

Evaluasi Pemanfaatan Ruang Baca Virtual sebagai Sumber Belajar Mahasiswa Program Studi Pendidikan Sekolah Dasar

The Evaluation of use Virtual Reading Room as a learning resource for students of Elementary School Education Study Program

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengevaluasi penggunaan Ruang Baca Virtual sebagai sumber belajar bagi mahasiswa Program Studi Pendidikan Sekolah Dasar di Universitas Terbuka (UT). Sebagai universitas yang berbasis pada pembelajaran jarak jauh, UT memanfaatkan teknologi digital untuk menyediakan sumber belajar yang dapat diakses kapan saja dan di mana saja. Penelitian ini melibatkan 62 mahasiswa Program Studi Pendidikan Guru Sekolah dasar Universitas Terbuka UPBJJ Jayapura yang tersebar di Merauke, Biak, Bovendigoel, Jayapura, Puncak Jaya, dan Nabire. Data dianalisis menggunakan teknik deskriptif kualitatif. Teknik sampling yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini menggunakan teknik purposive sampling Metode pengumpulan data adalah dengan pembagian kuisioner kepada Mahasiswa PGSD. Evaluasi dikategorikan dalam enam variabel. Hasil evaluasi menunjukkan bahwa pada aspek aksesibilitas termasuk dalam kategori baik dengan skor 3,14. Pada aspek kualitas materi pembelajaran memiliki skor 3,78 dan dikategorikan sangat baik. Pada aspek penggunaan fitur interaktif memiliki skor sebesar 2,47 dan dikategorikan baik. Pada aspek kualitas informasi memiliki skor 3,77 dikategorikan sangat baik dan yang terakhir pada aspek kepuasan penggunaan skornya sebesar 3,1 dikategorikan baik. Penelitian ini memberikan wawasan tentang pentingnya pemanfaatan teknologi dalam pembelajaran jarak jauh dan kontribusinya terhadap peningkatan kualitas pendidikan.

Abstract

This study purpose to evaluate the use of Virtual Reading Room as a learning resource for students of the Elementary School Education Study Program at the Open University (UT). As a university based on distance learning, UT utilizes digital technology to provide learning resources that can be accessed anytime and anywhere. This study involved 62 students at the Elementary School Teacher Education Study Program at the Open University of UPBJJ Jayapura spread across Merauke, Biak, Bovendigoel, Jayapura, Puncak Jaya, and Nabire. The data were analyzed using qualitative descriptive techniques. The sampling technique used in this study used the purposive sampling technique. The data collection method was by distributing questionnaires to PGSD students. Evaluation was selected in six variables. The evaluation results showed that the accessibility aspect was included in the good category with a score of 3.14. In terms of the quality of learning materials, it had a score of 3.78 and was considered very good. In terms of the use of interactive features, it had a score of 2.47 and a good slice. In terms of the quality of information, it had a score of 3.77, which was considered very good, and finally in terms of user satisfaction, the score was 3.1, which was considered good. This study provides insight

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of information and communication technology has had a significant impact on the world of education, especially in distance learning. The Open University (UT) as a university that has a distance education system (PJJ) has adopted various learning methods to facilitate its students, who are spread across various regions in Indonesia, in obtaining quality education. One of the main elements in the UT learning system is the teaching materials used by students. Previously, UT teaching materials were dominant in the form of printed modules, which could be accessed by students through mail or online services.

However, with the advancement of technology, UT began to adopt eBooks (electronic books) as an alternative learning medium that can be accessed through digital devices, such as computers or smartphones. The existence of eBooks provides its own advantages, such as ease of accessing learning materials, interactive features that can enrich the learning experience, and flexibility in terms of time and place to study. A digital library as a collection of content with a stored digital format so that it can expand services in communicating together to users through software assisted by an internet network (Rohmiyati 2018).

The Elementary School Education Study Program at UT is one of the study programs that is attended by many students from various regions in Indonesia. As a study program that is directly related to the educational process, the existence of quality learning resources is very important to support students' understanding of the material taught. One of the innovations made by UT in providing access to learning is by utilizing the virtual reading room as a means to obtain reading materials and scientific references. With the virtual reading room, students can access a variety of literature online, which can support their learning process, especially those related to the theory and practice of elementary school education.

