

Research Progress and Trend of Chinese Drama Inheritance--Based on Citespace Measurement Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Drama intangible heritage is an important part of intangible cultural heritage. Clarifying the research process of drama intangible heritage in China is helpful to objectively reflect the current situation and problems of the research on the protection and dissemination of drama intangible heritage in China. CiteSpace is used to make bibliometrics and visual analysis of the core periodical papers of 109 drama non-heritage studies collected by CNKI. It is found that the research focuses mainly on opera ecology, cultural inheritance, "non-heritage" protection, Tibetan opera, remedial, Sichuan opera, etc. The volume of drama-like non-relics research has a fluctuating trend, but it is relatively low in the whole field of non-relics research. There is a lack of cooperation among scholars and institutions, and cooperation and exchange need to be strengthened. In particular, authors and institutions in different regions should communicate more, share each other's experiences, and better conduct systematic research on drama non-heritage. Although some domestic researches have achieved certain results, the research of drama intangible relics often focuses on a specific drama or drama, lacks of systematic and comprehensive research on the whole drama intangible relics, and also lacks of quantitative research on data analysis by quantitative means, and lacks of strong explanation and demonstration based on comparison and analysis of objective data. This leads to the lack of deep understanding of the drama category, it is difficult to form a complete knowledge system. Therefore, in the future research, scholars need to start from a variety of perspectives to conduct in-depth research and discussion, so as to make drama-like non-heritage research continues to develop.

Key words: drama; traditional drama; intangible cultural heritage

1. Introduction

Traditional drama is undoubtedly an important part of China's intangible cultural heritage.

However, with the rapid development of social economy and the surge of fast food culture, the traditional drama has encountered a great crisis in the market competition. According to the investigation in the late 1950s, there were 368 operas and operas in various regions and nationalities. By 1982, when the Encyclopedia of China · Opera Roll was compiled for investigation and statistics, there were still 317 dramas. According to the investigation of the current situation of the national drama groups completed by the Chinese Academy of Arts in 2005, there are only 267 dramas in China. In just 60 years, hundreds of plays disappeared (Liu, 2010). Thus, the traditional Chinese drama remains in a precarious state. How to effectively protect, inherit and develop drama relics under the background of the new era has become an urgent problem to be solved. In 2021, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued the Opinions on Further Strengthening the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage, proposing to improve the practice frequency and performance level of traditional music, traditional dance, traditional drama, Qu Yi and acrobatics, deeply implement the project of opera revitalization and the inheritance and development plan of Qu Yi, increase the support for the creation of excellent scripts and songs, and enhance the vitality of the intangible cultural heritage of performing arts. The work of practical protection depends on the progress of theoretical research, so it is very necessary to analyze the current situation of the research on the preservation and inheritance of drama-like inheritance.

2. Research Methods and Data Sources

This research is based on the visual analysis of literature by CiteSpace tool. CiteSpace is an information visualization software developed by Chen Jumei of Draxel University. The visual atlas generated by CiteSpace software can reflect and approach the scientific development law of a specific field in the physical world, and can be used to detect the development of subject knowledge field and its research hotspot, frontier and trend (Chen et al., 2015).

