

Enhancing Community Reading Interest through Mentoring the Management of Batubasa Nagari Library

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Abstract. This activity aims to increase community reading interest through mentoring the management of the Batubasa Nagari Library. The main focus of this program is to provide solutions to the low utilization of library facilities by the local community. The method used is a qualitative case study approach, with data collected through in-depth interviews, direct observation, and document analysis. The mentoring process involved intensive training for librarians on collection management, comprehensive collection audits, strategic planning for collection development, as well as collaboration with external parties and the implementation of information technology. The results of the activity showed that the mentoring successfully enhanced the skills of the library managers, improved collection management, and expanded community access to relevant reading materials. Additionally, the activity fostered close collaboration between library managers and the community, resulting in increased library visit frequency. In conclusion, mentoring the management of the Nagari library proved effective in enhancing reading interest through more professional management, the use of technology, and collaboration with various stakeholders. This strategy can be applied to other village libraries to support the improvement of community literacy.

Keywords: reading interest; Nagari library; librarian mentoring; collection management; community literacy

1. Introduction

Libraries, as informal educational institutions, play an important role in promoting reading interest within communities. However, a common challenge faced by libraries, particularly at the local or village level, is the difficulty in attracting public interest in utilizing the facilities and services they provide. Amid competition from digital media and increasingly busy modern lifestyles, village libraries often struggle to maintain their relevance and appeal to the community.

Village libraries are public libraries at the lowest level of government structure, and their existence is rooted in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Regional Autonomy Instruction No. 50 of 2000 (Marlini et al., 2021). According to the National Library Standards (SNP) 005:2011, village libraries are run by village or sub-district governments and have the primary duty of developing libraries within their regions (P. Putra &

Khoiriyah, 2020). These libraries also provide services to the general public without discrimination based on age, race, religion, social or economic status, or gender (social inclusion) (Marlini et al., 2021).

Village libraries are one type of public library located in rural areas, making them more accessible to the community, where they ideally provide various information resources in multiple formats to serve as learning centers (E. T. Putra & Rahmah, 2019). These libraries do not simply wait for visitors but actively encourage the public to benefit from their services (Rahmah et al., 2020).

In West Sumatra, village libraries are referred to as "nagari libraries" because the village is called "nagari." These libraries are key tools for enhancing education in the nagari community and are integral to local development. Libraries are essential for fostering an educated society by providing reading and learning facilities tailored to the conditions and needs of the community. Additionally, nagari libraries play a role in the democratic transformation of knowledge and technology toward a modern society (Marlini et al., 2021).

Law No. 43 of 2007 on Libraries mandates that village libraries are public libraries supported by the village government. Articles 48 to 51 of the same law state that the government, together with the community and educational institutions, facilitates and encourages the growth of a reading culture within society (Rupadha, 2013).

The objectives of village libraries include supporting compulsory education programs, lifelong learning activities, providing knowledge and skill-based books to aid in various community activities, encouraging reading habits, preserving and utilizing cultural documents as sources of information, providing healthy entertainment, and promoting the proper and effective use of library resources (Asnawi, 2015).

Given these objectives, library managers in nagari libraries face challenges requiring creativity, dedication, and the ability to develop collections and deliver information effectively to the community. To address this situation, mentoring the management of village libraries has become a primary strategy to boost reading interest. This mentoring not only makes services more accessible, relevant, and appealing to the community but also directly encourages and supports library users in improving their reading habits.

Library work involves services, management, circulation, cataloging, information retrieval, and collection development, all of which must be routinely carried out by library managers. Collection development activities include selecting and acquiring materials, cataloging, conducting stock assessments, and weeding (Ibrahim, 2016). According to the National Library of Indonesia (2002:6), the goals of collection development include setting policies for acquisition plans, selecting the best acquisition methods, conducting direct inspections of the materials, prioritizing material acquisitions, establishing inter-library cooperation, and evaluating the collection (Winoto et al., 2018).

Mentoring library managers in collection development is a strategic effort to enrich and improve library quality. Through this mentorship, managers receive guidance, support, and resources to manage and develop library collections more effectively. Activities include training on material selection techniques, efficient collection procurement strategies, and resource management for ongoing collection maintenance and development. Additionally, this mentoring covers an understanding of literacy trends and community reading interests, ensuring that the collection remains relevant and appealing to users.

This mentoring activity is not only part of community service but also an implementation of the responsibilities held by academics, in line with the Tri Dharma of Higher Education. One form of service is mentoring the library managers in the Batubasa Nagari Library. This mentorship aims to provide solutions, evaluations, and improvements to the problems in collection development at the library. Therefore, mentoring the librarians at Batubasa Nagari Library is not only an initial step but also a strategic one to increase the reading interest of the nagari community.

