

# THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LIBRARY DIGITIZATION IN INCREASING STUDENTS' READING INTEREST AT MAN 1 MEDAN

Laila Ali Tanjung <sup>a\*)</sup>, Mesiono <sup>a)</sup>

<sup>a)</sup> Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia

<sup>\*)</sup> Corresponding Author: [lailaalitanjung123@gmail.com](mailto:lailaalitanjung123@gmail.com)

**Article history:** received 21 May 2025; revised 02 June 2025; accepted 27 July 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.33751/jhss.v9i2.12461>

**Abstract.** Libraries play an important role in increasing students' reading interest. Digitalization expands access and attracts the interest of the younger generation, although challenges in accessing technology still exist. Evaluation of the effectiveness of digitization is necessary. The role of teachers, parents, and collaboration between libraries, schools, families, and government support is crucial for optimally supporting literacy development. The digital library at MAN 1 Medan shows that digital library services play an important role in increasing students' reading interest. The effectiveness and accessibility of the digital library, as well as the factors influencing its use, significantly contribute to the increase in students' reading interest. The digitization of the library at MAN 1 Medan significantly enhances students' reading interest. The research uses a qualitative approach with methods such as literature study, interviews, observations, and documentation from students, teachers, and librarians. Data is analyzed through reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing, and its validity is tested through triangulation. The research results are expected to provide a clear picture of the effectiveness of library digitization and serve as a reference for future studies. The digital library implemented since 2024 aims to increase students' reading interest by providing access to a more diverse collection and digital applications. Digitalization is effective if supported by good implementation and the active role of teachers. Accessibility, ease of use, internet network quality, and the relevance of digital collections are important factors. Despite its great potential, digital libraries require more outreach, adequate infrastructure, and support from various parties to achieve optimal results.

**Keywords:** Student Reading Interest, Library Digitization, Accessibility, and Stakeholder Support

## I. INTRODUCTION

Libraries, as centers of information and knowledge, play a very important role in the world of education. However, with the rapid development of information technology, many libraries face challenges in attracting students' reading interest. The digitization of libraries has become one of the solutions expected to enhance accessibility and attract the attention of the younger generation towards books and literacy. In this context, it is important to explore the effectiveness of library digitization in increasing students' reading interest. The development of school libraries based on information technology is not separate from government policies regulated in Law Number 43 of 2007 Article 23 concerning School Libraries, where paragraph 5 explains that school libraries (madrasahs) develop library facilities based on information and communication technology. Furthermore, paragraph 6 explains that schools (madrasahs) allocate at least 5% of the school (madrasah) operational budget or non-personnel and capital expenditure for school development. From the explanation of this article, it is clear that school libraries should allocate at least 5% of the school operational budget for library development, one of which is by developing library services based on information and communication

technology. One type of library that uses information and communication technology in its services is the digital library. (Rubiatul, 2021) The advancement of technology today drives many changes in human life from the information era to the digital era in all fields, one form of utilizing current technological advancements is digital libraries. (Ruddamayanti, 2019)

Talking about digital libraries, we are always connected with discussions about information systems. In the information system model, there are five components involved: hardware, software, network, brainware, and dataware. (Sarhini, 2014) If the school library is managed well, it will provide significant benefits, especially in fostering students' reading interest. Efforts to cultivate a reading interest will also be easier and more effective if done from an early age. This means that by getting used to reading books, students will sharpen their minds and thinking patterns. Reading should also be made a daily activity, and it should be loved and, if necessary, made a basic necessity for students. The low reading interest is influenced by the rapid development of digital technology, which has resulted in a decrease in the level of interest in reading books among students. Reading interest is a deep fascination with the activity of reading, which serves to enhance the reader's

knowledge or simply to fulfill the reader's recreational needs. There are several factors that drive reading interest, namely, "a high curiosity about facts, theories, principles, knowledge, and information." The condition of the physical environment is adequate, meaning the availability of interesting, high-quality, and diverse reading materials. The condition of the social environment is more conducive, meaning there is a climate that is always utilized at certain times for reading. A thirst for information, a curiosity, especially for current events. Believing that reading is a spiritual necessity. (Siva Suralyn Fauziah, 2019) Digital Library is a system that has services and various supporting information objects. And can be accessed through digital devices. This facility is expected to make it easier for students to access information about lesson materials, search for information in learning that is not available in books, in various formats such as documents, images, and databases accurately and precisely. (Ali Rohmad, 2009). This digital library is an educational medium that actively involves students in the process of searching for information in an economical manner. Thus, this digital library can help students address issues related to their daily learning activities. (Sotarno, 2006)