Teaching materials developed by UT include printed and non-printed teaching materials (digital). The printed teaching materials developed by UT must be able to be learned independently by students, therefore the teaching materials developed must meet the criteria *self-contained* which means that the material developed in the teaching materials must be quasi-by students and *self-instruction* which means that the teaching materials developed provide clues on how the material is learned (Ristiyono 2016). On the other hand, the printed module is still maintained because it is considered easier to use by students who are not familiar with technology or are in areas with limited internet access. Printed modules provide the advantage of lower dependence on electronic devices, which allows students to learn without technical barriers.

The Open University is one of the higher education institutions that supports it the KLB policy launched by the government. Open University with its slogan as Open and Distance Higher Education (PTTJJ), already has experience in implementation distance online learning (Apriandhini; Majidah, 2020). The outbreak situation occurred due to the virus Corona has made the Open University further strengthen its role as PTTJJ. Various efforts designed to provide the maximum possible services and facilities to support activities learn how to teach. During teaching and learning activities in normal situations and conditions, the University Open provides independent learning facilities such as Online Tutorials (Tuton), Reading Room Virtual (RBV), Dry Lab, Smart Teacher Online (GPO), UT-TV, UT-Radio, repository, and ebook access as well as journals. RBV is a digitization of the Basic Material Book (BMP) which was developed for help students read modules via the internet network.

Along with the growing use of eBooks and printed modules in distance

learning, questions arise about the extent to which these two media affect student learning outcomes. Does the use of eBooks provide better results compared to print modules, or are printed modules still a more effective option in supporting students' academic achievements? The development of *digital libraries* is not just to adapt to the development of information technology, but more because of the demands of a paradigm change in higher education, which includes a paradigm change in learning with *e-learning*, changes in scientific communication that lead to *e-research*, and the urgent need to create a *information literacy* in higher education. With the development of *e-learning*, there will be a demand for a digital information service that is integrated with the teaching and learning system .

The virtual reading room can be used as an interactive forum for students to improve their understanding of the reading materials needed for learning, especially language learning. In addition, the use of Virtual Reading Rooms allows students to study independently (Maskar et al. 2021). Based on the results of interviews with several students of the mechanical engineering education study program who use *the digital library* application , there are several problems experienced when using *the digital library* application, including: (1) features of use, (2) quality of service, (3) ease of use, and (4) internet connection . Virtual reading room service as one of the website facilities for make it easier and faster to obtain information. This can be used by universities in improving the quality of education and services using website-based media (Nuridayanti et al. 2023).

Some previous research on the use of Virtual Reading Rooms includes Utami and Hermawati (2018) entitled Virtual Reading Room and Digital Learning Material As E Learning Media Ins Distance Education. This study provides an overview of the benefits of Virtual Reading Room as a distance learning medium. The results of the appointment of the use of virtual reading rooms as much as 60% were accessed by students and made it easier for students to access balajr resources and teaching materials. Next research conducted by (Ginting, Udyana, and Pratiwi 2022) entitled Learning Movement in the Virtual Reading Room by Denpasar Open University Students. This Virtual Reading Room service is in great demand because it can access complete teaching materials easily from anywhere and anytime with the record of the devices we use to access the Virtual Reading Room connected to the internet.

Further research was conducted by Sukirno (2013) with the title "Evaluation of the Utilization of Digital Book Collections by Medical Education Students in the Library Unit of the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada (FK UGM)" and this study aims to 1) find out the use of digital book collections by medical education students of FK UGM, 2) provide input for the FK UGM Library in making policies in the development of digital book collections, and 3) provide input to the manager of the FK UGM medical education program about the use of Digital Book Collection. This research is expected to make a significant contribution to the development of distance learning at the Open University, especially in terms of the use of technology as a learning resource. With the results of this research, it is hoped that there will be efforts to improve the use of virtual reading rooms to improve the quality of student learning. This research can also be a reference for similar research in other universities that implement distance learning systems and the use of technology in the teaching and learning process.

