The role of digital reading corner in increasing the community's reading interest in Bekasi district

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ABSTRACT

Background: A culture of interest in reading or literacy movement must be fostered in Indonesian society.

Purpose: The aim is to describe the existence of a Digital Reading Corner (POCADI) managed by the Bekasi Regency Archives and Library Service, which shows an increase in people's interest in reading in the Bekasi Regency.

Design and methods: This article uses qualitative research and a literature review. Data collection techniques in the field are observation and interviews. The research objects in the field are visitors and officers at the Digital Reading Corner location. Collections of digital media such as computers, Android tablets, e-books, LED TV, and Wi-Fi increase visitors' enthusiasm to increase their interest in reading. The efforts of the Bekasi Regency Archives and Library Service in managing POCADI include outreach to the community, educational visits from schools to POCADI and storytelling activities.

Results: The results of the research can be concluded that the Digital Reading Corner provides benefits in increasing people's interest in reading in the Bekasi district, namely as a place to read with a collection of reading materials equipped with digital media, a place to read for people who are located far from the Bekasi Regency Public Library.

Keywords: Bekasi Regency, Interest in Reading, Digital Reading Corner (POCADI)

Introduction

In this era of technological progress, reading is still an important topic. Reading involves not just pronouncing words or sentences in writing but also visual and thinking Activities. Reading is a process that aims to see, understand the content, understand the meaning and obtain written messages from the reading book. The content or message of a text can be accepted if the reader can read it correctly and precisely. Dance (2008) states that reading is a process carried out and used by readers to obtain the message that the writer wants to convey through words/written language.

The purpose of reading is to get the right meaning from the reading. The stated purpose of reading Darmono (2001) is (1) reading for pleasure purposes. (2) reading to increase knowledge. (3) reading to do a job. For pleasure, reading activities are recreational, such as reading literary works such as short stories or novels as entertainment. Reading to increase knowledge is by reading about science themes. This reading activity can improve human resources (HR).

Reading to do a job is reading that is done regularly and carried out in offices, both government and private. From reading, one can understand the exact meaning and essence

of the reading or book he/she read. Diligently and persistently reading books will foster creativity and innovative thinking. People can participate and help advance the nation and state by being diligent and fond of reading. Active reading is a manifestation of high interest in reading.

A culture of interest in reading or literacy must be fostered in Indonesian society because the growth of the reading movement will broaden horizons and understand the wider world. Considering the importance of reading interest, the Bekasi Regency Archives and Library Service has opened a space to increase the reading interest of the people of Bekasi Regency through the Digital Reading Corner, often referred to as POCADI.

This POCADI program is a grant from the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia, a form of public service in the library sector. Pocadi's placement is in a busy community point to facilitate literacy and obtain information. The collections at Pocadi are a collection of printed books and a collection of digital books. Digital books sourced from the iPusnas application and Bekasi Regency ebooks. Books are tools or means to facilitate literacy activities, especially reading. Digital collections, such as e-books offered by Pocadi, will increase people's interest in reading. Someone who is passionate about reading will enjoy reading a collection of printed and digital books.

Reading Corner

If we look and observe; a reading corner can be defined as a corner or corner of a room that is not too large and contains a bookshelf or book box equipped with a collection of books as a place for light reading. Reading Corners is a program launched by the government through education, namely the availability of special rooms for students to read and write.

Digital Reading Corner is a room or corner of the room with a bookshelf, a collection of textbooks, and digital media such as computers, e-books, and the internet. The current Digital Reading Corner, a grant from the National Library, is a supporting facility to increase the love of reading by providing adequate facilities, such as e-books. The facilities that support reading activities are computers, Android tablets, e-books, LED TV, and WiFi internet.

Digital Books

Digital developments allow texts contained in books to be stored in digital form. Textbooks can be displayed on the library website, provided the book is converted into digital form. Digital books or electronic books, often called e-books, are a change from printed collections to electronic form.

According to Suwarno (2011), e-books are electronic versions of books. Books generally consist of a collection of paper containing text or images, while e-books have digital information, which can also be text or images. E-books contain digital information, including text, images, audio, and video, which can be read on a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone. E-books have a coherent presentation format in terms of language, high level of knowledge, and extensive discussion.

Interest in Reading

Interest is a feeling that gives rise to pleasure, a feeling of interest in an activity shown by the desire to pay attention to the activity without anyone telling you to and is done with awareness. Interest is a process of someone's actions in the form of activities that give rise to a feeling of pleasure or a way of focusing the subject's attention; there is an effort to want to know, approach and so on so that the subject feels happy and interested in the object.