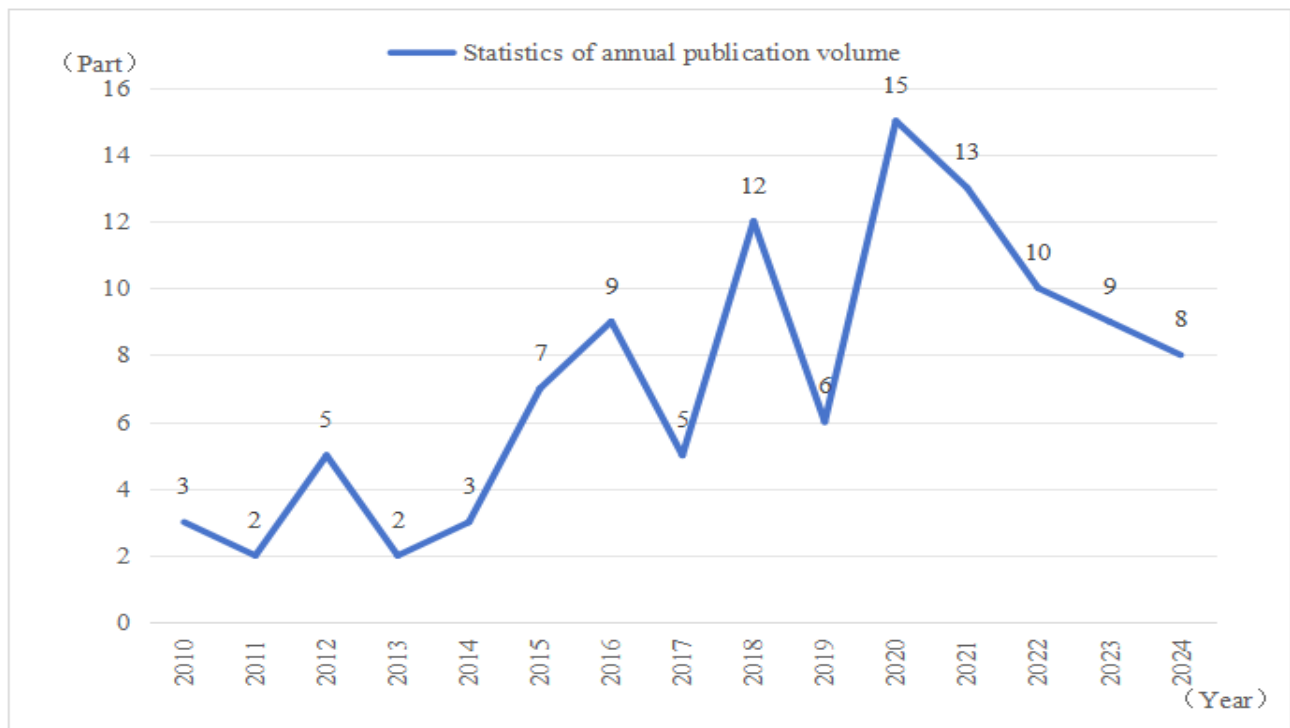
In this paper, the core journals and CSSCI journals of Peking University in CNKI database are taken as the source of literature data, and the theme of "drama inheritable" and "traditional drama" are searched, 130 related literatures are obtained. Among them, the earliest literature was published in 2010, so the literature span of this study is 2010~2024 years. As of Dec. 15, 2024, 109 effective articles were obtained after manual elimination of non-academic articles and repeated documents such as news reports, periodical abstracts, column introduction, book review and animation works. Adopt CiteSpace.6.4 .Version R1 processes the samples, sets the time span as January -2024 December 2010, the time slice as one year, and the calculation threshold as TOP=50, and selects the author, institution and keyword as node types for visual analysis of knowledge map.

3. Results and Analysis

3.1. Annual volume analysis

The distribution of the number and time of the papers can reflect the change of the degree of interest in this field from the macroscopic level. It is helpful to find out the research trend of the field and the degree of attention of the academic circles by analyzing the number of literatures in the field of drama inheritance in the past years. As shown in Figure 1, although there is a small range of fluctuations in the annual volume of drama non-relics research in China, the volume of research documents in the field of drama non-relics in China shows a fluctuating upward trend in terms of the fitting linearity of the volume of drama non-relics research in China, and the volume of drama non-relics research in 2019-2021 increases rapidly, and then falls back.

