

## UTILIZATION OF E-BOOKS IN E-LIBRARY APPLICATIONS TO IMPROVE DIGITAL LITERACY OF LIBRARIANS

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### Abstract

*The use of technology in the form of e-library applications, especially e-books, is an important element in increasing digital literacy among educators and students. Utilization of electronic books (E-books) as a user activity in searching for and accessing necessary information through e-library applications. E-book utilization refers to the way users search for the information they need. The aim of this research is to determine the use of e-books in e-library applications in increasing digital literacy of users. This research uses a descriptive analysis method with a qualitative approach. Observation, interviews and documentation as data collection methods. The use of e-books in e-library applications also contributes to increasing ease of access to information and the level of digital literacy for users. Users use e-books to support the learning, work, research and self-development processes. According to the author, the use of e-books at the Muhammadiyah Bengkulu University Library UPT is still less than optimal, the existing collections in the e-library application are still relatively limited or not diverse, this is due to the limited budget of the library unit so that users cannot make maximum use of e-books. So with this, it is hoped that in the future librarians will make every effort to increase the collection of library materials, as well as carry out promotions so that readers can maximize the use of e-books and utilize them effectively.*

**Keywords:** Digital Literacy, E-Books, User , Utilization of E-Books

### INTRODUCTION

The development of technology that continues to increase the need for information, libraries need to make changes by offering more interactive and proactive services and providing various types of information to library users. In addition, libraries must always anticipate to meet the information needs of the community and provide fast and accurate services by providing information search tools. This is explained in Law Number 43 of 2007 concerning Libraries, which explains libraries as institutions that professionally manage collections of written, printed, and recorded works with established standards to meet the needs of education, research, preservation, information, and entertainment for library users.

Electronic books (e-books) are publications consisting of text, images, or sound and published in digital form that can be read by computers or other computer devices such as android, tablets, or other electronic devices (Mentari, et al., 2018). This e-book contains text and images that can be accessed easily and quickly. Converting books into e-book format not only reduces paper usage, but also reduces the need for storage space. This makes it easy for readers to access it as needed, anytime, and anywhere. The use of electronic books (e-books) needs to optimize electronic books by collaborating in creating content involving modules, digital devices (gadgets) and various supporting media to increase the level of interactivity (Mawarni, in Arnidah, et al. 2020:102). The information in e-books is scientific and continuously updated, covering various fields of knowledge. The use of e-books refers to how users search for the information they need. E-book content significantly helps readers understand topics relevant to their field of study. In utilizing electronic books (e-books), users need facilities such as an efficient catalog or database system, an easy-to-understand classification scheme, and an effective circulation system. Although all of these are tools to help users find information in the library collection, users focus more and pay more attention to the management and security of library collections, which are more real needs. In using electronic books, users find it easier and more practical compared to printed collections, users can find and access various titles without being limited by the physical limitations of storage space. In addition, interactive features such as digital bookmarks, fast text search, and integration with electronic notes can enhance the reading experience and motivate users to switch to e-books.

The e-library application is an application implemented by the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu. This application is here to help and facilitate users in getting the information they need in the form of electronic e-books. The UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu has a digital collection that has been active since February 13, 2020. The software application used as a container for digital collections such as books and scientific works built and developed by PT.ENAM KUBUKU INDONESIA.

According to the opinion of (Dyna Herlina S, 2017) quoted from Paul Gilster, digital literacy includes the ability of individuals to be effective and efficient in understanding and using digital devices in various contexts, including in academic environments, in careers, and in everyday life.

Digital literacy at the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu, users already have the ability to search and find collection materials and then utilize them as well as possible through the e-library application, users are active students and lecturers who play a role in utilizing information sources through electronic books (e-books). The application of digital literacy can improve user wisdom in the use and access to electronic books (e-books). With digital literacy, it is expected that users will not only be able to understand and utilize information sources but also be able to use digital devices well, users also need to understand that digital literacy is an important thing needed to be able to participate in today's modern world, especially for college students. Utilization of electronic books (e-books) at the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu, provides wider access to information resources and plays a role in increasing the digital literacy of users. Through ease of access, search speed, and practicality of using e-books in the e-library application. The e-book collection consists of 267 book titles with 500 registered members, and 197 active users. The number of collections in the e-library application is still relatively limited or not diverse. This is due to budget limitations from the library unit so that students have not been able to utilize e-books optimally. Some students choose to look for library materials in physical or printed form.

