

Research Article

The Use of Digital Library to Increase Students' Reading Interest and Learning Independence

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ABSTRACT

A digital library is a library in which the entire collections and the management process and services are in the form of digital. The digital library collection is not only limited to print-substitute electronic documents, but the scope of the collection extends to digital artifacts that cannot be replaced in printed form. In the context of learning media, digital libraries can function to provide a variety of textual documents, audio, images, and videos. With the enhancement of digital library management and services, it will certainly provide more excellent service to its users and will create a joyful experience while accessing various information in the library and thus, can invite many people to know more about digital libraries. Therefore, this digital library can influence students' reading interests as well as increase their learning independence. The method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative research method. It is a kind of method that creates a factual and accurate description of the facts, characteristics, and relationships that occur between one phenomenon and another being studied. The purpose of this research is to find out what factors that influence students' low interest in reading and their learning independence and how to use digital libraries to increase student's reading interest and learning independence.

Keywords: *Digital Library, Learning Independence, Reading Interest*

Introduction

The library is one of the essential infrastructures that must exist in educational institutions such as schools since it is the fundamental factor in providing a learning source and supporting the success of educational goals itself (Hartono, 2016: 26). The library is not only an infrastructure, but it is also a facility since it contains books or documents that can be used by educators or students to find the source of

information needed. The existence of a library at school also aims to provide a great service for its users and support the achievement of the vision and mission of the school (Hartono, 2016: 27).

The existence of a school library is essential to support teaching and learning activities. The library is an information system in which there are activities of collecting, processing, preserving, presenting, and disseminating information.

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The library has functioned as a center of information, a source of knowledge, research, recreation, and preservation of the nation's cultural treasures, as well as providing various services. It is also expected to be a center for developing interest in reading and building reading habits. One of the efforts to develop interest in reading and build reading habits is by distributing books. Books are one of the absolute requirements needed for the development of a program to develop an interest in reading, especially for students who are certainly unfamiliar with technology before.

In this century, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become an inseparable part of the society in any sector. Therefore, every institution, including school libraries is trying to integrate ICT to build and empower knowledge-based human resources so they can compete in this globalization era by familiarizing them with the use of technology. The development of ICT finally brings up a computer-based library. There is library automation and a digital library. Many libraries would like to implement digital libraries in their management. However, it is not as easy as one might imagine. Limited funds and low human resources are the dominant factors that hinder the realization of the digital library, even though on the other hand digital libraries are economically more profitable as compared to traditional libraries. Chapman and Kenney (in Sismanto 2008), put forward four reasons, there are: institutions or schools can share digital collections, digital collections can reduce the need for printed materials at the local level, their use will increase electronic access, and the long-term value of digital collections will reduce maintenance and books' delivery cost.

Thus, the existence of a digital library is expected to facilitate a quick, precise, and accurate search for information needed by the users. Digital libraries can also be used as an alternative to developing learning resources in schools to deal with the advanced development of technology, especially information and communication technology. In this paper, the author will discuss deeper about digital libraries as learning resources.

One of the problems that exist in Indonesia is the low interest in reading and learning independence of students. Several studies conducted stated that Indonesia is one of the countries that have problems with low-interest reading rates. The results of a survey conducted by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) released by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) stated that Indonesia has a relatively low literacy level. The survey results in 2019 showed that interest in reading for the Indonesian people was ranked 62 out of 70 countries, meaning that Indonesia itself is in the lowest 10 countries with people who have a low literacy level.

Another survey conducted in January 2020 by UNESCO stated that Indonesia is in second place from the bottom regarding world literacy. According to data provided by UNESCO, the reading interest of the Indonesian people is still very concerning, only 1 out of 1,000 people in Indonesia is an avid reader.

Surveys conducted by those institutions show us that the condition of interest in reading among Indonesian people, including students, is still low. The low interest in reading certainly has a negative impact on society. Various ways have been done by the government such as the provision of adequate school libraries, digital libraries, mobile libraries, and reading parks. This is done to improve the quality of life of the people so that they can create the next generation who are qualified and competent. However, this of course did not go as expected due to the lack of awareness and no encouragement from the society.

