China Online: Game and Tourism

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About the Authors

This book presents results of the research project focused on Chinese Digital Information and Culture Tourism Management, sponsored by the Tianjin University of Finance and Economics. The book was jointly composed by Dr. Zhang Yanling and Dr. Shao, Lei. Part One, which incorporates the first five chapters are composed by Shao Lei based on his doctor thesis with the name "A Comparative Study on the Culture in the MMORPG: In the View of China's Online Game Market and Culture Industry". Part Two, which incorporate the last four chapters were composed and edited by Dr. Zhang Yanling based on a series of proceeding papers published in the Proceedings of Euro-Asia Conference on CSR and Environmental management.

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Executive Summary

It has only been more than a decade since the online games and tourism began to be popular in Europe and America and embarked on the path of industrialization in the 1990s. So far, this industry is flourishing at an alarming rate. However, this is mostly attributed to spontaneous explorations of enterprises rather than the academia, which remains basically blank in this field. Even though there are sporadic research fruits, they are just academic papers. A fairly unified theoretical framework is still wanted.

As the online game and tourism industry in China was born only more than a decade ago, a complete system for relevant theoretical research in this field has not yet formed presently. This industry develops mostly via spontaneous exploration of the market by different links of the industrial chain, while theories about it have been far behind the practice. Since 2001, China's online game and tourism industry formally ushered in the high-speed growth period.

With a unique research perspective on multiple aspects, this book seeks to establish a relatively complete system of theoretical research framework. It adopts economics, management science, sociology, communication science and other related theories, applies relevant research tools of statistics on the basis of collecting and arranging large numbers of relevant data, and conducts systematic and in-depth research about China's online game and tourism industry both qualitatively and quantitatively. It takes a deep look into the status quo of China's online game and tourism industry, the position of China's online game and tourism industry in the whole industry of the world, as well as the type of the market structure of China's online game and tourism industry; it analyzes the influence of China's game and tourism industry on the international arena from the unique research perspective of China joy, and the spirit of Eastern and Western cultures embodied in online games of different types, which are developed by different regions and countries; it also raises new theoretical points on issues such as the social responsibility for the country, society, and enterprises on the part of the online game industry.

Based on a large number of empirical analysis, this book selects eight representative Chinese online game companies that are listed in the U.S. and Hong Kong as the main study samples, including the US-listed Shanda (GAME), Giants (GA), Changyou (CYOU), Ninetowns (NCTY), Netease (NTES), Perfect

World (PWRD) and the Hong Kong-listed Tencent (0700.HK), Kingsoft (3888.HK) NetDragon (0777.HK), and some unlisted enterprises that are influential in China's online game industry, such as Tiancity, Linekong, 70yx, Guangyu Huaxia, etc.. A comprehensive analysis of these companies also exposes from the side some common problems existing in China's online game industry.

This book is expected to make some theoretical breakthroughs in the study of the online game and tourism industry. However, being a new research field, this industry has few materials for reference. Furthermore, problems involved in online games have gone beyond the scope of Economic Studies itself. These problems call for the application of relevant analytical methods of the management science, sociology, communications and even aesthetics, statistics and many other disciplines. As a result, difficulties abound in conducting in-depth analyses. This fact not only brings immense challenges for the author in his future research, but also provides an enormously broad space for development. There are nine chapters in this book, which can be divided into the following aspects according to the organizational structure.

Chapter One Introduction is based on a large number of detailed and authoritative statistics. It analyzes one by one the online game industries in the world's major powers and developed areas of online games, including major European countries, and the status quo and successful experiences of the online game industries in such major countries as the United States, Japan, South Korea and China; it also describes in detail the four most basic schools of the online game works in the Chinese online game market: Chinese stream, South Korean stream, Japanese stream, European and American stream.

From the perspective of China joy, Chapter II comprehensively analyzes the international status and international influence of China joy, and takes a comparative analysis of data about the development process of China joy and the world's other two related exhibitions E3 and TGS, with six key indicators selected for evaluating China joy's influence, namely 1) the absolute number of the audience in the exhibition 2) the number of international visitors 3) another important indicator is the number of participating companies and whether the corporate types are comprehensive 4) the number of exhibitors and the quality of their products 5) the contents of meetings during the exhibition 6) the international influence of China joy also matters in the end if China Joy is counted as the world's largest integrated game exhibition. From this perspective,

the status of the Chinese online game industry in the world's online game industry and the problems confronted with the Chinese online game industry are to be found.

Chapter Three is based on economic models with the tool of statistics. On the grounds of large quantities of data, this chapter takes an in-depth study of the intensity of competition in the market of the Chinese online game industry. It introduces the latest development of the Chinese online game market and conditions of related enterprises. By means of Economic Principles, it not only quantitatively verifies that the Chinese online game market is an oligopolistic market from the economic point of view, but also calculates the extent of oligopoly. In addition, it analyzes the causes of the oligopolistic market, and the impact of this oligopolistic market on the development of the online game industry.

