

The Impact of the Availability of Library Resources on Reading Interest of MA YPP Jamanis Students

Barizah Amalia¹, Dea Anggriani², Widayanti³, Neneng Nurmalasari⁴

^{1,2,3,4}Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Tarbiyah Nahdlatul U Al-Farabi Pangandaran, Pangandaran, Indonesia

¹Email: barizahamalia@stittnualfarabi.ac.id,

²Email: deaanggriani@stittnualfarabi.ac.id,

³Email: widayanti@stittnualfarabi.ac.id,

⁴Email: nenengnurmalasari@stittnualfarabi.ac.id.

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Abstract (10 pt)

In an era of rapid scientific and technological advancement, school libraries are expected to serve as information centers and primary supports for the learning process. Technological progress has expanded students' access to various sources of information, making the role of libraries increasingly strategic in enhancing learning quality and fostering students' reading interest. Nevertheless, many school libraries, including the library of MA YPP Jamanis, still face various limitations in providing adequate services and resources. This study aims to analyze the influence of library resource availability on students' reading interest at MA YPP Jamanis. A descriptive qualitative method was employed, utilizing observation, interview, and documentation techniques. Data were collected directly at the research site to obtain a factual depiction of the library's condition. The findings indicate that the library at MA YPP Jamanis remains in a less optimal state. Limitations in collection quality and ineffective management contribute to low reading interest among students, as reflected in the minimal frequency of visits and book borrowings. Therefore, efforts to reorganize resources, improve the quality of collections, and develop digital-based services are required to strengthen students' literacy culture in a sustainable manner.

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1. Introduction

The rapid development of science and technology has significantly facilitated human access to information, particularly for students who require timely and comprehensive sources of knowledge. In the context of education, the library functions

as a scientific institution with a strategic role in supporting educational, research, and development activities by providing organized information across various fields of science and technology. As an integral component of educational institutions, school libraries play a crucial role in supporting the learning process and achieving curriculum objectives (Prastowo, 2013).

Scholars emphasize the importance of school libraries. Supyardi states that a school library is an institution established to support teaching and learning programs at formal educational institutions, both at the elementary and secondary levels. Meanwhile, Carter V. Good, as cited in Bafadal (2015), defines a library as an organized collection arranged within a space so that it can be utilized by students and teachers. According to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 43 of 2007 on Libraries, library resources include all personnel, facilities, collections, technology, and funding owned or managed by the library.

One of the primary functions of the library is to foster students' interest in reading. Reading interest is understood as a psychological tendency that encourages an individual to engage in reading activities (Siregar, 2005). Reading plays an essential role in intellectual development, as it enables individuals to expand their knowledge and fulfill their informational needs. Wiryodijoyo (1989) explains that for reading to become an enjoyable activity, strong collaboration between families and schools is required through motivation and the provision of adequate reading materials.

Reading ability is also a key indicator of educational success. Antoro (2017) emphasizes that literacy, including reading, is fundamental to educational progress, and educational achievement should not be solely measured by high academic scores but by the extent to which students develop strong reading habits. Reading interest is shaped by various factors, including family environment, school environment, community context, availability of reading materials (Tarigan, 2008), intrinsic motivation, and positive reading experiences (Krashen, 2004).

Previous studies have shown a relationship between library resources and reading interest. Research by Akbar et al. (2021) found that the quality of library services significantly affects students' reading interest. Similarly, studies by Cahyani and Ismiyati (2017) indicated that library facilities and services contribute to fostering students' reading motivation. However, each educational institution has its own context and challenges, making school-specific investigations necessary.

Preliminary observations conducted at MA YPP Jamanis on February 25, 2025 revealed several issues related to library management. The recording of book loans and returns is still performed manually, making book loss more likely and reducing the availability of collections. The use of library management software is not yet optimized, limiting students' access to the existing collections. Communication between librarians and students regarding library services and available reading materials is also not functioning effectively. Furthermore, book procurement has not been fully aligned with students' needs and reading interests.

These issues indicate that the library resources at MA YPP Jamanis are not yet functioning optimally to support the enhancement of students' reading interest. Therefore, this study is necessary to analyze the conditions of the school library and its influence on students' reading interest, with the aim of providing relevant recommendations for improving the school's literacy culture.

2. Material and Methods

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research method aimed at exploring and understanding phenomena in depth. This approach aligns with Creswell (2014), who states that descriptive qualitative research seeks to provide a detailed and comprehensive depiction of the phenomenon under investigation. The use of a qualitative method in this research is based on the consideration that the data obtained can illustrate the realities and daily activities occurring at MA YPP Jamanis, particularly those related to the condition of the library as the object of study. The research process

involves collecting data directly at the research site through recording observable, audible, and relevant information.

Data collection techniques include observation, interviews, and documentation. All collected data and sources of information were compiled into field notes, categorized, analyzed thematically, and interpreted to identify the contribution of the MA YPP Jamanis library based on the findings of the study.

Observations were conducted directly in the environment of MA YPP Jamanis to identify user activities, facility conditions, the atmosphere of the library, and interaction patterns within the library setting. These observations were carried out in a non-participatory manner, meaning that the researcher did not engage in the activities being observed.