Interest in reading manifests feelings that arise in someone who enjoys reading because of the thought that reading can benefit him. With interest and attention to something, I will continue to learn and prove. A person with a strong reading spirit will be manifested by his willingness to obtain reading books; with his self-awareness, he will read those books.

Hurlock (2013) states that interest is a source of motivation that encourages people to do what they want if they are free to choose. Interest in reading can be interpreted as motivation for an individual to understand reading carefully. Dalman (2013) Expressing an interest in reading is defined as an activity encouraging an individual to understand word for word and the content of a reading with full perseverance, awareness and a sense of enjoyment.

Interest in reading is an interest that arises and encourages us to be happy and interested in reading activities and gaining extensive knowledge. Interest in reading will grow if there is our intention, desire, desire and encouragement. Interest in reading is a form of attention and a strong and deep feeling of sympathy with the awareness that feelings of pleasure towards reading activities will lead to reading with one's own will and desires.

Mansyur (2018) states that interest in reading is a strong level of pleasure because of the encouragement in a person to do everything related to reading activities to obtain information, as well as creating pleasure and benefits for him. Interest in reading can be fostered by cultivating a love of reading starting from the family environment.

With the existence of a Digital Reading Corner in Bekasi Regency, there will likely be an increase in interest in reading and the number of existing collections. The Digital Reading Corner, which includes some ebooks and the internet, will increase the enthusiasm and desire of visitors who like or have a hobby to prefer reading by making it easier to obtain reading books.

The socialization of Bekasi Regency e-books also supports efforts to increase people's interest in reading in Bekasi Regency called iBekasikab, collaboration with schools through educational visits, and promotions through storytelling activities.

Methods

The research method used is qualitative with a descriptive nature. Data collection techniques use literature study, interviews, and observation. Arikunto (2010) states that descriptive research collects data based on factors that support the research object and then analyzes these factors to find their role. (p. 151). A literature study or literature review is useful for systematically determining theories and reviewing previous or existing research results that are related to the research topic to be carried out. Observations were conducted on 17 to 21, 24 to 28 and 31 October 2023. The steps taken for observation are 1) describing the condition of the subject or object to be researched and 2) excavating and searching for data in the form of interviews with research objects, namely library visitors and POCADI officers. Furthermore, guided by references such as books and journals, research results are used to analyze and process observations and information to answer and complete The main results of the research. This research uses data triangulation, namely collecting data using various sources. One way is to collect data through interviews.

Findings & Discussion

The Bekasi Regency Archives and Library Service received assistance from a Digital Reading Corner on March 21, 2021, from the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia. The facilities provided consist of 3 computer units, including the iPusnas application, 2 tablet units, 1 LED TV unit, a computer desk, a reception desk, a computer chair, a sofa, a carpet,

a bookshelf, and 300 copies. The iPusnas application can be used to access thousands of free e-books, which can be accessed on any gadget at home.

The POCADI location is part of the 45th fighting building in the Bekasi district, which is located at Jalan Hasanudin number 39 Tambun Selatan, which is now the Bekasi Museum and is a strategic place in the busy center of the city. POCADI services are always full, and there are always visitors coming. Every visitor who comes to the Bekasi Museum visits the POCADI location. This Digital Reading Corner is open for community service during working hours, Tuesday to Saturday, 09.00-16.00 WIB.

Researchers observed during working hours from 17 to 21 October, followed by 24 to 28 and 31 October. Visitor enthusiasm is very high, as seen from visits increasing daily. The average visit per day is 20 people. The children who came looked happy while enjoying reading activities because, at POCADI, there is a collection of children's reading books containing interesting stories and pictures they like.

A teenage visitor, a junior high school student, was also seen having fun reading a teenage storybook while sitting on a sofa, accompanied by a cool atmosphere because there was air conditioning in the POCADI room. On the other day of the visit, student visitors used the computers available at POCADI to access the Ipusnas and iBekasikab applications to choose ebooks. To find out the actual conditions at POCADI, researchers interviewed a third-year high school student who was seen studying with named Annisa Zhafirah; in her answer, she said that with the Digital Reading Corner, she found a comfortable and very helpful place to learn and read with an interesting collection of books. It is equipped with wifi facilities.

