

The 2nd International Conference of
Imam Bonjol Library 2024
"KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY"
<https://proceeding.perpus.uinib.ac.id> e-ISSN:

The Role of School Libraries in Fostering Student Information Literacy at SMP Baiturrahmah Padang

Peran Perpustakaan Sekolah dalam Menumbuhkan Literasi informasi Siswa di SMP Baiturrahmah Padang

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Abstract

Background of the study: Baiturrahmah Padang Junior High School Library still uses a manual system for library services and data management. Nevertheless, students and teachers often use this library to find references or as a learning resource.

Purpose: This study aims to explain and examine the role of school libraries in fostering student information literacy at SMP Baiturrahmah Padang.

Method: Data were obtained through observation and interviews with principals, librarians and students.

Findings: The results showed that libraries have played an important role in improving students' information literacy through providing access to reading resources, arranging student visits, competitions, and awarding rewards. Even though they do not yet have digital access, physical visits to the library help students understand the procedures for setting up the library and develop manual information search skills. Inhibiting factors in growing students' information literacy include limited library collections, lack of student motivation, and the impact of information technology developments.

Conclusion: Librarians have taken strategic steps to improve students' information literacy, such as in Indonesia rearranging book collections, holding literacy activities, providing facilities such as LCD projectors and computers, and working with teachers to run reading literacy programs. To overcome these obstacles, efforts need to be strengthened in increasing collection, student interest, and effective use of technology.

Keywords: Role; School Library; Information Literacy

Abstract in Indonesia

Background of the study: Perpustakaan SMP Baiturrahmah Padang masih menggunakan sistem manual untuk layanan perpustakaan dan pengelolaan data. Meskipun demikian, siswa dan guru sering memanfaatkan perpustakaan ini untuk mencari referensi atau sebagai sumber belajar.

Purpose: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan dan mengkaji peran perpustakaan sekolah dalam menumbuhkan literasi informasi siswa di SMP Baiturrahmah Padang

Method: Data diperoleh melalui observasi dan wawancara dengan kepala sekolah, pustakawan, dan siswa.

Findings: Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perpustakaan telah memainkan peran penting dalam meningkatkan literasi informasi siswa melalui penyediaan akses ke sumber daya bacaan, mengatur kunjungan siswa, kompetisi, dan pemberian penghargaan. Meskipun mereka belum memiliki akses digital, kunjungan fisik

ke perpustakaan membantu siswa memahami prosedur pengaturan perpustakaan dan mengembangkan keterampilan pencarian informasi secara manual. Faktor penghambat dalam menumbuhkan literasi informasi siswa antara lain terbatasnya koleksi perpustakaan, kurangnya motivasi siswa, dan dampak perkembangan teknologi informasi.

Conclusion: *Pustakawan telah melakukan langkah-langkah strategis untuk meningkatkan literasi informasi siswa, seperti menata ulang koleksi buku, mengadakan kegiatan literasi, menyediakan fasilitas seperti LCD proyektor dan komputer, serta bekerja sama dengan guru untuk menjalankan program literasi membaca. Untuk mengatasi kendala tersebut, upaya perlu diperkuat dalam meningkatkan koleksi, minat siswa, dan penggunaan teknologi yang efektif.*

Kata kunci: *Peran; Perpustakaan Sekolah; Literasi Informasi*

Introduction

Every aspect of human life is affected by technological developments, especially in the field of information technology, including education (Maritsa et al., 2021). Success in the modern world is strongly influenced by the ability to access and utilize information effectively. Educational institutions and libraries are vital sources of information for the community in meeting information needs. The library is considered as a knowledge center that provides access to various information related to science, technology, art, and culture, as stipulated in Law Number 20 of 2003 (Hidayatullah et al., n.d.). The role of libraries is very significant in improving the quality of learning resources. Libraries not only provide diverse academic or applied science approaches, but also act as a means to develop the intelligence of the nation's generation, particularly in the context of education (Ibrahim et al., 2023).

The school library is one very helpful tool for students, providing a variety of resources to meet their needs (Pitri & Amir, 2023). The school library is an important facility in the school environment that offers a variety of books and literacy materials to support educational goals and encourage the improvement of the quality of education to develop the nation's intelligence (Febriani, 2023). Article 4 of the Library Law Number Information literacy is the ability to access, evaluate, and use information effectively to solve problems and make decisions stimulating interest in reading, and expanding reading knowledge and skills (Lestari & Mayliningrum, 2023). The presence of libraries in schools is very important because it opens opportunities for students to improve their literacy and gain knowledge and insight into topics that they may not have previously known (Ita Arikhatul Mujahidin, 2022).

