



## Strategy for the Development of Electronic Journal Collections (E-Journals) at the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra (UMSU) Library

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### Article Info

#### Article history:

Received : 28 December 2021

Revised : 30 January 2022

Accepted : 19 March 2022

#### Keywords:

*Strategy, collection development, e-journal, the role of librarians, University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra library*

### ABSTRACT

*This study aims to determine the strategy for developing e-journal collections at the University of Muhammadiyah Sumatra Utara (UMSU) Library and the role of librarians in developing e-journal collections. This type of research is descriptive research using a qualitative approach. The technique of collecting data in this research is through observation, interviews, and documentation. The data analysis technique of this research uses data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing. The results of the study show that the strategy for developing e-journal collections is by coordinating with all academic study programs, collaborating with the National Library through e-resources, collaborating with FPPTMA (Muhammadiyah Aisyiyah College Library Forum) as well as library socialization on the use of e-journal collections. . Constraints faced in developing the e-journal collection are: budget/funds, HR (Human Resources) and users. The role of the librarian in developing e-journal collections is to provide knowledge on how to access or browse information, promote e-journals through brochures, pamphlets, social media or web news at the UMSU Library and conduct socialization to the entire UMSU campus academic community.*

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The beginning of a digital library in Indonesia was the experiment of a group of people in the central library of the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB). They initiated the Indonesian Digital Library Network in collaboration with the Computer Network Research Group (CNRG) and the Knowledge Management Research Group (KMRG). This project is intended to improve the quality of higher education, foster a spirit of knowledge sharing among higher education and research institutions through the development of a national network of libraries.

This small project then received a positive response from various parties so that it became widespread. The library, which is located at [www.indonesiadln.org](http://www.indonesiadln.org), involves more than a hundred institutions to become partners in the dissemination of knowledge in the form of digital file collections through the internet (Subrata, 2009, p. 7)

The paradigm shift from "ordinary libraries" to "digital libraries" can be seen in the existence of collections, formerly in printed form, but have shifted to non-printed/electronic collections that contain various sources of digital information in the form of text, images, audio, and video, which continues on the paradigm in the concept of ownership (ownership). Many digital libraries provide access to materials they don't have, both free and paid (access vs ownership). One type of library that must develop is to provide facilities and services with the latest information is the university library. College libraries, which are pioneers in terms of advances in information technology in the world of libraries, are currently competing to provide collections that follow the development of current trends in order to fulfill their function as a source of information. As stated in Law Number 43 of 2007 Article 24 Paragraph 3, university libraries are expected to develop information and communication technology-based services to support the implementation of research activities (Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia, 2007, p. 15). In this case, the collection of scientific publications in the university library has undergone a drastic change, which used to be in the form of printed publications and is now in electronic/digital form. Scientific publications that are currently popular are e-books (electronic books) and e-journals (electronic journals). (Pendit, 2007, p. 72).

Electronic journals are an interesting issue in college libraries. Compared to other types of libraries, college libraries are seen as appropriate institutions in providing electronic journals. This point of view is based on the information needs of its users. College library users are academics who can be categorized as potential users of electronic journals. In addition, in terms of needs, current information in the form of research results or opinions of experts in accordance with their fields is the reason why electronic journals need to be provided in university libraries. The scope of the electronic journal contains various subjects in the form of research articles and also the views of experts. Many of them used to be available in printed form which were later expertly mediated into electronic journal articles.

The importance of collection development in controlling electronic journals is not immediately realized for every library. There are several problems that underlie this. First, it does not yet have a written development policy regarding electronic journals. Without a written collection development policy, misunderstandings will occur so that the development of a collection that is current and relevant will not be fulfilled. Second, the library only focuses on subscription online journals. The management of local journals through the writing of scientific works of the academic community is carried out separately and is not integrated with the university library.

According to the National Library Standard (SNP), university libraries are required to provide scientific journals of at least 1 title (subscribe or purchase) for each study program in the university environment. In addition, local content consisting of scientific works from the academic community needs to be provided by the library to support the goals of higher education. Therefore, in meeting these standards, it is not surprising that university libraries are active in developing the availability of journals in their libraries (Utomo & et al, 2011).

The existence of journals at the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library has existed since 2017 in a form that is still in print. Then as time goes by, it is mandatory for every study program at the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra to carry out accreditation. Then the study program is required to meet certain conditions that have been set. One of the

accreditation requirements is that each study program must have electronic journals related to the scientific field of each study program.

