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Keywords: Public Library, English Book Selection, Artificial Intelligence, Forecasting Model

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

There is a growing consensus that the breakthrough of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology will bring new opportunities for library development (Mao, 2018). In 2020, the *IFLA Statement on Libraries and AI* highlighted essential factors and advice for the application of AI in the library field (IFLA, 2020). In 2021, IFLA established a Special Interest Group in AI (AI SIG), which serves as a core platform to encourage innovation, address AI-related concerns, and uphold ethical AI practices in libraries. It also aims to raise global awareness and promote understanding of AI while identifying the risks and opportunities that libraries face in the AI landscape (IFLA, 2021). In 2023, *Developing a Library Strategic Response to Artificial Intelligence* presented by IFLA mentioned that one of the impacts of AI on libraries was the use of AI to develop and help upgrade library services (IFLA, 2023). In the context of integrating AI into traditional libraries, libraries

are actively exploring the application of this cutting-edge technology in the construction of smart libraries to enhance their vitality and sustainability (Chu & Duan, 2018). Throughout the history of the library profession, literature acquisition has always been one of the core functions of a library (Huang, 1997) and regarded as one of the most valuable aspects of library work (Long & Schonfeld, 2014). Due to social development and technological revolution, public libraries have undergone significant changes in the working mode of book acquisition. The method of selection has shifted from being experience-oriented to adopting data empowerment as the primary approach. In recent years, more and more libraries have started to use online platforms to integrate acquisition workflows and encourage readers to participate in the construction of library collections through the Internet.

Against this background, this research aims to explore the application of more intelligent methods in acquisition. When selecting books, librarians need to take numerous book features and other factors into consideration. Book selection decisions are guided by the bibliographic lists provided by book suppliers with limited information available, so librarians usually rely on collection guidelines, work reports, and professional experience to conduct a preliminary assessment of the subjects and types of books. Subsequently, they undertake comprehensive consideration of all relevant factors such as the reputation of the publisher, the content description of the book, the professional book reviews, readers' feedback, books of the same genre, and the author's background to make a final selection. Therefore, it is necessary to collect theories, empirical studies, and expert opinions related to the decision-making process of book acquisition to ensure the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the assessment.

Due to the development of artificial intelligence, neural networks have become a hot research topic. The technology of Multi-layer Perceptron (MLP) that can handle the feature indicators well has shown strong advantages in classification tasks (*What is a multilayer perceptron? What does it do? What problem does it solve?*, 2023). In the research, MLP was used to construct a selection model for English books and was compared with Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, and Support Vector Machine (SVM) to determine whether MLP is the best choice. Through a case study of a large public library in Shanghai, this research tries to find an ideal model to reveal the level of importance of the features affecting book acquisition decision-making with the aim of assisting libraries to make acquisition more scientific, accurate, and smart, thereby facilitating the transition of traditional libraries to smart libraries.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research on Decision-Making of Book Selection

For public libraries, abundant collections are essential to providing high-quality service (Yang & Zhou, 2024). Book is an important part of a library's collection, which acts as a platform for sharing global knowledge, understanding cultural diversity, and driving innovation and interdisciplinary research.

Towards the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, along with Western library science, the theory of book selection was also introduced to China. Melvil Dewey was a representative figure of the Value Theory of Book Selection. Dewey emphasized the value of books and proposed that libraries should aim to acquire the best reading materials that can satisfy

users' needs at a small expense (Gu, 2004). William Frederick Poole and Charles Ammi Cutter proposed the Reader Demand Theory of Book Selection. They advocated that libraries should focus on the needs of readers and select books that libraries need to collect (Huang, 1997). Lionel Roy McColvin's principle was based on the Demand and Supply Theory of Book Selection. According to his theory, librarians should select the documents that are specifically demanded by users to meet their informational needs (Samantaray Rath & Rath, 2014). In the 1920s, modern Chinese librarianship began to take shape (Wang, 2002) and Chinese scholars began to do theoretical research on book selection. Du Dingyou was the first librarian in modern Chinese history to provide a systematic exposition of book selection theory, which laid emphasis on books that were professionally selected, reader-demand-oriented, and affordable (Zhang, 2021).

