



Optimizing University Libraries in Palangkaraya City as a Supporting Facility for Independent Campuses

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ABSTRACT

Background: Libraries play an essential role by meeting students' needs, offering a variety of library resources, facilitating access to study spaces, managing lending services, and providing information services. Kampus Merdeka is a support and effort to encourage students to obtain a variety of helpful information for their future job prospects.

Purpose: This study aims to know extend on how to optimize libraries to facilitate independent campuses.

Design and methods: This article uses a qualitative descriptive methodology, utilizing library reference materials as the primary means of data collection and analysis. According to Sugiyono (2018), qualitative research methods are research methods based on philosophy, which are used to research scientific conditions (experiments) where the researcher is the instrument, data collection techniques, and qualitative analysis emphasize meaning.

Results: The role of libraries is in line with the government's program for national education, as stated in Law No. 2 of 2003, which states that education is a conscious and planned effort to realize the teaching and learning process so that students actively develop their potential. Optimizing university libraries in the city of Palangkaraya by utilizing information technology can be used as a means of supporting independent campuses to utilize library resources. Steps that university libraries can take to optimize libraries include: 1) Optimizing the use of information technology and 2) Promotion of libraries by utilizing websites and social media networks to improve service quality. Librarians should strive to facilitate as many opportunities as possible for students to develop into competent individuals.

Keywords: optimization of libraries, college libraries, independent campuses

Introduction

Under Law Number 43 of 2007, universities are required to build libraries that are guided by National Library Standards and also pay attention to National Education Standards. National Library Standards cover various areas, such as collection standards, building and infrastructure standards, service requirements, staff standards, implementation standards, and management standards. The subject of the discussion relates to the criteria set for national libraries. This is a benchmark for the application of scientific methodology that can be applied to both state and private universities.

Higher education libraries in Indonesia began to develop in the early 1920s, following the establishment of the Geneeskunde Hoogeschool high school in Batavia (1927), which was later also established in Surabaya with STOVIA; Technische Hoogeschool in Bandung

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(1920); Rechtshoogeschool in Batavia (1924); and Fakultait van Letterkunde in Batavia (1940) and had separate libraries in each faculty.

Higher education libraries in the city of Palangkaraya are currently starting to grow and develop, where the use of information technology will become something very vital; the Palangkaraya Muhammadiyah Faculty of Health Sciences library, which is located at Jl. RTA Milono, Langkai, Kec. Pahandut, Palangkaraya City, Central Kalimantan 73111 and the Palangkaraya Ministry of Health Polytechnic library, located at Jl. George Obos No. 30/32, Palangkaraya 73111, where the library has optimized the use of information technology to facilitate and meet the needs of its users. The library is a public forum for people to improve life skills, create new experiences, and engage in discourse to find solutions to problems that must be strengthened to progress. To serve individuals seeking information and achieve transformation, libraries need trained, skilled, and knowledgeable staff.

The main aim of a college library is to facilitate universities in realizing the Tri Dharma of Higher Education. Libraries play an essential role in this particular situation because they meet the needs of the academic community, provide a variety of library materials, facilitate access to study areas, oversee information lending services, and provide comprehensive information services. The Independent Campus Policy introduced by the Minister of Education and Culture aims to foster student independence and motivate them to obtain diverse and relevant information that will improve their career opportunities in the future.

Therefore, the significance and strategic role of university libraries in supporting the implementation of the Independent Learning Curriculum is vital. Libraries have an essential function in providing reading materials tailored to the needs of students and lecturers and providing easy access to the latest and most reliable information. Considering the context provided, the author will discuss the primary concern in this article, namely how to optimize libraries to facilitate independent campuses.

College Library

Definition of a college library according to Sulisty Basuki (1991), "It is a library found in universities, its subordinate bodies, as well as institutions affiliated with universities, with the main purpose of helping universities achieve their goals, which are the Tri Dharma of Higher Education (education, research and community service)"(P. 51).

The goals of a university library must be in line with the goals of the university to be a supporting element for the university in achieving its vision and mission to create a library that can serve its users optimally.

In the opinion of Sulisty Basuki (1993), "The objectives of college libraries include the following" (P. 52).

- a. Fulfilling the information needs of the academic community, which mainly consists of teaching staff and students. Often includes those involved in the administration of higher education institutions.
- b. The library's provision of resources, including reference materials, serves the diverse academic needs of students ranging from first-year undergraduate students to graduate students and faculty members.
- c. One potential initiative that could improve the library experience for visitors is the provision of dedicated study spaces.
- d. Offers appropriate financing options to meet diverse customer demographics. Providing active information services includes not only universities but also local industrial entities.