Figure 1. Publication Statistics Of Drama-Like Intangible Research Documents



3.2. Analysis of author's cooperative network

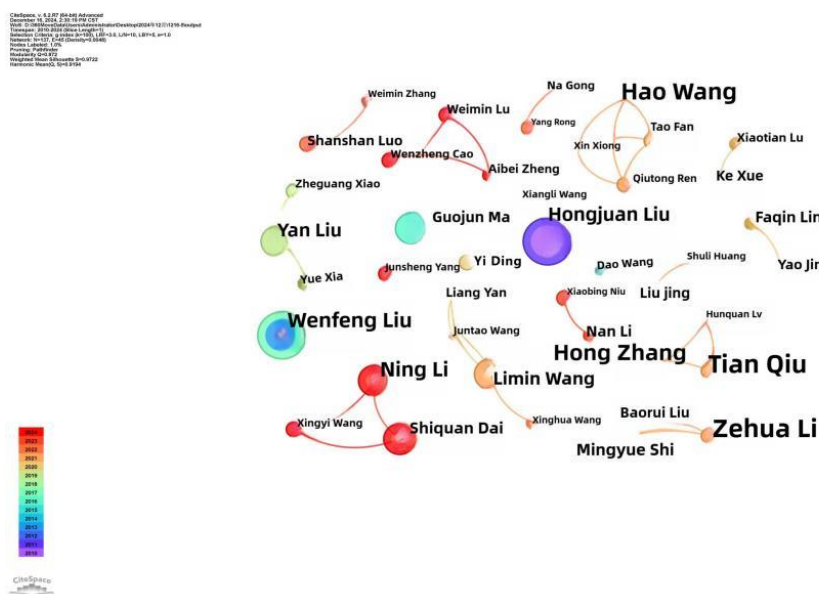
The author is selected as the node type, and the author cooperation network map is drawn in the Citespace software to reflect the quantity and cooperation of the domestic scholars in the drama non-heritage. As shown in Table 1, the top 5 authors in terms of the number of documents issued are Wenfeng Liu (3), Hongjuan Liu (3), Limin Wang (2), Shiquan Dai (2) and Yan Liu (2).

Table 1. More Than 2 Papers Issued By Researchers.

Serial number	Author	Volume of documents issued(Article)
1	Wenfeng Liu	3
2	Hongjuan Liu	3
3	Limin Wang	2
4	Shiquan Dai	2
5	Yan Liu	2
6	Ning Li	2
7	Guojun Ma	2

In terms of author cooperation, the number of author nodes is $N=157$, the connection line between authors is $E=45$, and the density is (Density= 0.0048). The more the connection line number, the more the cooperation relationship between authors, and the higher the connection line density, the closer the cooperation between authors. From the graph of author cooperation network (see Figure 2), it can be seen that there are 45 times of cooperation among authors, and there is little cooperation among different teams; There are also some scholars who research in the form of two-pair cooperation (such as Liu Yan, Xia Ye, etc.); Some scholars are independent research (such as Liu Wenfeng, etc.). The above shows that the cooperative network has not yet been formed in the field of drama-like inheritable research.

