

Literacy Strategy Information for Users of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu Library

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ABSTRACT

Research purposes. The Muhammadiyah Bengkulu Library made an information literacy activity aimed at students of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu. This paper discusses the purpose of information literacy class service activities to increase visitor interest and efforts for students' ability to optimize the role of libraries. **Research methods.** The method used in this study is a descriptive qualitative method. The data collection technique is by conducting interviews with librarians and students who participate in the information literacy class, data collection was carried out in March-August 2023. **Data analysis.** Interview activities carry out data from the interview results to data analysis, the data analysis process is carried out through the stages of data reduction, display and drawing conclusions or verification. **Results.** The result of the research that has been carried out is that in the information literacy class that the Muhammadiyah University Library Bengkulu has carried out, students are educated about the use of the Mendeley application in making bibliographic citations and citations of sentences, in addition to the literacy class carried out by the library of Muhammadiyah University Bengkulu also directs students who take part in the literacy class in a verified journal search strategy. **Conclusion.** The implementation of information literacy classes carried out by the University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta Library is to help Language in finding information and the use of tools in citations and directing students in the strategy of searching for verified journals.

Keywords: *Information Literacy Class; Information; Literacy; Library*

A. INTRODUCTION

In today's digital era, the need for information literacy is very important. Information literacy is the ability to access, evaluate, and use information effectively and critically. University libraries are one of the important places to help students improve their information literacy skills. However, sometimes users in university libraries still have difficulty in using the resources in the library effectively. To overcome this problem, it is necessary to implement information literacy classes for users in university libraries. Information literacy classes are activities that aim

to provide users with knowledge and skills to search for, disseminate, and utilize information sources effectively to support academic or professional needs. The library routinely holds literacy classes in the library meeting room according to the schedule set by the librarian (Asnawati, 2022). Academic librarians must be able to filter, integrate, and present information according to user needs, one of which is through information literacy class services provided by the Library (Qurotianti, 2020).

Information literacy classes can also provide an understanding of copyright and ethics in the use of information. With the implementation of information literacy classes, it is hoped that users in the university library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu can improve their information literacy skills so that they can be more effective in completing academic tasks and work. In addition, users can also become better users of library resources and can make the most of them. Therefore, university libraries need to hold regular information literacy classes for users.

Literacy skills need to be developed and applied in the process of increasing knowledge, especially within the scope of higher education. This study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of the information literacy class applied by the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu Library in increasing the reading interest of Library users. In the information literacy class, users can learn directly from experts or librarians who have knowledge and experience in this field. The purpose of this class is to provide library users with the tools to read digital-based information quickly and accurately while utilizing the Mendeley application. It is estimated that the existence of this class will improve the quality of information literacy, especially in the Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu.

The American Library Association (ALA) defines information literacy classes as "the process of accessing, evaluating, using, and sharing information ethically and effectively by individuals who have self-awareness of their information needs and the ability to develop effective information retrieval strategies" (Association of College and Research Libraries, 2015). In 2015, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) released a definition of information literacy. According to UNESCO, information literacy is the ability of individuals to access, evaluate, use and share information from various sources effectively and ethically. Information literacy is the ability to understand better how users find, locate, and disseminate the information they obtain by understanding effective information retrieval techniques. It is essential to acquire information literacy so that users can access library information and collections quickly and accurately. Information literacy includes the ability to find the information needed, understand the structure of the library, understand the resources available in it, and know how to use the available resources (Pattah, 2014). Information literacy in the form of user education is an academic activity that builds student literacy by equipping them with skills in finding and accessing information (Sistarina, 2020). The University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu Library, as an information provider, also has an information literacy class program for users.

The implementation of information literacy classes in college libraries aims to improve the ability of users to access, evaluate, and utilize information effectively and ethically in supporting academic activities (Buwana, 2023). According to Nurul Alifah Rahmawati (2019), literacy classes are an important program to create an information-literate generation with a focus on searching for scientific journals, using reference managers, and introducing search strategies using boolean operators. Information literacy classes are activities that aim to help individuals understand, access, evaluate, and use information effectively and efficiently in solving problems and supporting appropriate decision-making. Individuals can use information literacy classes as an effort to develop themselves in gain skills in the digital era today so that students' abilities in accessing and using library facilities and services can be utilized by their users optimally.

This study analyzes information literacy class activities for users of the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu library and the benefits obtained from attending literacy classes to see how much influence information literacy class activities have on users who attend these activities.

B. METHODS

The research method used in this study is a descriptive research method with a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a research process to understand human or social phenomena by creating a comprehensive and complex picture that can be presented in words, reporting detailed views obtained from informant sources (Sugiyono, 2016). This study was conducted to determine the strategy for implementing information literacy classes for users of the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu Library. Data were obtained from the results of information provided by informants from the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu library, namely librarians and lecturers of the study program who attended literacy classes.

