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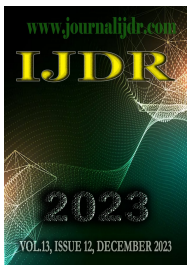

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

THE READINESS OF LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARIES IN FACING THE DIGITAL ERA

***Ketut Sanjiwani**

Fisipol Udayana Univercity – Bali

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****Corresponding author: Ketut Sanjiwani,***

ABSTRACT

The development of the digital age is becoming faster and faster and is a challenge for all walks of life, including libraries. Currently, libraries are trying to make various changes to adapt to the developments taking place. Not only libraries are adapting, but so are librarians. The purpose of this article is to explore what preparation is needed to prepare librarians and libraries for the digital age. The method used in this work is literature research. Library preparations include, for example, preparing suitable sites, providing online services, offering electronic collections and starting to use social media platforms, training librarians to acquire various skills, such as the ability to use electronic tools use digital resources, make online publications, adapt to the digital age and assess skills.

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INTRODUCTION

The digital age is growing rapidly. The digital age has brought many events. In almost all areas of life, there is nothing that is not affected by the digital age. Initially, all the operations were done manually, but now the operations are done with the existing technology. It also forces various institutions to make various changes so that they can continue to fulfill their duties amid the development of the digital age.One of the institutions affected by the development of the digital era is the library. Libraries are making various changes and this also needs to be done so that libraries can still stand in the midst of the rapid development of the digital era. Libraries are gradually making changes where activities in the library used to be mostly done manually now change by starting to utilize existing technologies. In addition, various other efforts are also made so that the library can maximally provide the best service that suits its era. The changes made by the library affect the collections, services and facilities owned by the library, all of which have begun to use technology. In addition to changes in the library, the development of the digital age also affects librarians, who are also important resources in the library. This is seen by manual librarians who have slowly begun to change with the technology used in the library. When it comes to changes that come from both the librarian and the library, readiness for those changes is necessary, because without readiness, the change cannot be done properly and correctly. Based on the previous explanation, the author is also interested in knowing what librarians and libraries need to prepare for the digital age. That is why the author puts the title "Librarian and library readiness to face the digital age".

The purpose of this work is to find out what librarians and libraries need to prepare for the digital age.

RESEARCH METHODS

This article was conducted using the literature research method. The author searches and collects various information related to the subject of the problem under consideration, using available literature, such as magazines and books. This method was chosen to help determine the appropriate way to solve the problem discussed in this article.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Library Then and Now: Libraries are one of those places that provide their users with information from the past to the present. Over time, there are certainly differences between the libraries of that time and those of today. The current differences are quite large as a result of the development of the era. The biggest difference is the use of information technology in the implementation of library activities. For example, many libraries today are new or have begun to repackage and develop their collections into digital formats. In addition to the fact that many collections are converted to a digital format, there are also changes in existing services, where technological tools such as computers, smartphones, etc. This is different between the old library, which is still mostly done by hand, and the current library, where technology has been used to make the library work.

Another thing that separates libraries then and now is the way a library works. Previously, according to Basuk Oktavia (2019), the duties of the library were as follows: 1). Job saving function. A library has a function namely a place to keep the works of the community such as books, newspapers, magazines and other works. A library can say it is a "public archive" that preserves various works created by the community. 2). The information function is the function in which the library provides various information that can be used by the community to satisfy information needs. You can also use this information when you come directly to the library. 3). Training function. As a reporter, the library also participates in supporting the existing education system. This is due to the fact that, in addition to being a place for reading, the library can also be a place for students to study, in which case it can be said that the library is an element that supports learning. 4). The entertainment function is where the library is also an entertainment place for the community, offering various entertainment collections and spaces. 5). Cultural function where the library can be a tool to present different cultures in the work of the library. It is also very useful to introduce the culture of the community.At the same time, the activity of the library has changed over time. According to Oktavia (2019), the current functions of the library are: the library as a place to store, select and serve library collections according to Act No. 43 2007. In addition, the library is tasked with providing information according to needs. Information needs using existing information technology. The library also serves as a place of study and helps research activities to do good research. Another function is that the library, in addition to being a fun place with fun collections, is also a place to produce new creations that can later be used by others. Finally, the role of the library is to present different cultures through knowledge and also new age activities so that they are acceptable in today's society.In addition to the library, there are various services of librarians in the past and now. This is because the development of the era also changes the nature of the users, so now the ability of librarians to evaluate and understand the nature of the existing library users is even more prominent so that the services provided are suitable and satisfactory for the users. In addition, libraries and librarians must be able to adapt to existing changes, because it has become easier to find information not only in the library, but also on the Internet, so that users do not leave them.

