

Research on the Innovative Path and Development Strategy of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum Construction from the Perspective of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area

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Abstract: Against the backdrop of the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Guangdong Gazetteer, as an important public cultural facility for inheriting Lingnan culture and serving regional development, is undergoing a profound transformation from tradition to modernity, and from singularity to diversity. This article combines literature research, field investigation, and case analysis to systematically review the historical evolution and current development status of the construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum. It deeply analyzes innovative practice paths such as differentiated construction of "one museum, multiple policies", digital intelligent transformation, cross regional collaboration and sharing, and diverse social participation. Research has found that by the end of 2024, Guangdong Province has built 1054 various local chronicles venues, including 807 local chronicles relay stations, forming a four level local chronicles service network at the provincial, municipal, district, and town levels. Drawing on the successful experience of the "Guangdong Model" construction of town and street libraries, this article proposes optimization strategies such as building a hierarchical classification standard system, promoting the upgrading of intelligent services, deepening cultural cooperation in the bay area, innovating social participation mechanisms, and strengthening professional talent training, providing theoretical support and practical guidance for the inheritance of local culture and the high-quality development of public cultural services in the new era.

Keywords: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Construction of the local Chronicles museum, Local Chronicles Post Station Digital, Local Chronicles Museum, Public cultural services

1. Introduction

As a unique cultural tradition of the Chinese nation, local chronicles have continued for thousands of years without interruption, carrying the historical memory and cultural genes of a region. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area clearly proposes to "jointly build a humanistic bay area" and "shape the humanistic spirit of the bay area"[1], which points out the direction for cultural construction in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. As an important carrier of local chronicles and a new space for public cultural services, the construction and development of the local chronicles museum have been endowed with a new mission of the times.

As the core area of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Guangdong has taken the lead in the construction of local chronicles museums and explored a series of innovative paths. As of the end of 2024, 1054 local chronicles venues of various types have been built in the province, including 807 local chronicles relay stations. The first national local chronicles museum branch in South China has settled in Zhuhai, marking a new stage in the construction of local chronicles culture in the Greater Bay Area.

However, while the construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum is developing rapidly, it also faces practical challenges such as uneven regional development, shortage of professional talents, and the need to improve service efficiency. How to learn from the "Guangdong model" of town and street library construction [2] and the successful experience of urban small-scale reading space construction [3], and build a service system for local chronicles that meets the requirements of the new era, has become an important issue that urgently needs to be studied. This article is based on the strategic perspective of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao-Greater Bay Area, systematically examining the innovative practices

of the construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum, deeply analyzing the existing problems and challenges, and proposing strategic suggestions for optimizing development.

2. Analysis of the historical evolution and current situation of the construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum

2.1 Development history of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum construction

The construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum has gone through three stages of development, showing an evolutionary trajectory from a single function to comprehensive services, and from traditional models to intelligent transformation.

Early exploration stage (before 2010). The construction of local chronicles is still in the initial exploratory stage, with only a few cities relying on institutions such as archives and libraries to set up local chronicles data rooms, which have a single function and mainly focus on document collection. In 2000, the "Regulations on the Work of Local Gazetteers in Guangdong Province" were promulgated and implemented, laying the institutional foundation for the construction of local gazetteers [4].

Rapid development stage (2010-2020). In 2010, the Guangdong Provincial Local Chronicles Museum was officially completed and opened, becoming a landmark event in the construction of local chronicles museums throughout the province. Subsequently, local chronicles museums were gradually built in various cities. The 2015 Guangzhou Public Library Regulations provided institutional guarantees for the construction of grassroots cultural venues [5]. The local chronicles museum has transformed from a simple document warehouse to a comprehensive venue that integrates collection, exhibition, research, and service.

Innovation Enhancement Stage (2020 present). Since the implementation of the Development Plan Outline for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the construction of the Guangdong Gazetteer Museum has entered a period of innovative development. In 2024, the "Regulations on the Promotion of Public Cultural Services in Guangdong Province" clarified that local chronicles work agencies are responsible for public cultural services in their administrative regions [6], and documents such as the "Construction Measures for Local Gazetteers at All Levels in Guangdong Province (Trial)" were successively issued [7], providing institutional support for standardized and regulated construction.

2.2 Basic pattern of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum Construction

Guangdong has formed a four level local chronicles service network of "provincial coordination, municipal coordination, county promotion, and town street extension", and constructed a service system with clear levels and complementary functions.