Through the internet, POCADI visitors can access information. The next interview was with an officer at POCADI named Rian Hamzah, who works as a storyteller. Rian Hamzah, in an interview answer, said that the activities that had been taking place since the existence of POCADI in Bekasi Regency were the socialization of the Bekasi Regency e-book called iBekasikab, receiving visits from schools (in collaboration with schools), storytelling activities for visitors, especially children.
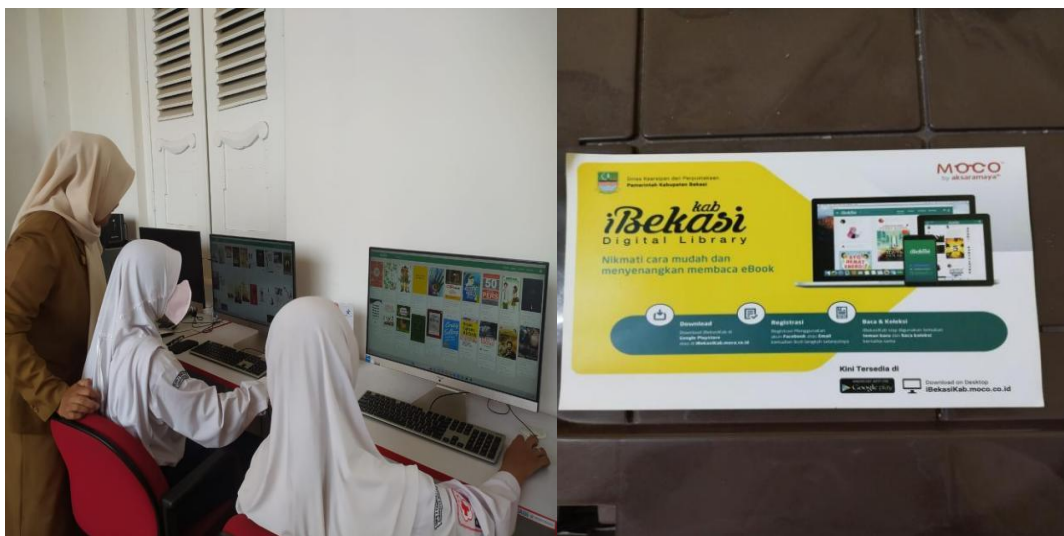
During the socialization activity of the iBekasikab e-book, Rian Hamzah provided guidance and direction on its use to visitors who attended with the help of one employee. Together, the visitors present applied iBekasikab to their respective gadgets. In this way, visitors can use Bekasi district e-books to add to their reading collection. Likewise, when children visited Pocadi to read, Rian Hamzah also presented a storytelling display equipped with several puppets.

Activities carried out by the Bekasi Regency Archives and Library Service include

1) Outreach to the public to introduce the Bekasi district e-book, iBekasikab. The iBekasikab application can be downloaded on the Google Play store and registered using a Facebook account or email. Next, iBekasikab is ready to read collections and explore iBekasikab through superior features. In this case, the role of POCADI officers is to provide guidance and procedures for visitors to use iBekasikab.

2. Collaboration with the school. In the form of notification to school agencies for educational visits to the Digital Reading Corner. On the appointed day and time, groups of students from PAUD, TK, SD, SMP, and SMA visit POCADI accompanied by their supervising teachers. The activities carried out during the visit from school included an introduction to the iBekasikab digital library, a brief description of POCADI in the Bekasi district, with an LED TV watching a screening of the Bekasi History film, reading the book collection at POCADI. For PAUD, Kindergarten and Elementary school groups visiting POCADI, storytelling activities, reading a load, and introducing children's story books are presented.

3. Promotion through storytelling activities. With storytelling activities, visitors attending POCADI can watch other displays besides reading books. Children in PAUD, kindergarten, and elementary school will be happy with the storytelling activities. The fairy tale attraction at POCADI shows Kak Rian as a storyteller with the help of a puppet.

POCADI officers help children read children's story books. With storytelling activities, children will often visit POCADI. The benefits of storytelling activities are a) improving children's listening skills, where they will pay attention and listen carefully during the story. b) stimulate children's interest in reading, where a series of interesting pictures and exciting storytelling will stimulate children to listen to the story's content. c) teach new vocabulary where children will learn to understand the words and sentences told in the book. From this activity, interest in reading will grow and increase.

Based on this description, reading corners are helpful in literacy activities, especially reading. The existence of an e-book collection will increase visitors' desire to become more fond of reading because it is easy to get the reading books they want, and the Digital Reading Corner makes it easy to get the information they need. Support and efforts from the regional

government through the Bekasi Regency Archives and Library Service have impacted the development of the Digital Reading Corner (POCADI), which will improve and improve.

Conclusion

Based on the article the author has completed, conclusions can be drawn. Each region is guaranteed a public library managed by its regional government. It would be better, apart from having a public library whose task is to serve people who need to read and get information, it is necessary to create a corner or corner of the room, which is often called a reading corner, as an extension of the library's function. Having a reading corner will make it easier for local people to access books and an effort to develop a love of reading which will ultimately increase people's interest in reading. Implementing a Digital Reading Corner (POCADI) in Bekasi Regency will be useful for the community as a reading space equipped with digital media, a reading place for people who are located far from the Public Library, and a reading place with a collection of reading materials nearby.

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