As research in the field of acquisition decision-making gradually increases, a proliferation of relevant literature and theoretical frameworks has emerged, providing a strong foundation for further exploration. Wu Jianzhong (1984) proposed that book selections should achieve a library's value and evaluation standard, and that librarians should be aware of the criteria for acquisition. John Rutledge and Luke Swindler (1987) proposed six criteria for book selection to assist librarians in making decisions regarding collection development: Subject, Intellectual Content, Potential Use, Relation to the Collection, Bibliographic Considerations, and Language, which has become an influential criterion for the evaluation of books' value. Ni Rongrong and Zhuang Leibo (2016) studied the relationship between "Acquisition and Utilization" of books by analyzing book circulation data, providing a reference and basis for acquisition decision-making. Emy Nelson Decker (2023) did the same. Yang Mingbo (2024) proposed to apply a citation analysis to evaluate the book collection of specific subjects, so that acquisition work could more effectively support teaching and research in universities. Glyneva Bradley-Ridout, Kaushar Mahetaji and Mikaela Mitchell (2023) conducted a core bibliography assessment to deepen librarians' understanding of the subject. All of these authors have enriched the theoretical and practical basis of acquisition decision-making.

Artificial Intelligence in Book Selection

The *IFLA Trend Report 2024* (IFLA, 2024) indicated that artificial intelligence and other technologies are transforming society, which is one of the key trends relevant to libraries. In the field of book selection, the amount of research on the application of artificial intelligence techniques has increased in recent years, which shows the potential for future applications. Cai Yingchun (2021) proposed that deep learning technology would make acquisition decisions more intelligent. Wang Hong and Lei Juxia (2018) introduced an approach to designing an AI-based book selection model in order to meet readers' needs, deepen the understanding of the value of books, and make optimized decisions and plans with limited resources, which provides ideas for future practice. Wang Hong, Wang Yaqin, and Huang Jianguo (2021) presented a machine learning method with Naive Bayesian Classification in supervised learning to predict the circulation potential of uncollected books. Ju Jing (2021) conducted simulation experiments on historical collections based on the decision tree algorithm. Wu Yejun and her colleagues (2022) presented an ALBERT-based pre-training model to forecast Chinese book purchasing.

These studies mainly focused on the prediction of Chinese book selection. However, the process of decision-making in English book acquisition is more complicated because there are a greater number of global publishers, a larger quantity of publications, and the difficulty of collecting a book's feature data. No such successful cases or research results have been found.

A Book Selection Model Based on Artificial Intelligence

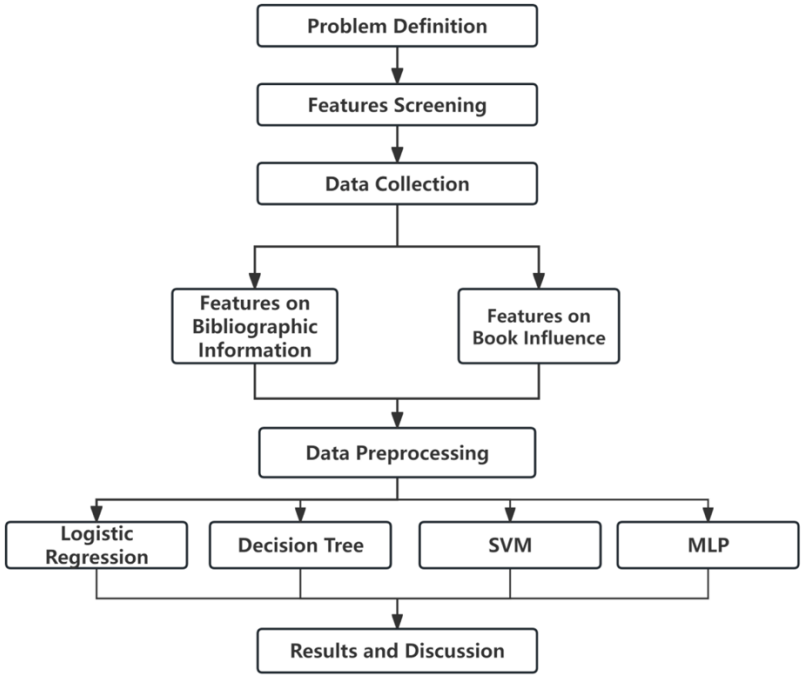
Overall, the existing research on book acquisition has led to a large number of theories and methods, but overall, the research is imbalanced. For instance, most of the research focuses on the book utilization of university libraries, and there is a lack of comprehensive assessment and empirical studies on the construction of systems that "integrate book conservation and utilization" in public libraries. University libraries have been more concerned about whether their book collections can support their faculties and students in education and scientific work (SCAL, 2013).The role of public libraries is providing public and multicultural services and catering to a broad and varied readership, which is significantly different from the role of university libraries. Moreover, the research objects are predominantly periodicals (Chen & Wang, 2021), digital resources (Lin, 2016), and subject-specific books (Bradley-Ridout et al., 2023), so there is a need for much research on the acquisition of English books. In terms of research methods, there is a lack of artificial intelligence applications in the decision-making process of English book selection in public libraries. This research explores the application of artificial intelligence technology to meet the specific needs of libraries

