

Encouraging Community Reading Interest through Digital Libraries in Karawang Regency

Ine Nirmala¹, Nurul Ilmi², Fahrullah^{3*}

¹Prodi Pendidikan Islam Anak Usia Dini, Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang,

²TBM Tepas Ilmu, Forum Taman Bacaan Masyarakat Kabupaten Karawang,

³Perpus Jalanan Baca Kami, Forum Taman Bacaan Masyarakat Kabupaten Karawang

Corresponding Author: Fahrullah fahrullah.fahrul2314@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Reading Interest, Karawang TBM Forum, Digital Library

Received : 15, October

Revised : 20, November

Accepted: 18, December

©2022 Nirmala, Ilmi, Fahrullah: This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



ABSTRACT

Data from UNESCO shows that Indonesian people's interest in reading is only 0.001%, meaning that out of 1,000 Indonesians, only 1 person is an avid reader. This study aims to optimize the use of digital libraries, namely by making the community literate in technology and experiencing the various benefits of using digital libraries so that they can encourage people's interest in reading in Karawang Regency. We collect data by going directly to the community because we are literacy activists. The results of a survey in the community in Karawang Regency, from the age range of adolescents to adults, show that they have never visited the Regional Library of Karawang Regency. This implies that the interest in visiting the regional libraries to read books there is still low. This study aims to find out to what extent digital libraries can encourage people's interest in reading. In this digital age, people are more interested in holding gadgets than books. Recommendations for the Karawang Regional Library to be more aggressive in socializing digital libraries so that people can more easily access digital library services from their gadgets anytime and anywhere.

INTRODUCTION

Interest in reading is one of the benchmarks of a nation's literacy skills, because the progress of a nation can be seen from its literacy level, at least in reading. Reading is a powerful tool for detecting hoaxes, especially in this digital age. Not infrequently, to foster interest in reading, the library also renews the concept of a digital library. Karawang Regency, which is a city of rice storage, recently launched a digital library. On the other hand, Indonesian people spend about nine hours a day online and are very active on social media. This contradiction is the basis of writing.

Where social data as of January 2017 reveals that Indonesians stare at gadget screens for approximately 9 hours a day and are very active on social media, so that Indonesians are ranked 5th in the world. Some of the factors that cause low interest in reading include laziness, lack of self-discipline, high prices for books, difficulty accessing books, and social media being more attractive.

The culture of fostering interest in reading is carried out through the family, educational units, community, and environment. Good cooperation with several of these parties will soon be realized. The Regional Library of Karawang Regency recently published a digital library, but some people don't know about the Regional Library yet.

The research strategy is based on the characteristics of the main problem, namely the associative strategy. Associative research aims to determine the effect of two or more variables in order to provide an explanation for encouraging interest in reading through the Digital Library in Karawang Regency.

The strategy used through the research survey method was quantitative analysis. Sugiyono (2018) states that the quantitative method can be interpreted as a research method based on the philosophy of positivism, used to research certain populations or samples by collecting data using research instruments and performing quantitative or statistical analysis with the aim of describing and testing established hypotheses. In this study, we used a questionnaire as a data collection tool.

This study aims to optimize the use of digital libraries, namely by making the community literate in technology and experiencing the various benefits of using digital libraries so that they can encourage people's interest in reading in Karawang Regency.

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

A. The First Stage

This writing method uses the survey method. The planning and preparation stage is carried out by the implementing team in the first stage of this writing. The initial planning process includes determining the formulation of the problem, solutions, and activities to be carried out.

The initial stage of the activity was carried out by analyzing various community environments. The results of the analysis aim to determine to what extent Karawang Regency's digital library can encourage people's interest in reading. In this digital era, people are more interested in holding gadgets than books.

B. Second Stage

The second stage of this writing is the preparation stage of determining the questions that will be distributed in an online questionnaire.