Based on the potential of Nagari Batubasa, located in Pariangan Subdistrict, Tanah Datar Regency, the team from the Library and Information Science Program of UIN Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar proposed to develop the library collections located at the Batubasa village office. Following visits to the site and discussions with the village head and library managers, several issues related to library management were identified, particularly those affecting the community's reading interest. These include:

- a. The library has been established, but its management, guidance, empowerment, and development are lacking, as evidenced by the limited reading materials and poor organization.
- b. The library managers lack knowledge of how to properly manage the library according to an effective and collaborative system.
- c. The library's facilities are insufficient to support its operations.
- d. The community's reading habits and culture need to be improved.

The Batubasa Nagari Library serves the community by providing information services, with the goal of fostering an informed and knowledgeable society, including students, teachers, homemakers, and nearby residents. Despite the appealing collection of reading materials, the library has yet to be managed and utilized effectively by the public. Greater management efforts are needed to optimize the library's potential and increase the community's reading interest.

2. Methodology

The form of community service carried out by the Library and Islamic Information Science Study Program at UIN Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar aims to increase community reading interest at the Batubasa Nagari Library. This service will employ qualitative data to gain a better understanding of the role of library managers in managing the collections at the Batubasa Nagari Library. Data collection will be

conducted through in-depth interviews with the library managers at the Batubasa Nagari Library, in collaboration with lecturers and students from the Library and Islamic Information Science Program at UIN Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar.

The interviews will focus on the previous management systems and the development of the library collections, as well as the challenges faced by the library in managing the Batubasa Nagari Library. Observations will be conducted through direct field observation, and the community service team (PKM) will also be actively involved in managing and developing the nagari library. Document analysis will be performed on secondary data, such as activity reports and meeting minutes, to support the research. Educational or outreach approaches will be implemented in the field, with the aim of providing training and mentoring as a means of transferring knowledge and education to empower the community. The proposed method for solving the problems involves conducting comprehensive training (both theoretical and practical) to improve the partner's capacity in managing the Batubasa Nagari Library.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Improving the Management of Nagari Libraries

The implementation of community service activities (PKM) by the Consortium of Library and Islamic Information Science (IPII) involved mentoring the management of Nagari libraries to increase reading interest. The activities began with an opening ceremony attended by the nagari head, nagari officials, community leaders, and library managers. The activities continued with the presentation of materials prepared by the PKM team, delivered through lectures supported by PowerPoint presentations and group discussions (FGD). The materials were designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of library managers, nagari officials, and community leaders regarding the management of Nagari libraries and the purpose and function of these libraries. The goal was to improve the knowledge and skills of librarians and provide valuable input for nagari officials about the role of the library in supporting its establishment as a learning center and a hub for fostering reading interest within the community.

The community service activity also included materials delivered during the forum group discussions by resource persons experienced in library management. This enhanced the participants' knowledge and concepts of library management and empowerment. Additionally, the resource person shared knowledge related to the management of library tools, highlighting the importance of library services, facilities, and strategies to face challenges in transforming nagari libraries. This helps fulfill the role of the Nagari library as a source of information and learning for the local community.

The solutions offered to address the library management issues include: First, the mentoring activities began with organizing the library management by conducting an inventory of the library's collection. The team assisted in reviewing the library materials

following standards and guidelines. The librarians then categorized the collection by class and subject, stamped the materials, and recorded them in the inventory book.

Second, the mentoring continued with cataloging the collection by subject. This involved compiling lists or indexes based on topics or subjects, helping users find relevant materials. The process included identifying topics, selecting keywords, and using classification systems like DDC. Librarians must pay attention to: a) accuracy in identification, b) selection of relevant subject headings, c) use of an appropriate classification system, d) consistency in writing format, e) regular data updates, f) use of computer tools, and g) training for library staff.

Third, the mentoring moved to classifying library materials, with key steps involving topic identification, choosing the appropriate classification system, and assigning labels or classification numbers. Categorizing materials based on content makes it easier for users to find what they need.

Fourth, the physical processing of library materials, including creating book labels (call numbers, cards, catalog entries, and lending and return records). This assists librarians in circulation activities. The final step is shelving the collection. Shelving involves systematically organizing materials on bookshelves or cabinets according to their classification. This helps users easily access the required materials. Clear labeling of each bookshelf also facilitates searching and returning materials. Proper shelving ensures the collection remains organized and well-maintained.



Figure 1. Collection Processing Activities at Batubasa Nagari Library

These mentoring activities in library management provide several benefits: (1) relevant reading materials tailored to the needs of the Nagari community, (2) library materials ready for optimal use, (3) faster processing of library materials, making it easier for the community to use the library, (4) preventing material damage due to underuse,

(5) a comfortable library that functions as intended, and (6) increased accessibility, helping librarians bring the community closer to library materials as a way to increase reading interest.

3.2. The Role of Librarians in Increasing Reading Interest

A librarian is someone who has acquired competencies through education and/or librarian training and is responsible for managing and providing library services (Rupadha, 2013). According to Lasa Hs, a librarian is an individual who performs library activities by providing services to the public, in accordance with the duties of their parent institution, based on their knowledge of library science, documentation, and information gained through education (Nurhani, 2017).