Two factors that affect low interest in reading come from internal and external influences. Internal factors are factors that come from within the individual such as. While external factors are factors that come from outside oneself. Some internal factors include: 1). There is limited time owned by each individual/student, which affects the low interest in reading, 2). Lack of awareness about the importance of reading because it is difficult to change the students' mindset of the importance of reading, 3). The laziness in doing reading activities.

The external factors that affect low reading interest are as follows: 1). The availability of books in the library is still lacking and does not meet the needs of the community. 2). Limited facilities and infrastructures. The facilities and infrastructures available in the library are sometimes incomplete, which is what ultimately makes library users lazy to visit the library, 3). There is influence from the environment. Environmental influences such as the influence of friends who prefer to visit playgrounds rather than the library will make someone is lazy to read. Environment is an important factor in building someone's habits.

Digital libraries can increase students' reading interest which will lead to the willingness to do independent learning. The learning independence of students can be seen through the presence of their desire or curiosity to explore new things and not only depend on what is conveyed by the teacher. In other words, they have never been satisfied with the knowledge they received from other people. They have to know more and validate the information they get from someone else. Learning independence can also be seen through the intensity of students' library visit. Learning can bring a change in people's life because through learning people will understand what they do not understand before, and they will be able to go further with their knowledge. Thus, there will exist an independent soul and a long-life learner. By learning, people can change their attitudes toward something and will have a strong and wise mind. The attitude in which a person does not rely on other people in gaining any information for their learning sources is called learning independence.

Learning independence is influenced by several factors, such as psychological, physiological, and environmental factors. Psychological factors involve intelligence, talent, and interests. Physiological factors involve illness and disability, while environmental factors can be the family environment, school environment, and social environment. The fact is that someone who does not have independence will not be able to stand alone and will not have self-confidence in facing this life, especially in the education world. According to Mujiman (2007:1), "Independent learning is an active

learning, which is driven by motivation regarding a competency possessed". For the students who will be the next leader of Indonesia, it is hoped that they will be able to foster an independent attitude and have a strong enthusiasm to improve the quality of education in Indonesia in achieving educational goals.

Methodology

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. The descriptive method is a method that is carried out by researching the status of human groups, objects, a set of conditions, a system of thought, or a class of events in the present. This research is a type of research that aims to present a complete description of social settings or is intended to explore and clarify a phenomenon or social reality by describing some variables related to the problem and the unit under study between the phenomena being tested.

The purpose of this descriptive research is to make systematic descriptions of the relationships between the phenomena investigated to produce an accurate illustration of a group, describe the mechanism of a process or relationship, provide a complete picture either in verbal or numerical form, present basic understanding about a relationship, create a set of categories and classify research subjects. This method also describes a set of stages or processes, as well as stores contradictory information about research subjects.

The qualitative research method uses more in-depth analysis techniques, in this case investigating problems one by one, because this method believes that one problem will be different from another. In its application, this method pays great attention to the method of data collection, which includes primary and secondary data. Primary data is data that is collected in the form of words or issued verbally, movements, or a behavior carried out by the subject (informant), while the secondary data is obtained through a graphic document, photograph, recording, and so on. This method used spoken or written forms related to objects or something that is observed in a very detailed way to understand the meaning implied in the documents or objects collected so that there is

no error in concluding the meaning contained in the data collected.

The stage carried out by the researcher to collect the data was by conducting interviews with several related informants, then the researcher made an understanding of the results of the interviews and then did the writing process, so the results of the oral data were transferred to written data. Besides that, the researcher also looked for relevant sources related to the theme that the researcher raised, which is related to the management of the school's digital library. Finally, the researcher carried out collection management to increase students' reading interest and their independent learning.

Findings and Discussion

1. Digital Library

Libraries have three main principles. According to Widiassa (2007), "Libraries have the main task of collecting library materials, such as books or non-books, maintaining and providing library material services." First, is to collect and compile information that the content is suitable to the activities and mission of the organization and the community it serves. Second, the library preserves and maintains all the collections in the library. The goal is to make the collections in the library well-maintained and feasible to use. Third, the library must be able to provide a variety of information that is ready to use by its users.

ICT is currently spreading in almost various fields, including libraries. For advanced societies, knowledge is important for them. As a result, we must always be selective with all types of data and information processed. Information must always be accurate and relevant in order to avoid misleading information. Libraries must always be able to integrate with the current developments towards digitalization.