METHODS

Figure 1 shows the framework structure. The first step was to define the problem: What are the factors that influence the decision-making of book selection? What is the optimal model that can reveal the factors' influence? In the second step, literature screening was carried out around the research objective to identify the indicator. In the final step, the four presented models were compared.

Figure 1

Modelling Framework Schematic



Indicator Screening

For this study, the author searched CNKI, WanFang Data, EBSCO, ProQuest, Science Direct, and Web of Science and reviewed 19 pieces of literature. The criteria for selection were whether the literature could significantly support or provide considerable support for the conclusion of the research. The set of indicators were screened after consultation with experts with extensive practical experience in the field of foreign-language book acquisition to ensure that the presentation of each indicator was accurate and easily understood, and that the indicators were relevant and rational.

Five bibliographic information indicators were screened, all of which were considered to be closely related to foreign-language book acquisition decisions and were used to reveal key features of the books. The five indicators of influence identified in this research involved both academic and social influence, which are derived features of books. The indicators are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1

Indicators of English Book Selection

Features	Indicators	Indicators Descriptions	Data Sources
Bibliographic Information	A1-Content Levels	X1-ADV-AC (Advanced Academic) X2-BASIC (Basic Studies) X3-GEN-AC (General Academic) X4-JUV(Juvenile) X5-POP (Popular) X6-PROF (Professional)	GOBI
	A2-Publisher	X7-Core Publishers X8- Secondary Publishers X9-Other Publishers.	Book Citation Report
	A3-Publication Year	X10-Publication year of a book	MARC
	A4-Subject Classification	X11~X32-A~Z (22 categories according to the Chinese Library Classification)	MARC
	A5-Price	X33-Price of a book	MARC
Book Influence	B1-Holdings Record	X34-Presence of a book in libraries around the world	OCLC Worldcat
	B2-H5 Index	X35-Number and quality of an author's academic research output in the past five years	Google Scholar
	B3-Citations	X36-Number of times a book has been cited within the last five years	Google Scholar
	B4-Awards	X37-Count of times a book has been honored with prestigious and professional awards	Goodreads, Official Website

	B5-Reader Ratings	X38-Accessibility and popularity of a book among the general readers.	Goodreads

A1-Content Level

GOBI's Content Level is widely used by foreign scholars in the decision-making process of book acquisition (Ramirez & Tabacaru, 2021), book circulation analysis (Attebury, 2022), and book quality assessment (Jabaily, 2019). In this research, books were categorized into 6 classifications according to GOBI.

A2-Publisher

Book Citation Report provides good reference for the decision-making process of acquiring foreign academic books and lists 100 significant academic publishers. In this research, *Book Citation Report* was used as a key reference and was combined with Bradford's Law (Zhong & Meng, 2024), which has been widely used in assessment work in librarianship, to classify the publishers into 3 classifications: Core Publishers, Secondary Publishers, and Other Publishers.

