

## Utilization Of Digital Library To Increase Reading Interest In Elementary School Students

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**Abstract.** The existence of a school library information system can improve the quality and speed of the service process for library users so that it can facilitate the teaching and learning process in the school environment. The purpose of this research is to find out the use of digital libraries can increase the reading interest of elementary school students. The method used in this research is Literature review. Literature review is a scientific study that focuses on one particular topic. The literature review will provide an overview of the development of a particular topic. Literature review will allow a researcher to identify a theory or method, develop a theory or method, identify gaps that occur between a theory and its relevance in the field / to a research result. The results of the study stated that with a digital library, students no longer need to bother bringing books to read or study, only by opening the digital library application, students can access all sources of information in the digital library. In the digital library, many things can be found, be it e-books, pictures, magazines, story books and so on that are already stored in the digital library. The conclusion is that the current use of digital libraries is very much needed in an effort to be effective in reading literacy so that it can increase student interest in reading. However, the weakness is that currently there are not many schools that have not utilized the applications used in making digital libraries so that access is still very little.

**Keywords:** Digital Library, Reading Interest, Elementary School

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The school library is a work unit in schools that is tasked with collecting, managing, and presenting the work of human intellectual abilities for the benefit of education, research, preservation, information and recreation which has the aim of educating the nation's life and is aimed primarily at all school members: students, teachers, staff, school committees, even parents [1]

The library is a medium in finding information related to science. The development of information technology at this time makes it easier to process information through digital or computer-based technology. Utilization of information technology in libraries according to [2], [3] consists of two things, namely: (1) Information technology is used as a library management information system; (2) Information technology as a vehicle for storing, receiving, and disseminating scientific information in digital format. Information technology-based (computerized) libraries are very much needed.

The existence of a school library information system can improve the quality and speed of the service process for library users so that it can facilitate the teaching and learning process in the school environment. In addition, digital libraries can help manage libraries more easily and can increase effectiveness and efficiency in library management [4] Digital libraries are more than just a collection of digital texts and other objects. For someone can obtain scientific information or knowledge.

According to Lesk (1997) in the first textbook on the topic: a digital library is an organized collection of digital information. They combine the structure and collection of information, which libraries and archives have always done, with the digital representations that computers have made possible. There are continuous additions. The culture of

interest in reading or literacy must be fostered in the life of the Indonesian people, because mastery of literacy can open horizons, broaden horizons, and understand the world in a wider scope.

Improving reading culture is very necessary. In increasing the level of knowledge of resources in Indonesia, the government has launched a school literacy movement. With the existence of digital literacy, it can make one of the solutions to problems in increasing interest in reading in the world of education in particular, and society in Indonesia in general. With various appeals, the digital library is expected to be able to foster interest in reading among students so that the literacy skills of students and the Indonesian people will increase. Thus interest in reading will grow [6]

Lack of knowledge about the use of digital library applications, causes information related to books and other learning resources to be obtained manually (checking directly) and borrowing transactions manually. In increasing students' reading interest, a library application is needed to process data from books, magazines, pictures, and others related to scientific information, which can make it easier for students to access information easily and quickly. Therefore, the digital library application acts as a medium to increase students' reading interest.

Borgman (1996) provides a more complex definition (including extensive discussion) of digital libraries, a definition that can be considered a bridge between the definition of a research community and the definition of a practical community: A digital library is a set of electronic and technological resources related to the primary capabilities for creating, searching, and use the required information. Digital libraries are extensions and enhancements of

information storage and retrieval systems that manipulate digital data in any media desired, where digital library content includes the data, and metadata required. Digital libraries are built, collected, and managed, by and/or the user community, and the capabilities their functionality in supporting the information and use needs of the community. In this definition, the elements in the construct subject or candidate for evaluation are: electronic resources of digital data in any medium; the technical ability to create, search and use information; information search; metadata; and user communities—their information needs and uses [5]

According to [6] the use of digital libraries or digital libraries is very necessary considering that currently learning for elementary school students is mostly done at home to anticipate the spread of covid-19. It is very important to take advantage of the use of digital libraries in online-based learning. Access to digital libraries can make a difference for some students thereby stimulating interest in books and literacy in a way that benefits their reading and writing achievement.

However, in reality there are still schools that are not optimal in utilizing the school library, both in carrying out their functions or in terms of management and service of school libraries as infrastructure facilities. Another thing that makes the use of the library not run optimally can be due to the lack of knowledge (professional) of the librarian or teacher who is chosen as the library manager. In addition, the collection of libraries in the school library also has a very important influence on students' reading interest

The problem that occurs in the field is the readiness of schools or teachers to provide digital library applications for implementation in learning. Many schools and teachers have not utilized the various existing applications to create digital libraries, even though currently there are many application platforms that can be used to create digital libraries. These platforms include AppGeysers, Flipbook, Flashcard, web, e-books and others.

