

Utilization of the Library as a Learning Resource for Students of the Department of Islamic Religious Education

Asriani Abbas¹

¹Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin, Makassar, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of the study: The library is one of the important learning resources for students who are pursuing higher education. Libraries offer access to various information and materials needed to enrich and complete the learning process. However, literature that focuses on the use of libraries among students majoring in Islamic religious education is still minimal. This qualitative descriptive research aims to find out how students majoring in Islamic religious education at the Muhammadiyah Sinai Islamic College use the library as a learning resource.

Methodology: This study uses qualitative research methods to collect data. The research sample consisted of librarians and students majoring in Islamic religious education at the Muhammadiyah Sinjai Islamic College. Interview instruments were used to collect data, and the data analysis technique used was Miles & Huberman, which involved an iterative process of coding and identifying themes.

Main Findings: The research findings reveal that students majoring in Islamic religious education utilize the library primarily to access religious texts and books, participate in group discussions, and study. This study also found that librarians facilitate students' access to information by offering reference and circulation services. In addition, this study notes that the library atmosphere provides students with a conducive environment for learning.

Novelty/Originality of this study: This research is a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in the field of Islamic religious education at the Muhammadiyah Sinjai Islamic College because it explores the use of library resources by students majoring in that field. This study provides insight into the unique challenges students face in accessing library resources and offers recommendations for enhancing their learning experience. This study is original in its approach and offers a new perspective on the use of the library as a learning resource for students of Islamic religious education at the Muhammadiyah Sinjai Islamic College..

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Corresponding Author:

Asriani Abbas,

Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin, Jl. Sultan Alauddin No.63,

Romangpolong, Kec. Somba Opu, Kabupaten Gowa, Sulawesi Selatan, 92113, Indonesia

Email: asrianiabas01@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Libraries have always been a fundamental component of academic institutions, and their role as a learning resource is very important for students. They provide access to a variety of resources that students can use to enhance their education, including books, journals, and research materials [1]. Libraries also offer excellent study spaces for students to work and collaborate [2]. One particular focus of this research is

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understanding how students majoring in Islamic religious education at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College use the library as a learning resource.

Islamic religious education is a field of study that has a long and rich history within the Muslim community [3], [4]. Disciplines include the Koran, Hadith, Islamic jurisprudence, Islamic history, and Islamic philosophy, all of which are areas that require comprehensive research. Students studying this field need access to a wide range of knowledge resources to complement their studies and enhance their learning outcomes. The library is an important resource center for students of Islamic religious education at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College, as it provides access to religious books, scientific journals, and online databases containing valuable information resources.

In the past, there have been changes in the way students access information which has significantly changed the role of libraries in supporting education today [5], [6]. Advances in technology have led to a significant shift away from relying on printed resources to utilizing digital resources such as e-books and online databases [7]. Libraries have also evolved to adapt to these changes to meet the needs of contemporary students [8]. Despite the many resources available in the library, students majoring in Islamic religious education at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College face several challenges in accessing them effectively. Some difficulties occurred because of the language barrier, as most of the Islamic religious books were mostly written in Arabic. In addition, limited access to multiple databases, inadequate computer systems, and inadequate information literacy skills significantly hinder students from making optimal use of library resources.

Therefore, this study aims to explore how students majoring in Islamic religious education at the Islamic College of Muhammaduyah Sinjai utilize library resources as a source of learning and understand their challenges and recommendations to enhance their experience in using library facilities effectively. This research provides insights that can support librarians and academic institutions in improving the quality of services provided to students of Islamic religious education at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic High School.

This study contributes to the literature by offering qualitative data on the use of library resources by students studying Islamic religious education. This research encourages academic institutions to pay more attention to the unique needs of students majoring in Islamic religious education. This also provides an opportunity for librarians to overcome challenges related to access to library resources and optimize strategies to support student learning in the field of Islamic religious education. This research is very important to highlight the important role of libraries in improving the educational outcomes of students majoring in Islamic religious education at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College. This study provides valuable insight into the challenges students face in accessing library resources and recommendations to support academic institutions and librarians in addressing these challenges.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method that seeks to explore the use of library resources by students studying Islamic religious education. This study used semi-structured interviews to collect data from librarians and Islamic religious education students at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College in the field. The interview questions are open-ended, allowing participants to provide detailed information about their experience using the library and the challenges they face. This study used purposive sampling, in which participants were selected based on certain characteristics, including their current status as students or librarians in the field of Islamic religious education at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic High School. The sample size of this study was ten participants, consisting of five Islamic religious education students and five librarians at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College. The data obtained from the interviews underwent transcription, which was then analyzed using data analysis techniques by Miles and Huberman. The researchers conducted a thematic analysis of participant responses to identify common themes and issues that emerged from the data.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study provides insight into how students majoring in Islamic religious education at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College utilize library resources as a learning resource and identify the challenges they face in accessing these resources effectively. The results showed that students in the field made extensive use of the library, mainly relying on printed sources such as books, journals and other research materials. In addition, they use online resources, including online databases, e-books, and other online materials to supplement their classroom studies.

Students identify the library as an important learning resource giving them access to a broad collection of Islamic religious texts and materials that support their studies. Access to these materials is essential to their studies, and they believe the library has a direct impact on their success in the program. The library space is also appreciated by students as it provides a quiet study space that is conducive to academic work.