C. Third Stage

The third stage of this writing is the implementation stage, which includes distributing questionnaires both offline and online, as well as online data collection because we are literacy activists, and we distribute them from internal to external.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. The Results of the Questionnaire

| | Question | | Amount | | Question | | Amount |
|---|-------------------------------|-------|--------|---|--|-------|--------|
| 1 | 15-25 years | 45,87 | 100 | 2 | Middle school/equivalent | 8,26 | 18 |
| | 26-35 years | 30,73 | 67 | | SMA/equivalent | 48,62 | 106 |
| | 36-45 years | 17,89 | 39 | | S1 | 31,65 | 69 |
| | 46-55 years | 4,59 | 10 | | S2 | 5,05 | 11 |
| | 56-70 years | 0,92 | 2 | | Other | 6,42 | 14 |
| 3 | | | | 4 | Where do you buy books? | | |
| | Never | 35,78 | 78 | | Bookstore | 41,74 | 91 |
| | 1-3 | 56,88 | 124 | | Online store | 36,70 | 80 |
| | 4-5 | 3,67 | 8 | | bazaar | 3,21 | 7 |
| | This is not all. | 3,67 | 8 | | Other | 18,35 | 40 |
| 5 | Where do you read books? | | | 6 | Are you familiar with digital libraries? | | |
| | Bookstore | 6,88 | 15 | | Know | 63,30 | 138 |
| | Library | 10,09 | 22 | | Don't know | 25,23 | 55 |
| | Ebook application | 23,39 | 51 | | Doubtful | 11,47 | 25 |
| | Office | 8,72 | 19 | | | | |
| | Campus | 6,88 | 15 | | | | |
| | School | 10,55 | 23 | | | | |
| | Social media | 33,49 | 73 | | | | |
| 7 | You know the Digital Library? | | | 8 | Which do you like more? | | |
| | Television | 0,92 | 2 | | Physical book | 27,06 | 59 |
| | Social media | 66,06 | 144 | | digital book | 19,27 | 42 |
| | Regional Library | 5,50 | 12 | | Physical and digital books | 43,12 | 59 |
| | Newspaper | 0,92 | 2 | | other | 10,55 | 23 |
| | other | 26,61 | 58 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--|-------|-----|----|---|-------|-----|
| 9 | Have you ever visited the Karawang Regional Library? | | | 10 | Have you downloaded the Karawang Digital Library application? | | |
| | Already | 37,61 | 82 | | Already | 7,80 | 17 |
| | Not yet | 57,80 | 126 | | Not yet | 84,40 | 184 |
| | Don't know | 4,59 | 10 | | Don't know | 7,80 | 17 |
| 11 | In your opinion, what are the benefits of the Digital Library application? | | | 12 | In your opinion, what are the negative impacts of digital libraries? | | |
| | makes it easy to find reference books or e-books | 16,51 | 36 | | It's uncomfortable for the eyes because you stare at the cellphone screen for too long. | 39,91 | 87 |
| | It's practical because it's already in the cellphone. | 17,43 | 38 | | When reading e-books on mobile phones, I am not focused and lack concentration. | 9,17 | 20 |
| | It's light because it doesn't physically carry a book. | 2,29 | 5 | | Making cellphone batteries run out quickly and slowing cellphone performance | 2,29 | 5 |
| | All answers are correct. | 63,76 | 139 | | Feeling dissatisfied because you can't hold the book physically | 5,96 | 13 |
| | | | | | All answers are correct. | 42,66 | 93 |

Questionnaire, 8th of June, 2022

According to survey results from several people in the Karawang Regency area, up to 57.80%, or 126 people, had never visited the Karawang Regency Regional Library. The temporary assumption from the survey results is that the people in Karawang Regency do not know about the existence of the regional library, so they may have never visited the Karawang regional library. Ideally, if people have a high interest in reading, the library can carry out its functions in accordance with the library's vision and mission. From the disperpusip.karawangkab.go page, it is explained that the library serves as a vehicle for lifelong learning in developing the potential of society in order to become human beings who believe in and fear God Almighty, have noble

character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become citizens of a democratic and responsible state by supporting the implementation of national education. The existence of libraries is to increase the intelligence and empowerment of the nation as well as provide a means of learning.

If we examine the meaning of "self-reading interest," namely an impulse from within, self-motivation, desire, and tendency to get close and dig deeper into a reading material, Siregar (2004) explains that interest in reading is a high desire or inclination of the heart, such as being passionate about reading. The tendency of the soul is what encourages someone to do something about reading (Darmono, 2001: 182). Interest in reading comes from having the self-awareness in one's heart to want to read and having an interest in reading. If we explore more deeply from a historical perspective, Islam has a strong tradition of grounding the meaning of "iqra," or reading, as one of God's commands to humans is to always read and have the urge to read a book or books.