Therefore, librarians must be skilled in utilizing e-books related to increasing collection materials in order to educate users. It is important to explore how the utilization of e-books in e-library applications can be a major driver in improving digital literacy skills of users in the academic environment of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu. The purpose of this study was to determine the utilization of e-books in e-library applications in improving digital literacy of users at the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu. In this context, it includes assessing e-book users in the teaching process, learning information access, and user satisfaction with e-book electronic book applications. This study can help improve library services and understand how technology can be optimized for education and research.

The first previous research was taken from a study entitled the use of e-book services by users at the IAIN Kediri Library conducted by Moch, Basit Aulawi. This study aims to evaluate how members of the IAIN Kediri library utilize e-book services. The research method used is descriptive qualitative, the results of the study revealed that e-book services at IAIN Kediri are very useful for respondents. Most members of the IAIN Kediri library utilize e-book services by accessing them from outside the campus, and they can access this service for 24 hours. After accessing the e-book, users prefer to save it in softcopy format rather than hardcopy. Users stated that the use of this e-book service is more efficient in terms of cost and time. However, there are obstacles in utilizing e-book services, especially for users who live in areas with unstable internet connections (Moch. Basit Aulawi, 2021). The second study is entitled analysis of the use of e-books as supporting learning materials by users of the SMAN 1 Kedungwaru Tulungagung Library conducted by Nita Khoirunnisaa and Arin Prajawinanti. The purpose of this study is to understand how e-books as reference sources can be used in learning at SMAN 1 Kedungwaru. The research method applied in this study is qualitative and presented descriptively through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of the study indicate that students at SMAN 1 Kedungwaru have adopted e-books as a tool in the learning process. They use e-books as additional sources to improve their knowledge, especially in the midst of a pandemic situation, where e-books are considered a practical solution for accessing learning materials. The use of e-books also has a positive impact on students' academic achievement and makes it easier for them to access academic information. However, the research findings also revealed that there are still a number of students who have not fully utilized e-books optimally. Moreover, the collection provided is still limited, so students choose to look for physical library materials. However, librarians are making maximum efforts to increase library collections and hold promotions so that students can maximize the use of e-books. E-books can be utilized efficiently and effectively in utilizing the facilities that have been provided, and become a reference that supports learning. (Nita Khoirunnisaa & Arin Prajawinanti, 2023).

Based on two previous studies, similarities can be found with this study, namely both researching the use of e-books and using qualitative approach methods. While the difference is, this study tends to examine the use of e-books in e-library applications in improving digital literacy of library users. This research is important to do because it is to increase understanding of the impact and effectiveness of technology on literacy skills. This can expand information for library institutions and users to utilize digital resources more effectively.

### **Digital Literacy**

Dyna Herlina S, 2017, quoted from Paul Gilster, stated that digital literacy includes an individual's ability to effectively and efficiently understand and use digital devices in various

contexts, including in academic environments, in careers, and in everyday life. He also mentioned digital literacy as follows:

1. Internet Searching  
The ability to operate the internet involves various aspects, including the ability to search using search engines and carry out various activities in an online environment.
2. Hypertext Navigation  
Internet users need to have an understanding of how to navigate through Hyperlinks or links in a web browser. This includes an understanding of concepts such as HTTP, HTML, URL, and so on that are used in the operation of the web to be accessed.
3. Content Evaluation  
This skill aims to equip internet users with evaluation and critical thinking skills. This involves the ability to identify, collect, and assess information found, distinguish facts from opinions, and conduct objective evaluations without prejudice.
4. Knowledge Assembly  
This skill involves the ability to gather information from various sources and organize the knowledge found for use in a particular context, be it for educational or work purposes.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive analysis method with a qualitative approach. The purpose of qualitative descriptive research is to describe, explain, and answer the problems to be studied in detail. The research informants involved three people who were lecturers (educational staff), students, and managers from the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu who met the criteria for research informants.

