



# The Role Of The Library And Archives Service Of Kuantan Singingi District In Efforts To Develop A Culture Of Community Literacy

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## **Abstract**

*Literacy is the ability to use language and images in rich and varied forms to read, write, listen, speak, see, present and think critically about ideas. This allows us to share information, interact with others, and to make meaning. Literacy is a process and deeper understanding. Literacy serves to connect individuals and society and is an important tool for individuals to grow and participate actively in a democratic society. This study was conducted using a qualitative descriptive method to describe the role of the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district in building a culture of community literacy. Data collection methods using interview, observation, documentation and triangulation techniques. This study has three indicators, namely facilitators, mediators and motivators, where the results of the study show that the role of the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district from the three indicators is still in the category of quite a role.*

*Keywords: Role, Literacy, Government*

## **1. Introduction**

Literacy culture has been initiated by the Ministry of Education and Culture since 2016, and has become a program that must be implemented by every region, of course Kuantan Singingi Regency is not exempt from this government program. Increasing literacy culture certainly has the aim of increasing public insight to improve the quality of life. Literacy itself can be described as a person's ability to use information with the aim of optimizing insight, knowledge so that they feel the benefits. In this case, the role of the government is certainly needed by the community to provide facilities and infrastructure in an effort to build a culture of literacy itself. Libraries as a source of knowledge must be able to meet the needs of the community or what is better known as visitors. Selection of library materials is very necessary in this case. Librarians will meet the needs of visitors by providing various collections of books based on the needs of library visitors (A.P. Pratiwi, 2018:33). The local government in this case is the Library and Archives Service has a very important role in efforts to build a culture of literacy in the community. By managing regional libraries, of course, it can have an influence on the community. So that it can foster an interest in literacy so that society is not left behind by today's increasingly developing world.

## **2. Literature Review**

State administration is a system used by a country to assist the government in fulfilling the needs of the community. In today's modern life, the state is more directed at trying to meet the needs of the community, especially in matters of welfare services, so there is a need for state administration

to carry out these tasks. In this case, state administration always tries to organize all aspects of state activities such as bureaucracy, preparation, governance, implementation, and supervision of all government actions, so that the government system in a country runs consistently. Consistency in the state administration system is very necessary so that the objectives of government activities can be carried out with maximum quality and quantity in accordance with the initial plan of the government's activities (Budi Nugraha, et al., 2022: 10). According to Drs. Muhammad, administration is defined as a process of organizing resources so that work tasks in any level of organization can be carried out properly. The administration process will carry out three main functions that are closely related to the three general levels in the formal hierarchy. At the top level, namely the organizational directive function, especially related to the long-term planning process of a goal with efforts to maintain the organization as a long-term work, the climate required by technical or professional staff involved in the production process (results). At the bottom level is the supervisory function. In direct contact with professional and technical workers, the supervisory function directs the use of resources and establishes that professional and technical activities are carried out according to established standards (2019:2). According to Stephen P. Robbins (in Desna Aromatica 2021:7) the description of the organization that is often used is: a. Organization is a rational unity in pursuing goals. Organizations exist to achieve goals, and the behavior of organizational members can be explained as rational work on those goals. b. Coalition of strong constituencies. Organizations consist of groups that each try to satisfy their interests to influence the

distribution of resources within the organization. c. Open system. Organizations are input and output transformation systems that depend on the environment for their survival. d. Systems that produce meaning. Organizations are artificially created entities. Their goals and intentions are created symbolically and maintained by management. e. Political system. Organizations consist of internal supporters who try to gain control in the decision-making process in order to improve their position. f. Domination tools. Organizations place their members into job boxes that inhibit what they can interact with. They are also given superiors who have power over them. g. Social contract. Organizations consist of a number of unwritten agreements where members do, written behaviors where members do, certain behaviors and for which they receive rewards. Human Resource Management is the process of conveying organizational goals by utilizing humans or people in it. Individuals or employees who are managed to have the competence and good abilities needed to support their work. (Ni Kadek & John 2019: 2). According to Masran & Mu'ah Human resource management, also called human resource development, implementation and recruitment (including selection), training and career development of employees, and taking initiatives towards organizational development of an organization (in Reymond 203:1). According to Law Number 43 of 2007, a library is an institution that manages a collection of written works, printed works, and/or recorded works professionally with a standard system to meet the needs of education, research, preservation, information, and recreation of library users. According to Sutarno NS (in Tunardi 2018;69), the role of the library is part of the main tasks that must be carried out in the library. Every library that is built will have meaning if it can carry out its role properly. The roles that can be carried out by the library include the following: a. The library is a source of information, education, research, preservation, and preservation of the nation's cultural heritage as well as a healthy, cheap and useful recreation place. b. The library is a media and bridge that functions to connect sources of information and knowledge contained in the library location with users. c. The library acts as a means to establish and develop communication between users, and between library organizers and the community they serve. d. The library plays an active role as a facilitator, mediator, and motivator for those who seek, utilize, and develop their knowledge and experience. e. The library acts as a non-formal educational institution for community members and library visitors. f. The library acts as an agent of change, an agent of development, and an agent of human culture. g. The library plays a role in collecting and preserving collections of library materials so that all priceless human works

