LITERATION OF DIGITAL INFORMATION OF LIBRARY WITH THE CONCEPT OF
DISTANCE EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITAS TERBUKA INDONESIA

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Abstracts:

The Universitas Terbuka is the 45th State University that was inaugurated by the government to provide opportunities for Indonesian citizens in remote areas to obtain higher education. Universitas Terbuka with a distance learning model continues to discover learning innovations, such as through the library. The implementation of digital literacy has been conducted by the library of Universitas Terbuka through social media and the Zoom application and is continuously practiced, the webinar services have turned into the most preferred service during the pandemic of Covid-19, where many study programs at Universitas Terbuka conducted learning and knowledge sharing. In each week, the average requests per week are 11 webinar service. In practice, the most common issue faced by the students on accessing digital literacy is the network. However, there is a good impact to the final examination (UAS) for students who access digital literacy.

Keywords: Distance Education; Universitas Terbuka; Webinar Services; Information Literacy; Digital Literacy

Introduction

The pandemic of Covid-19 has hit Indonesia in the middle of March 2020. The physical and social interaction have been restricted as a means of preventing the virus transmission. The government of Indonesia has stipulated Lockdown policy or known as the Large-Scale Social Restriction (PSBB) which impacted many sectors of daily life, especially in education sector. This condition has demanded people to adjust to the new situation and discover innovation to overcome such obstacle, in the sector of education the adjustment has been conducted by applying the distance technology. One of the most popular innovations is the ZOOM application. However, long before the pandemic hit, the Universitas Terbuka (UT) has been conducted the learning program through one-way online tutorials and online webinar tutorials (TUWEB).

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The Universitas Terbuka has practiced online learning since the academic period of 2004/2005, currently known as the Online Tutorial (Tuton). The number of Tuton participants continuously increases while the number of offline tutorial participants at the request of students (Atpem) decreases. This trend may lead the Tuton as the main media of service of Universitas Terbuka as a means of education access for students with various background. Universitas Terbuka shall put an effort to intensively develop Tuton in extending more students (Univeristas Tebuka 2017). However, Universitas Terbuka shall not only develop the service of Tuton which categorized in asynchronous nature, the service with synchronous nature shall also be equally developed.

Synchronous online learning has been developed by Universitas Terbuka on the academic period of 2017/2018 commonly known as the webinar tutorial (Tuweb). Tuton and Tuweb are website-based (Internet) learning systems. Tuweb is a face-to-face tutorial conducted through media, where the tutor and students are in different places during the learning process. The difference of Tuton and Tuweb is the learning time. Tuton is conducted with the process of asynchronously (not at the same time) meanwhile Tuweb is conducted based on the process of synchronously (at the same time).

The term of Open Distance Learning (PTJJ) implies a definition to address higher education system and distance learning system. The two systems imply one definition regarding education. The distance is the main character of this education system, meanwhile the open access to education and freedom of choice for students are the main characters of the open education system (Paulina Pannen, 1999: 24)

Tian Belawati (1999: 30) also emphasized the concept of open education which in English known as open education or open learning, this concept emphasizes the importance of system flexibility, especially in overcoming the constraints such as place, time, and aspects caused by the characteristics of the students. Meanwhile, distance education (distance learning) is a method purposely used to achieve an open education system. With the current student-based teaching paradigm for both distance education and common education, librarians will contribute as the most important role in facilitating learning. Presently, the accentuation on independent learning and directed study, librarians have the opportunity to develop themselves and become guards for information materials of an institution.

The distance learning system (PJJ) has been knows as the discovery of the 21st century, implying an innovation on education system not limited to space, place, time, and socioeconomics factors. The PJJ system provides access to education for anyone, anywhere, anytime. With these characteristics, the PJJ system is deemed as a solution to various educational problems, especially related to educational equity and democratization and a means of expanding access to all levels of

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society. Various legal instruments have enacted by the government such as the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 24 of 2012 concerning the Implementation of Distance Education in Higher Education, Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, Government Regulation Number 17 of 2010 concerning Management and Implementation of Education which was later amended by Government Regulation Number 66 of 2010, and Law Number 12 of 2012 concerning Higher Education. The PJJ system has become an integral part of the education sector in Indonesia, such system also enables the community to accessible education. This situation allows opportunities for various higher education institutions to actively participate in distance education.

Purpose

The purpose of digital literacy research is to discover the important role of distance education libraries in assisting academic community of Universitas Terbuka.

Distance Education Libraries

ACLR (Association of College and Research Libraries) in the Guidelines for Distance Learning Library Service defines distance education library services as "Library services in support of college, university, or other post-secondary courses and programs offered away from a main campus, or in the absence of a physical campus, and regardless of whether or where credit is given. Courses thus supported may be taught in a variety of formats or media, may or may not require physical facilities, and may or may not involve live interaction of teachers and students."