A3-Publication Year, A4-Subject Classification, A5-Price

Data of A3~A5 was collected from MARC, which contains the basic bibliographic information of a book.

B1-Holdings Record

The academic value of a book could be determined by the number of libraries that have the book in their collections (Wang & Yang, 2019). This number is one of the indicators that reflects the academic value and influence of a book. The data was extracted from OCLC WorldCat.

B2-H5 Index

The H5 index is used to evaluate an author's academic influence in the past five years (Hirsch, 2005) by quantitatively analyzing the frequency of the author's publications within the past five years being cited. The data was extracted from Google Scholar, which reveals citation data for books that are widely used in various research scenarios, such as weeding academic books in a collection (Dudash & Gordon, 2024) and assessing the impact of a collection (Borrego, 2020).

B3-Citations

The citation count reflects the recognition a work has received and its contribution to the academic community. The data was also extracted from Google Scholar.

B4-Awards

Awards provide authoritative recognition of a book's academic contribution and cultural significance (Zhang & Ni, 2015). This indicator refers to awards that are prestigious and professional, such as the Nobel Prize and the Pulitzer Prize.

B5-Reader Ratings

Reader Ratings is a potential alternative evaluation method (Jiang, 2019) which captures public acceptance and influence of academic books based on social networks.

Model Set

This large public library in Shanghai has a wide readership, serving not only the general public but also research-oriented community units. Its collection policy is purchasing most newly published Chinese books, while foreign language books are purchased with a focus on high-quality academic books. The library purchases approximately 20,000 foreign language academic books annually. This research conducted a retrospective assessment of the features of foreign language academic books that had been selected and kept in collection, as well as the unselected ones. Therefore, the total sample size was 5,308, consisting of 3,221 pieces of data of the foreign language academic books selected in 2023 Q1 and 2,087 pieces of data of the unselected ones in the same period of time. Data related to the ten indicators as of September 20, 2024 were collected as well.

Considering the practicality of the model, the training set for training the model and updating parameters used 3,980 samples, and the approximate ratio of the number of the selected books to that of the unselected ones was 1.5:1. The test set for validating the model's prediction performance used 1,328 samples, of which 805 samples were data of the selected books.

Model Construction

Four classification models were validated to test which one had the best prediction performance in book selection. Logistic regression is a widely used classification algorithm that predicts outcomes based on a set of variables. Model 1 applied logistic regression algorithm to identify the features significantly influencing the work of book selection. Model 2 was generated by using decision tree classification algorithm. Decision Tree Learning is an algorithm with a tree structure that looks like a flowchart, the main advantage of which is that it can rank the factors in terms of their importance and develop a predictive model. Model 3 applied SVM to forecast the probability of a book being selected. SVM is known for its stability in managing linear data, thus being widely utilized. Model 4 was built using PyTorch. A four-layer structure of MLP was applied in Model 4 to complete the classification task.

Model Training and Comparison

The structures and training parameters of these presented models are shown in Table 2. These models were trained on the same training set, and the Area Under the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve (AUC-ROC) was used as a key metric to evaluate their performance.

Table 2

The Structure and Main Parameters of Models

NO.		Structure and Main Parameter
Model 1	**Logistic Regression**	1 input layer and 1 output layer with 1 node applying Sigmoid activation Optimiser: SGD (lr=0.001) Number of training rounds: 3000 Batch size: 64 Loss Function: BCELoss
Model 2	**Decision Tree**	Max depth: 5 Criterion: 'gini' Random state: 42 Splitter: 'best' Min samples split: 2 Min samples leaf: 1
Model 3	**SVM**	Kernel: 'rbf' Probability: True C: 1.0 Gamma: 'scale' Random state: 42
Model 4	**MLP**	1 input layer with 38 neurons, 1 hidden layer with 64 neurons, 1 hidden layer with 32 neurons and 1 output layer with binary classification Types of activation functions: ReLU and Sigmoid Feature normalization: StandardScaler Optimiser: Adam (lr=0.001) Number of training rounds: 3000 Batch size: 64 Loss function: BCELoss Training rounds: 3000 epochs