Table 1. Research Informants

NO	SUMBER	JABATAN	UNIT
1.	Informant 1	Lecture	Management
2.	Informant 2	Student	Management
3.	Informant 3	Technical Staff	-

The data sources used in this study are primary and secondary data. Primary data refers to data sources that are provided directly to researchers. While secondary data refers to data sources that do not provide data directly to researchers, but through intermediaries such as other people or through documents (Sugiyono, 2018). In this study, primary data was obtained from the results of interviews, observations and documentation of informants regarding the research topic, especially related to e-books available at the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu. While secondary data was obtained from other sources, such as books, journals, and articles that are relevant to the research topic.

The interview process conducted in this study was carried out with research subjects to obtain information about the use of e-books in e-library applications in improving digital literacy of library users using an interview guide that had been created by researchers based on the needs that would be asked.

The data analysis techniques used were data reduction, data presentation (data display), and drawing conclusions (Miles and Huberman in Sugiyono, 2018). This research was conducted at the UPT Library of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu located at Jalan Kampung Bali, Teluk Segera District, Bengkulu City, Bengkulu Province 38113, Indonesia.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study discusses the use of electronic books e-books in which the author interviewed librarians and managers at the UPT Library of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu to find out the use of e-books in the e-library application of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu as follows:

Table 1. Data on the number of e-book collections on the e-library application of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu

Kategori	Jenis Koleksi
Agama	6
Sastra dan Bahasa	47
Ekonomi	42
Kedokteran	11
Kesehatan	1
Komputer	19
Manajemen	20
Matematika dan Sains	65
Pendidikan	7
Pertanian, Perkebunan, Peternakan, dan Kelautan	14
Sejarah	1
Sosial	24
Studi dan Pengajaran	3
Teknik dan Arsitektur	7
<b>Jumlah</b>	<b>267</b>

Source: UM Bengkulu e-library website

The UPT Library of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu is located in Kampung Bali, Teluk Segera District, Bengkulu City. As a technical service unit that also supports the implementation of the Catur Darma Perguruan Tinggi, the UPT Library of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu is considered the core or center of a university. This library offers various facilities, means, and infrastructure that are information-based to provide convenience for librarians, management staff in managing the library, and users in fulfilling and searching for information. The UPT Library of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu implements one of the electronic book (e-book) applications developed in an application called the e-library of Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu. This application is an application based on a digital library that is implemented by the library as a solution for users to increase knowledge and search for information. The existing e-book collection can be accessed when connected via the internet network, the application can be downloaded via the Playstore for Android users and is also available in the Windows version. Where the application functions as a tool for searching for information in the form of collection materials that can be used by users or librarians

Utilization of electronic books (e-books) is a process in which individuals use the internet to access and search for the information they need. Mawarni (in Arnidah, et al. 2020:102) said that the utilization of electronic books (e-books) needs to optimize electronic books with collaboration in creating content that involves modules, digital devices (gadgets) and various supporting media to increase the level of interactivity.

Utilization involves various activities that involve the process of using information sources for learning purposes. In this context, it is important to remember that utilization is closely related to how users interact with the information materials they are looking for. The relationship between utilization and collection evaluation is very close. Collection evaluation is used to assess the extent to which the collection covers various aspects such as broad or limited coverage, depth of material, and relevance to the needs of users. Data obtained from the evaluation process can assist in the preparation of collection development policy statements and become the basis for library budget and strategy planning (Sulistyo-Basuki). The development of e-library as a source of information states that the digitization process is divided into three parts, first scanning, which is the process of scanning printed documents and converting them into digital files. For example, pdf (portal document format). Second, editing, which is the process of managing pdf files on a computer by providing passwords, watermarks, hyperlinks and so on. Third, uploading, which is the process of filling in metadata and uploading the document file to the digital library (Kustandi and Situmorang, 2013).