According to Lisa Robinson (2004: 85) the distance open education libraries is displayed when the library has taken part in handling distance education, either through written courses, teleconferencing and classes conducted outside the campus. The library has expanded its services by sending materials (or copy of materials) by mail to the students of distance education learning. The model of library physically located in one location but able to reach students outside the campus through communication is categorized as a model of library that provides information to a number of distance education programs.

Therefore, the principle in distance education libraries is a collection which enables remote access for the students. Thus, libraries in a distance open education system require a means of navigation and website development that allow library collections to be accessed remotely.

Digital Literacy

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The discovery of media technology in the 21st century replaced the position of traditional digital literacy which previously was sufficient for humans to survive in the new media era. Teachers and researchers in the field of informatics have conducted studies regarding the the essence of digital literacy in education sector. Digital literacy is commonly known as a combination of technical, procedural, cognitive, and social emotional skills. For example, the use of a computer program implies the application of procedural skills (such as processing files and editing visual images), including cognitive skills (such as the ability to intuitively describe or "read" visual messages embedded in a graphical user interface). Additionally, searching for data on the Internet is a work on the combination of procedural skills (working with search engines) and cognitive skills (estimating data, sorting wrong and biased data, as well as distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant data). Effective conversation includes the use of certain social and emotional skills.
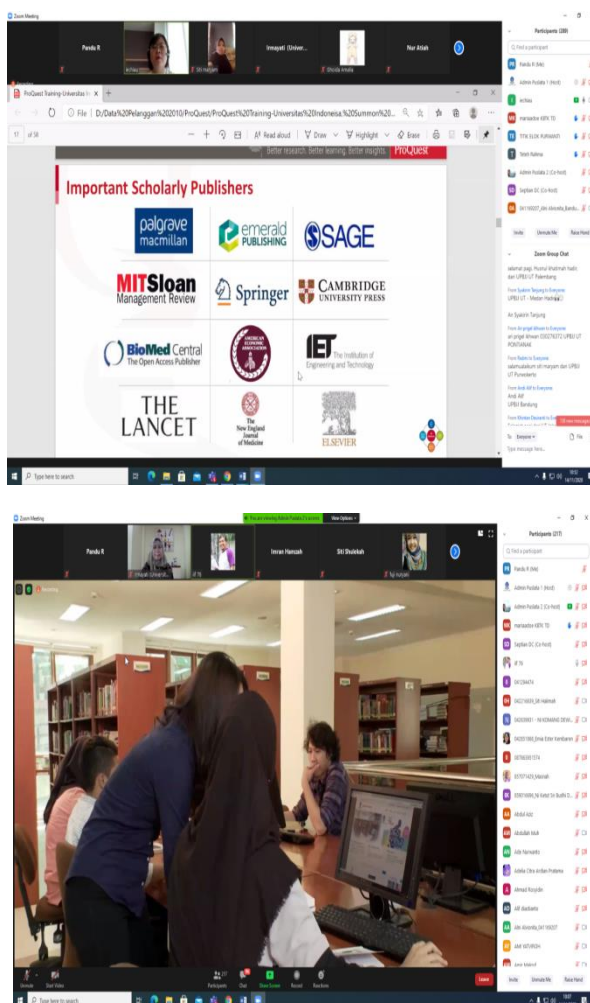
Method

This research is a qualitative descriptive research, addressing the perceptions of respondents encompasses the library users of Universitas Terbuka concerning the academic community of Universitas Terbuka and digital information services developed by the library of Universitas Terbuka. The information provided by the respondents were collected by conducted deep interview data collection method. Moleong (2007) emphasized that deep interview is a process of collecting information in a deep, open, and free manner with the concerning problems and focus. In this case, the deep interview method refers to the list of questions that have been prepared previously.

Population and sample

In this paper the respondents are the students of Universitas Terbuka who registered in the academic period if 2019. Meanwhile, the sample used is (10%) of students with online learning service. The primary data and secondary data were subsequently collected to conduct process and obtaining analysis.

Results and Discussion

In the era of information, libraries were categorized traditional in nature. However, it has been successfully developed into electronic libraries and presently the digital libraries. In the digital era, the role of information technology is significant in supporting the teaching and learning process. The Universitas Terbuka is a public university founded by the government in 1984 using the independent and open distance learning model. The students of Universitas Terbuka are scattered throughout the country and several other countries. One of the goals of establishing Universitas Terbuka was to provide opportunities for everyone to pursue higher education.

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For this reason, the library plays a role in helping students, namely through digital literacy services.

Result

The library of Universitas Terbuka experienced several problems on the information services. The problems are majorly regarding the network problems of students live in remote areas.