Figure 2. Atlas Of Co-Occurrence Of Authors



3.3. Analysis of institutional cooperation

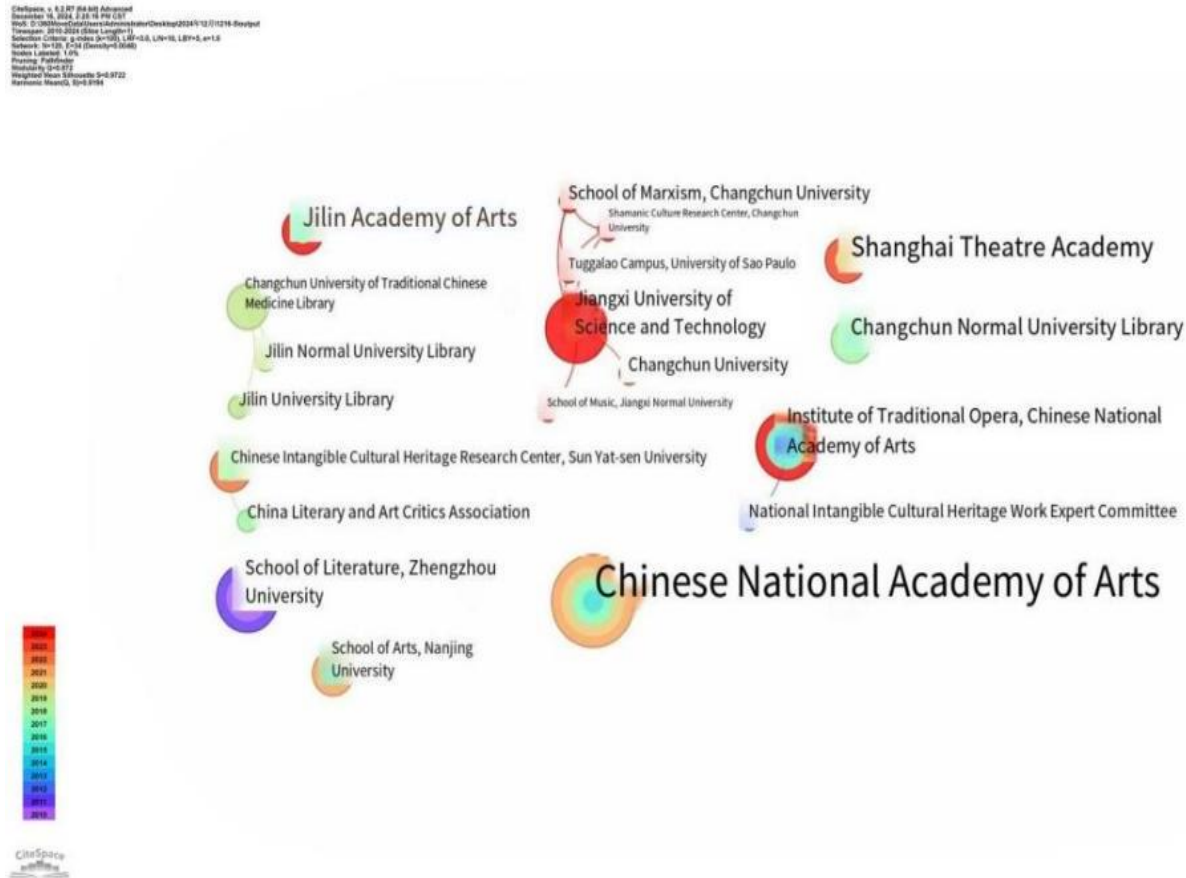
By selecting the organization as the node type and drawing the organization cooperation network chart in the CiteSpace software, it can reflect the number and cooperation of drama-related inheritable documents issued by various domestic research organizations from January 2010 to December 2024. As shown in Table 2, in terms of the number of documents issued, the top 3 organizations are the Chinese Academy of Arts (4), Jiangxi Institute of Science and Technology (3) and the Chinese Academy of Arts and Opera Institute (3).

Table 2. Research Institutions With Top 10 Publishing Frequency

Serial number	Frequency(N)	Research Institution
1	4	Chinese Academy of Arts
2	3	Jiangxi Institute of Science and Technology
3	3	Institute of Opera, Chinese Academy of Arts
4	3	College of Arts, Zhengzhou University
5	2	Changchun University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Library
6	2	China Intangible Cultural Heritage Research Center of Sun Yat-sen University
7	2	Shanghai Academy of Drama
8	2	Changchun Normal University Library
9	2	Jilin Academy of Arts
10	2	College of Arts, Nanjing University

In the aspect of institutional cooperation, the number of institutional nodes is $N=120$, the connection line is $E=34$, and the density is ($Density=0.0048$). It can be seen from the atlas of institutional cooperation network (see Fig.3) that the drama-like inheritable research institutions are mainly Chinese Academy of Arts. There is little cooperation between institutions, most of which are independent research conducted by a single institution. Most of the institutions with cooperative connection are cooperation between different institutions of the same province, and there is little cross-provincial cooperation. Therefore, in the field of drama-like inheritable research, the research institutions lack of cooperation, and the existing cooperation is relatively closed, so inter-institutional cooperation should be strengthened, especially inter-school, inter-provincial and inter-municipal cooperation.

Figure 3. Co-Occurrence Atlas Of Research Institutions



3.4. Visual Analysis of Keywords

3.4.1. Analysis of keyword co-occurrence

The research content and direction of literature can be extracted as key words, and the analysis of key words can grasp the topic and hot spot of research field. Run CiteSpace to get the keyword co-occurrence map (as shown in Figure4) and draw the keyword table (as shown in Table3). In the figure, the node size indicates that the word frequency and center degree of the key words show the status and relationship of the key words, and Table 3 shows the key words with the frequency first 20. It can be seen from the word frequency that the research topics are mostly traditional drama (34 times) and intangible cultural heritage (13 times). According to the centrality and frequency of the key words, in the field of drama-like inheritable research, the research hotspots mainly focus on the protection, inheritance, library, communication and cultural resources of traditional drama.