The digitization of libraries encompasses various aspects, ranging from archiving books in digital format, providing online access to collections, to the use of applications and digital platforms to facilitate information retrieval. With digitization, students can access various sources of information anytime and anywhere, without being limited by time and place. This is expected to reduce the barriers that students often face in accessing books and learning materials. There are many factors and issues that arise in the world of libraries. Among them is the issue of digital preservation or the activity of maintaining digital data so that it can be utilized for a long time. One of the activities carried out is the data backup process. There have been several incidents that have become fatal problems for library managers, such as data loss that halts the service process. Therefore, the backup process needs to be carried out regularly. (Fiqu Mafar, 2012). Just like offline libraries, to realize a library based on information and communication technology as mentioned above, significant costs are certainly required. Limited funding can hinder the management of digital libraries, including the procurement of digital collections, maintenance, services, and providing allowances for their staff. For that reason, the most important thing here is support from all parties. Besides the government, the role of the head of the madrasah in realizing a professional library based on information technology is very crucial. Without the support and attention of the head of the madrasah as the policymaker, the school (madrasah) library cannot develop according to the demands of the times. (Sugiharto, 2023)

In addition, the digitization of libraries also allows for more engaging interactions between students and reading materials. Through digital platforms, students can participate in discussion forums, provide reviews, and share book recommendations with their friends. This social interaction can create an environment that supports reading interest and encourages students to be more active in reading activities. However, although the digitization of libraries offers many advantages, challenges still remain. Not all students have

equal access to technology, and there is a possibility that students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds will fall behind. Therefore, it is important to evaluate the effectiveness of library digitization in a broader context, including social and economic factors that affect accessibility. In this study, the author will analyze various case studies of libraries that have successfully implemented digitization and its impact on students' reading interest. Although library services have transformed into digital, the reality is that there are still significant obstacles related to students' reading interest. Digitalization alone has not been able to address the main issue, which is students' laziness to read. This is reflected in the still low reading interest, indicating that the internal motivation factor of students has not been adequately met. In addition, the library, both physical and digital, has not yet succeeded in becoming an attractive place for students, so they are neither encouraged nor motivated to visit the library. This issue indicates the need for a more comprehensive approach, which not only focuses on providing digital facilities but also on strategies for developing reading interest and enhancing the library's appeal to students. It is important to evaluate how the digital library services at MAN 1 Medan are implemented, including the availability of resources, user interface, and technical support. This will provide an overview of how well this service meets the needs of the students. Although digital libraries offer broader access to information sources, it is necessary to investigate the extent to which this service is truly effective in increasing students' reading interest. This includes an analysis of changes in students' reading behavior after using the service. The level of accessibility and ease of use are key factors that can influence reading interest. If students find it difficult to access or use the digital library, this can hinder them from reading more. Therefore, it is important to assess how well these services are designed to meet user needs and to identify factors that can affect the effectiveness of library digitization, such as content quality, user training, and technological infrastructure. Furthermore, this research will also consider the roles of teachers and parents in supporting students' reading interests. Although the digitization of libraries can improve access, support from the surrounding environment remains important for building positive reading habits. Therefore, collaboration between libraries, schools, and families needs to be strengthened to create a better literacy ecosystem. In the context of education in Indonesia, the digitization of libraries is also in line with the government's efforts to improve literacy among students. Government programs that support the digitization of education are expected to have a positive impact on students' reading interest. This research will explore how these policies and programs contribute to the effectiveness of library digitization. Finally, this research aims to provide recommendations for library managers, educators, and policymakers in designing more effective strategies to increase students' reading interest through digitization. By understanding the relationship between library digitization and reading interest, it is hoped that a more conducive learning environment can be created, supporting the development of literacy among the younger generation. The library plays a very important role. Therefore, school libraries must be managed professionally in accordance with

national library standards, taking into account national education standards and adapting to the developments in information and communication technology of this era. In managing this library, it is certainly necessary to have a good, meticulous, professional manager with expertise in the field. Based on the above background, I am interested in researching "The Effectiveness of Digital Libraries in Increasing Students' Reading Interest at MAN 1 MEDAN."