Libraries that are well developing must be supported by the rapid advancement of technology. The existence of new demands and paradigms from the community has made changes to libraries. Conventional libraries are now starting to be developed with digital libraries. Moreover, it is not uncommon for people to think that digital libraries are considered easier to access and reach. The reasons why

conventional libraries need to be developed into digital libraries are because conventional libraries have limitations in carrying out their services. When library users want to find the information they need, they must visit the library to pick up the books. Besides, conventional libraries which have various collections of books require a large room. A digital library is an information service in which the contents are available in a form that can be processed by a computer, starting from the functions of acquisition, preservation, storage, retrieval of access, and display using digital technology. (Chowdhury, 2004: 5-6).

Therefore, with the development of digital libraries, it will greatly facilitate library users. Digital-based applications are currently part of an integration, which later this integration will produce a library-based education system. The advantages that we get from changing conventional libraries to digital libraries are as follows:

1. The library provides collections in digital form. This provides easy remote access for library users.
2. The use of digital technology makes it easy to find information because library users can easily search for library materials through computer or their smartphones.
3. There is a global network available, library users can search for information and communicate remotely to obtain information. The library considers that digitization is a solution to be able to overcome backwardness because digital libraries can make it easier to search. Also, it will help the librarian's job to be easier through various automated system functions which make it very easy to manage the library more effectively and efficiently.

2. Reading Interest

Interest is a state of mind when we want something. It can also be interpreted as an activity that is carried out through feelings without any compulsion within ourselves, including in doing reading activities. According to Rahmat (2018: 161), interest is a person's current state when someone is paying attention to something, accompanied by curiosity to learn and prove it. Furthermore, according to

Mansyur (2019: 3), interest in reading is the awareness that we have to read, starting from encouragement within oneself, then there is a support from the environment. Reading interest can also be defined as an interest in a particular reading they choose, by paying attention to learning accompanied by a desire to know, learn, and be able to prove it through active action.

Meanwhile, according to Hartanto (2016: 281), reading is a skill a person acquires since they were born and that can be developed, nurtured, and fostered through a teaching and learning activity. Reading activities should be an everyday activity that must be done to obtain knowledge and information. The reading activity itself is an important activity that must always be developed from an early age so that it can create a knowledgeable and critical young generation of Indonesia. Reading interest is a concern that we give, accompanied by feelings of pleasure towards reading activities so that it can later make someone willing to read without any forces from external factors. Reading interest can also be defined as a pleasant feeling towards reading because they have the idea that by reading activities, we can get various benefits (Yunita Ratnasari, 2011: 16).

In reading interest, several elements exist, such as attention, willingness, encouragement, and pleasure that arise from ourselves to read. We can see the element of attention from how an individual pays attention to reading, has a high ability to read, and has encouragement and pleasure that arises from their self. According to Hurlock in Dalman (2013: 149), reading interest can develop because of the following factors:

1. Interest that grows hand-in-hand with mental development.

Interests can change along with physical and mental changes, gradually the type of reading will also change along with the development of maturity level within oneself.

2. Interest depends on the readiness to learn.

High learning opportunities start from the internal family environment since it is the earliest and most important and effective learning place to create a reading habit and other positive attitudes.

3. Interest in reading can be obtained from the influence of culture.

The influence of culture is something that makes it possible to increase interest in reading, from the influence of existing culture, it will make someone have a high interest in reading.

4. Interest in reading is influenced by emotions.

If you have found that reading has high benefits, then the emotions that will arise when seeing a text is a positive reaction that will make it feels like a pleasure when doing reading activities.

3. Learning Independence

The rapid development of science and technology demands the education field to adapt and improve its quality. The rapid development of science and technology demands the education field to adapt and improve its quality. Education is expected to be able to produce human resources who are active, creative, dynamic, independent, and responsive to change. Education has the greatest responsibility and is the foundation for the creation of capable, independent, and cultured human beings.