Figure 4. Knowledge Map Of Keyword Co-Occurrence

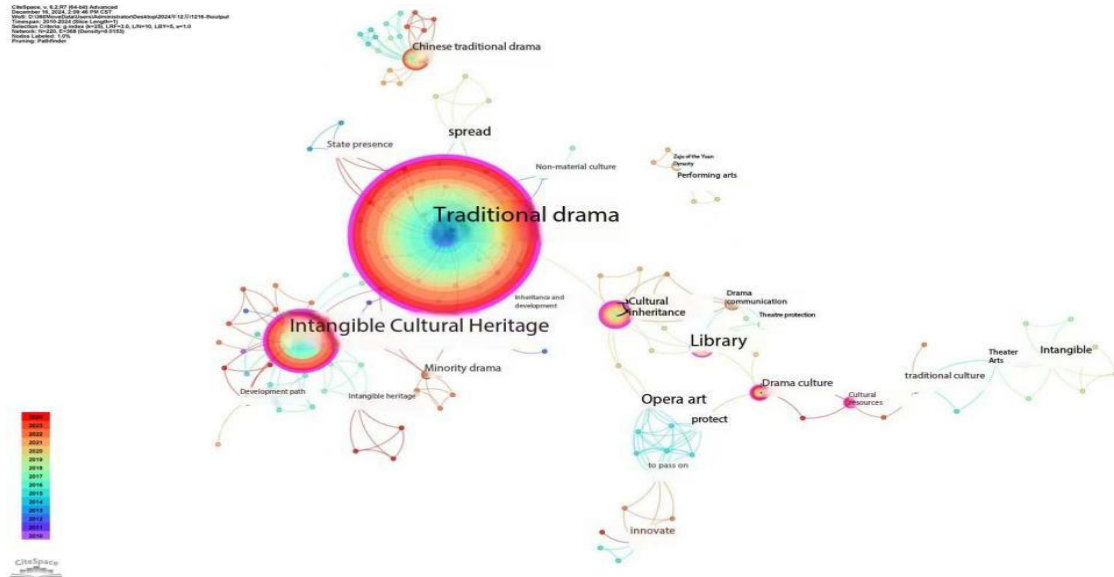


Table 3. List Of High-Frequency Keywords Of Drama Category(Top 20)

Frequency	Centrality	Keyword
34	0.5	Traditional drama
13	0.23	Intangible cultural heritage
5	0.01	Chinese traditional drama
5	0.3	Cultural inheritance
4	0.13	Library
3	0.05	Non-legacy
3	0.03	Innovation
3	0.01	Theatrical communication
3	0.13	Drama culture
3	0.09	Traditional culture
2	0.06	Inheritance
2	0.1	Opera art
2	0.02	Protection

2	0.03	Non-inheritance
2	0.07	Ethnic Drama
2	0.02	National presence
2	0.03	Spread
2	0.11	Cultural resources
2	0.03	Inheritance and development
2	0.07	Drama

3.4.2. Keyword clustering analysis

Run CiteSpace to get the keyword clustering diagram (as shown in Fig.5), which can study the research hotspot and knowledge structure of academic circles in this field. In Fig.5, $Q=0.872$ (>0.3) and $S=0.9722$ (>0.7) show that the clustering structure is significant and efficient, so the map is effective. The atlas generates nine clusters (as shown in Table 4), namely: #0 traditional drama, #1 intangible cultural heritage, #2 Chinese traditional drama, #3 traditional culture, #4 drama ecology, #5 culture inheritance, #6 "intangible" protection, #7 Tibetan drama, #8 remedia, #9 Sichuan drama.