In today's information age, the abundance of information sources has encouraged individuals, especially students, to make selections for information that is considered useful. This selection can be part of the decision-making process or done for other reasons (Syah et al., n.d.). However, due to the large amount of information available, it is possible that some students do not obtain information that suits their needs or even receive inaccurate information. In situations like these, literacy is key to overcoming these challenges. Information literacy is the ability to find, understand, interpret, process, communicate, and use information effectively, both through print and other media, in various life situations. By having good literacy, students can develop their critical thinking skills in evaluating information, distinguishing between true and false information, and choosing reliable sources of information (Fadhli, 2021).

Literasi informasi adalah kemampuan untuk mengakses, mengevaluasi, dan menggunakan informasi secara efektif untuk memecahkan masalah dan membuat keputusan (Wenny, 2021). People skilled in information literacy are able to manage information wisely, sort through relevant information, and use those resources ethically (Mulyono & Ansori, 2020). SMP Baiturrahmah Padang has a library that supports the learning process at school. The library collection of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang is fairly limited and not yet available in the form of online collections or digital libraries. The library is staffed by teachers who also act as librarians with extensive responsibilities at the school. Although information technology has been so developed for library services, Baiturrahmah Padang Junior High School Library still uses a manual system for library services and data management. Nevertheless, students and

teachers often use this library to find references or as a learning resource.

Based on the results of an interview with one of the library officers of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang, Sinta Febriani, M.Pd as well as a teacher of Indonesian subjects, Based on the above problems, researchers were moved to conduct research to see the extent to which the library of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang plays a role in fostering information literacy of students with limitations experienced. 4000 types of collections with a classification of 000-900 consisting of general works, religion, social sciences, language and literature, pure science, practical knowledge, art, literature and history. Reinforced by information from the principal of Dewi, S.Pd that some of the available collections were obtained from School Operational Assistance (BOS) and also grants. Furthermore, students also often complain about the lack of collections available in the library, such as story books and also novels and books that are available only old books. Based on the above problems, researchers were moved to conduct research to see the extent to which the library of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang plays a role in fostering information literacy of students with limitations experienced. This research is also supported by several previous studies including research by **Ita Arikhatul Mujahidin entitled "The Role of School Libraries in Improving Reading Literacy of Grade IV Students of SDN Sawojajar 01"**. Shows that the role of libraries in improving literacy has been going quite well but not so optimally and facilities and infrastructure are not adequate. The next research by **Zulfitri entitled "The role of libraries in improving the information literacy skills of UIN Imam Bonjol Padang students"**. Showing that the concept of Information Literacy Education has been proclaimed, but its implementation is still hampered by limited HR competence and support from stakeholders at Imam Bonjol Padang UIN. This study aims to analyze the optimization of the role of the library of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang in growing students' information literacy. This study provides a new perspective by analyzing the use of the library of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang in fostering student information literacy. While previous research has discussed the role of libraries in the context of literacy, this study presents a new dimension with the specific context of junior high school and focuses on strategies to improve students' information literacy.

Method

According to Arikunto, the research method is a way used by researchers in collecting research data. This approach emphasizes a series of steps taken in the research process, which includes data collection techniques, data analysis, and interpretation of results. Research methods become an important foundation for the success of a study, ensuring that the process is carried out systematically and structured to obtain valid and reliable results (**Zulfitri, 2023**). This study uses descriptive qualitative methods with the aim of explaining the role of school libraries in fostering student information literacy in the era of Information Technology development at SMP Baiturrahmah Padang. Primary data were collected through interviews and documentation. Interviews were conducted with librarians, students of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang, and the principal. Students who became informants were selected based on their active participation in the library and reading habits, while principals were interviewed for their role in library-related policies. Documentation includes records of library activity, school policies related to libraries, and statistical data on library use by students.

Data analysis is carried out through three main stages. First, data reduction involves selecting, focusing, and simplifying raw data from interviews and documentation. Data that are irrelevant or do not support the research objectives are filtered, while relevant data are categorized according to emerging themes, such as "the role of libraries in supporting information literacy," "school policies," and "student use of libraries." Second, the reduced data is presented in the form of a descriptive narrative to provide a clear and systematic picture of the role of libraries in fostering student information literacy. This presentation helps to see patterns and relationships between various findings. Third, drawing conclusions and

verification involving linking findings with research objectives and existing literature. Conclusions are drawn based on the data that has been presented and verified to ensure the conclusions are truly supported by the data, taking into account the validity and reliability of the findings. This method allows researchers to gain a deep understanding of the role of school libraries in building students' information literacy, focusing on the experiences and firsthand views of those involved.