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method, relying on books and scientific journal articles as reference sources. The aim is to understand the phenomenon of library digitization and students' reading interest. The research subjects include students, teachers, WKM (Vice Chairman of the Madrasah), and library staff. The data collection techniques used are in-depth interviews, participant observation, and documentation.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

**Student Digital Library Services at MAN 1 MEDAN**  
A library is an institution that collects, stores, and provides access to various types of information and resources, both physical and digital. At MAN 1 Medan, the digital library was introduced in September 2024 to increase students' reading interest. Previously, the physical library, which has been around since 1996, only provided limited access. This digital library allows students to read and borrow books anytime and anywhere. The digital library website has a menu classified by subjects, as well as providing additional reading materials. The use of the SLiMS application makes it easier for students to access the book collection. Library services include a comfortable reading area, with a flexible visiting schedule. Students must fill out a barcode and visitor list before entering, and are prohibited from bringing food and drinks to maintain cleanliness. Interviews with the Vice Chairman of the Madrasah, teachers, students, and librarians indicate that the digital services were newly implemented this year, with challenges in socializing and students' understanding of the existing services. Although there has been progress, efforts are still needed to increase awareness and usage of the digital library among students.

The effectiveness of the digital library in increasing students' reading interest at MAN 1 MEDAN. The effectiveness of the digital library at MAN 1 Medan is measured by its ability to achieve the goals of providing information access, supporting learning, and enhancing user experience. This program aims to improve information accessibility and the efficiency of searching for learning resources, so that students can find academic references more quickly. To enhance the effectiveness of the literacy program, schools need to involve public elements, such as parents and alumni, in the planning and implementation of the program. The digital library program at MAN 1 Medan is expected to increase students' reading interest by providing access to

books and information online. There are four indicators of the effectiveness of library digitization proposed by Subagyo:

### 1. Program Target Accuracy

This program is aimed at all students at MAN 1 Medan, regardless of their grade level. Socialization from teachers is very important to encourage students to use the digital library.

### 2. Program Socialization

Planned and systematic socialization is necessary to ensure the success of the program. Training on the use of the digital library application is also conducted to facilitate students.

### 3. Achievement of Program Objectives

The main objective of the program is to facilitate students in reading and searching for information, as well as to increase reading interest. Evaluation is conducted to ensure the alignment between the implementation results and the set objectives.

### 4. Program Monitoring

Monitoring is conducted to observe the progress of program implementation and identify any potential issues that may arise. The results of interviews with WKM, teachers, students, and librarians indicate that the digitization of the library has increased students' reading interest. Respondents agree that access to a larger and more relevant collection, as well as support from teachers, is crucial to maximizing the effectiveness of the digital library. In conclusion, although the digitization of the library has shown progress, the success in increasing students' reading interest highly depends on effective implementation, the relevance of the collection, and support from all related parties.

The level of accessibility and ease of use of the digital library contributes to the increase in students' reading interest at MAN 1 MEDAN. The level of accessibility of the digital library at MAN 1 Medan refers to how easily users can access and use the available resources. This ease of use is very important for increasing literacy and reading interest in the community. Features that support efficient collection management and data security also contribute to a better user experience. The digital library at MAN 1 Medan allows students to easily access a variety of book collections and information, unlike conventional libraries which have limitations in time and space. The user-friendly interface and efficient search system help students find books quickly, reducing the frustration often experienced when searching in a physical library. One of the advantages of a digital library is the ability to borrow books online, which is very beneficial for students with busy schedules. In addition, the use of audio-visual rooms allows students to access learning materials in the form of videos and multimedia, creating a more interactive learning experience. The digitization of libraries also expands students' access to a wider collection of books, including e-books and online journals. Digital libraries can serve as platforms for other literacy activities, such as book discussions and reading clubs, which encourage students to share their reading experiences. From an educational perspective, an increase in reading interest can have a positive impact on students' academic achievements. However, the success of digital libraries also depends on effective promotion and user training efforts. Based on interviews with

WKM, teachers, students, and librarians, it can be concluded that:

1. Positive Impact on the Educational Process: Accessibility and ease of use of the digital library support the students' educational process.
2. Increased Reading Interest: An easily accessible digital library can enhance students' reading interest.
3. Shared Perspective: All respondents agree that digitization supports education and increases reading interest.
4. Relationship Between Accessibility and Reading Interest: Good accessibility encourages students to read more actively.

In conclusion, the level of accessibility and ease of use of the digital library plays a crucial role in increasing students' reading interest and supporting the educational process at MAN 1 Medan.

