing education and is one of the supportive organization for social education. In the heat of promoting continuing education by the government and the ardent response of the civil organizations, the libraries have become the important sites for acquiring knowledge selecting and utilizing the information.

The public libraries of Macau are established by both government organizations (the Culture Department, Civil & Municipal Service and Education & Youth Affairs Department) and civil organizations. Though quite small in scale, each one of them possesses its uniqueness and existence. Due to the limitation of space, we only introduce the activities of the libraries run by the Civil & Municipal Service.

Libraries run by the Civil & Municipal Service

The Civil & Municipal Service is administering the Vong Ieng Kuen Library in Dr. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park, the Vong Ieng Kuen Library in the Camões Park and Ho Yin Park Library. To meet the needs of the different age-groups of the population, different sorts of activities are organized. There are mainly 4 types: for children, for youngsters, for adults, for family & elderly folk. The gravity of service is placed in the direction for children and youngsters and this is over 70% of the total sources. With the various movements, the different library books and services are introduced to the public to widen the scope of reading.

(Library opening time: Tuesdays to Sundays 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. No service on Mondays and Public Holidays.)

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The Activities

a Activities For Children

Following the category "International Metric System" of 2003, a list of activities with different themes are planned for the children. An item is to be introduced each month to help the children to be acquainted with the different types of library books to widen their scope of reading and to arouse their interest in reading.

b Seminars For Parents

Seminars are held in the Vong Ieng Kuen Library in Dr. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park for the need of the readers and parents so as to attract their attendance. The aim is to make the library a learning centre for parents, encouraging them to practise reading with their children.

c Medical & Families Talks

For the readers of the library in the Camões Park, a list of Medical & Family Talks given by professionals, are arranged once a month.

d Story Zone

It is held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The aim is to offer interesting activities of "Story Telling" and "Guided Reading" to nurture the children's fondness and interest of reading so as to improve their potential to satisfy their needs, to enrich their knowledge and to enlighten their wisdom.

e Mini Doctor's Question Box

Ten questions are set monthly for the young readers to search for answers from the library books. Among them, 5 will match with the theme of the children's activity.

f Visits to Libraries

Special persons will be arranged to do the explanation and demonstration. The Library and schools cooperate to motivate the trend of reading.

g "Friends of Books" Club

Cooperating with the schools or communities we hold meetings for the members of "Friends of Books" Club. They are held on the first three Saturday afternoons of each month to promote students' interest in reading and their ability of writing comments on the books they have read so as to improve the capacity of essay writing.

h Movie Time For Children

While watching the movie, the children are able to improve the cognition of art to enrich their extracurricular scope.

i Reading Club

The aim is to nourish the ability of self-learning to elevate learning efficiency. Through discussions the members are trained to express themselves and to practise speculation.

j Handicraft Class in Summer

The aim is to offer handicraft skills to the primary and secondary students to enrich their summer days and help them to be creative.

k Library Functions

The Library is one of the educational organizations of the society, offering multi-direction activities to help the readers to acquire knowledge and refined quality of culture. The libraries of the Civil & Municipal Service are holding many Library Functions for the Macau population every year. The items include Young Volunteers, Reading Quiz, Book Mark Design Competition, Essay Competition, Story Telling Competition, etc. Starting from 2003, cooperating with the Central Library, there is the "Library Week" Activity.

1 Erolment of Young Volunteers

To encourage and nourish the young ones to be generous and serve with good will, there is the Volunteer Service, inviting the participation of the students from Primary Five to Form 6.

2 Library Week

Cooperating with different libraries and book shops we organize multi-direction Library Activities to arouse the Macau population to take up again the interest of reading and respect the copyright.

5. Conclusion

To motivate reading for all, it needs the cooperation and participation of everyone to make it effective. We hope that everybody will partake in the reading program to enable it to have a breakthrough and to allow this harmonious land of Macau be filled with the clear and distinct voice of reading and recitation.

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