The output of the model is the probability of a book being selected. Values range between 0 and 1 with 1 standing for being the most likely to be selected and 0 standing for being the least likely to be selected. The threshold is 0.5. As is shown in Figures 2 and 3 below, ROC curves were plotted to compare the prediction performance of the four models, and the AUC value of each prediction was compared. A higher value of AUC usually indicates a better classification performance. The model using MLP made the best performance in prediction, thus being considered the best model to support the following task of validating models on the test set.

Figure 2

ROC Curves Comparison

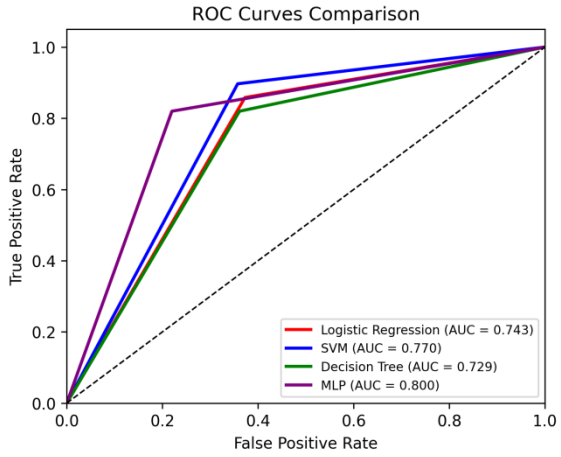
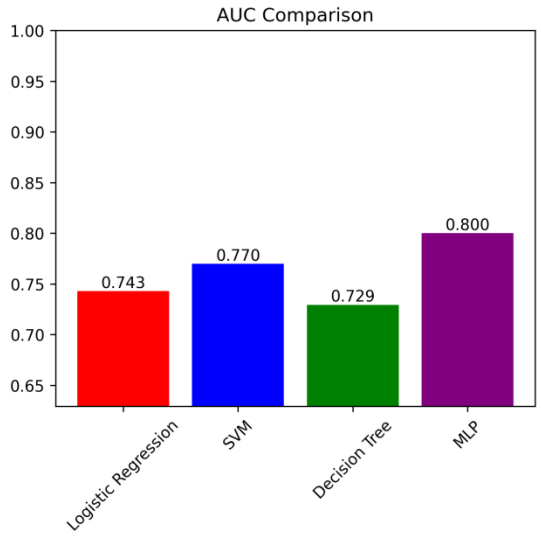


Figure 3

AUC Comparison



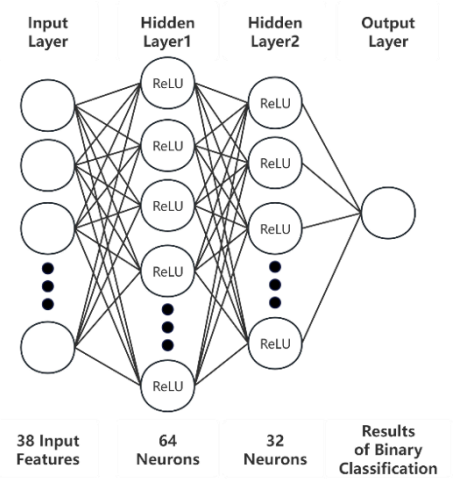
Model Validation with MLP

MLP is a classic artificial neural network model consisting of multiple layers of neurons which is capable of extracting nonlinear relations from the large amounts of given data (Scabini & Bruno, 2023).

The experimental software platform of the MLP model was Python 3.1+VSCode. The PyTorch framework was used to train the model for decision-making in the acquisition of foreign language books. Then, ReLU function was used to activate the features in a nonlinear way. As shown in Figure 4 below, the input layer corresponded to 38 book features. The two hidden layers had 64 and 32 neurons respectively, which were designed for deep data mining and understanding complex structures, trends, and patterns embedded in the data to gain generalization ability and improve prediction performance. The output layer directly outputted the binary prediction results of whether selection was recommended or not.