Functions of Higher Education Libraries

For a library to successfully achieve its goals, it must fulfill its role effectively. The main aim of a college library is to uphold the Tri Dharma of Higher Education, which includes education and teaching, research, and community service.

According to Sulisty Basuki (1991), "the main functions of university libraries include the following" (P. 107).

1. The educational function of the library helps develop student potential with the learning system contained in the educational curriculum.
2. Information function: the library helps students obtain as much information as possible through searching for information in the library.
3. Supporting research activities: in this case, the library provides information needed so that the research process of lecturers, students, and non-educational staff can be carried out based on data obtained from the library.
4. As a place for recreation or entertainment, students can rely on the library to reduce tension after being tired of studying with light reading material and entertain themselves with the collections in the library.

Methods

This research uses a qualitative descriptive methodology, relying on library reference materials as the primary data collection and analysis source. Sugiyono (2018) defines qualitative research methods as research methods based on philosophy, which aim to investigate scientific phenomena (experiments) by utilizing researchers as the main instrument. This approach involves data collection and qualitative analysis procedures that prioritize the interpretation of meaning. Qualitative techniques are procedures used in social research to collect descriptive data through words and images. Lexy J. Moleong states that qualitative research collects data through words and images, not statistics. One qualitative research approach is a methodology that relies on qualitative evidence rather than fundamental statistical analysis. Other articles emphasize that qualitative techniques are suitable for capturing field realities and respondents' experiences, ultimately seeking a theoretical framework. A qualitative descriptive methodology for examining collected data may consist of verbal, visual, or behavioral information. Rather than relying on statistical data or numerical figures, focus on presenting an in-depth picture or explanation of the scenario or situation under study through narrative description. The presentation must be conducted impartially to prevent bias in the researcher's views. The library approach requires research using data analysis techniques focusing on textual content. The library collection includes many resources, including publication records, books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, journals, and articles. The author aims to offer an alternative concept for optimizing university libraries by utilizing information technology so that it can facilitate the realization of an independent campus.

Findings & Discussion

Optimizing the use of information technology

The university library is a technical department that, together with other departments, fulfills the tri dharma of higher education. This responsibility includes acquiring, curating, processing, preserving, and providing access to information sources for the university and its academic community.

The library's function is in line with the government's initiative towards the national education system, outlined in Law Number 2 of 2003. This law emphasizes that education

is a deliberate and organized effort that aims to facilitate the learning and growth of students, enabling them to build their abilities actively.

In response to the increasing demand for information globally, libraries must adapt by offering proactive and diverse information services to the academic communities they serve (Lisda, 2020). The Palangkaraya Muhammadiyah University Faculty of Health Sciences Library optimizes information technology in its services to support the independent campus program by presenting an Android-based library application.

Following current trend developments where everything can be done in real-time without any limitations of space and time. The Library of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Muhammadiyah University of Palangkaraya, has presented an Android-based library application to make it easier for users to search for various information and references. The advantage of this Android application is its simple design without reducing the essence and benefits contained in it. The developer deliberately created a simple design in the hope that it would be easier for users to understand.

Menu features found in the library application of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Muhammadiyah University of Palangkaraya:

Home page

On the homepage feature, we are presented with various references ranging from books on health, mathematics and science, encyclopedias, statistics, research methodology, education, study and teaching, general, social, agriculture, animal husbandry, language and literature, engineering and architecture, law, and management.