remain in good condition. h. The library can act as a barometer of community progress as seen from the intensity of visits and use of the library. i. The library can also act as an institution to develop reading interests, reading habits, and reading culture, through the provision of various materials that are in accordance with the desires and needs of the community. According to Yunus Abidin (2015:49-51), the word literacy has a new meaning in the 21st century. Traditionally, literacy is seen as the ability to read and write. People who can be said to be literate in this view are people who are able to read and write or are free from illiteracy. The understanding of literacy then became more developed into the ability to read, write, speak and listen. In line with the development of information and communication technology, the definition of literacy has also experienced further development. In essence, being literate in this century of information means being able to engage in various literacy practices and being able to describe various literacy skill sets in the diversity of literacy domains.

### 3. Research Methods

#### 2.1 Type of Research

The type of research used in this study is descriptive with a qualitative approach. In relation to this study, the researcher uses a qualitative descriptive research type to explain and describe the Role of the Library and Archives Service of Kuantan Singingi Regency in Building a Culture of Community Literacy.

#### 2.2 Informants

The sampling method for the community, the author uses the provocative sampling technique, where this technique is a technique used when sample members are specifically selected based on the research objectives.

Table 1. Informants

NO	Informants	Amount	Persentase
1	Head of Department	1	10%
2	Secretary	1	10%
3	Head of Library	1	10%
4	Library Staff	4	40%
5	Visitors	3	30%
<b>Amount</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4. Results and Discussions

Literacy is defined as the ability to use language and images in rich and diverse forms to read, write, listen, speak, see, present, and think critically about ideas. Literacy is a complex process that involves building, prior knowledge, culture and experience to develop new knowledge and deeper

understanding. Literacy serves to connect individuals and society and is an important tool for individuals to grow and actively participate in a democratic society. Libraries have a very important role in the dissemination of information, this is because in a library there are so many reading materials where each example certainly has a variety of information that is very useful for its readers. So in this case the library plays a very important role in creating a literate society, namely a society that is literate in information. This is in accordance with the mandate of Law number 43 of 2007 concerning libraries, where libraries must be pioneers of a massive literacy movement, namely a reading and writing movement that is balanced by building a critical and logical thinking framework so that it will develop a culture of literacy. Based on this study, the author can describe that the role of the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district in building a culture of literacy is seen from three indicators, namely the first indicator as a facilitator, the second as a mediator and the third as a motivator. The library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district has provided a collection of reading materials, both printed and electronic (e-books) that can be enjoyed by students, researchers and the community. In addition, the library and archives service also has a mobile library service and also a children's reading service. Currently, the availability of information on reading materials, education, research, preservation of cultural treasures for the community at the library and archives service, although not yet optimal in terms of quality and quantity, is trying to provide it for the development of literacy culture itself. This is based on the results of an interview with Mr. Martius, S.Pd., M.Pd, et al (Monday, June 3, 2024). Another effort made by the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district in building a culture of literacy in the community is to prepare strategic programs, such as cultural activities to encourage reading in the community which are held through partnerships with various stakeholders. In addition, there is also a national library program of the Republic of Indonesia which is followed by the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district, namely the social inclusion-based library transformation program (TPBIS). The role of the library as a mediator is the role of the library that is able to become a media for the community and its users or can help bring together users with information sources that are the needs and expectations of users, researchers and the community. In this study, the author assesses that the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district is trying to be a container or media for its users in providing and improving information services both offline and online by utilizing the online media platform owned by the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district in an