Challenges for Librarians and Libraries in the digital era:In the digital age, librarians and libraries face various challenges while conducting activities. According to Hidayat (2016), the challenges faced by librarians are: 1). Librarians are expected to be able to manage and adapt all existing collections using technology as an aid to the management process. 2). Librarians are also expected to provide certain information to users, so that in addition to borrowing books, users can receive new information from librarians. 3). Librarians must also be able to provide services that meet the generation of the digital age, where users now want quick and easy service. 4). Librarians are expected to provide a more versatile service in the digital age, such as improving user reading and the process of creating works made by different users.In the digital age, librarians and libraries face various challenges while conducting activities. According to Hidayat (2016), the challenges faced by librarians are: 1). Librarians are expected to be able to manage and adapt all existing collections using technology as an aid to the management process. 2). Librarians are also expected to provide certain information to users, so that in addition to borrowing books, users can receive new information from librarians. 3). Librarians must also be able to provide services that meet the generation of the digital age, where users now want quick and easy service. 4). Librarians are expected to provide a more versatile service in the digital age, such as improving user reading and the process of creating works made by different users.Based on the above explanation, these issues are a challenge for libraries and librarians in the digital age. These challenges must be met in order for libraries to stand up and fulfill their tasks in the midst of rapid digital development.

Library Readiness in facing the digital Era: The digital age is one of the challenges facing libraries today. The rapid development of the digital age forces libraries to keep up with this development. The development of the digital age brings many changes and the library must follow it. Libraries also contribute by making various changes and also adapting to those changes so that they are preserved and not abandoned by users. While making these changes, you need to prepare for various things so that the process can go smoothly and correctly. According to Oktavia (2019) and Wulansar et al. (2021), some of the issues related to the digital age produced by some libraries include: 1). Provide adequate facilities. The facilities offered are pluggable and have access to all digital collections via the Internet. Such skills are needed in the digital age, as all users have used electronic devices connected to the web, so libraries must keep up with these changes. 2). Provide online services. Today and in the digital age, online services make it easy for users to access library collections. A library may offer a number of online services, including: online circulation services, reference works such as electronic journal services, and other services. 3). Offer electronic collections. In addition to print collections, libraries must offer collections in electronic form. This must be done to maximize the work of libraries in the digital age. The existence of electronic collections certainly helps the libraries of the digital age to satisfy the increasingly diverse information needs of users. Some examples of collections that can be offered are e-magazines, e-books and others.

Librarian Readiness in facing the digital era: Facing the digital age, library readiness is not the only thing to consider. Another thing to consider is the librarian himself. Librarians are one of the most important elements of a library. Librarians provide services to users so that users can use the facilities of both the collection and the library. Therefore, a librarian is a professional who knows the library very well. In the digital age, librarians are also required to keep up with these changes, where the use of technology in the library forces librarians to relearn new and unfamiliar things. Therefore, librarians must have multiple talents to face the digital age in the library. According to Marajar (2020) and Pendit in Tyasissa (2023), librarians must be prepared to face the digital age in the library several possibilities: 1). Ability to use electronic devices. This skill is very important for librarians because in the digital age, libraries are starting to use electronic facilities or tools. Librarians are also expected to be able to use and understand thesetools both conceptually and practically. 2). Ability to use digital resources. When dealing with libraries in the digital age, librarians must be able to use the digital resources available. Librarians who master this can say they are ready to provide services in the digital age. Therefore, librarians may need to be specifically trained to acquire this skill before directly applying it. 3). Ability to make online publications. Over time, previously manual publishing has changed the starting point for online publishing. Libraries are not only a place for reading, but also for creating various works, so librarians are expected to be able to publish various works via computer or internet.4). Adaptability. In the midst of the digital age, adaptability is important for every librarian. This is because information technology is constantly evolving at any given time and there are many changes, so librarians must adapt well. 5). Assessment skills. This ability is necessary for librarians to evaluate or analyze all the advantages and disadvantages associated with the use of technology. Based on the above explanation, librarians should prepare such skills to face the digital age. By acquiring these skills, librarians can work efficiently and effectively.

CONCLUSION

The digital age is one of the challenges that both librarians and libraries have to face. Librarians and libraries must face and overcome these challenges. This requires the readiness of the librarian and of the library itself. Facing the digital era, the library must prepare for several things such as providing adequate facilities, providing online services, providing electronic collections and starting to use social media platforms. At the same time, librarians must have such skills as: the ability to use electronic tools, use digital resources, make online publications, adapt to the digital age and the

ability to evaluate. With careful preparation, librarians and libraries can face the digital age and provide the best service.

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