There are many factors that cause people's lack of interest in reading, one of the most basic of which is the lack of reading habits instilled from an early age. The habit of reading books is very difficult to maintain in everyday life amidst the onslaught of gadgets in this digital era. Efforts to increase interest in reading in children must start with the family. Parents can set a good example for their children by showing an interest in reading, specifically by participating in reading activities with their children, such as selecting which storybooks they like and which storybooks to read first, and by providing alternative sources of reading material, such as magazines and newspapers, as an alternative to encouraging reading. children's interest in reading from an early age.

The National Library (Perpusnas) of the Republic of Indonesia, which was founded on May 17, 1980, was the forerunner of National Book Day, which was established in 2002 by the Minister of Education of Indonesia, Abdul Malik Fadjar. Since then, the 17th of May has been designated as National Book Day. The establishment of National Book Day has the aim of increasing public interest in reading. Not only at the central government level, but also at the local government level, various strategies have been implemented to encourage interest in reading among its citizens.

Likewise, the Karawang district government has a strategic role in encouraging public interest in reading, namely the "One Hour Reading Movement; One Million Books for the Nation's Generation; and the Declaration of the 2022 Educational Culture Movement" by the Regent of Karawang, dr. Cellica Nurrachadiana, at the commemoration of Indonesian Education Day. This activity was held in order to foster interest in reading among the people of Karawang Regency, and all elements can participate in book-raising. At least one person can donate one book so that the one million book-raising program can be carried out properly.

Furthermore, the Karawang Regency Government was chosen as one of the 190 regency cities in Indonesia that implemented the Movement Towards Smart Cities Program. The Smart City program is not always about technology but is related to work patterns and people's mindsets at work. With free wifi

points in centers where Karawang people gather and do activities, it is hoped that it can help Karawang people become literate in technology and take advantage of facilities' free wifi to access various information and data needed to support daily activities.

Data for 2021 from the Community Reading Center Forum Community shows that there are as many as 84 Community Reading Parks and Street Libraries that are joined and massively carry out various activities voluntarily, so Karawang is one of the areas with active literacy activists. At the time of the free reading booth, the children in the village were very enthusiastic. This shows that there is an interest in reading in the community, which is shown by the encouragement of the community to come to the reading stalls held by volunteers at the Community Reading Center and the street libraries on every corner in Karawang City. The limited availability of reading material collections means that Community Reading Centers and Street Libraries in Karawang have to work hard to find donations or exchange books with TBM and other street libraries.

In this digital era, there has been a shift in meaning when interpreting people's interest in reading, even though data from UNESCO stated that Indonesian people's interest in reading is low. However, our social media data as of January 2017 revealed that Indonesians stare at gadget screens for approximately 9 hours a day and are very active on social media. so that Indonesians are ranked fifth in the world. The number of writings uploaded on social media by Indonesian people Temporarily, it can be concluded that people read books in this digital era, but reading does not physically involve holding the book and reading it, but rather reading e-books or other writings in other forms, namely digital form.

Around 218 respondents indicated that 41.74%, or 91 people, bought books at bookstores and 36.70%, or 80 people, bought books through online stores. Furthermore, as many as 33.49%, or 73 people, read books on social media, and 51 people, or 23.39%, read books on e-book applications. From the survey results, it can be seen that information technology, or the use of gadgets and e-book applications, and social media can support interest in reading books. This is a new challenge that must be faced, especially by information providers, namely, how to facilitate the distribution of information quickly and accurately because it is in our hands. In everyday life, the use of gadgets and social media has greatly influenced our daily lives, which can facilitate the activities carried out. In this digital era.

Likewise with the existence of regional libraries in Karawang Regency, which continue to maximize services for the community, especially in the field of providing sources of reading materials and data by launching a digital library in 2022. The Karawang regional library, as one of the information providers whose existence is very important in the information world, must be able to adapt to the needs of the Karawang community in the digital era and must be able to answer these challenges. One of them is by creating a digital library that is connected to a computer network and applications used on mobile phones. A digital library is a library that stores data, be it books

(writing), images, or sound, in the form of electronic files and distributes them via computer networks (Juansyah: 2015).