In Chapter Four, it is believed that the development of the online game, which is the core of the game industry, is experiencing continuous competition and ongoing innovation. Particularly in MMORPG games, for the sake of innovation, many enterprises have begun to explore deep into cultures. They systematically interpret and establish the relation among the culture of myth, the culture of magic, the culture of fantasy, and the culture of metaphysics and systematically study and analyze in-depth three categories of spirit embodied in the online games that are nurtured by the Eastern culture, that is, the spirit of martial arts, the spirit of myth, and the spirit of metaphysics, and the other three categories of spirit embodied in the online games that are nurtured by the Western culture, that is, the spirit of magic, the spirit of fantasy and the spirit of science fiction. While creating greater economic value, online games need to incorporate fine Western and Eastern cultural spirit into online game products, and convey to their users the right culture and values. By adopting proactive, positive and healthy contents, they promote the values of truth, goodness, and beauty, explore and spread outstanding traditional cultures of the East and the West, and manage to marry art and entertainment in a perfect manner, so that players can obtain a beneficial spiritual experience in the process of playing games. It is the bounden duty of online game product developers to ensure that the cultural spirit embodied in game products can be disseminated to teenagers and serve as a positive guide for them.

Chapter Five Conclusion and Future Prospects of the first part not only sums up some fresh theoretical points of view that are put forward in the paper, but also summarizes the theoretical research fruits made in the study of this paper. Due to the fact that problems involved in online games are a multi-disciplinary and comprehensive subject, and that the current academic studies are just at the beginning with few materials for reference, academic and theoretical researches are blessed with great potentials, and social and economic values cannot be overlooked. This not only brings immense challenges for more in-depth and comprehensive study in the future, but also provides an enormously broad space for the development at the same time.

Chapter Six introduces the e-tourism development in China. The authors stress that the online tourism enterprises have made continuous innovations in terms of business patterns, while efforts have been taken in improving the e-commerce environment and reduce perceived risk of customers. No matter what kind of e-tourism pattern an enterprise adopts, the aim is to create more profits for itself and bring better value to clients. At present, the authors explore five business patterns of e-tourism in China currently, i.e. the tourism website platform, flight ticket + hotel booking network distribution; vertical engine search; direct sales and booking; and the combination of tourist group-buying and BBS. By means of analyzing the difficulties in the development of online tourism industry in China, the authors propose the future business patterns of e-tourism. Since consumer trust plays important part for the development of E-tourism. The authors discuss the relationship between consumer trust and perceived risk in e-tourism based on literature study. The definitions of consumer perceived risk and the differences between subjective and objective risk were thoroughly discussed; while the relationship between consumers' perceived risk and trust behind consumers' risk-handling behavior was investigated. At the end, several suggestions in terms of e-tourism marketing strategies were provided to facilitate sustainable development of Chinese e-tourism.

In Chapter Seven, the authors discuss factors, which influence the Word-Of-Mouth (WOM) based online marketing of tourism products and services; and pint out that the motivation of self-improvement and interest, tourist identity, motivation of information and experience exchange, tourist image perception and motivation of emotion expression have positive impacts on internet word-of-mouth marketing. Thus, tourism enterprises and destinations marketing should focus on these factors in order to promote the effects of WOM. In the second part of this chapter, the authors discuss how the word of WOM communication influences purchasing attitudes, intentions, decisions and

behaviors of tourists based on the compilation and collation of customer online reviews. By taking hotels as examples, we conduct qualitative researches based on the grounded theory and find out that the WOM communication mechanism can be categorized into four different groups, each of which displays in types of emotional motivation, complaint remediation, satisfaction introduction and customer recommendation. This implies that the WOM communication posted by customers is useful and trustworthy which contribute to promote the image of tourism enterprises and destinations.

In Chapter Eight, the authors stress that effective tourism development relies largely on a large number of information which needs to be gathered, either before, during or after tourism activities. In the first part, the authors present their researches on constructing a tourism information system for Changchun city in China through embedding GIS components – the MapObject 2.3 control and a geographic model. The SQL Server 2000 is used for background database in the programming environment of VB6.0. In addition to most of GIS mapping functions, the system adds the best path choice function which is more convenient for tourists to arrange their tours. With the assistance of multimedia players, the system can provide users with accurate comprehensive, complete, and detailed information. In the second part, the authors explain the principles of the information management of culture tourism in Chinese university libraries. By taking Ji Lin Business and Technology College as an example, the authors point out how a university library set up the database of the resource of culture tourism, which contribute largely to promote local tourism development.

Chapter Nine is the epilogue of this book. In this chapter, the authors point out that both online-game and tourism can be regarded as sub-sectors of the creative cultural economy to a certain extent. At present, the municipal governments of many Chinese regions and cities attach great importance to the cultural creative industries because it becomes a new economic growth point which contributes largely to improve the regional GDP growth. By taking Tianjin as an example, the authors conduct comparative study on the local tourism based cultural creative industrial development in order to find problems and propose several suggestions to promote regional tourism based cultural creative development in China.