Figure 4

MLP Modelling Framework Diagram



As shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6 below, the MLP model maintained a high level of performance. Among the total 805 samples, the test set yielded 672 accurate predictions, which means the prediction accuracy (Recall Rate) reached 83%. Upon analysis by the librarians, the samples that were inaccurately predicted were all categorized as "optional" or "can be selected in small quantities." The reason might be that the setting of the model's prediction threshold had led to the discrepancies. The overall prediction accuracy of the test set was 81%, with 1,078 out of 1,328 samples predicted correctly. The AUC for the test set was 0.86, indicating that the model using MLP performed well.

Figure 5

ROC of Test Set Using MLP

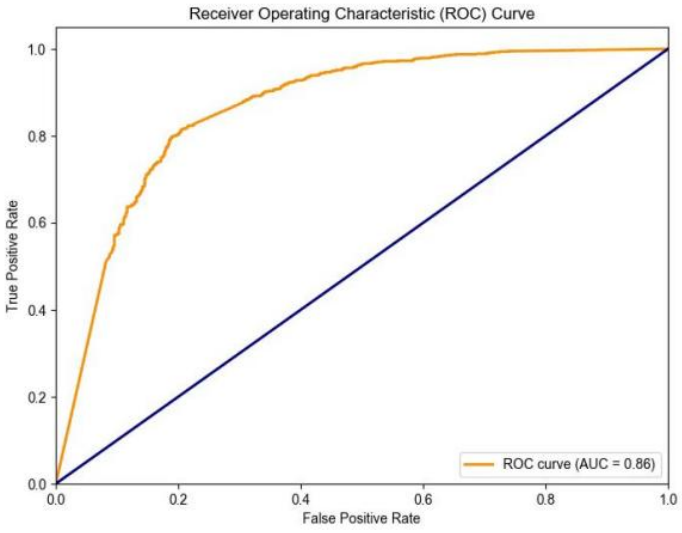
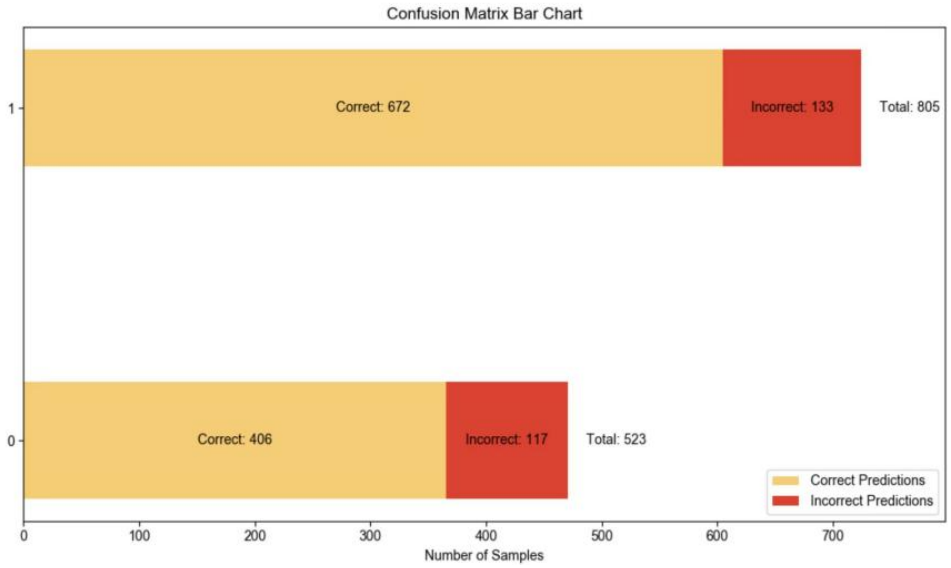


Figure 6

Confusion Matrix Graph of Test Set Using MLP



RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Advantages of Applying MLP in Acquisition Decision-Making Model