Figure 5. Keyword Clustering Map

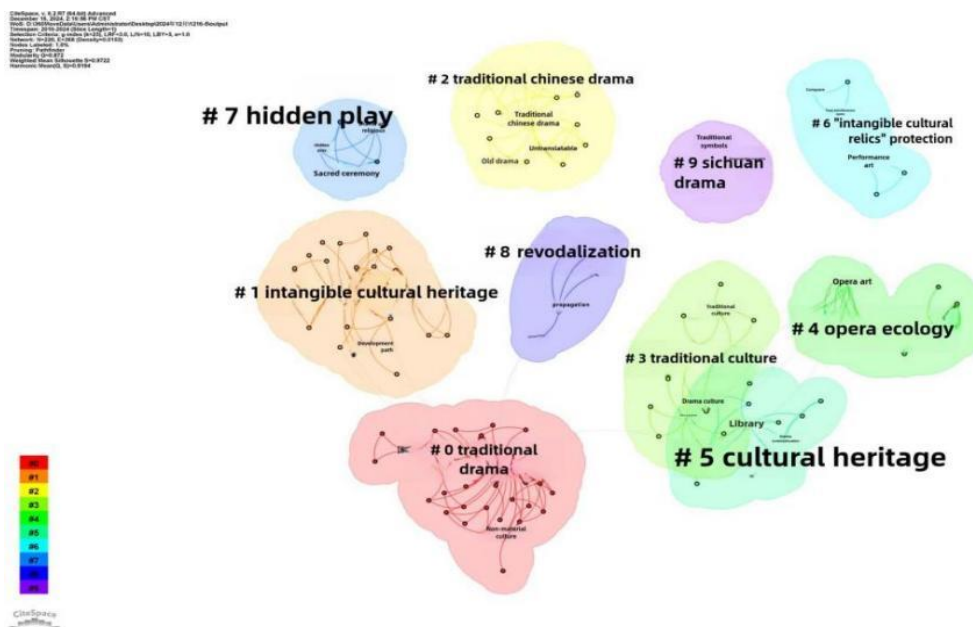


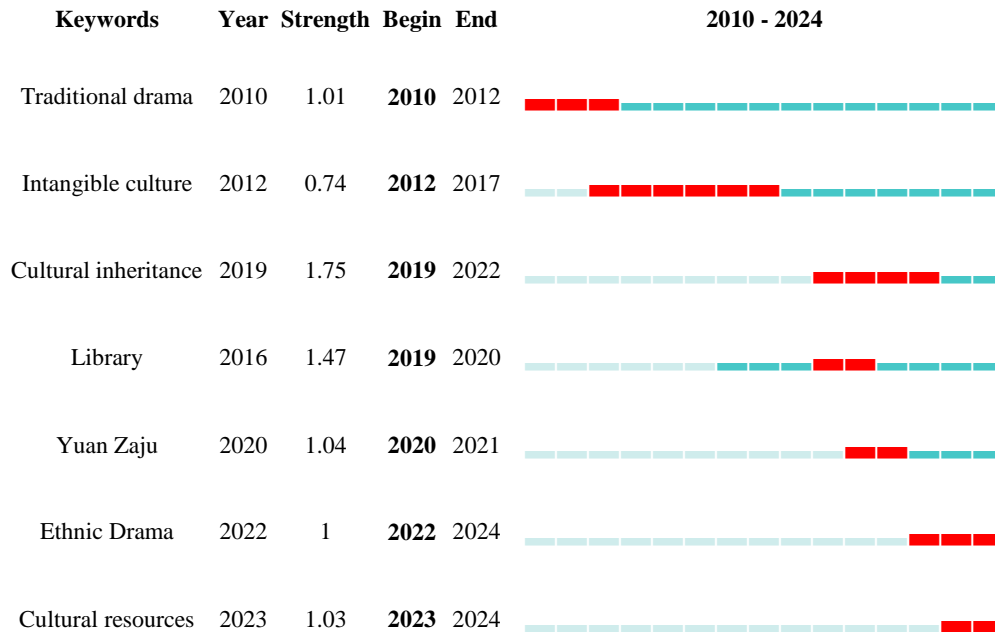
Table 4. Key Word Clustering Table

Label No.	Number of keywords	Profile value	Label word
0	38	1	Traditional drama; Development countermeasures
1	29	0.921	Intangible cultural heritage; Protection inheritance
2	17	1	Chinese traditional drama; Media extension
3	15	0.959	Traditional culture; Cultural resources
4	14	0.989	Opera ecology; "Intangible"
5	13	0.925	Cultural inheritance; Cultural and brigade fusion
6	6	1	"Intangible" protection; Contemporary
7	5	1	Tibetan opera; Non-heritage protection
8	5	0.977	Remediatization; Dong nationality
9	5	1	Sichuan Opera; Traditional symbols

3.4.3. Key words emerge

The analysis of key words can reflect the research hotspots or trends of research objects in different periods. As shown in Figure 6, through the analysis of key words in the field of theatrical medicine, it can be seen that the research on "traditional drama" has become a hot spot since Beijing Opera was successfully selected into the 2010 "List of Representative Works of Human Intangible Cultural Heritage," which lasted until 2012; With the launch of the "12th Five-Year Plan" for the development of intangible cultural heritage protection during the period of the "12th Five-Year Plan" and the implementation of the boutique support plan, local drama protection and support plan, the "intangible culture" has been the focus of research in this field, with the highest highlighting rate from 2012 to 2017, indicating that scholars have the highest research popularity during this period. In 2019, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism formulated the Implementation Plan for Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritance and Development Project, and printed and distributed the Quyi Inheritance and Development Plan. "Cultural Inheritance" has received the attention of the academic circles in the region under the promotion of the national policy. From 2019 to 2022, it became the research frontier hotspot in the field. In 2019, "library" became the research hotspot in this field, and continued until 2020; In 2020, the research on "Yuan Zaju" was started and continued until 2021; The results show that the research hotspot in the field of drama intangible heritage will change with the development of intangible heritage protection.

Figure 6. Research Highlights Key Words



4. Research Progress of Drama Inheritance