The use of e-books at the UPT Library of the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu can be concluded that e-books have significant benefits for users as a source of information that can help them in finding the information they need. The e-book collection can be accessed via the link <https://kubuku.id/download/elibrary-universitas-muhammadiyah-bengkulu/>. Users can use e-books as references and can download the application that is available via the link. The management of the Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu e-library is carried out online, with the e-book collection uploaded to the e-book application via the internet network. This aims to provide wider access to users, allowing them to use library services from various locations via the internet. When users explore the e-book collection in the library, various user behaviors can be observed, and each user may have a different approach in utilizing the collection. This application is also equipped with features that allow the system to track user activity, including monitoring who accesses the collection, the duration of time spent reading, the number of visits, and even allowing to know where the reader has reached in the reading without having to physically mark the book. The e-library innovation of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu has a collection of 301 e-book titles with 500 registered members, and 197 active users. The existing collections are non-fiction collections, such as religion, literature and language, economics, law, health, management, mathematics, agriculture, history, social, engineering and architecture. The collection in this e-library application is still relatively limited or not diverse. This is due to budget constraints from the library unit so that students have not been able to make maximum use of e-books. Some students choose to look for library materials in physical or printed form. Nevertheless, librarians try their best to increase the collection of library materials, as well as to promote so that users can maximize the use of e-books and use them effectively

Thompson (1991) said that the level of utilization of electronic books (e-books) is measured through three indicators, namely frequency, intensity and number of collections used.

#### 1. Frequency

The frequency of electronic books (e-books) refers to how often the e-book is read, accessed, updated or released. This can refer to the frequency of use or updating of e-book content. In the context of e-books, frequency can describe how often e-books are read, or e-books are updated. The frequency of e-books plays an important role in understanding user preferences and needs, as well as expanding access to the latest information that can be enjoyed by users. By optimizing the frequency of e-books, managers and users both benefit. This can improve the quality, relevance, and experience in the world of e-books. Several factors that influence the frequency of e-book users in libraries include:

a. Availability and Accessibility

The more e-books available in the library collection, the greater the chance of being used by users. If the library provides easy access to a diverse and relevant e-book collection, users are more likely to use it. The availability of the latest titles and a variety of topics can also increase user interest. Libraries must ensure that e-books are easily accessible to users through various devices, such as computers and mobile phones.

b. User Needs

The extent to which e-books meet specific user needs is also an important factor. If e-books are relevant to their needs, learning, studying or personal interests, users are more likely to use e-books more often.

c. Promotion

Promotion of e-books to library users can increase the frequency of their use, this can be done through social media promotion. Effective promotional efforts about available e-books can affect the frequency of use. Users need to know that e-books are available, as well as their benefits and advantages compared to other sources of information.

d. Availability of Technology

The availability of technological devices and infrastructure such as fast internet access and devices that support the use of e-books will also have an impact. In some places where internet access is limited, e-book use may not be as frequent as in places with better internet access.

Users at the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu often access and use e-books to help them find information related to their field of study. The collections available in the e-library include non-fiction or teaching and learning collections, in a week users access e-books 3-4 times. With a reading target of around 30 minutes to 2 hours a day. In accessing e-books, the most relevant device is a mobile phone because it is more practical and easy to carry to various places. To increase interest in using e-books, the library needs to conduct promotions that introduce the services, facilities, collections, and advantages of the e-book application. In this context, users learn about this e-library through social media promotions and promotions in the library area such as posters and banners. In this context, many lecturers, students and library users enjoy using e-book facilities to get easy access to reading materials comfortably through their electronic devices (Jacob, 2014)

## 2. Intensity

Intensity can be measured by various indicators that describe the extent to which e-books are utilized by users and how long users spend accessing e-books each day. This can be measured from the level of reader involvement, for example how long readers spend reading, how often they access the e-book, or how the librarian responds to the material

presented. The following are some indicators used to measure the intensity of library e-books.

a) Number of Downloads

The number of e-book downloads from a library can be a leading indicator of usage intensity. The higher the number of downloads, the higher the usage intensity.