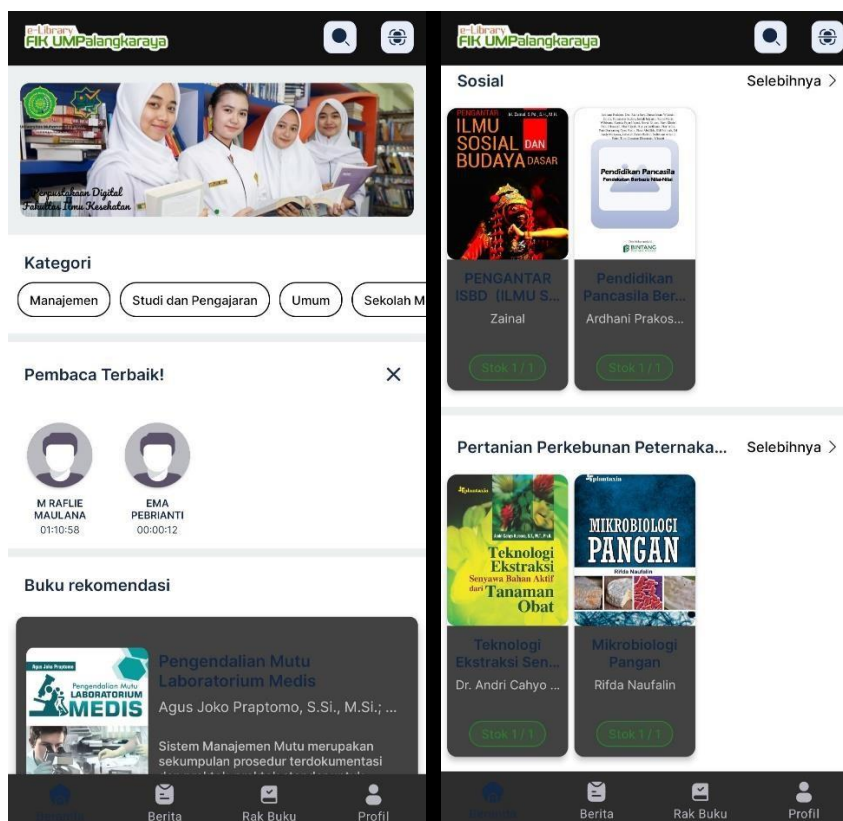


Figure 1 Homepage of FIK UM Palangkaraya e-Library application.

News

This feature provides news that will always be explicitly updated about the world of education.



Figure 2 News FIK UM Palangkaraya e-Library application.

Bookshelf

This feature makes it easier for users to find the books they want to read. On this page, you can also see what books we have borrowed. The method is relatively easy; just by typing in the keywords you want to search for, the book you are looking for will appear based on the title and keywords. In this menu, there are two options, namely, the general search menu and also the sentence search menu.

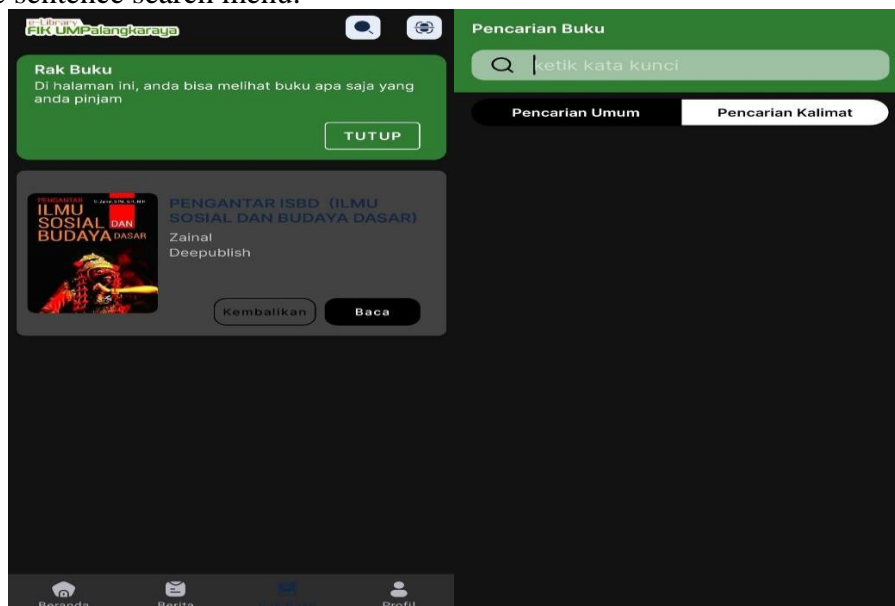


Figure 3 bookshelf FIK UM Palangkaraya e-Library application.

Profile

The profile feature is a feature that provides personal user data; there is a user name, you can also change the profile photo, and there is also a report on the number of books read notes, then there is a menu to add reading friends, book requests, and we can also see about the application or to find out details of the application developer.

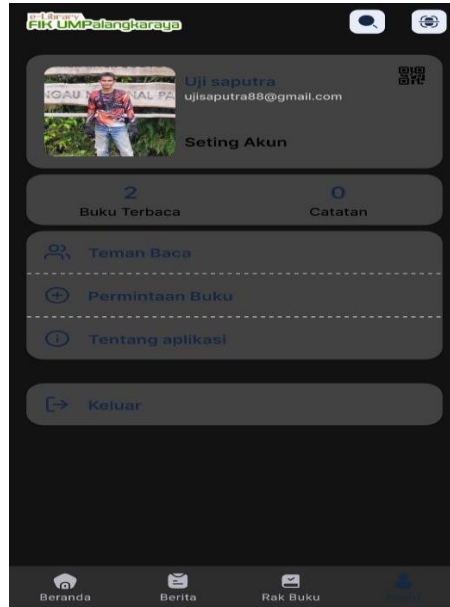


Figure 4 User Profile FIK UM Palangkaraya e-Library application.

