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Analysis of the library's role in improving learners' literacy skills in primary schools

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Abstract

One of Malang's top libraries, Muhammadiyah Elementary School No. 4 Library offers excellent facilities, infrastructure, and a range of literacy-boosting programs. The goal of this study is to determine how Muhammadiyah Elementary School No. 4's library contributes to children' increased literacy in the current digital era. The study's technique was qualitative. To gather information about the study subject and study objects in the field, the researcher employed observation, interviewing, and documenting techniques. The chief librarian and the research documents were the study's topics and objects. The chief librarian's interview served as the major data source, while the results of the observation and documentation research served as the secondary data source. The outcomes of the results of the survey analysis showed that both the volume of books checked out and the number of library visitors are not constant. However, it was discovered through the numerous activities carried out by the library that the function of the library in raising the literacy rate of Malang Muhammadiyah Elementary School fourth grade pupils is entirely doable.

Keywords: *Role; library; literacy.*

INTRODUCTION

Information literacy according to (Setyowati, 2015), is a collection of abilities. Understanding the need for information and how to find, assess and use it. A series of abilities make up information literacy. The goal of teaching literacy is to develop individuals who are independent, trustworthy and internationally competitive.

Syafutri & Saputra (2022) explain that literacy is a social behavior involving the ability to access, understand, and use information related to knowledge, language, and culture through various activities, including reading, viewing, listening, writing, and speaking, in order to improve quality of life. Reading and writing are components of literacy. This is in line with the Ministry of Education and Culture's definition of school literacy. The ability to access, understand and use knowledge effectively through various activities, including reading, viewing, listening, writing and speaking, is referred to as school literacy. If learners read and write, this definition describes literacy activities (Komalasari, Riani, 2023).

The library is often used for learning other than in class, but it also serves as a place for learner recreation. Learners usually go to the library to complete class assignments, do group work, or look for book references. Information Technology and Science over time develop with human thought itself, so that science and information technology develop quickly. Advances in science and information technology can help the quality of life of a nation, as well as education (Idhamani, 2020).

Eskha (2018) states that a library is a work unit within an institution that contains a collection of books which serve as a support in enhancing learning resources, organized to be read, studied, and used as reference materials. In essence, the growth of libraries in society serves as a barometer and indicator of society. Libraries are one of the resource options available to learners and have a variety of information to meet their needs. A school library is a location where a selection of books and other reading materials are offered for educational purposes in order to encourage learners' academic activities (Mujahidin, Sunarsih, Toharudin, 2022).

Previous research on the Role of Libraries in Supporting the School Literacy Movement explored how libraries can help promote literacy in schools. The study found that school libraries are very important to the literacy movement as innovators and founders (Padila, Fauziah, 2023).

A number of innovations have been made by communities and governments to encourage young people to read more, especially by creating literacy programs, expanding the accessibility of library resources and creating literacy initiatives are examples. Here is one way to implement a literacy program: Before the lesson starts, have each learner read for five minutes (Kartini & Yuhana, 2019; Ramandanu, 2019).

Improving school library infrastructure and facilities is another strategy to increase students' interest in reading. (Saadati & Sadli, 2019) School libraries are activities of collecting, processing, and disseminating (services) occurring in libraries. A library is a place where information activities of all kinds, in written form and through various media, including books, magazines, newspapers, and so on, are processed and disseminated (services). (Kastro, 2020; Fitriani, 2017). The purpose of the school library is to serve the information needs of students.

Based on preliminary studies at Muhammadiyah 4 Elementary School in Malang City, the author conducted direct observations in the school library and interviews with the head of the library about how the library plays a role in improving the literacy skills of Muhammadiyah 4 Elementary School students in the current digital era. The results found that the library plays a role in improving students' literacy skills. The library of Muhammadiyah 4 Elementary School in Malang city has infrastructure, facilities and facilities that support students' activities. In addition, through various activities in the library and habituation carried out before learning begins with the cooperation of class teachers. This improves students' literacy skills when viewed from the results, impressions and messages after the activity and data on students' visits to the library.

RESEARCH METHODS

Qualitative research methodologies were used to carry out this study. For the purpose of producing descriptive data in the form of written documents, researchers performed observations, interviews, and documentation on the topic and object of research in the field. The primary data gatherer for in-depth data or information is the author.

The study was carried out at Muhammadiyah 4 Elementary School in Malang, a private elementary school in Malang. In order to draw conclusions from the research, the school library was carefully observed, the head of the library was interviewed, and statistics on visitors and book loans were recorded.