Open University offers learning assistance for other higher education academics to use the Universitas Terbuka Learning Management System. LMS is a software application for online activities (Wibowo et al., 2015). Universitas Terbuka's optimism in offering LMS is not without reason, because it has been applying online learning services for more than 15 years. The features available in UT's LMS are carefully developed to be user-friendly in the form of managing user access rights, teaching materials, activities, grades and e-learning visualizations and supported by

committed and experienced IT staff. Universitas Terbuka not only offers LMS assistance, but also provides open access to utilize RBV. RBV is a virtual reading room containing + 1,350 BMP course titles, all of which are managed by the library unit. Currently, libraries play a very important role in a university, because one of the supporting facilities for the Tri Dharma of Higher Education program is the library (Supriyanto & Iswandiri, 2017).

However, although the virtual reading room offers various conveniences in terms of accessibility and time flexibility, the effectiveness of its use as a learning resource for students of the Elementary School Education Study Program at UT still needs to be further evaluated. The effective use of virtual reading rooms is expected to support the improvement of student learning outcomes, but in practice, not all students are able to maximize their use optimally. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct an evaluation to find out the extent to which the virtual reading room can be used optimally by students in supporting their learning process, especially in Papua.

METHOD

This research is a type of qualitative descriptive research Research instrument in the form of a questionnaire. This research involved 62 students of the Teacher Education Study Program of the Elementary School UPBJJ Jayapura Open University. The data was analyzed using qualitative descriptive techniques. The sampling technique used in this study uses the purposive sampling technique (sampling according to the purpose) According to Sugiyono (2018) Purposive sampling is sampling with a specific purpose and purpose where a person is considered a sample because of the researcher. The data collection method is by distributing questionnaires to PGSD students spread across Merauke, Biak, Bovendigoel, Jayapura, Puncak Jaya, and Nabire. Evaluation is categorized into five variables, namely: 1) accessibility, 2) quality of learning materials, 3) use of interactive features, 4) information quality, 5) user satisfaction, etc. The data that has been analyzed is poured into the form of numbers, percentages, graphs and tables so that it can be easily interpreted. The results of the answers will be given a score, namely; 1 = Very Not Good, 2 = Not Good, 3 = Good, and 4 = Very Good. From these calculations, the interval values in table 1 have been obtained.

Table 1. Interval Value

No.	Score	Category
1	1,00 - 1,74	Very Not Good
2	$1.75 \leq 2.49$	Bad
3	$2.50 \leq 3.24$	Good
4	$3.25 \leq 4.00$	Excellent

Simamora (2004)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

The results of the analysis on the six variables evaluated were obtained through a questionnaire given to students to find out the extent of the benefits of the Virtual Reading Room provided by the Open University for Students to facilitate learning with the availability of complete learning resources for students in the current era of distance learning. This research purpose to evaluate the Virtual Bava Room (RBV) application which aims to improve the performance of the University service application open to students spread throughout Indonesia from Sabang to Merauke. So input from students is needed to support student success in learning through the availability of virtual reading room services that are friendly to students and quite effective in use. An overview of the results of the data analysis carried out can be seen in the Table. 2

Table 2. *Evaluation Results of the Use Virtual Reading Room (RBV)*

No	Variable	Score	Category
1	Accessibility	3,14	Good
2	Learning Material Quality	3,78	Very Good
3	Use of Interactive Features	2,47	Good
4	Information Quality	3,77	Very Good
5	User Satisfaction	3,1	Good

The results of the analysis of 5 evaluation variables carried out in the virtual reading room can be seen in Figure 1.