Factors affecting the effectiveness of library digitization in increasing students' reading interest at MAN 1 MEDAN. Several factors influencing the effectiveness of the digital library at MAN 1 Medan include user satisfaction, information quality, user training, as well as internal and external environments. Ease of use and technical support also play a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of digital library services. One of the main challenges is the limited network capacity, which can affect the user experience in accessing the digital library. Fast and stable internet access is crucial to support teaching and learning activities. If the network is inadequate, students may experience slow loading times when searching for information, which can reduce their interest in using the digital library. Network limitations also affect the use of audio-visual rooms, where students might experience buffering when accessing multimedia learning materials. In the context of remote learning, an unstable connection can hinder students from attending online classes. Therefore, increasing network capacity becomes a priority to support a more effective learning process. From the interviews with WKM, teachers, students, and librarians, it can be concluded that:

1. Internet Connection: The limited network capacity is a factor that affects the effectiveness of digitization, with slow connections hindering book searches and borrowing.
2. Relevant Digital Collections: The availability of digital collections that meet students' needs can increase reading interest and the use of digital libraries.
3. Ease of Access and Use: The accessibility and ease of use of digital libraries greatly influence how often students utilize these resources.
4. Stable Internet Availability: A stable internet connection is an important factor that supports the effectiveness of library digitization.

In conclusion, the effectiveness of library digitization in increasing students' reading interest is influenced by the quality of the internet network, the relevance of the digital collection, and the ease of access and use. Efforts to improve the infrastructure and collection of digital libraries are crucial to achieving that goal. Based on the research conducted with the Deputy Head of the Madrasah (WKM), teachers, students, and librarians regarding digital library services at MAN 1 Medan, it can be concluded that although there have been positive steps in the implementation

of digital services, such as the use of the SLiMS application to facilitate book searches, there are still challenges in terms of socialization and students' understanding of these services. This indicates the need for further efforts to increase awareness and usage of the digital library among students. Furthermore, regarding the effectiveness of digital libraries in increasing students' reading interest, all respondents agreed that digitization has contributed positively. Access to a more diverse collection and good implementation are key in attracting students' reading interest. Support from teachers and engaging activities are also necessary to maximize the benefits of the digital library. In terms of accessibility and ease of use, respondents emphasized that these two factors significantly influence the educational process and students' reading interest. Good access encourages students to read more actively, thereby increasing overall reading interest. Lastly, the factors affecting the effectiveness of library digitization include a stable internet connection, the relevance of the digital collection, and ease of access and use. Efforts to improve the infrastructure and digital library collections are crucial to achieving the goal of increasing students' reading interest at MAN 1 Medan.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The conclusion of the research on digital library services at MAN 1 Medan shows that although there has been progress in the implementation of digital services, such as the use of the SLiMS application, there are still challenges in socialization and student understanding. This indicates the need for further efforts to increase awareness and usage of the digital library. All respondents agreed that the digitization of libraries positively contributes to students' reading interest, with access to a more diverse collection and good implementation as key factors. Support from teachers and engaging activities are also needed to maximize the benefits of this service. Accessibility and ease of use are important elements that influence the educational process and students' reading interest, where good access can encourage students to read more actively. Factors affecting the effectiveness of library digitization include a stable internet connection, the relevance of digital collections, and ease of access and use. Therefore, the improvement of infrastructure and digital library collections is very important to achieve the goal of increasing students' reading interest at MAN 1 Medan.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Ai Sri Wahyuni, Rahmi Hayati, S. R. (2019). Efektivitas Pelaksanaan Pelayanan Administrasi Terpadu Kecamatan (Paten) Di Kecamatan Jaro Kabupaten Tabalong. *Japb*, 2(2), 421–434.
- [2] Alifah, M. J. N., Setyawan, P. F., Khusna, P. M. Al, & Luzsanti, D. (2023). Menumbuhkan Minat Baca Anak Usia Dini Melalui Media Pojok Baca Di Ra Sunan Giri Dan Kb Sunan Giri Desa Ngebruk. *Empowerment: Jurnal Pengabdian Pada Masyarakat*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.51700/empowerment.v3i1.424>