Table 1
Grid interview guidelines

Research variables	Indicator
Library	Role, basic concept, types of services, facilities and infrastructure, activities, visitors and borrowers
Literacy Skills	Library Influence, Challenge, Factor, Strategy or Role

The validity of the research materials was established using triangulation techniques, and then data analysis was carried out. The researcher applied the Miles and Huberman technique for data analysis. Data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion are the three steps in this method.

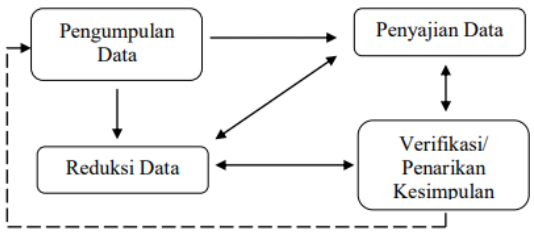


Image 1
Miles and Huberman

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The library of SD Muhammadiyah 4 Malang has several certificates, namely the certificate of appreciation given by the Head of UPT Library of Muhammadiyah University of Malang on May 10, 2022, the certificate of appreciation given by the Head of UPT State University of Malang on May 10, 2022 and the certificate of appreciation by GRAMEDIA Malang for its commitment in developing children's interest in reading through library materials on September 12, 2022. The East Java Province Education Quality Assurance Center (BBPMP) conducted monitoring and assessment of literacy results in the SD Muhammadiyah 4 Malang library on June 20, 2023. The principal, school literacy team and library staff welcomed the BBPMP team. The school website, which contains writings by learners, received much praise from the BBPMP committee. The library website, which consistently features short stories and book reviews, was also praised by the BBPMP team. She also praised the library's collaborative strategy, saying that it inspires children's imagination and new ideas without pressuring them to write.

Interviews with resource persons as informants form the basis of the findings of this study. The informant was the head of the library of Muhammadiyah 4 Elementary School in Malang City on September 29, 2023. Based on the formulation of problems and indicators in the research that has been carried out using the methods of observation, interviews, document studies and documentation, it is presented about "Analysis of the Role of Libraries in Improving Literacy Skills of Learners in Elementary Schools".

This research describes how the library plays a role in improving the literacy skills of Muhammadiyah 4 Elementary School students in Malang City in the current digital era. The research discussion focused on two variables, namely libraries and literacy skills. Based on the results of research and data analysis, it can be seen that the role of the library in improving the literacy skills of Muhammadiyah 4 Malang City Elementary School students in the current digital era is explained as follows.

A. Library

Libraries are academic and cultural institutions that have collections, reading rooms, and centers of information and knowledge. Libraries have a role in information literacy and education. In addition, libraries also function as community, cultural, and social centers for interaction and exchange in academia, society, and the arts (Saptari, 2023).

The role of libraries in education is important as one of the supporters of learning, for recreation, entertainment of students and literacy development of students. The Muhamadiyah 4 elementary school library in Malang city has a vision of instilling ethical, creative and productive character through literacy. Its purpose or mission is to disseminate knowledge and ways of thinking necessary for the growth of today's information and knowledge society. Secondly, to provide students with access to educational resources that help them cultivate a love of learning and critical thinking so that they can become productive members of society.



Image 2

Library

The types of services provided by the school library are circulation services or borrowing and returning services, children's services such as games and educational events, audio-visual services such as movie reviews, multimedia services, namely services to access computers that are connected to the

internet, collaboration services with other schools and outside presenters such as DISKOMINFO, students, etc.

The Muhammadiyah 4 elementary school library in Malang city has 3 floors, the 1st and 2nd floors are the library and the 3rd floor is the rooftop which will later be used as an ADIWIYATA LAB. The facilities and infrastructure owned by the library include facilities, namely there are bookshelves, reading tables, fans, TV projectors, study chairs and tables, computers and internet access, meeting rooms, reference centers, audiovisual facilities, toilets, storage rooms, special collections and relaxing areas.

The library book collection is tailored to the needs of students, teachers and the school. There are a total of over 2000 physical books and 500 digital books owned by the school. The types of books are children's stories, Islamic children's stories, pictorial vocabulary, early childhood stories, foreign languages learning, bilingual children's stories, comics, fables, new book collections, Indonesian folklore, children's novels, COMIC (countries around the world), culture and culinary, history and geography, social, science, language, psychology, arts and sports, religion, magazines, holy books, guides, atlases, guidelines, biographies, children's encyclopedia, world encyclopedia, English dictionary, foreign language dictionary, Indonesian dictionary, laws, newspapers. In addition to books, the library also provides learning media that teachers can use in learning, such as maps, world globes, robots, statues of human organs, planets or solar systems, etc.