At the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra, the e-journal is usually owned by each study program. So each study program has its own e-journal database which they manage, either from the scientific work of the UMSU campus academic community itself or from outside writers. However, to make it easier for users to search for e-journals, each of these study programs puts their e-journal database link on the official website of the University of Muhammadiyah Sumatra Utara, which can be viewed via <http://jurnal.umsu.ac.id/>. Thus, the function of the UMSU Library is as a liaison between the e-journal databases of all study programs and library users so that they can provide direct and fastest access to links to every e-journal database in all study programs. There are 16 e-journal databases in the University of Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara study program that have been accredited by the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education, for example, Sinta 6 to 3 and around 50 databases have not been accredited. Furthermore, in 2018 the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library has subscribed to a number of e-journal databases including Ebsco, Proquest and the last subscription is Cambridge.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODE

The method used in this research is a qualitative method. The qualitative method is a research method based on the philosophy of positivism, used to examine the condition of natural objects, (as opposed to an experiment) where the researcher is the key instrument, the sampling of data sources is carried out purposively and snowballing, the collection technique is by triangulation, the data analysis is descriptive. inductive/qualitative and qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization (Sugiyono, 2010, p. 15). In this qualitative research method, it shows an emphasis on the quality of entities and on processes and meanings that are not tested, or measured strictly in terms of quantity, intensity or frequency (Sutopo & Arief, 2010, p. 1)

The type of research used is descriptive research, which is a type of research that describes an object in the form of words or pictures and does not emphasize numbers (Sugiyono, 2013, p. 9). Descriptive research is a research that aims to describe a research result in a systematic, factual way about the facts, the nature of the relationship between the phenomena being investigated. The purpose of this study is to reveal descriptive data about what librarians do, feel and experience in the process of developing a collection of electronic journals (e-journals) at the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library.

## 3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

### **Strategy for Development of Electronic Journal Collection (E-Journal) in the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library**

Collection development is a process of activities carried out by a library in developing better and more accurate collections according to what users need. In the digital collection itself, the development flow also follows several aspects including: collection development policies, selection, procurement and evaluation.

Based on the results of the interview, the collection development flow consists of: the first aspect, the North Sumatra Muhammadiyah University Library first determines policies in the development of digital collections such as e-journals. In carrying out the implementation of

development policies. The second aspect is the selection aspect, in the development of the e-journal collection the selection aspect is based on the analysis of user information needs. The third aspect of procurement, in this aspect the development of the library's e-journal collection uses several ways, namely through purchase/subscription, media experts, free access and open access. The last aspect is evaluation. Collection evaluation is an activity to determine the quality, scope and condition of the collection.

After a series of aspects in the development of the collection have been carried out, the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library must also implement several strategies in seeking to optimize the development of the library's e-journal collection. The University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library has implemented several strategies in developing e-journal collections, as follows:

1. Coordinate with the entire Academic Community Study Program, University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra.

The results of interviews with informants in meeting user needs, libraries need to coordinate with all academic study programs in order to adjust to the relevance of information needed by users, including lecturers and students. The study programs on the UMSU campus already have their own e-journal database which they manage either from the scientific work of the UMSU campus academic community itself or from outside writers. So for each study program e-journal database to make it easier for users to access it, the study program will coordinate with the UMSU Library by placing a link to the e-journal database they manage to the official website of the North Sumatra Muhammadiyah University Library.

2. Cooperating with the National Library through E-Resources of the National Library of Indonesia.

Based on the results of interviews with informants that the collaboration between the UMSU Library and the National Library of Indonesia is that the UMSU Library can utilize the e-resources of the National Library of Indonesia through several databases that have been provided such as: Proquest, SAGE, EBSCO, MyLibrary, IGI Global, Cambridge, Ebrary, American Library Association and others to be used by users in the UMSU campus academic community.

3. Cooperating with FPPTMA (Muhammadiyah Aisyiyah College Library Forum).

FPPTMA (Muhammadiyah Aisyiyah College Library Forum) is a forum for every Muhammadiyah University to collaborate. One form of cooperation is to conduct a concertium on e-journals. In this case the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library also cooperates with FPPTMA in procuring e-journal collections to be able to help every other Muhammadiyah University that does not yet have the budget to hold e-journal collections.

4. Socialization of the Library of Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra on the Utilization of E-Journal Collections.

The results of the interview show that in developing the e-journal collection, the UMSU library will conduct socialization on the use of e-journals that have been subscribed to by the library. The library will provide training on how to access the journals that have been subscribed to. The UMSU Library will also provide training on e-resources for the National Library of Indonesia. The training aims to provide knowledge to users on how to access any database that has been provided by the UMSU Library or through National Library e-resources, so that the utilization of e-journals will run optimally by UMSU library users.

The development of the e-journal collection itself is still facing ups and downs in an effort to build a library that is in synergy with technology. Currently, the development of e-journal collections for university libraries is still facing many technical, financial, and policy obstacles. However, the enthusiasm for developing e-journal collections by university libraries has never diminished. At the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library itself, the development of e-journal collections was also hampered by several obstacles. The following are the obstacles in developing e-journal collections at the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library, as follows:

- a. **Budget/Fund.** In developing e-journal collections in libraries, especially universities, of course there are various kinds of obstacles faced, one of which is the budget. This budget is an important part of collection development and should not be overlooked. The function of the budget in the development of this collection is as a fund for the procurement of e-journal collections carried out by the library through subscribing/purchasing a database in order to be able to meet user needs which must be adjusted to the budget capabilities of the library
- b. **HR (Human Resources).** The problem of HR (human resources) has always been one of the obstacles in libraries, especially in the development of collections. Lack of human resources in the library will make collection development activities, especially digital collections such as e-journals, not optimal so that the service process does not run effectively and cannot achieve the predetermined target.
- c. **User.** Users are still lacking in utilizing electronic serials such as e-journals. This is because users use textbooks more often than e-journals because of their lack of knowledge about e-journals. Many users are not aware of the existence of e-journals in libraries. Some users also did not find the information they were looking for through the e-journal itself. In addition, the reason for the lack of use of e-journals by users is due to the lack of promotion provided by the library regarding e-journal collections. This causes the use of e-journal collections in the library not to run properly.

