The Role of Librarians in Supporting Academic Administration and Research at Polytechnic Adiguna Maritim Indonesia Medan

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A R T I C L E I N F O	A B S T R A C T
Keywords: Zoning policy; PPDB; Permendikbud No. 1 of 2021; Policy Implementation.	Libraries have an important role in supporting academic research. Librarians are not only tasked With managing information resources, but also play a role in assisting researshers in the process of searching for information, processing data, and publishing research result. The aim of this research is to identify the role of librarians in supporting academic research, both in terms of services, infrastructure and information literacy. The research result shows that the role of librarians is very important in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of academic research. Information literacy and the proper use of electronic resources are two areas in which librarians may make a difference. Since it stores, processes, and provides the information sources required throughout the research process of its academic community, the library plays a crucial role as a supporting element of universities in research operations. However, up until now, the university library has mostly served as a repository for research findings and has played little to no role in the actual research process. First, the library should revitalise its reference collection in order to better assist researchers. 2. Providing academics with information literacy training, Thirdly, recording findings from studies.

1. Introduction

In the era of digital information, libraries have evolved from just a place to store books to an important information resource center in supporting the academic research process. Librarians are now playing a more active role in providing access to information resources, providing information literacy training, and assisting researchers in managing research references and data. Research is essential for human civilization because it produces many new scientific and technological discoveries; The study will explore the contributions of librarians to improving the quality of academic research and the ways in which its functions can be further optimized.

There are a number of problems that this new innovation seeks to fix. Where did he leave

Indonesian research? There were 54,146 publications from Indonesia indexed internationally between 1996 and 2016, according to data from SCImago. Indonesia lags behind when compared to its neighbors in Asia, Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia. College is a stepping stone before students enter first into the community to apply what they have learned. Universities are important because they produce new thinkers and doers who are expected to answer many of the challenges facing modern society on a global scale. One of the most important parts of any academic or research institution is its library. Assistance is provided and supervision of study data is maintained.

The university community is also expected to produce a variety of librarians is very important, especially in an era where the volume of information continues to increase rapidly and

access to information resources is increasingly complex. The role of librarians is not only limited to providing collections of books, journals, or scientific articles, but also assists researchers in various other important aspects, such as information literacy of research that will benefit society. Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and the University of Indonesia (UI) are two Indonesian institutions that received a score higher than 800 according to the Times Higher Education ranking. According to R&D (2017), UI ranks above 251 in Asia, while it ranks 201-250. These figures show that there is still a need to respond to the Indonesian research community. Budget restrictions, an inadequate number of researchers, and still research findings that contradict public demands are the main contributors to the chronic shortage of researchers in Indonesia. To practice the Tri Dharma of Higher Education, the heart of the parent institution must exist, and that heart is the university library. In terms of research, education, and community service, what part does the library play? Is there anything that libraries can do to support research projects whose findings meet the needs of the community?

2. Methods

This study uses a Case Study technique based on the descriptive qualitative method developed by John W. Creswell and used in a number of Indonesian institutions. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with librarians and researchers. Interviews are conducted to understand their views and experiences about the role of librarians in the academic research process. Data analysis was carried out by thematic methods to identify the roles and challenges of librarians in supporting research. The research was conducted at the Library at the Campus of the Indonesian Maritime Polytechnic Medan which is located on Jl Battle, Pulo Brayan No. 125 Medan, West Medan District, Medan City, North Sumatra.

3. Result and Discussion

Academic librarians are often defined as individuals who work for university libraries. Assisting in the implementation of various academic activities in higher education is the main task or function of academic librarians. The

Tri Dharma Curriculum of Higher Education includes the pursuit of this science in an Indonesian environment, along with teaching and learning, research, and community service. Academic librarians in colleges must be able to work closely with faculty, students, and other members of the university community to achieve the stated goals of the institution.

Librarians are expected to have a deep understanding of both the social structures in which they operate and the specific environment in which they carry out their activities. As experts in the field of information and library science, librarians must adapt to the ever-changing work environment. Innovations in communication and information technology (ICT) have a major impact on library science. The evolution of information and communication technology has had a wide impact on library management and governance, as well as on the traditional model of librarianship. Because of this shift, libraries in general and university libraries in particular need to rethink their place in society at large.

Libraries from the results of interviews with librarians and researchers in several universities, found that the role of librarians is very significant in several aspects of academic research. Librarians assist researchers in:

1. Information Search:

Librarians provide specialized information search services that help researchers find relevant and high-quality scientific resources.

2. Information Literacy:

Librarians conduct training related to information literacy skills, such as how to identify credible sources, the use of academic databases, and reference management techniques using software such as Mendeley or EndNote.

3. Access Digital Resources:

Librarians also provide support in accessing international journals, e-books, and other digital resources that are urgently needed by researchers.

Although librarians have an important role, there are several challenges faced, including a lack of skilled human resources in information technology and limited access to paid international journals.

The following is supporting data at the Indonesian Maritime Adiguna Polytechnic Medan in research on the role of librarians in libraries.

1. Number of Librarians

a. Total Librarians : 3 people
b. Qualification:
   ✓ Diploma in Library and Information : 1 person
   ✓ S1 Economics : 2 people
c. Role of Librarian:
   ✓ Reference Librarian: 1 person, in charge of assisting cadets and lecturers in searching for literature, databases, and other information.
   ✓ Technical Librarian: 1 person, responsible for the collection, maintenance, and catalog arrangement.
   ✓ Information Technology Librarian: 1 person, manages the library's digital platform, repository, and e-journal service.