Result and Discussion

The Role of School Libraries in fostering student information literacy

School libraries play a very important role in fostering students' information literacy to form future generations who are more skilled in managing and understanding information. By providing access to a wide range of reading resources, the library helps students expand their understanding of the world and enrich their information literacy skills. As a resource center, the library also provides support to teachers and students in obtaining and managing information relevant for learning. By providing opportunities for learning outside the classroom and developing information literacy skills, libraries play a key role in fostering continuous and immersive learning for students (Lestari' & Wiyani, 2023).

In the context of education, information literacy is an important foundation to support the implementation of competency-based curriculum, where students are required to be able to access and manage information from various sources (Susinta, 2023). Having information literacy allows students to develop critical and logical thinking skills, and not directly receive information without careful consideration, so they can become responsible disseminators of information (Yulianti, 2022). In the current era of globalization, information literacy skills are the main key in facing the challenges of increasingly fierce competition, information literacy is an indispensable skill in facing the dynamics of information globalization. The ability to continue learning consistently is also no less important than just intelligence (Abidin et al., 2022). Overall, libraries have the capacity to improve information literacy (Ramadhini et al., 2020).

At SMP Baiturrahmah Padang, the library is not only a place for students to read and borrow books to support the learning process, but also a source of information literacy that is actively used by teachers. This is reflected in the active participation of students who visit the library to obtain reading materials relevant to the subject matter, as well as from the involvement of teachers in utilizing the library as an effective learning tool. Thus, the library is not only a place to access information, but also a center for literacy activities that involve both students and teachers in the learning process, as seen in the picture below.



Picture 1. Students visit the library

Furthermore, in order to foster student information literacy, the Baiturrahmah Padang Junior High School Library provides a schedule of visits to students. Student visits held by the Baiturrahmah Padang Junior High School Library have a very important role in improving students' information literacy. During the visit, students are invited to understand the

procedures for setting up the library, access the available collections, and take advantage of the various services offered. Thus, these visits not only give students hands-on experience of how a library functions, but also assist them in developing important information literacy skills. Through this experience, students can learn how to search for information effectively, evaluate the reliability of information sources, and use a variety of reading materials to improve their understanding and insight. Thus, student visits become one of the effective strategies in supporting the development of student information literacy at SMP Baiturrahmah Padang.

Although the Baiturrahmah Padang Junior High School Library does not yet have digital access, physical visits to the library still have a very important value in improving students' information literacy. During the visit, students can learn about the organization and organization of the print resource collection, as well as develop the skills of manually searching and finding information. Although not using computers, these visits still provide an opportunity for students to understand the importance of libraries as a valuable source of information in the learning process. In addition, this visit can also be an encouragement for students to keep reading and appreciate printed materials as part of developing information literacy.

The role of the Baiturrahmah Padang Junior High School library in order to foster student information literacy is not only limited to making visit schedules but also holding competitions between classes in the form of making literacy corners and literacy trees, this aims to develop the skills and talents possessed by students, as well as providing rewards to students who actively visit and interact with the library. The Baiturrahmah Junior High School Library has played a significant role in improving information literacy, according to one informant. They say that the library has provided visitors with the information they need, and even helped students produce new works through competitions. As conveyed by the informant, Baiturrahmah Junior High School Library has tried to create an environment that supports the development of students' information literacy with all the limitations experienced.

Inhibiting factors in fostering student information literacy

One of the inhibiting factors in growing student information literacy is the limited collection owned by the library, this triggers many students who do not want to visit the library because the books or information sources they want are not available (**Rismauli, n.d.**). The limited collection in the library of Baiturrahmah Padang Junior High School is a challenge that is often faced by many students. This condition is a barrier for students to make optimal use of library facilities. When students can't find the books or resources they're looking for, it can decrease their interest in visiting the library regularly. In some cases, limited collections can also cause students to look elsewhere for sources of information or even delay reading.

The next factor is the lack of motivation of students to use the library as a source of information. It can be seen that when students visit the library, they tend not to be interested in reading or borrowing books, but just to relax or enjoy the atmosphere. This shows that there is a need to increase students' interest and motivation in information literacy. A more creative and engaging approach is needed so that students can see the library as a fun and rewarding place to develop their knowledge.