Librarians, as human resources within libraries, must work professionally, reflecting their professionalism in terms of knowledge, experience, and skills in independently managing and developing library-related tasks (Mustika, 2017). The Indonesian Librarian Association, as stated by Chusnul Chatimah Asmad and Taufiq Mathar, emphasizes that librarians are an essential element in any library (Neri, 2022). Furthermore, the role of librarians is aligned with the activities conducted in the library, including acquisition, processing, and service of collections. Librarians play a crucial role in the entire information transformation process and are key to providing and delivering information to library users. They also serve as information mediators, learning facilitators, cultural preservationists, learning guides, mediators between the past, present, and future, and facilitators in fostering reading interest (Nurhani, 2017).

Interest is the driving force that leads an individual to pay attention to someone or something, or engage in certain activities, or a state in which a person has an interest in something accompanied by a desire to learn more or prove something further. Reading is a process involving both visual and cognitive skills (Nurhani, 2017). Aspects of reading interest include enjoyment of reading, reading frequency, awareness of the benefits of reading, and the number of books read (Kurniawan et al., 2021).

Librarians play a crucial role in increasing reading interest at the Batubasa Nagari Library through effective collection management and development. The key roles of librarians in this context include:

- a. Selecting Relevant Collections: Librarians are responsible for choosing books and other materials that are relevant to the interests and needs of the community in Nagari Batubasa. By understanding the preferences of readers and local information needs, librarians can curate collections that are both engaging and beneficial for library visitors.
- b. Efficient Collection Management: Librarians must effectively manage the collection, including efficient storage arrangements, organized cataloging, and regular maintenance. This ensures that library visitors can easily find the reading materials they seek and are encouraged to read more.
- c. Sustainable Collection Development: Librarians need to continuously update and enrich the library's collection by adding new books and other materials that align

with the evolving needs and interests of the community. This can be done through purchases, donations, or exchanges with other libraries.

- d. Promoting the Collection: Librarians should actively promote both new and existing collections to the public. They can use various media, such as notice boards, social media, or special promotional events, to attract potential visitors and encourage them to explore the library's collection.
- e. Utilizing Technology: Librarians can leverage information technology to improve accessibility and the reach of the library's collection. They can create online databases or catalogs that allow visitors to search for and access information about the library's collection anytime and from anywhere.

By effectively managing and developing the library's collection, librarians can act as catalysts in increasing the community's reading interest at the Batubasa Nagari Library. A well-managed, relevant, and continuously evolving collection can be a key attraction, motivating the community to utilize the library's facilities and read more.

3.3. Increasing Community Interest in Utilizing the Nagari Library

In the context of the mentoring program for the librarians at the Batubasa Nagari Library to enhance reading interest, the strategy implemented aims to increase community engagement with the library by building and empowering the village community through literacy-based initiatives. This effort is undertaken with the expectation that the community will develop a deeper understanding of the importance of reading and a comprehensive literacy culture. By utilizing resources such as books and the internet, it is hoped that the community can improve their knowledge, which in turn will contribute to their increased income.

The strategy consists of several stages. First, developing reading interest and hobbies within the village community. This is done by providing easier and more attractive access to reading materials that are relevant to their interests and needs. Second, reinforcing the habit of reading as part of daily routines. This involves socialization campaigns and educational programs that encourage the community to regularly set aside time for reading.



Figure 2. Activities in Utilizing the Library Collection

Third, promoting the culture of reading as an essential need in everyday life. Through this approach, reading is expected to become an activity not only seen as a hobby but also as a necessity that supports personal development and enhances quality of life. The expected outcomes from this effort are the availability of reading materials that appeal to community interests and hobbies, the establishment of reading habits as a cultural norm, and an increase in community visits to the Nagari library to make use of its collection. Consequently, the community is expected to become more actively involved in seeking out and using the various available reading resources, ultimately providing them with practical and technical knowledge that can be applied in their daily lives.

4. Conclusion

The outcome of the Community Service Program (PKM) by the Consortium of Library and Islamic Information Science (IPII) at the Batubasa Nagari Library is the strengthening of the library's management. Through librarian mentoring and the organization of various activities such as lectures, discussion forums, and training, there has been an improvement in knowledge and skills related to library management. This initiative not only benefits the community by enhancing reading interest, but also improves the system for managing collections, classification, cataloging, and efficient storage. Librarians play a key role in this process by selecting relevant collections, managing them efficiently, developing sustainable collections, promoting collections, and utilizing technology to increase accessibility.

Thus, the role of librarians is not limited to being information providers but extends to being mediators, facilitators, and promoters of community reading interest. Additionally, through well-planned strategies such as fostering reading interest, reinforcing reading habits, and promoting a reading culture, it is expected that the community's interest in utilizing the nagari library will increase, enriching their

knowledge and overall quality of life. The results of this PKM activity demonstrate that librarians have a crucial role in managing and developing libraries as centers of information and learning for the community. With a structured and well-planned approach, nagari libraries can become more effective in reaching and serving the needs of local readers. It is hoped that through sustained efforts, community reading interest will continue to grow, and nagari libraries will play a greater role in improving literacy and knowledge within their communities.

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