The number of librarians and the division of roles demonstrate the library's ability to provide services focused on academic research needs, ranging from reference, data management, to technology access.

2. Number of Lecturers at the Indonesian Maritime Adiguna Polytechnic Medan

a. Total Lecturers : 47 people
   ✓ Permanent Lecturers : 37 people
   ✓ Non-permanent Lecturers: 10 people
b. Distribution by Department:
   ✓ Department of Commercial Shipping and Port Administration (KPNK): 16 lecturers
   ✓ Department of Nautical Science: 16 lecturers
   ✓ Department of Engineering: 15 lecturers

The large number of lecturers in various departments shows the diversity of information and research literature needs needed, which can be served by librarians with various research support services.

1. Number of Cadets – Cadets of the Indonesian Maritime Adiguna Polytechnic Medan
   a. Total Cadets : 513 people
   b. Distribution by Department:
      ✓ Department of Commercial Shipping and Port Administration (KPNK): 200 people
      ✓ Nautical Department: 163 people
      ✓ Department of Engineering: 150 people

The large number of cadets from various majors reflects the potential for wide and diverse library access, ranging from printed books, e-books, journals, to literature guidance services by librarians.

2. Number of Library Visitors Per Day
   a. Average Daily Visitors : 50 people
      ✓ Cadets : 45 people
      ✓ Lecturers : 5 people
   b. Distribution of Visit Time :
      ✓ Morning (08.00 - 12.00) : 35 visitors
      ✓ Afternoon (12.00 - 16.00) : 15 visitors

The average daily visitor shows a high level of library activity. The number of visitors to the dominant cadets shows their dependence on library resources for academic and research activities. The presence of lecturers and general visitors also reflects the function of the library as an information center that supports the entire academic community.

5. Number of Library Collections
   a. Total Collection : 10,000 library materials
      ✓ Print Books : 5,000 titles
      ✓ E-Book : 2,000 titles
      ✓ Online Journals : 1,500 titles
      ✓ Final Project: 1,000 documents
      ✓ Multimedia : 500 items

The library collection is quite diverse and provides a variety of options for information sources for cadets and lecturers. This shows the readiness of libraries to support specific and diverse research needs.

With these data, researchers can get a clearer picture of the resources and services

owned by the library, as well as how effective the library is in supporting academic research. This data can also be used as a basis for evaluating the role of librarians in the context of the academic institution in question. The library design and original photos of the library of the adiguna maritime Indonesia polytechnic in Medan.
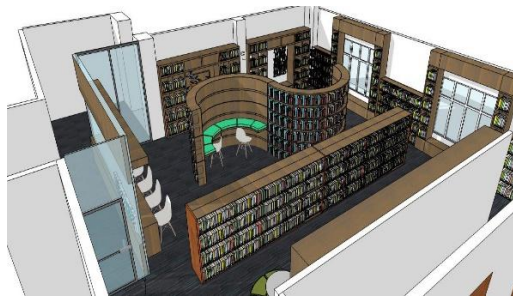

Figure 1 : Design of the Library of the Indonesian Maritime Polytechnic Medan

Figure 2 : Indonesian Maritime Adiguna Polytechnic Library Medan

Figure 3 : Librarian of the Indonesian Maritime Adiguna Polytechnic Medan

Figure 4 : Submission of Library Books by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Director

Figure 5 : Submission of Library Books by Lecturers of the Indonesian Maritime Polytechnic MedanConclusion

Librarians have a crucial role in supporting academic research. They not only provide access to information resources, but also play a role in helping researchers develop information literacy skills and utilize technology in research. To optimize this role, libraries need to improve digital infrastructure and provide training to librarians related to information technology and research data management. Libraries play a major strategic role in coordinating the academic research component of the Tri Dharma undergraduate program. The work of libraries, especially academic librarians, does not only provide access to materials to study; They also play an important educational and service role in the research process. Librarians specializing in academic research can advise faculty on research projects and coordinate information literacy education programs to help faculty members develop their research abilities.

To support these research efforts, libraries face several challenges. A number of challenges have been faced by libraries, including: Initially, the competence of librarians. It is well known that libraries are not the foundation of development, but librarians. The persona displayed is an accomplished librarian, experienced in traditional library science and modern IT. Second, people do not understand how important libraries are to the research process. The academic community needs a significant increase in information literacy if the library is viewed differently. Third, cadets who don't like to read will not use library resources. To address this third challenge, libraries can improve their service innovation, forge deeper relationships with customers, and provide digital resources.

4. Conclusion

Librarians play an indispensable role in supporting academic research, acting not only as curators of information but also as facilitators of the research process itself. Their contributions go beyond merely providing access to books and journals; they actively assist researchers in developing essential skills such as information literacy, data management, and the effective use of digital resources. By offering specialized services like reference support and research training, librarians significantly enhance the research capabilities of faculty, students, and other academic staff.

However, challenges remain, including the need for continued professional development in technology and research data management. As information technology evolves, it is crucial for libraries to adapt, ensuring that librarians are equipped to meet the growing demands of the digital age. Moreover, increasing the visibility of the library's role in the academic community and improving information literacy among researchers can further strengthen the library's contribution to academic research.

Ultimately, the library's strategic position within academic institutions, especially in supporting the Tri Dharma of Higher Education, underscores its importance as a pillar of the research ecosystem. To optimize this role, ongoing investment in both human resources and technological infrastructure is essential. By doing so, libraries can better serve their academic communities and play a pivotal role in fostering innovation and scholarly excellence.

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