The provincial chronicles hall takes a leading position in coordinating resources throughout the province. The Provincial Local Chronicles Museum has a collection of over 80000 local literature, serving both resource distribution and academic research purposes [8]. The museum innovatively creates a "Local Literature Center" and a "Genealogy Research Center", and has built a 3D Provincial Situation Exhibition Hall and a Digital Gazetteer Platform, achieving the integration of physical and digital libraries. As multiple national and provincial education bases, it fully leverages the social function of public cultural service platforms.

The municipal local chronicles museum combines local realities to form a distinctive development model. The Guangzhou Local Chronicles Museum utilizes modern technological means such as 360 - degree surround screen cinemas and intelligent robots, reflecting the innovative concept of "technology+culture". The Shenzhen Local Chronicles Museum comprehensively displays the historical changes from ancient times to the new era of reform and opening up, highlighting the spirit of the special zone and the responsibility of the bay area. The Foshan Local Chronicles Museum regularly carries out characteristic activities such as "Record Foshan" and "Red Inheritance".

Constructing a "small and beautiful" service network for grassroots local chronicles stations. The local chronicles station is an important innovation in the construction of Guangdong local chronicles library, drawing on the experience of small reading spaces in cities and branch libraries in towns and streets, extending local chronicles resources and services to the grassroots level. 807 local chronicles stations have been built in the province, covering various types such as street cultural stations, community mass service centers, cultural attractions, libraries, rural areas, universities, etc. Huangpu District has

explored the "one museum, one policy" model and built 38 local chronicles stations, achieving the goal of "reading and using chronicles at the grassroots level".

2.3 Quantity and distribution characteristics of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum Construction

According to statistics, as of the end of 2024, there are a total of 1054 local chronicles venues in the province, including 1 provincial-level local chronicles venue, 21 city level local chronicles venues, 225 district and county level local chronicles venues and stations, and 807 local chronicles stations. From the perspective of regional distribution, it presents a pattern of "dense Pearl River Delta, gradually covering eastern, western, and northern Guangdong". The construction and development of local chronicles in the Pearl River Delta region have been rapid, and Foshan has formed a three-level system of local chronicles at the city, district, and town levels. The eastern, western, and northern regions of Guangdong are also actively promoting full coverage.

From the perspective of venue types, it presents diversified and three-dimensional characteristics. In addition to building independent museums, there are also a large number of local chronicles museums built in conjunction with archives, libraries, museums, and cultural centers, as well as local chronicles stations established based on various cultural facilities. This "big hall+small station" model not only ensures the professional collection and research of local chronicles resources, but also achieves extensive coverage of local chronicles services, forming a service network that combines points and surfaces and connects them vertically.

3. Innovative Practice of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum Construction under the Background of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

3.1 Differentiated construction model of "one library, multiple strategies"

The construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum has formed a differentiated development path of "one museum, multiple strategies", reflecting the construction concept of adapting to local conditions. Drawing on the "One Street, One Strategy" construction policy of Guangzhou Town Street Library, the scale, site selection, functional positioning, and operation mode of local chronicles library construction are determined based on the economic and social development level, cultural resource endowment, and service target needs of different regions, in order to achieve optimal resource allocation and maximum service efficiency.

At the provincial and municipal levels, implement "coordinated planning and classified guidance". The Provincial Local Chronicles Museum will focus on strengthening core functions such as resource collection, academic research, business guidance, and external exchanges, and build a provincial local chronicle resource center and academic highland. Local chronicles museums in various cities, combined with local characteristics, highlight the functions of displaying local conditions and cultural dissemination. The Guangzhou Local Chronicles Museum highlights the themes of "New Vitality of the Old City" and "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area", the Shenzhen Local Chronicles Museum focuses on the positioning of "reform and opening up" and "global city", and the Foshan Local Chronicles Museum strengthens the characteristics of "Lingnan culture" and "industrial civilization".

At the county, town, and street levels, we will implement "miniaturization, specialization, and community-based". The scale of district and county level local chronicles museums is moderate and close to people's lives. Fangzhi Station is more flexible and diverse, creating distinctive brands based on the characteristics of the location. The Conghua District Gazetteer Museum has become a comprehensive exhibition hall that integrates district sentiment display, literature collection, and information dissemination through multimedia display methods. In terms of social force participation, we have explored the "government led+diversified co construction" model, such as the cooperation between Huangpu District and enterprises in the construction of local stations in industrial parks, achieving resource sharing and complementary advantages.

3.2 Digital transformation and construction of smart Local Chronicles Museum

The construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum actively embraces new technologies, promotes digital transformation and the construction of smart local chronicles museums, achieving a profound transformation from "paper collections" to "digital resources" and from "physical spaces" to "virtual platforms".