On several occasions, digital literacy has been attempted to use social media of the library, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Discussion

The most preferred digital information service is digital literacy via the ZOOM application, which proved to be sustainably demanded by the students.

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Images. Digital Literacy via ZOOM application

The most enthusiastic topic is E-Resource and exploration via inlislite
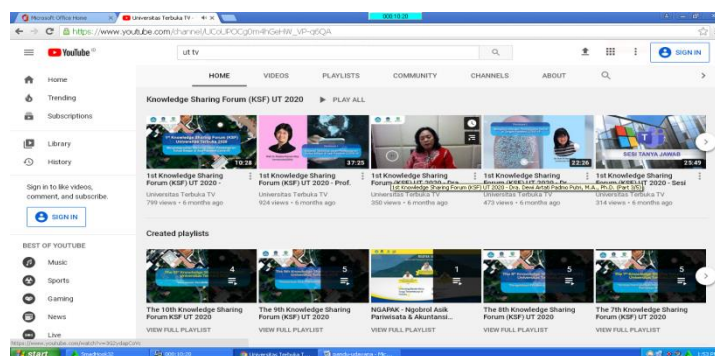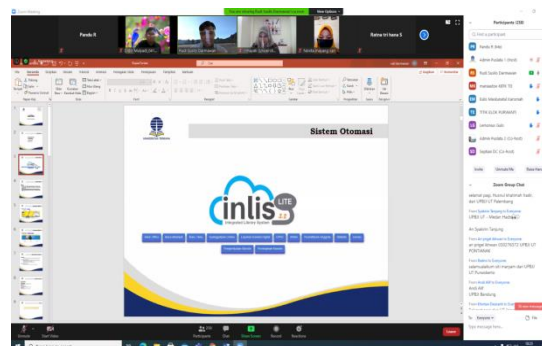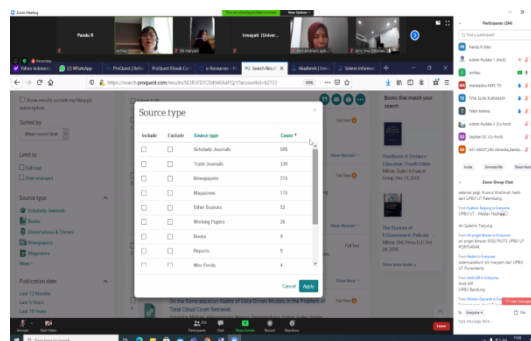
The webinar service has become the most preferred service for academic community of Universitas Terbuka during the pandemic. An average of 11 webinars are requested in each week.

The opinion of students regarding digital literacy

In general, students convey that digital literacy is adequately good and provides accessible means to obtain information, especially since the students of Universitas Terbuka have been practiced independent learning, therefore the digital literacy program is convenient.

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The students who take digital literacy convey positive response on the access provided with this program which impacted he results of their final examination. Meanwhile, the students use who do not use this program cannot enjoy the same advantage.

Internet Network Quality

The respondents convey that the quality of the internet network turns into significant issue due to the area they live cannot afford sufficient internet quality. In fact, the access of digital literacy programs requires sufficient internet network. The opinions conveyed by respondents regarding the quality of the internet network are as follow:

Respondent x:
"My problem is on the network, because my place is far from the city, the network is a rather stable, but manage to follow digital literacy.

Respondent y:
"For me, internet access is not a deal, although sometimes it is unstable"

Regarding the quality of the internet network, the respondents mentioned a suggestion that information about the implementation of digital literacy should be delivered prior to the implementation, in order to allow students preparing a location with stable network. Regarding the information on the implementation of digital literacy that has been run, the interval was too close to the implementation and resulting to short time of preparation to provide stable network for themselves.

Conclusion

The rapid development of science and technology has significant impact on the mankind. Many conveniences and innovations are obtained with the support of digital technology. The students of Universitas Terbuka need data literacy from the library for learning programs to obtain the information needed Digital literacy demonstrates the ability to gain advantage over digital technology to process data and information. For this reason, the role of the librarian will be significant in the learning process and improve the quality of Universitas Terbuka. From the foregoing discussion, it can be concluded:

-Digital Library Services need the latest innovations to assist students of Universitas Terbuka in the Learning process.

-Digital literacy services are still needed to help students find accurate and fast information.

-Webinar service is the most preferred service at the Universitas Terbuka during the pandemic of Covid-19.

- The common issues faced by students in accessing digital literacy are the network problems and time allocation between implementation of digital literacy and the prior information.

- Work

-The scheduling of digital learning is improper because it collides with working time.

-The certain locations experience difficulty in obtaining stable network

-The support of IT is excellent at assisting the access to the program.

Suggestion

Librarians shall maintain to update the information concerning digital literature as a means of learning activities.

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