In the development of e-journals, the library of the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra continues to follow several aspects of developing a collection. There are four aspects of e-journal collection development that must be done.

In the first aspect, the determination of collection development policies. At the UMSU Library, the collection policy is already in written form. However, especially in the policy of developing e-journal collections, the library does not yet have a written form. So they are in the development of e-journals referring to the form of collection development policies issued in 2018. The second aspect is the selection stage. The selection of the UMSU Library e-journal is based on an analysis of the information needs of users. Analysis of information needs from users, libraries conduct surveys or questionnaires given to students, lecturers or researchers regarding what journals should be held by the UMSU library. The third aspect of procurement, in this aspect the development of the library's e-journal collection uses several ways, namely through purchase/subscription, media experts, free access and open access. Procurement of e-journal collections at the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra library itself only uses the purchase/subscription method for a number of online databases. On the last aspect of evaluation. Collection evaluation is an activity to determine the quality, scope and condition of the collection. evaluation of the e-journal collection, the UMSU Library reviews in terms of the use of e-journals whether or not they are widely used or not by the academic community, both lecturers and students. This evaluation can be done by looking at the percentage of utilization or from statistical data on the use of e-journal collections. In addition, the library also looks at the

price of the subscribed database, if the price is too high, the library does not continue or replace it with another database. So with some of these evaluations the library can take a policy to procure e-journal collections in the future.

### **The Role of Librarians in the Development of Electronic Journal Collections (E-Journals) at the Muhammadiyah University Library of North Sumatra**

The role of the librarian in a library is as the first spear that is very influential in the development of a library. In university libraries, librarians have a role as the main resource in information products (print and non-print based). Under the influence of changes in information and communication technology, libraries expand beyond services to electronic-based collections. At the University of Muhammadiyah Sumatra Library, a collection of digital services provided include e-books and e-journals. Therefore, the UMSU library librarian must be able to carry out his role in providing the best digital services to users. The following are the roles performed by librarians in the UMSU Library's e-journal collection:

- a. Librarians can search or find e-journals needed by users.
- b. Can download e-journal so that it can be opened and utilized by users.
- c. Librarians can help users who have difficulty opening or accessing e-journals.
- d. Librarians can understand and explain important points in each e-journal to users.
- e. Librarians can disseminate information through e-journals.

In addition, the role of the UMSU librarian is to provide knowledge to users through the introduction of any e-journals in the UMSU library, how to access or browse the information in each of these e-journals by providing training in their use. Furthermore, librarians can promote their subscribed e-journals through brochures, pamphlets, social media or web news at the UMSU Library. And finally, librarians can carry out outreach activities to the entire UMSU campus academic community regarding the use of e-journals at the University of Muhammadiyah Sumatra Utara.

The University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library has carried out several activities, especially socialization to users related to the UMSU Library. As an implementation of the socialization activity, the UMSU Library opened a literacy class which discussed the library, facilities and existing collections. The literacy class was delivered by Isva Affanura Khairi, S.Sos as a librarian in the field of planning, development and IT. The material presented in the literacy class was very diverse, one of the materials that was also presented was discussing how to use the Ebsco e-journal database in a campus environment that has been subscribed to by UMSU and providing a user name and password to log in to an account. Furthermore, the librarian provides some training in the form of steps or techniques when accessing and searching scientific e-journal collections and some references to the Ebsco database. If UMSU library users have entered the UMSU wifi network, they no longer need to log in because they are already connected to the UMSU IP address. The literacy class ended with several question and answer sessions regarding the material that had been delivered and a group photo with the users who attended the literacy class. The event is expected to increase the use of e-journal collections by users in the UMSU Library.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of research and discussion in chapter IV regarding the strategy for developing electronic journal collections (e-journals) at the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Strategies for developing electronic journal collections (e-journals) at the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra Library include: coordinating with all academic study programs at the University of Muhammadiyah North Sumatra, collaborating with the National Library through e-resources of the National Library of Indonesia, collaborating with FPPTMA (Muhammadiyah Aisiyyah College Library Forum) and socialization of the North Sumatra Muhammadiyah University Library on the use of e-journal collections.
2. Constraints faced in developing the e-journal collection at the University of Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara Library are: budget/funds, limited human resources (HR) in the field of e-journal development and the lack of use of e-journals by users.
3. The role of librarians in the development of e-journal collections: providing knowledge to users through the introduction of any e-journals in the UMSU library, how to access or browse the information in each of these e-journals by providing training in their use. Promoting e-journals that are subscribed to can be through brochures, pamphlets, social media or web news at the UMSU Library and socializing to the entire UMSU campus academic community regarding the use of e-journals at the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra.

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