Activities that have been carried out in the Muhammadiyah 4 elementary school library in Malang city are holding virtual cultural exchange with Trafalgar Primary School in Australia, students exchange experiences and cultures about Indonesia and Australia.



Image 3
Virtual Cultural Exchange

The next activity saw the library transformed into a fairytale cake kitchen on March 17, 2023. Thirty cake decorators gathered together to learn cupcake decorating skills and produce their own works of art.



Image 4
Sprinkle Magic Cupcake

Other activities include Muhadjir Effendy, Minister of Education and Culture's visit to the Library as an inspiration and encouragement for students, Minecraft 2023 Building Competition: Creating an Ideal Library, making papercraft rabbits, decorating potato donuts, book review activities, collaboration with PAUD Melati Bangsa on pre-literacy learning, Islamic science experiments in the month of Ramadan, introducing culture and Japanese and Chinese by inviting students majoring in Japanese and majoring in Chinese, writing guidance, a day of being a journalist, socialization of healthy internet by literacy cadres and publications, science practices such as using microscopes and how energy changes, Creative Writing Training and Creative Instructions, exhibitions, bookmark contests, storytelling

services, reading guidance and film club goes to campus 1.



Image 5
Menko PMK Muhadjir Effendy

Furthermore, the movie review activity is supported by the New London Group's "multi-literacy approach" philosophy. The emphasis on the fact that literacy skills are no longer limited to reading and writing makes this strategy relevant. Learning in the school library can help learners improve their visual, digital and auditory literacy skills.

While the activities that will be carried out, namely the visit of each class to the library, planning open event activities for each learner, and future work programs with the cooperation of the ADIWIYATA team to create a LAB on the 3rd floor rooftop, the library is tasked with preparing a barcode in front of each plant and during the opening introduction of the new LAB ADIWIYATA invites the guardians of students to explain the differences in Toga plants to students. This partnership became the starting point of the PROLOGMU (MUPAT Ecological Literacy Program) initiative. A prologue serves as the opening of a story. Its basic purpose is to draw the reader's attention to the narrative. She thought that this partnership would encourage the children of SD Muhammadiyah 4 to read more.



Image 6
Team Adiwiyata dan Perpustakaan

All activities in the library cannot be separated from social learning theory because the school library can function as a social space where students can engage, socialize, learn and hone their literacy skills.

B. Literacy Skills

Brian Street's Social Literacy Theory is highly relevant and highlights the value of social context in literacy. Using this idea, we investigate in this study how the school library, through cultural books in the library, collaborative activities with overseas schools and foreign language student presenters to help learners understand social and cultural norms.

Cognitive learning theory explains how readers process and understand data from a text. And Henry Giroux's Critical Literacy Approach examines how school libraries can help learners to read books critically. This idea is supported by the routine of requiring learners to read for 15 minutes before learning begins and giving learners the opportunity to explain the books they read.

The influence of the library in improving students' reading literacy skills is by implementing 15 minutes of reading books before learning begins, so the reason this program was started was because in the past many students liked to read in the library but the library has not been able to measure whether students really like to read or just want to borrow books. Each class has been provided with a reading corner, which contains books depending on the number of students in the class. The library cooperates with the class teacher regarding the final results and rewards every month who often

reads and can explain in detail related to the books that have been read.

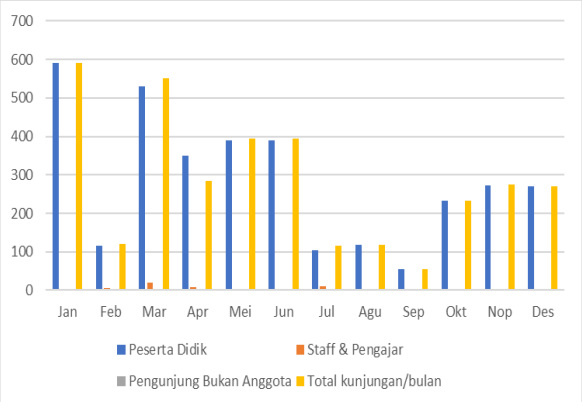
To improve the writing literacy skills of students, the library works with class teachers who are among the students who cannot write fluently or are still confused by the alphabet, then the students are taught to write intensely by the library individually. While the impact of the library on students' comprehension skills, namely after each event, the speaker invites students to review what was done that day, such as impressions and messages. For example, a movie review event, students are given questions such as the impression of the message, who is the character, how the ending of the movie.