The independence of student learning can be seen through their desire and passion to learn and explore new things and not only depend on what is conveyed by the teacher. The big factor that can influence this independency is students' internal motivation. Their creativity in learning and the intensity of library utilization are several indicators of the existence of their self-motivation. Learning will bring a change in a student's life because by learning, they will understand anything they do not know before. And by learning independently, there will exist an independent character because they look for something new all by themselves. This change in attitude where a student is not depending on others in their learning process is called learning independence.

Several factors influenced students' learning independence, they are psychological, physiological, and environmental factors. Psychological factors cover intelligence, talent, and interests; physiological factors cover illness and disability; and environmental factors cover family environment, school environment, and

social environment. The fact is that someone who does not have independence will not be able to stand alone and will not have self-confidence in facing life, especially in life in the education world. According to Mujiman (2007:1), "Independent learning is an active learning activity, which is driven by motivation regarding a competency possessed". For students who in the future are the next generation of the nation, it is hoped that they will be able to foster an independent attitude and have a strong enthusiasm to improve the quality of education in Indonesia in achieving educational goals.

Someone who wants to have independence in the learning process must be able to be creative because creativity can develop their ideas and become an active learner. According to Drevdahl (in Elizabeth B. Hurlock, 2004:4): "Creativity is the person's ability to produce any composition, product, or idea that is fundamentally new and original." Based on that definition, it can be concluded that creativity is one's way of thinking that can create something that has never existed before. To reach that state of mind, there must be independence and courage to explore and experiment with something new, as well as dare to be different and fail in the learning process. Besides creativity as an internal generator, learning independence can also be fostered by an external factor such as the optimization of the school library use.

The school library has an important role to fulfill or accommodate the student's learning needs and interests as well as be able to increase their knowledge. Libraries also need to be considered an essential element of education because it is always associated with books, and books are associated with learning activities. Students who have difficulties in gaining textbooks for their learning sources can go to the school library and read or borrow the books there. This crucial role of the school library will help education to increase the quality of their students and education itself. Thus, the operational goals and objectives of the school library are to enrich, support, provide strength and strive for the implementation of educational programs that meet each student's needs, besides encouraging and enabling each student to optimize their potential.

Organizing a school library is not only for storing library materials but is also expected to help students complete their tasks in the learning process by providing the information they need. Therefore, library materials owned by the library must be able to support the needs of students. The purpose of student visits to the library can be varied. Either they visit for learning about their related subjects' materials or just want to have fun and read a book they like. Both purposes must have benefits to increase the students' knowledge. Therefore, the school library is an important part of the educational component that cannot be separated from its existence in the school environment.

The school library functions as a support for student activities, assisting students and teachers in spurring the achievement of educational goals in schools. Learning creativity and the intensity of using the school library are factors that can influence learning independence. Students who have creativity in learning will be able to find the learning resources they need without guidance from the teacher by utilizing the school library. Students can visit the school library at any time to look for reference materials to make it easier for students to understand the material and help complete their learning assignments so that students will get experience in learning independence and implement constructive learning by themselves.

4. Utilizing Digital Libraries in Enhancing Reading Interest and Learning Independence

Creating a good quality of Indonesian society is correlated to the educational role. The better the education quality is, the better the quality of the society will be. The advancement of education in Indonesia is embodied in Indonesian Law Number 20 of 2003 which discusses the National Education System (Sisdiknas). Education is a conscious and planned action to create an active learning environment and be able to develop oneself to have religious strength, self-control, intelligence, morals, and the skills needed for oneself, society, and the nation.

One of the ways to improve education quality is by utilizing the library which of course can support learning. In the future, the library is

expected not only to provide reading materials but also other sources of information, such as audio-visual and multimedia.

Many existing institutions are starting to integrate information technology into the realm of digitization. The aim is to build and empower human resources, which is expected in the future they can compete both outside and within the country. One of the empowerments of information technology is the change from conventional libraries to digital libraries. This change aims to increase literacy and independent learning by utilizing digital libraries and optimizing the management of digital library services.

The improvements in digital library services will provide better services to library users. As we know that one of the most important elements in the library is the service section. If the library does not have good services, library users will feel uncomfortable when accessing various information. With the renewal of the digital library, it can satisfy library users, which in turn will influence many people to know more about digital libraries and visit libraries more often.