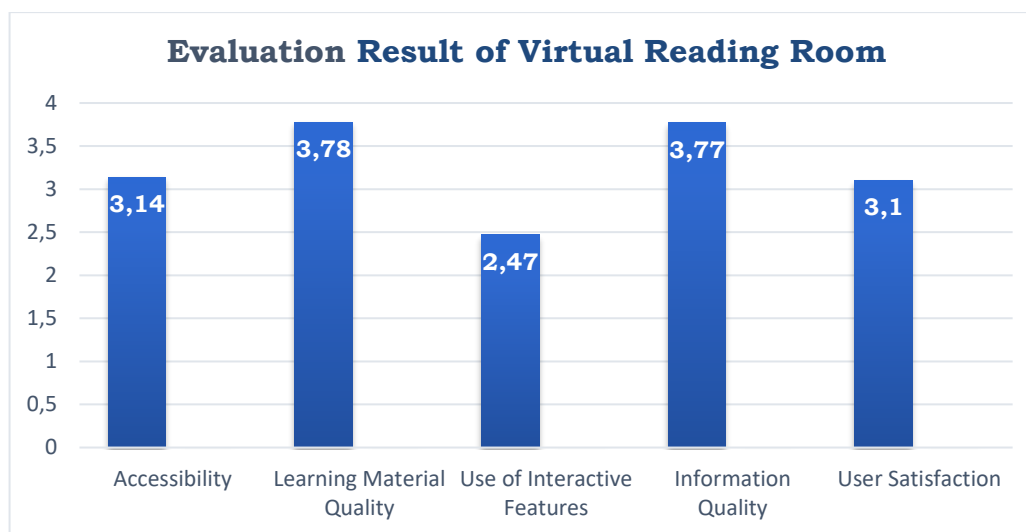


Figure 1. Graph of evaluation results

Based on the results of the analysis of the evaluation of the use of Virtual Reading Rooms by Open University students in the elementary school Teacher Education study program, the accessibility aspect is included in the good category with a score of 3.14. In terms of the quality of learning materials, it has a score of 3.78 and is categorized as very good. In terms of using interactive features, it has a score of 2.47 and is categorized as good. In the aspect of information quality, it has a score of 3.77 categorized as very good and the last in the aspect of satisfaction with the use of the score of 3.1 is categorized as good.

Discussion

Based on the graph in figure 1 of the five aspects of evaluation, the highest result is in the quality of learning materials with a score of 3.78 and in the quality of information the score is 3.77 and is categorized as very good, this shows that the quality of teaching materials in the virtual reading room is very good in supporting learning for Open University students in the elementary school teacher education program and also the quality of the information is very good because of the existing learning resources in the virtual Reading Room is written and compiled by experienced lecturers in Indonesia.

The graph above also shows that the evaluation category on accessibility has a score of 3.14, the use of interactive features has a score of 2.47 and the satisfaction of use has a score of 3.1 in the good category. Some things that need to be considered in the use of virtual reading rooms, especially in Papua, are in the aspect of accessibility

because some areas in Papua have poor internet connections. Some students stated that access to the virtual reading room makes it easier to find book collections in search, this is in line with previous research which states that library users prefer a system of searching for information in a *Online* Thus document functions can be found more easily and can encourage user motivation to utilize them (Shiri et al. 2013). The downside to internet-based learning resources is the internet connection (Srirahayu, Anna, and Irfana 2016), some students face problems with unstable internet connections, so some students have difficulty accessing materials smoothly.

The use of interactive features in the Virtual Reading Room is very helpful for students because they can access all the learning modules needed by students and with interactive features students are more free to access the learning resources needed in lectures to support learning success and are very efficient, this is in line with research conducted by (Stephen 2020) With the rapid development of electronic learning resources, it can facilitate learning management because it can be accessed anywhere. The convenience offered by the Open University through the Virtual Reading Room supports the implementation of online learning with a distance learning system carried out by students in Papua (Marpaung, Betaubun, and Kalalo 2022). In line with Ristiyono (2015) also stated that the idea of this digital library followed by the Office of the Ministry of Research and Technology with the Library program Digital is geared towards providing easy access to scientific data documentation and technology in digital form in an integrated and more dynamic manner. From the description above It can be concluded that digital libraries are libraries that are served online which can be accessed anytime (24 hours), anywhere but must be accompanied with the network. Without having to come to our library, you can access it from long distance.

Improving the quality of the virtual reading room provided by the University is open. This satisfaction survey needs to be carried out to find out student satisfaction in using the virtual reading room. Evaluation in learning can be done through student satisfaction surveys (Marpaung 2021). Similarly, in the use of virtual reading rooms, it is necessary to conduct surveys to make improvements through user satisfaction evaluations.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the Virtual Reading Room has excellent benefits in supporting the learning of students of the elementary school teacher education study program at the open university. RBV helps increase student independence in learning However, the challenge faced by students in Papua is the internet connection in several areas in Papua which is an obstacle because some students at the Open University are in areas with poor networks.

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