The main challenge faced by the library in improving learner literacy is the current digital era so many of the learners prefer to play games and dislike reading, coming to the library only for multimedia services, namely computers. In addition, students are already busy with other activities such as studying, tutoring, extracurricular activities and parents who only support skills such as sports.

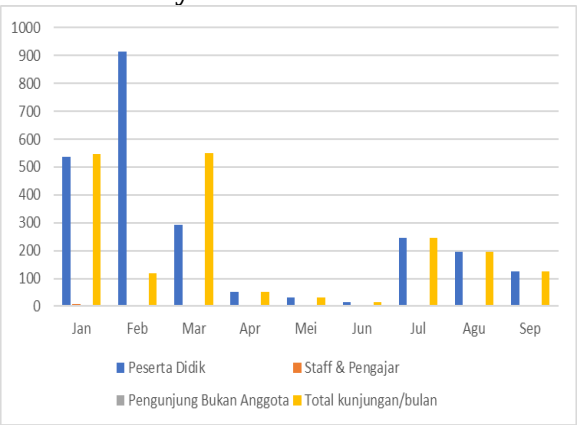
The strategy or role of the library in improving learner literacy, namely providing the best of learning media, book collections and facilities. So teachers and students are given a sheet to procure books for next semester to support learning and improve students' literacy skills and like to go to the library to read books.

Library visitor data in the form of a graph from January 2022 to September 2023 and book borrower data in the form of a graph from January 2022 to September 2023 to help draw conclusions.

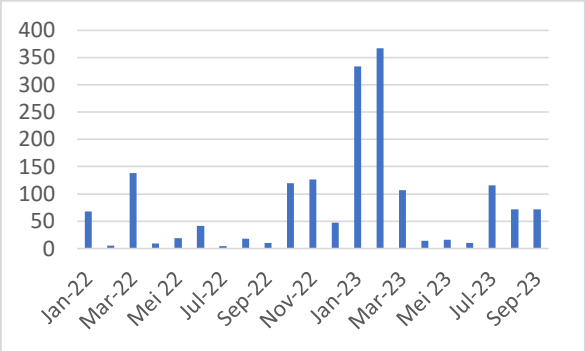
Graphics 1
Library Visitor Data 2022



Graphics 2
Library Visitor Data 2023



Graphics 3
Book borrower data



It can be seen from the library visitor data and book borrower data that the numbers are not consistent. This is because visitors are very crowded when the library has an event. And relatively quiet when it is in the month of Ramadan and semester holidays. Even so, library visitor data during ordinary learning days is quite a lot.

Previous research entitled "The Role of the School Library in Improving Reading Literacy of Grade IV Students of SDN Sawojajar 01" had results that were quite good, but did not consistently promote a reading culture. In contrast to previous research, this study when viewed from the data of visitors and book borrowers, the research results are classified as good even though the number of library visitors and book borrowers is not consistent.

Although the data on library visitors and book borrowers are inconsistent, the number of library visitors is relatively large and the

habituation of reading literacy 15 minutes before learning is consistently carried out. Therefore, the library team will continue to improve facilities and infrastructure, develop work programs or events and to keep students interested and return to the library, increase the book collection.

CONCLUSION

Based on research conducted at Muhammadiyah 4 Elementary School in Malang City, it can be concluded that data on library visitors and book borrowers from January 2022 to September 2023 reached inconsistent numbers. Therefore, the results of the research on the role of the library in improving the literacy skills of students at Muhammadiyah 4 Elementary School in Malang City are classified as good through programs or activities carried out by the library team.

The library has a routine 15-minute reading program before learning to improve reading literacy skills. Individual services teach writing to improve writing skills. Collaboration services with outside speakers, movie reviews, science practice activities, decorating donuts and cupcakes to improve information skills.

Library programs or activities can be carried out thanks to the cooperation of class teachers and the infrastructure in the library. Therefore, the author hopes that the library of Muhammadiyah 4 Elementary School in Malang City will continue to improve students' literacy skills. This can be achieved through future program plans or activities, program innovation, increasing book collections according to the interests of students and improving library services.

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