Build a digital gazetteer platform to achieve "dual track parallel". The Provincial Gazetteer Hall has taken the lead in building a 3D Provincial Situation Exhibition Hall and a digital gazetteer platform, achieving the parallel operation of physical gazetteers and digital gazetteers. The Digital Local Chronicles Library integrates local chronicles resources such as provincial chronicles, yearbooks, and geographical information, providing online retrieval, reading, and downloading services, breaking the limitations of time and space. According to relevant construction regulations, various regions should actively integrate digital gazetteers into digital government construction and innovate publicity and display methods.

Using modern technology to create immersive experiences. The Guangzhou Local Chronicles Museum utilizes technology such as a 360-degree surround screen cinema, intelligent robots, and multiple display screens to provide audiences with an immersive and interactive exhibition experience. The Shenzhen Luohu History Exhibition Hall provides visitors with a deep understanding of local history and culture through physical displays, phantom imaging, and historical scene restoration. The application of these new technologies has greatly enhanced the attractiveness of the local chronicles museum, turning "silent classics" into "talking history".

Build a smart service system to enhance management efficiency. Drawing on the experience of urban smart study construction [3], some local chronicles have introduced intelligent devices such as RFID technology, self-service borrowing and returning systems, and intelligent retrieval systems to achieve intelligent management of collections, borrowing services, and security monitoring. A big data platform for local chronicles resources should be established to collect and analyze data related to user needs, reading behaviors, and resource utilization, thereby providing support for precise services and scientific decision-making.

3.3 Strengthen cross regional cooperation and cultural resource sharing among Guangdong, Hong Kong(China), and Macau(China)

The construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area provides a historic opportunity for cultural exchange and cooperation in local chronicles. Guangdong fully leverages its advantages of geographical proximity and cultural exchange, actively promotes the sharing and collaborative development of local chronicles resources among Guangdong, Hong Kong(China), and Macao(China), and contributes local chronicles to the construction of a cultural bay area.

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Branch of the National Gazetteer Museum has symbolic significance. In 2024, the South China Branch of the National Museum of Local Chronicles will settle in Zhuhai, marking the institutionalization and platformization of the cultural construction of local chronicles in Guangdong, Hong Kong(China), and Macau(China) [9]. The collection scope of the museum covers various documents, physical objects, and visual materials that reflect the natural geography, cultural history, and other unique features of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, as well as the common historical roots such as cultural homogeneity and social affinity in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area [10]. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Branch of the National Local Chronicles Museum has built a high-end platform for integrating local chronicles resources, providing an important carrier for conducting research on the local conditions of the bay area, promoting cultural exchange, and enhancing cultural identity.

Establish a mechanism for sharing local chronicles resources in Guangzhou, Hong Kong(China), and Macau(China). The local chronicles departments of Guangdong Province, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, and the Macao Special Administrative Region of China have established a standardized exchange and cooperation mechanism, and regularly organize academic seminars, professional training sessions, and achievement exhibitions. The Guangzhou Municipal Local Chronicles Office has established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Geographical Database, which collects and organizes historical local chronicles, geographical information, and professional literature materials of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao region.[11]. Efforts should be made to promote the digital sharing of local chronicles achievements, enabling readers from the three regions to search for and utilize local chronicles resources across regions via online platforms. Local chronicles provide detailed records of the common historical origins, cultural heritage, and folk customs of Guangdong, Hong Kong(China), and Macao(China). They are an important carrier for enhancing cultural identity and consolidating the humanistic spirit of the bay area.

3.4 Participation of social forces and diversified operational mechanisms

The construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum actively introduces social forces to participate, explores diversified operation models, and forms a development pattern of "government led, social participation, and market operation".

The innovative model of "government led+social participation". Huangpu District has fully introduced social forces in the construction of the Fangzhi Station, forming a model of "government led resource supply+independent operation of enterprise parks+social market participation". The government is responsible for overall planning, financial support, resource allocation, and business guidance, while enterprises or social organizations are responsible for site provision, facility maintenance, and daily operations, achieving complementary advantages and resource sharing. During the 13th Five Year Plan period, Huangpu District invested 7.32 million yuan in the construction of social branch museums, mobilizing 51.15 million yuan of social funds, with a significant leverage effect.

Jointly built by universities, enterprises, communities, and other parties. Guangdong actively promotes the cooperation and co construction of local chronicles museums with universities, enterprises, communities, and other parties. Guangzhou Southern University Library has established a local chronicles branch, providing local chronicles books to university teachers and students, and utilizing academic resources from universities to conduct research on local conditions. The establishment of a local post station for enterprise park construction, serving park employees and surrounding residents. Community Mass Service Centers and Cultural Stations have established local chronicles stations to facilitate community residents in reading and using chronicles. Some local chronicles stations have attempted to introduce third-party professional organizations for management and operation, improving operational efficiency and service quality through purchasing services, commissioning operations, and other methods.

