

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF THE LIBRARIAN PROFESSION IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

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Article Info

Article history:

Received :
Acceptance :
Published :
Available online

<http://aspublisher.co.id/index.php/perspektif>

E-ISSN: xxxx-xxxx

How to cite:

Fauzan. (2024). "Opportunities And Challenges of The Librarian Profession In The Era f Globalization". *Perspektif: Journal of Social and Library Science*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 13-21, 2024.



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ABSTRACT

Librarian is a profession that is less considered important when compared to other professions. Along with the developing technology librarians face challenges by being able to compete in the globalization era. In facing the challenges of the globalization era, librarians are required to have competence and certification and librarians must have new innovations in order to take advantage of opportunities by using information technology. In this study using the literature study method in journals that discuss the "Opportunities and Challenges of Librarians" and supplemented with previous studies. The purpose of this study is to find out what are the opportunities and challenges faced by librarians in the globalization era. At present the creation of an information society is one of the factors of information globalization which has the characteristics of information being the main strategic weapon. This is certainly a challenge for librarians in serving users, information selection must be done first. The results of this study are in facing the challenges of the globalization era, librarians must have competence and certification, think creatively, innovatively and intelligently equipped with academic knowledge and be able to master the international language in order to be able to play a role in world class librarian forum activities.

Keywords: *librarian profession, challenge, opportunity, competence.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Globalization in all fields and the information technology revolution are the two main driving forces that have greatly influenced Indonesian higher education throughout the world. The essence of higher education that follows the universality of science and technology still considers the Indonesian educational community as part of a global society. The process of globalization has been going on for a very long time in the world of international trade and in the world of education. In the process of developing globalization there are two major forces

that are very determining, namely technological progress or revolution, especially in information technology and biotechnology (Tawwaf, 2018).

In the era of globalization, libraries have to evolve towards a more advanced and developing direction, both in collection management activities and service activities for users, which at this time users have begun to understand technology, so that it requires activities in libraries to run in accordance with developing technology, then librarians are required to be more active and care about increasingly advanced technology (Mulyadi, et al. 2019). So the librarian profession must provide excellent service to users in accordance with the librarian code of ethics so that visiting users feel comfortable, so that the progress and development of information technology becomes opportunities and challenges for librarians in facing the era of globalization.

Many people out there still consider the librarian profession to be an afterthought, not many of them think that the librarian profession is one of the important professions in society. In fact, there are still many people out there who think that the librarian profession cannot be equated with other professions. In reality, there are still many people out there who do not recognize that librarians are part of the profession. A profession is a position held by certain people and cannot be held by people who do not have competence, but in order to get this position, the person must have educational and training experience in order to improve their competence so that they become more qualified (Syamsuddin, 2002). A profession is an activity that requires knowledge and skills not only from practice but from theory that can be tested in the form of taking exams at a university or official institution and gives the person the right to interact with clients (Sapril, 2012).

A librarian is someone who has skills or competencies in their field obtained through the librarian education and training process and has duties and responsibilities in providing library services and management (Rulyah, 2018). The task of a librarian is to carry out all library activities and provide maximum service to users in accordance with the policies and objectives of an institution (Nur'aini & Nasution, 2021). One of the roles of the librarian profession is to be able to master material in managing information retrieval strategies, especially in searching for information that is developing in cyberspace via the internet network (Suwasana, 2020).

Professionalism is a profession carried out in accordance with the field of interest or activity which is characterized by the existence of a training certificate tailored to the field of specialization pursued by each person (Sapril, 2012). The existence of the librarian profession in our country is relatively new when compared with other professions, therefore the librarian profession needs to be improved and develop its existence in a sustainable manner in accordance with developments in science, technology and information (Ismanto, 2020).

Librarians play a role in improving human resources which is of course in accordance with the message stated in Law Number 43 of 2007 concerning libraries in article 3, which states that libraries function as a vehicle for education, research, preservation, information and recreation to make the nation's life intelligent. However, the fact is that there are still many libraries that only function as storage places for books and documents that have not been used for a long time, so they are far from activities with a literacy theme, let alone as a place for research activities.

In the world of educated society, there are still many who consider that librarians are not a respected profession, so their position cannot be equal and equal to other professions in the world of education, such as lecturers and teachers (Fitriah, 2020). Therefore, librarians must have a strategy in carrying out their duties as a professional profession, one of which is by providing quality services. One of the roles of librarians is to organize, manage and maintain libraries systematically, so that library management is not haphazard without programs and schedules prepared in planning (Hidayat, 2017).