Based on the problems above, the formulation of this research is how the use of digital libraries can increase the reading interest of elementary school students? While the purpose of this research is to find out the use of digital libraries can increase the reading interest of elementary school students. The urgency of this research is that digital libraries are currently needed to be able to develop students' reading interest without having to be limited by time, space, and place. The network with a digital library makes it easier for students to access information related to books and so on more easily, whenever and wherever they are.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this research is Literature review. The literature review according to Ronwey (in Cahyono et al., 2019) is a scientific study that focuses on one particular topic. The literature review will provide an overview of the development of a particular topic. The literature review will provide a direction for researchers to be able to identify a

theory, or technique, step in developing a theory or method, so as to detail the gaps that occur between a theory and the relationship between problems in the field and a research result. In the preparation of scientific literature, there will be many things that can involve several stages of the process including finding appropriate literature, conducting selection and assessment of literature review sources, examining themes and gaps between theory and field conditions when found in the field, making an outline structure and compiling review literature review [7]

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Definition of Digital Library

Based on the results of the researcher's search through a literature review, there are several schools that have implemented a digital library. For this reason, researchers are interested in examining the use of digital libraries to increase reading interest in elementary school students. The aim is to find out the benefits of using a digital library in increasing the reading interest of elementary school students.

The library is a container that can be used as a place in the implementation to collect information, reason, present, and serve the information needs of library users.[8]. Digital library is a service information system of an object related to information that supports access in searching for information objects through digital devices [9]. According to Eze (2014) (in Divayana et al., 2018) Digital libraries are about access to the provision of collections on a digital platform, in the form of services, and infrastructure to support continuous learning, scientific communication and the preservation and preservation of knowledge that is recorded and can be accessed on the internet. anywhere and anytime.

According to [8], what distinguishes ordinary libraries from digital libraries is the existence of collections. Whereas collections in a digital library Digital collections do not have to be in a physical place, while ordinary collections are located in a permanent room in the form of a library room. The second difference appears from the concept. In a digital library, it is identical to the internet or a computer, while an ordinary library is books located in the library room. The third difference is that digital libraries can be enjoyed by anyone anywhere and anytime, whereas in conventional libraries users usually can enjoy them in the library at the hours that have been arranged by the library manager.

The practical and complete use of digital libraries can not only be had for free, but can also be downloaded from the Appstore, Google Play & Windows Store. By downloading this application and saving it on your smartphone, tablet or laptop; so all Indonesian students can study anywhere and anytime. It is not impossible that remote areas of Indonesia where the distribution of school books is not smooth, can still learn according to national education standards. With the use of digital libraries, teachers can use the application to continue to provide the learning that their students need.[5]

Based on what has been described above, a digital library is a form of digital library that uses information technology in its use, which can be accessed anytime, anywhere and under any circumstances.

### *B. Advantages and Disadvantages of Digital Library*

Menurut According to [8], some of the advantages of digital

libraries are as follows. 1) remote service, meaning that with a digital library, users can use the service as they wish, whenever and wherever. 2), a way of access that is not complicated so that information can be done easily. Access to digital libraries is easier than conventional libraries, because users do not need to be bothered by searching the catalog for a long time. 3), at a low cost (cost effective). Digital libraries don't cost much. Digitizing library collections is cheaper than buying books. 4), prevent plagiarism and plagiarism. It is hoped that the digital library is more "safe", in its use so that it will not be easy to plagiarize. If the library collection is stored in PDF format, the library collection can only be read by the user, without being able to edit it. Fifth, publication of works globally. With storage that is easily accessible and well protected, with the existence of a digital library, works can be published widely, throughout the world with the help of the internet.

In addition to advantages, digital libraries also have disadvantages. 1), not all authors allow their work to be digitized. Of course, the author will think about the royalties that will be received if his work is digitized. second, there are still many Indonesians who are blind to technology. Moreover, if this digital library is developed in libraries in rural areas. Third, there are still few librarians who do not understand the norms of digitizing library collections. That is a need for socialization and counseling about digital libraries

Association of Research Libraries (ARL) (1995) (in[9] defines digital libraries as follows: 1) Digital libraries are not a single entity. 2) Digital libraries require technology to be able to connect to various resources. three) the correlation between various digital libraries and news services for users is transparent. 4) Universal access to digital libraries and news services means a goal. five) Digital library collections are not limited to document representation; the collection extends to digital artifacts that cannot be represented or distributed on a printed format.

### *C. Tujuan Digital Library*

According to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), 1995 (in [9], are as follows: 1) to launch a systematic development of how to collect, store, and organize information and knowledge in digital formats. 2) to make the delivery of information economical and efficient in all sectors. 3) to encourage collaborative efforts that greatly influence investment in research resources and communication networks. 4) to strengthen communication and cooperation in research, trade, government, and the educational environment. five) to assume an international leadership role in the next generation and dissemination of knowledge into critical strategic areas. 6) to increase lifelong learning opportunities.