The development of information technology is also an inhibiting factor for students to grow information literacy, because students become lazy to read. The development of information technology does have a complex impact on students' information literacy. On the one hand, technological advances can make students tend to be lazy to read because they are more interested in the entertainment offered by gadgets and digital media. However, on the other hand, information technology can also be a very useful tool in improving information literacy if applied appropriately (**Dewantara Hasibuan & Siti Quratul Ain, 2024**).

The use of technology such as LCD Projectors, computers, and electronic reading materials can be an effective means of increasing students' interest in information literacy. With the LCD Projector, teachers can display interesting learning materials that are relevant to

student needs, thus increasing their enthusiasm in obtaining information (Calora et al., 2023). The use of computers and electronic reading materials can also make access to information easier and more practical for students, in line with the preferences of today's generation who tend to be more accustomed to technology. However, all of that is not yet available in the library of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang, so it becomes a challenge in growing students' information literacy. This shows the need for efforts to develop information technology infrastructure in libraries in order to take full advantage of the potential of these technologies in improving student information literacy. With adequate technological facilities, it is expected that students will be more motivated to use the library as a source of relevant and interesting information for the development of their knowledge.

Efforts made by librarians to foster student information literacy

Based on the role of school libraries and also the obstacles faced by libraries in growing student information literacy, librarians try to improve this by doing several ways including; *First*, librarians rearrange the collection of books in the library. With a good organization, students will find it easier to find the books they are looking for and become more interested in reading. In addition, librarians also hold various competitions related to literacy, such as reading competitions, creating literacy corners and literacy trees that can increase students' interest in literacy.

Second, librarians provide the facilities and infrastructure needed by students to make maximum use of the library. This includes providing LCD projectors and personal computers if required by students. LCD projectors are even taken from the principal's room to ensure their availability to students. With this facility, it is expected that students can utilize technology to get information more effectively.

Third, librarians work with teachers to run the reading literacy movement. One concrete effort made is to hold a reading session for five minutes before learning begins. It aims to foster reading habits among students as well as improve their concentration and understanding of the learning material. Thus, students' information literacy can continue to be improved through collaboration between librarians and teachers. Through these steps, it is hoped that the information literacy of students at SMP Baiturrahmah Padang can continue to increase, so that they can become a more intelligent, critical, and independent generation in accessing and using information.

Conclusion

Research that has been carried out in the school library of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang tries to explain and study in depth about the role of school libraries in fostering student information literacy at SMP Baiturrahmah Padang, which based on the data obtained it can be concluded that; The school library of Baiturrahmah Padang Junior High School has played an important role in improving students' information literacy. Through activities such as providing access to reading resources, arranging student visits, competitions, and awarding rewards, libraries create an environment that supports the development of students' information literacy skills. Even though they do not yet have digital access, physical visits to the library are still valuable, helping students understand library management procedures and develop manual information search skills. Thus, the library has carried out its role in growing students' information literacy with various initiatives that have been carried out.

Inhibiting factors in growing students' information literacy at SMP Baiturrahmah Padang include limited library collections, lack of student motivation to use the library, and the impact of information technology developments that make students tend to be lazy to read. Limited collections reduce students' interest in visiting regularly, while the lack of motivation and attractiveness of libraries as a source of information causes students to be more interested in digital entertainment. Although information technology has the potential to improve literacy, inadequate infrastructure in libraries is an obstacle in utilizing this potential optimally. Therefore, efforts to increase collections, increase student interest, and utilize technology

effectively need to be strengthened to overcome these barriers. Librarians at SMP Baiturrahmah Padang took several strategic steps to improve students' information literacy. They reorganized the book collection, held various literacy activities, provided facilities such as LCD projectors and computers, and worked with teachers to run reading literacy programs. With these measures, it aims to increase students' reading interest, utilize technology effectively, and form sustainable reading habits.

Acknowledgement

The author would like to express deep gratitude to all parties who have made a very meaningful contribution in the smooth and successful running and success of this research. The principal of SMP Baiturrahmah Padang has provided innumerable support by facilitating access and directing us to relevant resources. Thank you also to the Librarian who has helped in procuring literature and references that are very important for this research. Not to forget, to all students who have been willing and enthusiastically involved in research, providing valuable insights and very meaningful data. In addition, the author also wants to express great appreciation to fellow researchers. Intense collaboration, diverse feedback, and in-depth discussions have helped enrich and broaden our understanding of this topic. Without their cooperation and contribution, this research would not have achieved the satisfactory results we achieved.

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