Library promotion

Palangkaraya Ministry of Health Polytechnic Library in terms of optimizing the use of information technology as a medium for promoting libraries, which is carried out to display the various collections, services, facilities, and methodologies offered. Users can obtain information about library collection resources and library policies. Various media are used to carry out library promotional activities, including library orientation and social media platforms such as library websites, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, and WhatsApp.

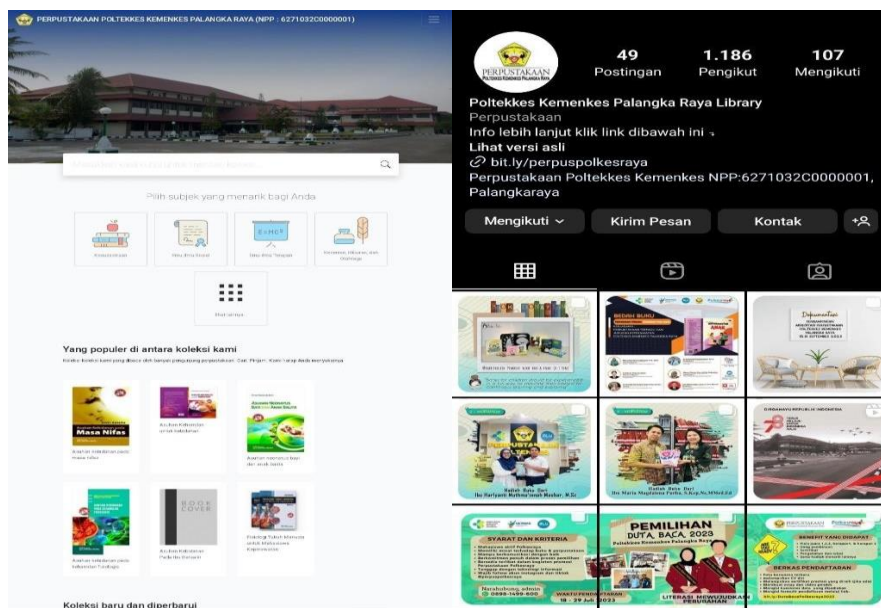


Figure 5 Source: Web & IG Poltekkes Kemenkes Palangkaraya.

The main functions carried out by libraries through information technology include acquiring collections, cataloging collections, and facilitating access to library resources and services. Information technology in libraries includes library automation, CD-ROM, internet, and digital libraries. The upcoming application development program is an online catalog for library networks. The benefits to the user include improved information retrieval, time efficiency, and reduced energy expenditure. The availability of information technology in libraries provides opportunities for library development to be even wider and to be able to innovate in various fields of activity.

Libraries in the implementation of independent campuses

The Minister of Education and Culture has initiated a program that aims to develop students' abilities in several scientific fields to equip them in the professional realm to enter the world of work.

Libraries play an essential role in fostering an academic environment on campus. Furthermore, the orientation is to ensure that graduates acquire the necessary skills to be compatible, adaptable, responsive, and contextual. With the help of their librarians, college libraries can play an essential role in the effective implementation of independent campuses. This procedure can be achieved by mobilizing various campus institutions, such as libraries, to minimize risks and work to achieve better opportunities. It is essential for lecturers to have the autonomy to teach and students to have the opportunity to learn.

Librarians have a vital role in fostering literacy for readers to achieve independence in accessing library resources in electronic formats, such as ebooks, journals, and other electronic resources, enabling the academic community to have the freedom to explore. In this context, the easier the access, the more influential the facility will be in facilitating independent learning. Librarians should be tasked with facilitating as many opportunities as possible for students to develop into a competent generation.

Independent Campus is an integral component of the Ministry of Education and Culture's Independent Learning initiative which aims to foster stronger relationships between universities and the world of business and industry. It is hoped that the Merdeka Campus can answer these demands. Kampus Merdeka refers to higher education that is characterized by autonomy and flexibility, which aims to foster an innovative learning environment that is not restrictive and is in harmony with student needs.

The Minister of Education and Culture has implemented policies that aim to develop students' skills in various fields of knowledge that benefit their future job prospects.



Figure 6 The Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture's Guide, 2020..

Conclusion

Optimizing university libraries in the city of Palangkaraya by utilizing information technology which can be used as a means of supporting independent campuses to utilize library resources. Steps that can be taken by university libraries in order to optimize libraries include: 1) Optimizing the use of information technology 2) Promotion of libraries by utilizing websites and social media networks to improve service quality. Libraries play an essential role in fostering an academic environment on campus. Furthermore, the orientation ensures that graduates acquire the necessary skills to be compatible, adaptable, responsive, and contextual. With the help of their librarians, college libraries can play an essential role in implementing the independent campus program. Librarians should be tasked with facilitating as many opportunities as possible for students to develop into a competent generation and equip them for the professional realm so they are ready to enter the world of work.

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