Co-occurrence of key words and clustering map can reflect the research hotspot and frontier trend of traditional medicine. The results of clustering analysis of key words show that the high-frequency key words and clustering content cross each other. The domestic drama non-heritage research can be divided into five categories: The concept of drama non-heritage and its cultural attribute related research, the inheritance and development related research of drama non-heritage, the protection strategy related research of drama non-heritage, the educational path related research of drama non-heritage, and the industrial development related research of drama non-heritage.

4.1. A Study on the Concept of Drama-like Inheritance and Its Cultural Attribute

This paper discusses and analyzes the concepts and cultural attributes of traditional drama and drama non-heritage, clarifies the core of drama non-heritage protection, and aims to provide references for the work of drama non-heritage protection. Gao (2018) interprets the holding and evolution of Zhangzhou puppet play from the aspects of music anthropology, folklore, drama, sociology, communication and intangible practice. This paper describes the general history of the drama, points out the misreading of old materials, puts forward new ideas, and presents multiple historical views.

4.2. Study on the Inheritance and Development of Drama Inheritance

Gao (2024), based on the performance investigation of Guxinglin Yanggao Theatre Group in Northwest Henan Gou Village, discussed the multi-game of non-inheritance, cultural construction and identity identification, and pointed out that attention should be paid to the subjectivity and identity identification of cultural inheritors in the process of inheritance. Lu et al. (2024) analyzed the role of digital means in promoting the inheritance and development of excellent traditional culture from the perspective of digital communication of drama, and put forward strategies and suggestions for digital communication of drama. Feng (2023) reviewed the development of Chinese minority drama in the past 20 years, and put forward a practical path for the study of minority drama. Zhou (2021), taking the Kunming Folk Flower Drama Group as an example, analyzed the subject consciousness and field characteristics of the group inheritance in the traditional drama "non-heritage" protection inheritance, reflected on the absence of the "group" in the current representative inheritance system of "non-heritage," and provided reference for the activation of traditional drama "non-heritage" under the guidance of the thought of "non-heritage" systematic protection.