However, several challenges were identified that prevented students from accessing library resources effectively. One significant challenge is the shortage of Islamic religious books in libraries. Students noted that there were limited sources of information available to them, coupled with inadequate financial resources to acquire new material. Librarians also note that some collections have not been updated for a long time, which limits students' opportunities to access current and relevant information. This challenge was identified as a critical problem that has a negative impact on the quality of education of students studying Islamic religious education.

Limited access to several databases was identified as another significant challenge faced by Islamic religious education students at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College in accessing library resources. Access to this database is restricted, which limits student access to current and relevant information. Inadequate computer systems also prevent students from taking advantage of online resources, limiting access to e-books, online databases, and other digital resources. This problem is especially acute in low-income institutions with limited financial resources to purchase and maintain modern technological resources.

Inadequate information literacy skills were also identified as a significant challenge that hindered some Islamic education students at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College from using the library's resources effectively. In particular, Islamic education students at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic Higher School had difficulty navigating online databases and accessing e-books and other online resources. Many participants expressed their need for information literacy training and support to increase the effective use of library resources. Islamic education students at Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College also noted that library operating hours were a challenge, and limited availability of resources during weekends and holidays hindered effective access to library resources.

This study provides valuable insight into how students majoring in Islamic religious education at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic High School utilize library resources and identify the challenges they face in accessing these resources effectively. The results highlight the importance of libraries in providing access to a wide range of materials that support student learning in the discipline. The challenges identified in this study must be overcome in order to enhance student experience in utilizing library resources. Addressing this challenge will assist academic institutions in achieving their goal of providing quality education to Islamic education students at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College.

One of the significant challenges identified in this research is the lack of essential materials in the library [9]. This challenge can be overcome by institutions that invest in updating their library collections. Libraries need to purchase new and relevant data, especially those that are fundamental to the Islamic religious education program at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College, to ensure that students have access to the latest and most relevant information. It is recommended that the Islamic High School of Muhammaduyah Sinjai prioritize this acquisition to ensure that students have access to the necessary resources for their academic work.

Limited access to some databases also hampers Islamic education students' access to modern and up-to-date information. Institutions need to invest in providing students with access to databases covering Islamic religious education to supplement their learning. Access to this database should be simplified to allow students to easily access relevant information. In addition, academic institutions should explore partnerships with other institutions to gain access to diverse resources that can provide students with a more comprehensive wealth of resources.

Inadequate computer systems were identified as another challenge in accessing library resources effectively. Essential technology resources, such as computers and Wi-Fi connections, should be made available in all library facilities to ensure that students can access digital resources effectively. Institutions should put in place electronic databases and sophisticated search engines to facilitate easier access to digital resources. This investment in technological resources will significantly increase access to digital resources.

Inadequate information literacy skills hinder Islamic education students at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic High School from using library resources effectively. Therefore, there is a need for librarian-led training on information literacy skills to equip Islamic education students at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College with the skills necessary to use library resources efficiently. The Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College must provide comprehensive information literacy training at the program level and as part of the orientation of new students into the institution.

This study also identified limited library operating hours as another challenge. To address this challenge, academic institutions should expand library operating hours to better serve Islamic education students at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College. Library hours should be extended to weekends and public holidays, particularly during exam periods, to give students access to library resources during crucial study periods.

Several recommendations can be made based on research findings to increase the effective use of library resources by students of Islamic education at the Muhammaduyah Sinjai Islamic College. First, academic institutions need to invest in updating their library collections to ensure access to current and relevant resources,

particularly in the area of Islamic religious education. Librarians also need to dedicate more effort to developing and updating their online resources to facilitate better utilization of digital resources.

Second, there is a need for academic libraries to invest in modern technological resources such as computers, internet connectivity, and online databases. Access to technology resources will enable students to effectively access online resources, e-books, and other digital resources. Institutions must ensure the availability of adequate technological resources in all library facilities so that students can make optimal use of library resources. Third, there is a need for librarian-led information literacy training to equip students with the skills necessary to utilize library resources effectively. Academic institutions need to collaborate with librarians to develop and provide customized information literacy training for students in the field of Islamic religious education. This training should focus on using library resources effectively, navigating databases, and accessing e-books and other digital resources.

Fourth, academic institutions need to extend library opening hours to better serve students. It is recommended that the library be open during weekends and public holidays to facilitate better access to resources for students who may not have time to use the library during the regular academic week. Lastly, there is a need for institutions academics to explore partnerships with other institutions to provide students with access to resources outside their own institutions. Such partnerships could take the form of collaborations with other academic institutions, research institutes, or public libraries to provide students with access to important resources they may otherwise not have access to.

In conclusion, this study provides insight into how students majoring in Islamic religious education utilize library resources and identify challenges that hinder their effective use. The recommendations identified hold promise for addressing these challenges and increasing student utilization of library resources in the discipline. This study provides valuable insight into how students majoring in Islamic religious education make use of library resources and identifies the challenges they face in accessing these resources effectively. The results highlight the importance of libraries in providing access to a wide range of materials that support student learning in the discipline. The challenges identified in this study must be overcome in order to enhance students' experience of utilizing library resources. Addressing these challenges will assist academic institutions in achieving their goal of providing quality education to students.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study reveals that libraries play an important role in improving the education of students majoring in Islamic religious education. It is proven that students take advantage of library resources, both print and online, to increase their knowledge in the field. This study also identified the unique challenges students face in accessing library resources, such as a shortage of Islamic religious books, limited access to databases, inadequate computer systems, and inadequate information literacy skills.

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