Interviews were conducted with teachers and students who were considered knowledgeable and directly experienced with the existing library conditions. The purpose of the interviews was to explore respondents' perceptions, views, and expectations regarding the function and current condition of the library. Meanwhile, the documentation technique was used to complement the data obtained from observations and interviews by collecting relevant documents such as archives, photographs, and administrative records of the library.

3. Results

The findings indicate that the library at MA YPP Jamanis is currently in a highly concerning condition and can be categorized as neglected. Over the past several years, various challenges have emerged, particularly related to the inadequacy of library resources, which has contributed to the institution's declining functionality. One of the primary factors influencing this neglect is the limited quality and quantity of human resources, leading to suboptimal library services and poorly managed administrative processes.

The availability of reading materials in the MA YPP Jamanis library remains insufficient. The existing collection has not met students' needs or aligned with their

relatively high frequency of visits. Library holdings are still dominated by textbooks, non-fiction works, and handbooks, while fiction, reference, and supplementary materials occupy only a small portion of the shelves. Additional reference resources such as magazines, dictionaries, and atlases are also limited. The study further reveals that students' reading interest remains relatively low, as reflected in their minimal use of library facilities, low borrowing rates, and limited involvement in school-organized literacy activities.

This condition is further exacerbated by inadequate library resources, including collections that do not correspond to students' interests, manual and inefficient library management systems, and insufficient dissemination of information regarding available reading materials. These factors collectively demonstrate that reading interest among students at MA YPP Jamanis remains low.

Moreover, the library's limited use of technology and weak communication between the library and students hinder the development of a supportive literacy environment. These challenges highlight the urgent need to reevaluate the role, function, and availability of library resources in fostering students' reading interest. Strengthening library management through competent personnel is therefore essential to improving service quality and resource organization.

Environmental factors within the library building also impede optimal utilization. Restricted physical space and inadequate lighting contribute to an uncomfortable reading atmosphere, leading students to pay little attention to library facilities. Overall, these findings underscore the need for strategic improvements in library infrastructure, resource management, and literacy support systems to enhance the library's role in students' academic and personal development.

4. Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that the library at MA YPP Jamanis is in a concerning condition and tends to be neglected. This aligns with Sutarno's (2017) view

that libraries that are not managed professionally will experience a decline in their function as learning resource centers and as facilities for developing students' literacy. The lack of competent and trained human resources (HR) is one of the main factors contributing to the suboptimal library services. This is consistent with library management theory, which emphasizes that the quality of human resources is a fundamental component in determining the effectiveness of library services and administration (Sulistyo-Basuki, 2019).

The limited availability of library materials at MA YPP Jamanis also significantly contributes to the low utilization of the library among students. According to reading interest theory, the availability of diverse and relevant reading materials is an important determinant of motivation and reading habits (Tarigan, 2018). The dominance of textbooks and the scarcity of fiction, reference, and supplementary materials indicate that the library has not been able to meet students' information needs comprehensively. This finding is consistent with Rahmah's (2020) study, which states that inadequate variations in library collections directly impact the low number of visits and book circulation.

Furthermore, students' low reading interest is reflected in their limited participation in literacy activities, low frequency of library visits, and minimal book loans. From the perspective of literacy theory, this can be explained through the concept of the literacy environment, namely the physical and social environment that influences literacy behavior (UNESCO, 2015). The library environment at MA YPP Jamanis, which is characterized by limited space, inadequate lighting, and the absence of a modern literacy-oriented approach, hinders the creation of a conducive learning atmosphere. Thus, these findings reinforce the view that the physical environment of a library significantly affects user engagement.

The lack of technological utilization in the library also poses a barrier to creating effective services. According to digital library and information system theory (Chu, 2020), the use of technology is essential for facilitating information access, enhancing

service promotion, and improving collection management efficiency. However, the library at MA YPP Jamanis still relies on manual management, resulting in inefficient processes related to searching, borrowing, and managing collection data. The insufficient dissemination of information about available reading materials further worsens this condition.

The study also highlights the importance of competent library managers or librarians. Based on library service theory (IFLA, 2017), librarians serve as facilitators, educators, and information managers who assist students in accessing and utilizing information effectively. The absence of such roles at MA YPP Jamanis causes the library to fall short of its function as an effective learning resource center.

Overall, the study demonstrates that the low reading interest among students at MA YPP Jamanis is influenced not only by internal student factors but also by structural and managerial limitations within the library. These findings are consistent with the ecological model of literacy, which states that reading interest is shaped through the interaction of individual factors, environmental elements, available resources, and institutional policies (Barton & Hamilton, 2000). Therefore, improving the quality of the library—whether in terms of facilities, collections, human resources, or technology—is a strategic step to support the development of students' literacy culture.

5. Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the availability of library resources at MA YPP Jamanis is still not optimal, both in terms of the number and quality of book collections, management systems, and the use of information technology. This has a direct effect on students' low interest in reading, which is reflected in the lack of visits to the library, the low number of book loans, and the lack of participation in literacy activities. The library has not been able to play its role optimally as an interesting and relevant learning resource center for students' needs. Therefore, there is a need to reorganize and strengthen the function of the library through the procurement of book collections that match students' interests and needs, digitizing the service system,

improving the competence of managers, and integrating literacy activities in the learning process. This effort must be carried out collaboratively by all elements of the school in order to create a strong and sustainable literacy culture to improve the quality of education at MA YPP Jamanis.

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