The regeneration of the library into digital form will take society one step further. Through the application of a new concept that is owned by this digital library, the library can use the latest technology and digital library materials. The existence of a digital library can solve several problems such as limited time, and long distances to be able to visit conventional libraries. With the sophisticated facilities provided by the digital library, of course, it can create a fun learning and reading atmosphere, especially for the millennial generation, who only need to use their gadgets to quickly access the digital library anywhere and anytime. In the current era of digitalization technology, reading and adapting to a new situation are important things that are most needed by the community, especially students. Digital libraries also make it easy for users to be able to access information sources without being tied to library operating hours. Libraries will function properly if library management can also be run properly. Therefore, with the presence of this digital library, it is hoped that in the future it can be used effectively for students so that they

can increase their interest in reading and independent learning. Digital libraries are considered more profitable than conventional libraries because with these digital libraries existing digital collections can reduce printed materials at the local level, their use increases electronic access and has long-term value because digital collections do not need as complicated maintenance as conventional ones.

The digital library is a system that is accessed through digital devices, the services owned by this digital library will search for information and become more effective and efficient. The advantages possessed by digital libraries compared to conventional libraries, as well as the following:

1. A digital library can save space
The collection in the digital library itself is a collection of documents in digital form. Therefore, the storage needed for the collection is more effective.
2. The digital library has dual access
Conventional libraries have deficiencies in access to their collections because they are "waiting", meaning that if a book is being borrowed, other members who wish to borrow the book must wait for the book to be returned first. In contrast to digital libraries where each user can read one book simultaneously, or they can also download the book and read it over and over again. In a digital library, the concept of borrowing means downloading electronic books. However, the original e-book will remain on the library server.
3. Accessible at any time and any where
With this digital library, library users can easily access digital libraries anywhere and anytime, but keep in mind that if you want to access digital libraries, you must have an internet connection or computer network (computer internetworking).
4. Collections in digital libraries can be in the form of multimedia
The digital library does not merely cover a collection of text and images, but it can also be a combination of the two as well as audio form. In addition, the collections in this digital library can store film documents. This is of course an added value in this digital library, if library users do not

understand the explanation of the text provided, then they can change it to display only moving images equipped with sound.

5. Digital library is more economical

Although at first, it required an infrastructure and collection procurement which can be expensive, the ease of access and services provided to library users are worth it. If you see an e-book that can be duplicated, it can be concluded that electronic documents do not cost too much.

Since technology has been developed, everything runs easier and faster, including the way of gaining information. Therefore, conventional libraries need to be able to develop a digital library and provide information in digital form that can be easily accessed. The goal is to be able to build the interest and behavior of the millennial generation in reading. Developing a reading interest and independent learning by using digital libraries is a highly necessary innovation, especially for many young people out there including students who need to get various information easily and quickly.

It needs to be highlighted that in this digitalization era, increasing interest in reading and independent learning is becoming a serious problem, especially in reading through printed books. The tradition of reading through printed books is decreasing with the existence of various digitization tools that are more attractive to the young generation. For them, online media has become more familiar than printed media. The impact is that many printed media are becoming more and more difficult to get their readers. Therefore, low literacy could be due to lack of access to the library and it still needs to be developed further in the future. There are several weaknesses of conventional libraries:

1. Limited operating hours.
2. The book stock is limited, so we have to wait for the book to be returned by the borrower.

Therefore, many young people think that using a digital library will make it easier for them to find the information they need without visiting the library directly. Only using their gadgets, they will easily access various

collections in the digital library, so that interest in reading and learning independence can be further enhanced.

Conclusion

With the advanced development of technology nowadays, there is a demand for schools to provide various efficient and effective facilities for searching learning sources to support the learning process. Therefore, schools need to develop a digital library and provide information in a digital form that is accessible to the students. This is a necessary transformation needed to help the efficiency and effectiveness of students' learning process. It can also be a strategy to increase the reading interest and learning independence of the students and is expected to build reading habits in their daily life. The easier students can access the books and other library's collection, the greater their motivation to read and enjoy reading. Therefore, this paper suggests the transformation of school libraries from conventional to digital form. It is based on consideration that digital library has more benefits either for students, teachers, the library staff, and the school's development. This change also considers today's era where the development of information and technology has advanced that make the current society as well students are familiar with the use of technology.

Suggestion

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