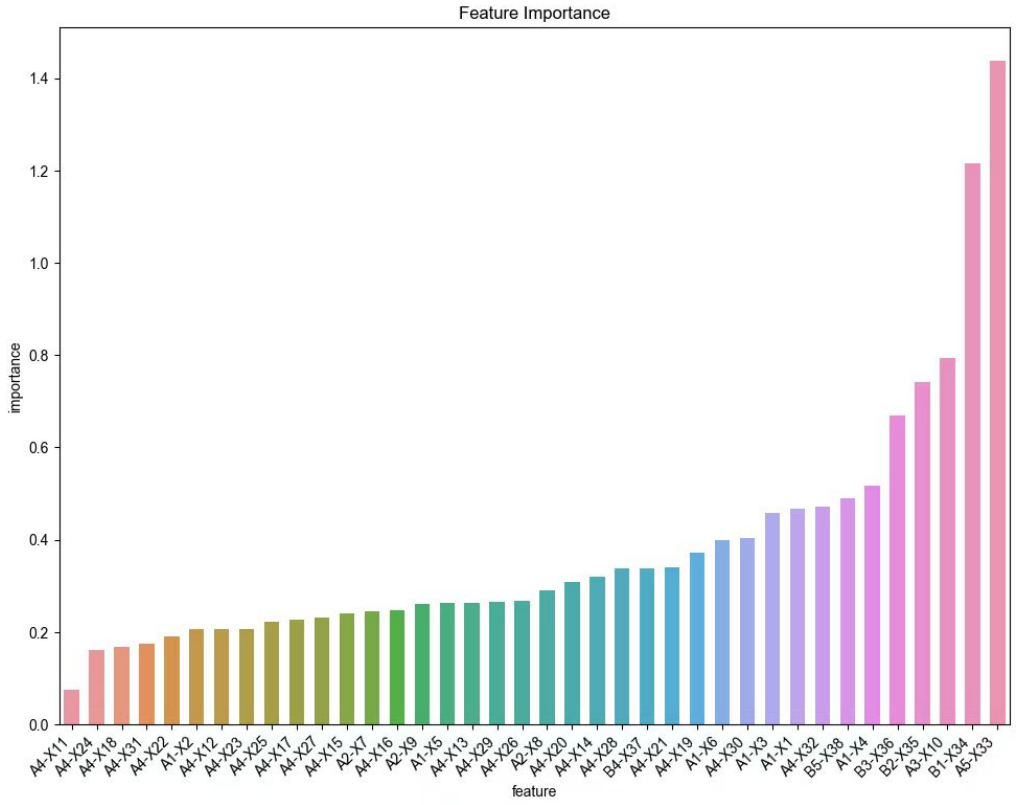
This research compared 4 models and found that the MLP model worked best, which shows that deep learning excels at dealing with complex data. The MLP model is suitable for processing structured data to construct a decision-making model for the acquisition of foreign language academic books, fully capturing the features of the data in the sample set. The validity assessment of the model on an independent test set showed that the overall accuracy, AUC, and the recall rate were all higher than 0.8, indicating that the model not only performed well on the training set, but also maintained high reliability on the independent test set.

The Factors that Influence Book Selection

As shown in Figure 7 below, the data visualized by Seaborn illustrates the importance of the indicators learned by the decision-making model of foreign book acquisition during the training process, revealing the extent to which each indicator influences acquisition decisions, which will be elaborated in detail below.

Figure 7

Importance of Decision-Making Indicators for Foreign Language Academic Book Acquisition



There are many reasons why price (X33) is a key factor in acquisition decision-making. Publishers often set higher prices for academic books, which may lead to increased costs for libraries to acquire books (Greco, 2024)Therefore, this indicator involves budget control. When selecting foreign academic books, it is more necessary for libraries to consider the utilization by readers and further assess the utility cost of the books, that is, the service benefit of book output (Ai, 2020), and to evaluate the rationality of paying the expenses of the books.

The number of holdings record (X34) is in the front rank of the indicators for selection decisions in terms of importance. This indicator supports libraries in making more precise and efficient collection decisions with limited resource budgets. The average number of holdings record of the books that were selected in the sample was 33.9, which demonstrates that these books have research value and reference value.