At this time, professionalism in the work of a librarian must be required, with a work method that is based on the principle of using excellent and user-based service, it is hoped that it will be able to provide satisfaction to its users. This will have a positive impact on the librarian profession whose role can be appreciated by the public. Professional librarians must prioritize quality service, which is tailored to the needs of the library, accompanied by a sense of totality, honesty, devotion and full responsibility in serving the community or library (Rulyah, 2018).

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In carrying out scientific research, systematic preparation techniques must be carried out to facilitate the steps that will be taken in scientific research. Likewise, the steps taken by the author in writing this scientific article. Literature study is research carried out by authors using the method of collecting books, magazines, library data, reading and processing research materials related to research problems and objectives. This research uses a literature study method, namely by conducting a literature study in journals that discuss "Challenges and Opportunities for the Librarian Profession" and previous research that has been carried out related to the librarian profession. The data obtained from this literature study will be used as a source and reference for carrying out this research

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Librarian Opportunities

Referring to Law Number 43 of 2007, article 7 paragraph (1), article 8, article 11 and article in chapter seven explain the government's obligations, national library standards and the types of libraries. This shows that there is a direct guarantee from the government or institution as a policy maker in organizing library activities and good library services so that librarians work professionally. This shows that there is an open opportunity for librarians to be recognized who have played a role in all levels of society, starting from villages, cities, schools, universities and other parts. This article has been strengthened by article 52 concerning provisions for sanctions for failure to implement these articles. So this further guarantees the role of librarians and the position of librarians in various regions and regions. The librarian profession should no longer be considered just an outcast profession. It is clear in the Law on Libraries that librarians have an important role in society which aims to make the nation's life more intelligent.

In accordance with the issuance of the Law on Libraries, the duties and responsibilities of a librarian must be able to manage the library and serve users with excellent service. So a librarian is required to be able to develop himself by having competence and certification. If librarians have competence, they must work professionally and are expected to be able to use information technology as an opportunity to create new forms of services. So it is hoped that this new form of service can improve the quality of service to users so that users can feel satisfied and comfortable so that they can use it optimally.

Librarian Challenges

According to Law No. 43 of 2007, it is stated that a librarian is a person who has competence, meaning that a librarian must have excellent knowledge, skills and abilities to be able to provide the best service to users. Competence is the main key for librarians to improve library services. This means that librarians are required to have extensive knowledge, adequate skills and good skills so that they will be able to master information and communication technology which can improve library management and services.

In order to be able to achieve the aim of the library's existence, namely to increase the intelligence of the nation's life. Libraries have several functions, including research, preservation, education, information and recreation. Apart from that, libraries also play a role in increasing people's interest in reading and being able to broaden their knowledge and insight. This means that as library managers, librarians must be able to realize and create libraries as the main destination for society in increasing knowledge and insight in order to increase the intelligence and empowerment of the nation's life. This is a challenge for librarians to be able to carry out their duties and roles in society.

As the times progress, the duties of a librarian continue to develop and become more varied, influenced by the globalization of information. Nowadays, the task of the librarian profession is not only to manage printed collections in libraries, but with the increasingly rapid development of information technology, the task of a librarian must be to be able to provide services in electronic form and printed services. Libraries today must be oriented towards modern concepts so that a library can continue to progress and develop and is supported by complete facilities and technology.

The Importance of Librarian Qualifications in the Era of Globalization

The librarian profession has been recognized by the government since 1988 through the Minister of State Apparatus Empowerment Decree (Kepmenpan) No. 18 of 1988 concerning the functional position of librarians and their credit figures. These regulations have been changed three times by the Ministerial Decree, so the last decision was in 2014 which stipulated the Ministerial Decree and Bureaucratic Reform No. 9 of 2014. However, realistically, there is still a lot about the librarian profession that is not known to many groups of people, but only certain circles know about it. So it is natural that this profession is still little known by many people, even though the scope of the librarian profession today is very broad and there are many opportunities for a librarian profession.

To become a librarian in a library requires education with the lowest academic qualifications, namely a second diploma level or (D-II) in the field of libraries where the university already has good accreditation. Accreditation is one of the important things because the good and bad quality of the higher education institution is based on accreditation, but what really determines it is the competence that a person has, so special training is carried out so that the quality is no longer in doubt.