b) Number of Active Readers

The number of Active Readers of an e-book is an important measure for libraries or digital platform providers to assess how frequently and how much e-books are being used effectively by their users. It helps in evaluating the performance of an e-book collection and guides decisions regarding adding or removing certain e-books based on the interests and needs of the readers.

c) Average Reading Time

The average time spent by readers in reading an e-book collection. It looks at how often individuals use e-books and how long they spend reading them. If an individual consistently uses an e-book over a period of time, they can be considered an active reader.

d) User Interaction

Tracks user interactions with an e-book such as tagging, searching, or citation recording. If an individual actively engages with the features of an e-book, it indicates more intensive usage.

e) Reader Retention

Reader retention in e-books refers to the ability to maintain the interest, engagement, and loyalty of readers to an e-book. This has to do with how long or how often readers maintain engagement with the e-books they read.

Measuring the intensity of e-books is important because it provides broad insight and knowledge. The e-library of Universitas Muhammadiyah Bengkulu makes it easy for users to search for and find information with easy access and high portability. Users feel helped when they search for information and access various books related to their field of knowledge. The average time spent by users in reading e-books is around 30 minutes to 2 hours a day. In saving or marking books that have been read, if the user wants to re-read the collection, they can use the features that are already available in the e-book application, or often referred to as the bookmark feature, in this context the user will not be confused anymore if he wants to read the collection again.

### 3. Number of Collection Used

The number of e-book collections used by users refers to how many e-books or e-books have been accessed or owned by the user. It is important to understand that the number of e-book collections used by users can vary significantly between individuals, depending on their preferences and needs in reading and utilizing e-books in various contexts. Here are some indicators used to measure the number of collections used in library e-books.

1) Active Borrowing or Downloads, how often an e-book is borrowed or downloaded by users. This gives an idea of how much interest and effectiveness the title is getting.

2) Usage Statistics, tracking user activity, such as how many pages are read, how long users spend reading, or frequency of access, helps in assessing how intensively an e-book is being used.

- 3) Interaction with Content, tracking interactions that occur with an e-book, such as read marks, bookmarks, searches, or use of other interactive features, can provide information about how often and how deeply an e-book is being used.
- 4) Content Updates and Improvements, if an e-book receives content updates or revisions related to quality improvements, the amount used can also be related to how often users access these updates.
- 5) User Feedback, user responses and reviews of a particular e-book can also provide insight into how well the e-book is being used.

Knowing the number of collections used provides valuable information for e-book service providers or digital libraries. This information helps them evaluate the popularity, relevance, and quality of the collections they offer, as well as in making decisions regarding expanding or editing collections to better meet the needs and interests of readers. Users usually access or borrow e-books related to their field of study, both users and managers aim to obtain the information they are looking for. In using e-books, users find it easier and more practical compared to printed collections, users can find and access various titles without being limited by the physical limitations of storage space. In addition, interactive features such as digital bookmarks, fast text search, and integration with electronic notes can improve the reading experience and motivate users to switch to e-books.

## CONCLUSION

The use of technology in the form of e-library applications, namely e-books, is an important element in improving digital literacy among educators and students. So with this the author can conclude, based on the results of the interview that e-books have significant benefits for users as a source of information that can help them in finding the information they need. The use of e-books has contributed to increasing the ease of access to information and the level of digital literacy of its users. Users use e-books to support the learning process, work, research and self-development. To increase the use of e-books, it is important for libraries to provide training and assistance to users to be more skilled in using e-book electronic book applications, provide easy access and continue to update relevant content collections by paying attention to user needs. With this, libraries can effectively improve the use and skills of digital literacy in the university environment.

## SUGGESTION

This library still faces several obstacles. The obstacles faced by the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu are that the number of collections in the e-library application is still relatively limited or not diverse. This is due to budget limitations from the library unit so that students have not been able to utilize e-books optimally. Some students choose to look for physical or printed library materials. Therefore, librarians must be skilled in utilizing e-books related to increasing collection materials in order to educate users. It is important to explore how the use of e-books in the e-library application can be a major driver in improving the digital literacy skills of users in the academic environment of the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu.

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