4. Challenges and optimization strategies faced by the construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum

4.1 Current main problems

Although the construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum has achieved significant results, it has also exposed some problems and shortcomings in the rapid development process.

The regional development is uneven, with a significant gap between the Pearl River Delta and eastern, western, and northern Guangdong. The construction of local chronicles in the Pearl River Delta region started early, developed quickly, and had high quality, while the construction of local chronicles in eastern, western, and northern Guangdong is relatively lagging behind. Some counties (cities, districts) have not yet established independent local chronicles, and the coverage of grassroots local chronicles stations is limited. This uneven regional development has led to significant disparities in the opportunities and quality of local chronicles and cultural services enjoyed by people in different regions.

There is a shortage of professional talents, and the construction of the team urgently needs to be strengthened. The construction and operation of local chronicles require composite talents who not only understand the professional knowledge of local chronicles, but also possess modern public cultural service concepts and skills. However, there is currently a serious shortage of professional talents in the Guangdong local chronicles system, especially in grassroots local chronicles stations where there is a general lack of dedicated management personnel. Most of them are managed part-time by cultural station staff, resulting in a low level of specialization. Professional talents in compiling local chronicles, researching local conditions, exhibition planning, and developing digital resources are particularly scarce.

The service efficiency needs to be improved, and the utilization rate of some venues is not high. Some venues, especially grassroots local chronicles stations, have the phenomenon of "building but not using" and "using but not living", with low indicators such as book borrowing volume, visitor numbers, and activity venues. The reason for this is twofold: firstly, insufficient promotion and publicity, resulting in low social awareness; Secondly, the service content is single and lacks attractiveness; Thirdly, the opening hours are limited and the convenience is insufficient; Fourthly, there is a lack of close connection with the needs of the masses and a lack of precise services.

The standard system is not perfect, and the construction of local chronicles stations lacks unified norms. Although Guangdong has successively introduced relevant construction methods and guidance

documents, there is still a lack of systematic classification and grading standards and construction service specifications for the numerous and diverse types of local chronicles stations. There are significant differences in the construction standards, functional positioning, service content, and operational management of local chronicles stations in different regions and types, making it difficult to achieve standardized and standardized development. The performance evaluation and incentive mechanisms are also not sound.

4.2 Strategy suggestions for optimizing development

One is to establish a standardized construction system for hierarchical classification. Drawing on the construction standards for small reading spaces in urban libraries [3] and town and street libraries [2], establish and improve a hierarchical classification system for Guangdong local chronicles libraries. Construction standards for local chronicles at the provincial, municipal, district, and township levels should be developed, with the basic requirements for construction scale, collection volume, facilities and equipment, personnel allocation, and funding support of local chronicles at different levels clarified. Provincial local chronicles museums should have a building area of over 5000 square meters, a collection of over 100000 local literature, and more than 20 professional personnel; The municipal local chronicles museum has a building area of over 3000 square meters and a collection of over 50000 volumes; The construction area of the district and county level local chronicles hall is over 1000 square meters; The building area of the Town Street Local Chronicles Station is 50-200 square meters, with a collection of 500-2000 books.

Clarify the functional positioning and service standards of different types of venues. Local chronicles stations should be classified into types such as community-based, rural, park-based, school-based, and scenic area-based stations according to their locations and service targets, and differentiated functional orientations and service standards should be developed for each type. In addition, a scientific performance evaluation and incentive mechanism should be established: with reference to library evaluation and grading standards [12], a performance evaluation index system for local chronicles should be constructed, covering dimensions including guarantee conditions, professional service capabilities, and service effectiveness. Regular evaluations should be conducted, dynamic management implemented, and evaluation results linked to funding allocation as well as recognition and rewards.

The second is to promote the intelligent upgrading of local chronicles museum services. With reference to the experience of smart study room construction [3], efforts should be made to promote the transformation and upgrading of local chronicles towards intelligence, digitization, and networking. A unified provincial-level smart local chronicles museum cloud platform should be built to integrate local chronicles resources across the province, thereby realizing resource co-construction, sharing, and unified retrieval. New technologies such as big data, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and the Internet of Things [13] should be introduced to construct a knowledge graph of local chronicles resources and develop functions including intelligent retrieval, intelligent recommendation, and intelligent question answering, so as to improve user experience. In addition, the integration of local chronicles with digital government and smart city construction should be strengthened, and local chronicles services should be incorporated into fields such as government services and social governance.