4.3. Study on the Protection Strategy of Drama-like Inheritance

Li et al. (2023), taking Guangxi Shigong Opera as an example, put forward the exploitation strategy of local drama cultural resources in the perspective of cultural and brigade integration, and emphasized the importance of cultural inheritance and dissemination. Liu (2021), based on the current situation of the protection of traditional drama projects in Shanxi Province, analyzes the development countermeasures and puts forward some suggestions such as strengthening the awareness of non-heritage protection and perfecting the protection mechanism. From the necessity of traditional drama protection, Liu (2018) analyzed the current situation of traditional drama protection in China, and put forward the corresponding legal protection strategies. These studies provide useful ideas and references for the protection of drama legacies. Shao et al. (2022) Taking Anqing Drama Cultural Ecological Protection Area as an example, proposed that to build a national cultural ecological protection area with rich heritage, strong atmosphere, distinct characteristics and people's benefit as soon as possible, it is necessary to expand the succession team, protect and repair the drama ecological environment, construct the cultural community and strengthen the function of drama "hematopoiesis."

4.4. Research on the Relevant Educational Path of Drama-like Inheritance

Based on the field theory, Sun et al. (2023) explored the inheritance path of drama intangible heritage in school education and emphasized the important role of school education in intangible heritage. Wei (2012), taking Hebei province non-legacy traditional drama as an example,

discusses the inheritance and development of non-legacy traditional drama in colleges and universities, and puts forward suggestions on strengthening the construction of teachers and perfecting the curriculum system. Taking Guizhou Ethnic Village as an example, Gong et al. (2022) studied the interaction mode between the space and the role of the small theatre of the non-heritage study tour, and put forward some suggestions to promote the non-heritage inheritance by using the study tour. These studies have provided useful exploration and attempt for the educational path of drama. Cui (2024) put forward that in the future development of school drama education, it is necessary to pay attention to the two dimensions of "protection and inheritance of intangible culture" and "cultivation of students' ability," promote the innovation of school drama education concept through the inheritance, dissemination and identification of cultural spirit, and promote the synergistic development of intangible cultural heritage and school drama education. Xia et al. (2019) analyzed the value of the library in the promotion of traditional drama culture by investigating the practice of the library in the promotion of traditional drama culture, discussed the function of the library in the promotion of traditional drama culture, and put forward the improvement strategy of the library in the promotion of traditional drama culture.

4.5. Research on Industrial Development of Drama Inheritance

Xu (2021) analyzed the development of drama industry and put forward some suggestions such as strengthening industrial planning and expanding market space. Luo (2021), taking Guizhou Dong opera as an example, discusses the development path of Dong opera stage performance from the perspective of non-legacy, and emphasizes the important role of industrial development in promoting non-legacy inheritance. Tang (2021), taking the drama art in north Sichuan as an example, analyzes its communication strategy and development path, and puts forward some suggestions such as strengthening brand building and promoting cross-border integration. These studies provide useful ideas and references for the development of drama industry. Based on the importance of local drama, Li et al. (2023) put forward the realistic strategies to promote the innovation of drama culture resources, attach importance to the creation of drama culture IP, enrich the pedigree of drama culture products, promote the integration and development of drama culture, promote the dissemination of short drama, and cultivate creative drama talents to become the development of drama culture industry.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the present situation of the research in the field of drama-like non-relics in China, it is found that the number of papers published is fluctuating, but it is relatively low in the whole field of non-relics. There is a lack of cooperation among scholars and institutions, and cooperation and exchange need to be strengthened. In particular, authors and institutions in

different regions should communicate more, share each other's experiences, and better conduct systematic research on drama non-legacies. Although some domestic researches have achieved certain results, the research of drama intangible relics often focuses on a specific drama or drama, lacks of systematic and comprehensive research on the whole drama intangible relics, and also lacks of quantitative research on data analysis by quantitative means, and lacks of strong explanation and demonstration based on comparison and analysis of objective data. This leads to the lack of deep understanding of the drama category, it is difficult to form a complete knowledge system. Therefore, in the future research, scholars need to start from a variety of perspectives for in-depth research and discussion, so as to make drama-like inheritable research continues to develop.

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