The data collection techniques used in this study were interviews and direct observation activities. Interviews were conducted directly with librarians and lecturers of the study program concerned to obtain data on how the strategy for implementing information literacy classes that they had held. Direct observation was conducted with the aim of observing how effectively the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu Library carried out the information literacy class activities. Data collection was carried out directly by researchers from March to August 2023. The data analysis techniques used in this study were data reduction and verification. The collection of data that had been obtained from the results of interviews and direct observations was summarized so that the most relevant data could be selected and important things could be taken from the data that had been obtained. Data verification was carried out to conclude the data that had been obtained and re-evaluated from the activities that had been carried out.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Information literacy is an important provision for someone to search for information from various sources, as well as train critical thinking skills to analyze the information obtained so that it can be used appropriately in solving various problems (Oktafiani & Wasisto, 2023). Information literacy is the ability to search for, evaluate and use information effectively, which essentially includes a set of skills to search, analyze and utilize information as needed (Sulasari et al., 2020). One of the activities conducted by certain libraries is information literacy classes, which teach users or patrons how to use better the resources they collect. These classes teach students how to search for and transmit the resources they encounter. Literacy activities are designed to improve reading skills and mastery (Muslim & Salsabila, 2021).

Information literacy class activities aim to improve students' skills in finding and utilizing information sources in the library, as well as helping them avoid plagiarism by using the right tools to record and manage information ethically (Rahmawati, 2019). This class is also designed to help students develop the ability to use various tools and techniques to record and manage information in the right way so that they can avoid plagiarism. Through this learning, it is expected that students can understand the importance of ethics in the use of information and are able to produce original academic work based on a deep understanding of the sources used. The aim of holding information literacy classes in libraries is so that users/students can:

- a) Knowing what, where, how, and when information is needed is essential. With clear guidance from the library regarding the information collection it has, users will be able to utilize these resources better and correctly.
- b) Identifying information to ensure it is appropriate to your needs is an important step so that users can find relevant information quickly and accurately. With a clear understanding of information needs, the search process becomes more efficient and effective.
- c) Accessing information sources effectively and efficiently is an important skill for library users. This access can be done either through the library's online reference collection or manually.
- d) Evaluating information sources to ensure information is critical is an important step in the accuracy, relevance, and credibility of information. This process helps users to draw conclusions that suit their needs, so that the information obtained can be used optimally.
- e) Critically evaluating information sources is an important step in ensuring the accuracy, relevance, and credibility of information.
- f) Using information effectively means utilizing the information obtained in an appropriate and purposeful manner.
- g) Communicating information according to its function is an important step to ensure that the message delivered is clear and can be understood

correctly. This aims to avoid misunderstandings or misperceptions of the information provided.

The information literacy class program at the Muhammadiyah Bengkulu University Library is one of the strategies for user guidance activities held by the library at the Muhammadiyah Bengkulu University library which consists of basic literacy classes. Literacy classes are not just about the ability to read and write mechanically but include the ability to listen, speak, read, write, and count. Literacy also involves the skills to calculate, understand information analytically, communicate, and describe information based on understanding and draw personal conclusions (Wiedarti & Laksano, 2018). Students intend this class to help students at the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu search for electronic and conventional sources of information that are accurate and can be accounted for by the veracity of the information. The sources of information discussed in this literacy class are the flow of searching for journals based on official links, including Sinta Journal and Google Scholar, the use of digital repositories, and the flow of using the Mendeley application to create quotations and bibliography.

The study program that is most active and frequently participates in literacy class activities is the Indonesian Language Study Program, where it was found from the data that 45 people took part in this activity. This training will be held in April 2023, where this training activity is directed from the beginning to using the Mendeley application and being able to search for journals online. Students will be guided so that in these class activities the students are proficient in using the Mendeley application and can use sites. The information literacy class only has one mentor in its activities, so in this case, the mentor limits the participants taking part in this literacy class activity to a maximum of 25 people so that the activity is more conducive and students can understand the material presented carefully.



Figure 1. Literacy class activities at UMB

This literacy class activity is carried out by directly practising the search and search flow using a computer. So that students who take the literacy class can

better understand the material presented by the mentor guiding the literacy class activities. Apart from that, students who do not understand can also directly ask the mentor or literacy class guide about which material or practical activities they do not understand. By implementing literacy classes among students, of course the mentor who guides the literacy class must be taken into account. The mentor in this information literacy activity is a librarian who is also a senior category librarian at the Muhammadiyah Bengkulu University library. All librarians should understand in detail the material presented in the information literacy classes held. Providing this literacy class requires support both in terms of material and human resources, wherein literacy class activities as it should be, support is needed from the University so that this literacy class activity runs well and is of maximum benefit to the students who take it.

After that, the search for valid information journals was continued through Google Scholar and Sinta Journal information sources. The material presented was related to the focus and scope of information that was the aim of the search from journals on Google Scholar and Sinta Journal. In this activity, it was explained that things must be paid attention to when choosing sources of information through journals, such as the journal's reputation, coverage or relevance. Also, the year the journal was published. Literacy class activities at the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu library also introduce students to the rules of writing to equip them for the process of writing articles and theses at the end of the semester.