The publication year (X10) is an important factor because 96.2% of the selected books in the test set were published in the last three years. The obsolescence of a majority of literature over time reveals that most literature will age due to reasons such as out-of-date knowledge (Yu, 2016). For that reason, the utilization of documents tends to decrease over time (Zhang & He, 2017). Moreover, some libraries tend to keep books published in earlier years in closed shelves, which may have an impact on the accessibility and utilization of these books. Therefore, in the acquisition

of foreign language books, in addition to supplementing classic works, books published in recent years are preferred to ensure the timeliness of the collection.

The H5 index (X35) is also a relatively important indicator for acquisition decision-making. It reflects the academic contributions and quality of an author's publications.

The book citation counts (X36) is one of the important indicators to measure the academic influence of a book. In the test set, 22.6% of the selected books have citation counts, while only 10.8% of the non-selected books have citation counts. The gap indicates a certain degree of correlation between the citation data and the book selection decision, which is an important guide for library acquisition decision-making.

The above five indicators are the distinguishing factors of the selection of foreign books which have a significant impact on the decision-making process of acquisition in the library. The other indicators include Content Level (X1-X6), Publisher (X7-X9), Subject Classification (X11-X32), Awards (X37), and Reader Ratings (X38). A brief elaboration of these features will be presented below.

Subject Classification (X11-X32) reflects the library's collection development policy that different subjects differ in levels of importance, as shown in Figure 7 where the subjects with higher importance rankings are key subjects for collection. For instance, Category Z (A4-X32) mostly consists of reference and tool books, which are given priority in the library's collection development. By prioritizing the selection of literature resources in key subjects, the library demonstrates its foresight and strategy in knowledge services.

Awards (X37) focus on award-winning and nominated books to improve the diversity of the library collection and ensure that the collection reflects a wider range of social perspectives and cultural contexts (Monroe-Gulick & Morris, 2023), which is equally instructive for acquisition decision-making.

Regarding Reader Ratings (X38), academic books are often rated by a small number of people due to their limited readership, and incorporating reader ratings of academic books into decision-making indicators helps promote knowledge literacy and supports the academic pursuits and career development of a new generation of researchers.

LIMITATIONS

The difficulty of using this model in practice is collecting up-to-date and high-quality research data. The research data is scattered in different databases and publications, which makes data collection difficult and the extraction process complicated. Also, databases differ in the scope of their inclusion of foreign-language books, which may lead to incomplete data.

In future research, the prediction accuracy of the MLP model can be enhanced by expanding the sample set, and it can be trained to identify the potential value of the non-selected samples, in order to help librarians formulate the threshold range of selecting and avoid selecting, thereby refining acquisition decisions. By expanding the time span of the sample set, the lifecycle features of foreign language academic books in the library can be observed (Tian, 2012). Additional factors such as quantification of collection policies and assessment of librarians' competence can also be added to make the study more comprehensive and in-depth.

CONCLUSION

For the purpose of revealing important factors of book acquisition decision-making, this research constructed an indicator system for foreign language book acquisition decision-making, creatively added influence-derived features on the basis of bibliographic information features, and compared the prediction performance of book selection models respectively using Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, SVM, and MLP. The MLP model has shown its advantage in these comparison experiments, so many librarians will find it to be a useful tool. The MLP model can support librarians in book selection by predicting the potential value and demand of books. It can not only reduce the workload of librarians but also can enhance the objectivity and reliability of selection decisions. Moreover, it can effectively improve the quality and efficiency of book acquisition and can also be applied in collection analysis and librarian training. In addition, different types of public libraries have varying demands for foreign language books, so by training personalized data, the model can provide personalized recommendations on book selection for various libraries, which also has certain universality.

Artificial intelligence can be used to empower the acquisition process by continuing to optimize the deep learning model and increasing the precision and adaptability of acquisition decisions, thereby helping improve the quality of library collections and supporting libraries in adapting to the trends of development and the changes brought by digitization and intelligent transformation.

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