Abbas (1997) states that future librarians, namely librarians, must be able to be a link between the past and the future so that librarians can become managers or information workers, become teachers, become organizers to work together, become community partners, become advisors in improving public policy, can collaborate with technology resource providers, filter scattered information sources, become a technician and can become an individual information consultant.

The qualifications of a librarian in the era of globalization must be able to manage an integrated information system. An academic librarian must have skills in managing library automation systems and bibliography. In the era of globalization of information, all services have to change to digital form to keep up with the times. Librarians must have technical computer skills because many library automation applications are used in managing library collections. Then academic librarians must be able to use programming languages, computer hardware and software and electronic sources. So if librarians have these

competencies in accordance with what is needed by a library, the library will progress and develop in the era of globalization by providing services that already use digital facilities.

Efforts to Face the Challenges of Librarians in the Era of Globalization

Efforts to face challenges in the era of globalization and sophisticated information technology mean that a librarian's job is considered to have to change. Librarians are not only required to be technically capable, but on the other hand librarians are required to always think creatively, innovatively and intelligently because librarians nowadays must become information and knowledge managers who must be smarter in providing the information and knowledge needed by librarians.

According to Mary Lynn Rice-Lively in (Naibaho, 2014) an academic librarian must have the following abilities:

- 1) Continuous improvement. Librarians must make improvements in themselves in order to develop their professionalism with the aim of getting the best results from the efforts they make.
- 2) Assertive. Librarians must behave honestly, openly and firmly when carrying out service activities for librarians.
- 3) Information literate. Librarians must be able to provide information that is right on target for the information needs of library users and librarians can also provide material regarding information literacy so that users are able to search for information independently.
- 4) Understand the academic system. Librarians must be equipped with additional knowledge related to academics in order to be able to provide academic information to users who need this information because librarians are sources and centers of information for all academics.
- 5) Understand the research process. In the information era, librarians must understand aspects of the research process because librarians must be able to provide research guidance to users who understand the function of the library as a research vehicle.
- 6) Be confident. Librarians must have self-confidence in carrying out their duties and profession because self-confidence will influence the provision of quality information services for librarians.

Becoming a librarian as a profession is not easy. This makes it a challenge that they must be able to show the existence of the librarian profession so that later it can be compared with other professions such as teachers, doctors, lawyers and others. By entering the era of globalization where technology is increasingly developing, librarians should be able to utilize it well so that they can synergize with other professions, such as the medical profession. Librarians can provide information regarding treatment, namely by providing the latest journals and of

course those related to current world health information. In fact, this is a great opportunity for the librarian profession to be able to collaborate with other professions. This activity means that librarians are not only expected to be able to manage libraries but are expected to be able to have knowledge beyond that which can be used as a challenge that must be seen from the positive side. In order to be able to answer these challenges, librarians must be able to show their professionalism, namely by showing the quality of the librarian's work so that other people can believe in the quality of the librarian's profession and not be underestimated. The professional activities of librarians must be realized with a sense of responsibility and dedication which of course already has expertise.

Efforts to face challenges in the era of globalization and sophisticated information technology mean that a librarian's job is considered to have to change. In the current information era, information can be searched and accessed quickly via any search engine easily, but in the search stage there is no information selection stage. Apart from that, the librarian's job is no longer to wait for users to come to the library and then serve the users' needs, but in the current information era, librarians are tasked with visiting users to the library by providing various existing facilities. So, to face the challenges of the globalization era, librarians must have the abilities mentioned by the author so that librarians will provide accurate and quality information services for readers.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussion above, it can be concluded that a librarian must have competence and certification from an authorized official institution. Librarians must have the knowledge, abilities and skills to improve librarian performance and take the library in a better direction. To be able to take advantage of existing opportunities, librarians must be able to master information technology which is expected to provide new and different forms of service to users. Librarians must think creatively, innovatively and optimistically to be able to always provide change in the world of libraries for the better and be able to develop libraries so they can compete in the era of globalization. Apart from that, librarians are required to have academic knowledge because the library is the center of the entire academic community, so it requires librarians to have more knowledge to be able to provide relevant information services. So, to face the challenges of librarians in the era of globalization, librarians must think creatively, innovatively and intelligently and be able to develop their own capacity and be equipped with general knowledge related to academics so that it will have an influence on making libraries more advanced and developed so that they can compete in the era of globalization and Librarians are expected to be able to master international languages well so that in this era of globalization librarians

are able to play a role in national, international and world level librarianship forum activities.

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