A survey conducted by the writing team of 218 respondents found that 63.30%, or 138 people, already knew about digital libraries, 25.23%, or 55 people, did not know, and 11.47%, or 25 people, were unsure whether they knew or did not know about digital libraries. As many as 144 people, or 66.06%, are aware of digital libraries through social media; the remainder are aware of digital libraries through other media. The Karawang digital library application is still not widely downloaded. As many as 184 people, or 84.40%, had not downloaded the digital library application; the remaining 17 people had downloaded it but did not know about the digital library application. From the results of the survey, it can be seen that socialization about the existence of digital libraries must be even more intense.

There are many things that must be done together so that the use of digital libraries can be optimized, namely by making the community literate in technology and experiencing the various benefits of using digital libraries so that they can encourage people's interest in reading. Initially using physical books in terms of reading and collecting information and data. However, with the existence of a digital library, people can be stimulated to read because what people need in terms of data and information is already available and can be accessed in one device, namely on a mobile phone. Of course, the benefits that can be felt by digital library users will be felt if their interest in reading is also high. There is no reason not to read because everything can be obtained easily and is not limited by space and time.

Like two sides of a coin, the presence of digital libraries also has a negative impact in terms of using gadgets for too long. According to data, as many as 87 people or 39.91% felt uncomfortable reading writing on e-books/applications because the writing was too small or other things. 15.13% or 33 people feel unable to focus and lack concentration when reading ebooks in digital library applications because they do not directly hold the books physically and 93 people or 42.66% agree with this negative impact. However, in general, these negative impacts are limited to the excessive use of gadgets and physical impacts which can be overcome by wisely using gadgets when reading ebooks or searching for other data in digital library applications.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The development of Information and Communication Technology has a very big influence on social life. The new concept of reading books, where initially you had to go to the library or buy books in person, now switches to reading books in virtual form or e-books. The presence of a digital library for the community, especially the people of Karawang, offers a smart choice in today's digital era. The public is presented with millions of information, various book collection titles and data that is accurate, fast and easily accessible anytime and anywhere in one hand available in the digital library application. Local government support by providing several free wifi points making it easier for

the public to download and access information and data services in the digital library application.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank the Street Library, Community Reading Gardens Forum both in Karawang and in other areas for providing writing support. Thank you to friends who cannot be mentioned one by one.

REFERENCES

- The Central Bureau of Statistics of Karawang Regency (2018) Figures for the West Karawang District in 2018. Karawang: BPS Karawang Regency
- Juansyah. 2015. Definition of Digital Libraries. [Available] Online: <https://lib.umm.ac.id/article/detail/20151117103926/pengertian-perpustakaan-digital-digital-library-e-library/>
- Kasiyun, Suharmono. 2015. Efforts to Increase Reading Interest as a Means to Educate the Nation. PENA Indonesia Journal (JPI) Journal of Indonesian Literature and Teaching. Volume 1 Number 1, March 2015. ISSN: 2247-5150. Singaperbangsa University, Karawang.
- Mukhtar, Anas. Hidayat, Dayat. Shahid Ahmad. 2021. Management of Community Reading Parks in Karawang Regency. Karawang: TBM Remote Earth Karawang. Library and Information Science Study Program FBS Padang State University.
- Febianti, Fepi. 2021. The Literacy Movement in Increasing Public Interest in Reading Through the Role of Libraries and Librarians. Padang: Padang State University.
- Holy STAIN. Widayanti, Yuyun. 2015. Digital Library Management. Holy: Holy STAIN Official Site of the Karawang Regency Library and Archives Service. [Available] <https://disperpusip.karawangkab.go.id/profile/perpustakaan>
- Tamim AR, Zaini. 2017. Social History of Literacy in Indonesia; from Islamic Traditions to Policy Formulation. PPI World Education Commission. Surabaya
- Siregar, A.R. (2004). Efforts to increase reading interest in schools
- Darmono, S. 2001. School Library Management and Administration. Jakarta: Gramedia Widiasarana Indonesia.
- Andi Juansyah. 2015. Development of an Android-Based Assisted-Global Positioning System (A-GPS)-Based Child Tracker Application. Indonesian Computer University: Scientific Journal of Computers and Informatics (KOMPUTA) Edition, 1 Volume, ISSN 2089-9033