The Muhammadiyah Bengkulu University Library in information literacy class activities conducted two trainings, namely conducting training activities on creating Mendeley accounts and strategies for searching for information through journals.

I. Mendeley Account Creation Training

Mendeley is software that makes it easy to organize and organize references correctly, save scientific works in PDF format, and allow automatic citation settings according to the chosen format via plug-ins for Word and Open Office, with the ability to change and choose the citation format easily, according to Zhang in (Zahro & Nugraha, 2021). Mendeley is a computer and web program developed by Elsevier for managing and sharing research papers, searching for research data, and collaborating online (Goma et al., 2022).

Mendeley account is one of the tools that facilitate the use of application software for managing references and citations. Thus, this application can be a useful learning tool for new students as well as help update according to existing rules. Mendeley integrates with Microsoft Word, allowing users to easily add direct references to documents, with citations automatically formatted according to the selected citation style. (Syakila et al., 2021). Students often use the Mendeley application to facilitate the creation of a bibliography and situations in writing scientific papers. In addition, Mendeley also functions as a tool to organize references efficiently, thus minimizing errors in compilation and reducing the risk of plagiarism. Mendeley training is a program needed by students, especially those

who are taking a final project, as well as lecturers in article research (Ramadhani et al., 2023). What was explained by the mentor in the training activities carried out in the literacy class was as follows:

- a) Creating a Mendeley account, in this activity the mentor who directs the students in the literacy class will explain the use of the Mendeley application. Steps in creating a Mendeley account,
- b) Introduction to the features on the Mendeley website. In the information literacy class activities carried out by the Bengkulu Muhammadiyah Library, the mentor who carries out the activity will explain and introduce what is presented in the Mendeley application, the features presented in it and what are the uses and functions of each feature presented in the application.
- c) Download and install the Mendeley Desktop application. You can also download the Mendeley application by accessing the page <https://www.mendeley.com/downloads>. The Mendeley application that has been downloaded can be saved first in the computer drive.
- d) Added literature in Mendeley. Information literacy class activities carried out by the Muhammadiyah Bengkulu University Library will guide students who take the literacy class to be able to use the Mendeley application, so that by carrying out this activity the mentor provides direction on how to add literature to the Mendeley application.

2. Journal Search Direction Strategy

A journal is the result of research conducted by a writer which can be used by students as a reference tool to make it easier for students to write written work. Some of the sites suggested by mentors in searching for journals that students can use include:

1. Google Scholar
2. Sinta Journal
3. Garuda Portal
4. Ipusnans
5. E-Resources
6. Doaj

This journal search was directed and supervised directly by the mentor concerned to see how far the participants took the information literacy class to understand how well the participants received the material provided by the mentor in searching for journals online using several sites suggested by a mentor in the information literacy class at the Muhammadiyah Bengkulu University library. With the information literacy possessed, students become more understanding of how to search for the correct information (Sundariyati, 2023). The benefits of information literacy classes held by the Muhammadiyah Bengkulu University Library are as follows:

- a) Students can use and make maximum use of the Mendeley application as one of the tools used in compiling the final paper they are working on.

- b) Students become more focused in looking for journal sources that can be used as references when searching for information.
- c) Increase students' ability to recognize the information they need and related sources that they can freely access
- d) Providing skills education or the basics of information competency to users in the most appropriate way.
- e) To fulfill the requirements for writing a policy thesis, the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu has instructed all students to utilize the Mendeley application to create quotations, citations and bibliography lists.
- f) Help students evaluate information and sources critically
- g) Creating a foundation for lifelong learning
- h) This activity creates opportunities for students to become independent learners by involving them in the use of various sources of information that can expand their knowledge.
- i) Utilizing digital tools in academic work processes, such as writing papers, articles or theses, through Mendeley as a citation management tool.

D. CONCLUSION

The information literacy class at the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu library is a program designed to educate students in making optimal use of information. This program aims to enable students to search for information effectively, use the sources found wisely, and evaluate the credibility of information to avoid plagiarism. This literacy class provides an understanding of how to find, use and process information efficiently, especially for academic and research needs. One of the methods provided is the use of writing tools that can help avoid plagiarism. This program also emphasizes the importance of searching for structured and systematic information, as well as how to utilize this information in quality scientific writing.

The information literacy class program at Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu consists of several training sessions, starting from basic literacy classes. Students who take this class are expected to be able to understand the material better, with guidance from competent mentors. The mentor in charge of this literacy class is a senior librarian who has experience and skills in information management. The role of the mentor is very crucial to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of literacy classes. Through this program, students will not only gain skills in searching for and using information effectively. However, they can also improve their research abilities, as well as broaden their horizons in an academic world that is increasingly dependent on good information literacy.

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