- [3] Arum, A. P., & Marfianti, Y. (2021). Pengembangan Perpustakaan Digital untuk Mempermudah Akses Informasi. *Information Science and Library*, 2(2), 92. <https://doi.org/10.26623/jisl.v2i2.3290>
- [4] Hasanah, H. (2017). TEKNIK-TEKNIK OBSERVASI (Sebuah Alternatif Metode Pengumpulan Data Kualitatif Ilmu-ilmu Sosial). *At-Taqaddum*, 8(1), 21. <https://doi.org/10.21580/at.v8i1.1163>
- [5] Hidayah, I., Aliyah, I., & Akademik, P. (2023). *Liberosis: Jurnal Psikologi dan Bimbingan Konseling*. *Liberosis: Jurnal Psikologi Dan Bimbingan Konseling*, 1(1), 1–8.
- [6] Journal, C. D., Kerina, Y., Atmaja, L. K., & Rustinar, E. (2023). Literasi Siswa Melalui Program Klub Literasi Sekolah. 4(3), 6721–6726.
- [7] Negara, I. W. S. A., Dewi, M. S. A., & Dharma, I. M. A. (2022). Irje : Jurnal Ilmu. *Indonesian Research Journal on Education: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan*, 2(1), 283–289.
- [8] Nilamsari, N. (2014). Memahami Studi Dokumen Dalam Penelitian Kualitatif. *Wacana*, 8(2), 177–1828. <http://fisip.untirta.ac.id/teguh/?p=16/>
- [9] Pantow, Claudia. Kaawoan, J. K. N. (2019). Efektifitas Pemekaran Kecamatan Dalam Meningkatkan Kualitas Pelayanan Publik Di Kecamatan Tomposo Barat Kabupaten Minahasa. *Jurnal Eksekutif*, 3(3), 1–11. <https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/jurnaleksekutif/article/view/25489>
- [10] Pendidikan, B. (2023). *Jurnal Al Maesarah : Jurnal Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat MENINGKATKAN MINAT BACA ANAK MELALUI PROGRAM PONDOK BACA ANAK HEBAT ( AHE )*. 2(1), 17–24.
- [11] Pradana, F. A. P. (2020). Pengaruh Budaya Literasi Sekolah Melalui Pemanfaatan Sudut Baca Terhadap Minat Membaca Siswa di Sekolah Dasar. *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Konseling*, Vol 1(2).
- [12] Prasanti, D. (2018). Penggunaan Media Komunikasi Bagi Remaja Perempuan Dalam Pencarian Informasi Kesehatan. *LONTAR: Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi*, 6(1), 13–21. <https://doi.org/10.30656/lontar.v6i1.645>
- [13] Pratiwi, D. R., Purnomo, E., Wahyudi, A. B., & Saifudin, M. F. (2022). Menggali nilai karakter dalam ungkapan hikmah di sekolah dasar se-Karesidenan Surakarta. *Jurnal Fundadikdas (Fundamental Pendidikan Dasar)*, 4(3), 241–255. <https://doi.org/10.12928/fundadikdas.v4i3.4795>
- [14] Ritonga, Z. S. (2020). Perencanaan Pendidikan Dalam Upaya Peningkatan Mutu Pendidikan Di Smp Swasta Graha Kirana Medan. *Equity In Education Journal*, 2(2), 77–87. <https://doi.org/10.37304/eej.v2i2.1673>
- [15] Retno Wulandari Dewi, Muhamad Sholeh, 2021, “Efektivitas Layanan Literasi Digital Untuk Meningkatkan Minat Baca Siswa Di Masa Pandemi Covid-19” *Jurnal Manajemen Pendidikan*, Fakultas Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Negeri Surabaya
- [16] Rusniasa ,N,M, N. Dantes , N.K. Suarni, 2021, “Pengaruh Gerakan Literasi Sekolah Terhadap Minat Baca Dan Hasil Belajar Bahasa Indonesia Pada Siswa Kelas Iv Sd Negeri I Penatih” *Pendasi: Jurnal Pendidikan Dasar Indonesia Vol.5 No 1*,
- [17] Santri, A., & Abdillah. (2020). Pengaruh Minat Baca dan Disiplin Belajar terhadap Hasil Belajar PAI Siswa SDN 105304 Sarilaba Jahe Sibiru-biru Kabupaten Deli Serdang. *Jurnal Ekonomi, Sosial & Humaniora*, Vol. 1(No. 6), hlm. 2.
- [18] Sarbini, P. B. (2014). Tinjauan Buku. *Perspektif*, 9(2), 187–190. <https://doi.org/10.69621/jpf.v9i2.60>
- [19] Sarika, R., Gunawan, D., & Mulyana, H. (2024). Analisis Kemampuan Membaca Pemahaman Siswa Kelas V Di Sd Negeri 1 Sukagalih. *CaXra: Jurnal Pendidikan Sekolah Dasar*, 1(2), 62–69. <https://doi.org/10.31980/caxra.v1i2.801>