Purpose of Digital Library As expected in the initial idea, digital library aims to open the widest access to information that has been published. Digital library is one form of library development from the platform side, namely the change from the manual platform to the digital platform. The discovery of the concept of an e-book (electronic book) with various platforms starting from pdf, ebook, djvu, and so on opened the door wide for a library unit to transform from a manual library to a digital library.

The Role of Libraries in Fostering Students' Interest in Reading There is no doubt that the inculcation of reading habits must begin at an early age and there is no doubt that schools are the right place to cultivate reading interests and norms for students, especially the role of libraries. (Faisal, 2021)

Optimal use of the library will have an impact on increasing student interest in reading. Interest in reading in students can be increased with parental guidance and encouragement, motivation by teachers, cultivation of desired hobbies and interests, constant use of dictionaries, reading daily newspapers and books from parents and visiting the library [10]

If the use of the library includes the function of the library, the availability of book collections, and the management carried out by the library runs in a balanced manner, it will be able to assist in increasing student interest in reading. [1]

According to [11] reading interest covers how a person's attitude towards the reading process is. When someone has a positive feeling response, it can be said that someone has an interest in reading. Thus, overall reading interest can be interpreted as a person's tendency which is characterized by the emergence of feelings of interest in reading materials and reading activities, so that it will cause someone to do reading activities voluntarily, where in reading activities involve an attitude that enjoys and wants to continue reading in long term and sustainable.

Interest in reading is the desire, willingness and encouragement of the students themselves. In addition, reading interest is an interest that encourages us so that we can feel interest and pleasure in reading activities and gain extensive knowledge in reading activities, whether reading books in order to understand written language. Interest in reading is also a process from the students themselves. [2]

Students' reading interest can be supported by technology, but their use must be limited and accompanied by parents. Implementing reading habits and interests in students is very important to create students who have developed knowledge and thoughts, besides that it is also to carry out the obligations of Indonesian citizens, namely the intellectual life of the nation and state. Reading habits and interests can be started from an early age, because early childhood is the right time to create good habits that will be carried into adulthood. [12]

### *D. Utilization of the Digital Library in Increasing the Reading Interest of Elementary School Students*

The results of the study [13] related to the analysis of the ICT library program in increasing reading interest in students showed positive results because most of the respondents (53.33%) answered that they be happy to read with this ICT library program. The average value of this statement is 3.43 with an interval scale position of 3.28-4.03 this shows that this ICT library activity has a positive influence in terms of increasing interest in reading in its students. Judging from the results of the overall average value of the analysis of the ICT library program in increasing the reading interest of students in grades IV and V, it is 3.17, with an interval scale position of 2.52-3.27 indicating this activity is positive to be carried out as a fostering students' reading interest at SOU Parung-Bogor.

While the results of research [14] are the effectiveness of digital literacy services as a supporting tool to increase student interest in reading during the Covid-19 pandemic. This article review uses a literature review. The factors that influence students' reading interest consist of two factors, both internal and external. Especially now with the Covid-19 pandemic that the learning process has undergone a very significant change which was originally done in person, now learning is done face-to-face virtual. So that indirectly students experience limitations in getting reference material for reading, this makes students' interest in reading lessen. Digital literacy services are considered effective enough to increase student interest in reading during the Covid-19 pandemic. This can be seen from the majority of students who prefer to read through digital library services because a lot of information can be obtained easily. However, in the use of digital literacy services, in the digital library during the Covid-19 pandemic, there needs to be collaboration between parents and students.

The results of the study [15] state that digital libraries can be the best friends for the community, to enjoy quality reading anytime and anywhere.[16] This digital library is also capable of displaying information in the form of a web that can interact with users and the general public to find sources of information needed about the library. So that users can still access all information without the need to visit the library location to keep reducing mobility during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on the results of the research above, that using a digital library has a significant positive effect on students' reading interest, and using a digital library makes it effective in students' digital literacy so that it can increase reading interest in elementary school students.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Pemanfaatan The current use of digital libraries is very much needed in an effort to be effective in reading literacy so that it can increase reading interest in students. With a digital library, students no longer need to bother bringing books to read or study, only by opening the digital library application, students can access all sources of information in the digital library. In the digital library, many things can be found, be it e-books, pictures, magazines, story

books and so on that are already stored in the digital library. Digital libraries can be created through the web, Google applications, or through the Playstore application. The existence of a digital library is very useful to increase students' reading interest, especially elementary school students. However, the weakness is that currently there are not many schools that have not utilized the applications used in making digital libraries so that access is still very little. Hopefully, the development of TPACK-based learning will encourage teachers and schools to be able to use digital libraries in learning so that students' reading interest increases.

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