Develop a mobile app for local cultural services. The "Guangdong Gazetteer" APP or mini-program should be developed to provide one-stop services, including online reading of gazetteer resources, appointment-based visits to gazetteer museums, and consultation on local conditions. We will use new media platforms such as short videos and WeChat official account to innovate the way of local chronicles culture communication. A big data platform for local chronicles resources should be built, and systems for data collection, storage, management, and analysis should be established to provide data support for precise services, scientific decision-making, and performance evaluation [14].

The third is to deepen the cooperation of local chronicles and culture in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Efforts should be made to fully leverage the platform role of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Branch of the National Local Chronicles Museum, so as to deepen cultural exchanges and cooperation in local chronicles among the three regions [15]. A normalized mechanism for local chronicles exchanges among the three regions should be established, and events such as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Gazetteer Forum, academic seminars, and professional training courses should be organized on a regular basis. In addition, a joint meeting system for local chronicles work should be set up to coordinate and address issues related to resource sharing, collaborative research, and joint publishing among the three regions. Mutual visits and learning activities among local chronicles workers should be carried out to promote personnel exchanges and experience

sharing.

Promote the sharing of digital achievements in local chronicles resources. Regional barriers should be broken down to realize the interconnection and open sharing of digital achievements in the local chronicles resources of Guangdong, Hong Kong(China), and Macao(China) [16]. A joint directory of local chronicles resources in the Guangdong-Hong Kong Macao Greater Bay Area should be established, allowing readers to search for local chronicles resources via a unified search platform. In addition, joint research on the local conditions and cultural promotion of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area should be carried out: experts and scholars from the local chronicles sectors of the three regions should be organized to jointly conduct special research on the history, culture, and economic and social development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and a batch of high-quality research results should be released.

The fourth is to innovate the mechanism for social forces to participate. Policy measures should be improved and channels broadened to encourage and support social forces in participating in the construction and operation of local chronicles museums. Policies regarding government procurement of local chronicles for public services should be refined [17], a directory of government-procured local chronicles for public services should be developed, and items such as the operation and management of local chronicles museums, exhibition planning, event organization, and digital resource development should be included in the procurement scope. In addition, an open and transparent bidding and procurement mechanism should be established, competition mechanisms introduced, and service quality as well as fund utilization efficiency improved.

Encourage enterprises, foundations, and other organizations to participate in the construction and operation of local chronicles venues. Preferential policies for social forces to participate in the construction of local chronicles museums should be developed [18], and incentives such as tax reductions, honors, and commendations should be provided to enterprises and social organizations that donate funds for museum construction, provide venues, or support related activities. In addition, a volunteer service team for local chronicles should be cultivated, and a mechanism for the recruitment, training, management, and incentives of local chronicles cultural volunteers should be established to attract college students, retired teachers, cultural enthusiasts, and other groups to join the volunteer service team.

The fifth is to strengthen the construction of professional talent team. The construction of a talent team should be regarded as the foundational project for the development of local chronicles, and multiple measures should be taken to strengthen the training of local chronicles professionals. A talent cultivation mechanism for local chronicles should be established [19], a talent cultivation plan for local chronicles formulated, and the training objectives and approaches for talents at different levels and of different types clarified. In addition, on-the-job training should be strengthened: annual training courses for directors of local chronicles museums, training courses for business backbones, and training courses for new employees should be held to enhance their professional competence and operational capabilities.

Strengthen cooperation with universities to carry out local academic education. Universities with the necessary conditions should be encouraged to offer courses or establish research directions in local chronicles to cultivate talents in the field of local chronicles [20]. Support should be provided for the joint construction of teaching practice bases between local chronicles museums at the provincial and municipal levels and universities, so as to offer a platform for the teaching and research of local chronicles. Policies for the professional title evaluation and incentives of local chronicles workers should be improved: local chronicles work should be included in the scope of professional title evaluation for the cultural and museum category or the books and materials category [21], and the channel for the professional title promotion of local chronicles workers should be smoothed.

5. Conclusion

The construction of Guangdong Local Chronicles Museum is under the strategic background of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. After years of exploration and innovation, it has formed a four level service network of "provincial coordination, municipal coordination, county promotion, and town street extension", presenting distinctive characteristics such as differentiated construction of "one museum, multiple policies", digital intelligent transformation, cross regional cooperation and sharing, and extensive participation of social forces, accumulating valuable "Guangdong experience" for reference [22]. These experiences are mainly reflected in: adhering to government leadership and improving institutional safeguards; Measures should be adapted to local conditions and classified policies implemented; the development mode should be innovated with diversified

participation promoted; technology should be embraced and digital transformation advanced; and open cooperation should be pursued with resource sharing strengthened.

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