effort to build a culture of community literacy. This study also looks at the role of the library and archives service as a motivator in which in this case the library and archives service has a role to motivate users in utilizing the library as an infrastructure in literacy activities through innovative programs. The role of the library as a motivator can be demonstrated through activities scheduled by the library, which can be in the form of socialization or publication activities aimed at attracting users to utilize the library collection so as to increase interest in reading (Astuti, 1240-15: 2015). Through this study, the researcher found that the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district has several activities carried out in an effort to attract the interest of library users to use or utilize the collections available at the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district. The library has a very large role in fostering public interest in reading and literacy, of course through programs that have been prepared by the library and archives service such as cooperation that has been established with various parties, schools, government agencies so that it can involve its elements to be more familiar with the existence of the library in an effort to introduce it as a center for educational development. Based on the research that the researcher has done, the library and archives service has tried to carry out these things such as holding poetry competitions, visiting schools, mobile libraries in an effort to cultivate literacy starting from elementary school level. which is very important in people's lives, especially at this time when human civilization is based on information technology. Libraries as institutions that function as a means of education, research, preservation, information and recreation as mandated by Law Number 43 of 2007 concerning libraries, which must pioneer a massive literacy movement, namely the reading and writing movement balanced by building a critical and logical thinking framework so as to foster a culture of literacy in society in general and librarians in particular. Increasing interest in reading is indeed not something that is easy to do, but based on research conducted by the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district that researchers see from three indicators, namely, facilitators, mediators and motivators, the library service has made maximum efforts in building a culture of literacy in society. However, in each indicator the author found several shortcomings so that efforts to build a culture of literacy have not been maximized. As the author sees the role of the library and archives service from the facilitator indicator, although there is a collection of printed and electronic reading materials, mobile library services, children's reading services, but based on research all of these services have not been maximally published to the public so that the public does not

know the various facilities owned by the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district. This is what needs to be a concern for the library and archives service, how all available facilities can be published to the public in general and library users in particular so that the public knows and can utilize all of these facilities to build a culture of literacy. Likewise, the role of the library as a mediator, which means that as a mediator, the library has the task of being a liaison between users and stakeholders in conveying expectations regarding how the library can become a medium for the community in obtaining information needed by the community. In this case, the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district has also tried to play its role as it should, such as carrying out various forms of cooperation with various parties, schools, civil registration offices, community institutions, Bank Riau Kepri, and the District Court. However, this effort is only limited to signing the MoU and has not had a significant implementation in efforts to build a culture of community literacy. According to researchers based on the results of the study, this is influenced by various factors such as information services that are still limited so that reaching community involvement and parties who help build and develop the culture of literacy itself is slightly constrained.

The development of information technology must of course be in line with the development of literacy itself, where at this time the culture of literacy has not been deeply rooted in our nation's culture. In this case, of course, the library must take a role not only as a provider of information services, but also how to motivate the community to be able to develop the culture of literacy. The library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district has tried to motivate the community through parties that have established cooperation which is shown through scheduled activities aimed at attracting users to utilize library collections so as to increase interest in reading. But unfortunately the programs designed by the library and archives service are only limited to organizing activities involving school students so that efforts to build a culture of literacy for the community have not been very significant in their level of success.

The library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district, which in this case acts as a regional library, certainly has a very important role in efforts to build a culture of literacy in society. This is because the library should not only act as a provider of information but the library is also expected to be able to play a role and act as a facilitator, mediator and motivator in developing a culture of literacy in society. This is done so that society can keep up with the progress of information technology because with good literacy skills, society will be

able to empower themselves and improve their quality and each individual will be able to open a new concept and order in increasing their ideas and creativity. Thus, it will be able to create a new idea for the progress of the nation.

## 5. Conclusion

Literacy is the ability to use language and images in rich and varied forms to read, write, listen, speak, see, present and think critically about ideas. Literacy is a complex process that involves Building on previous knowledge, culture and experience to develop deeper knowledge and understanding. Literacy serves to connect individuals and society and is an important tool for individuals to grow and actively participate in a democratic society. So based on the research that has been conducted by the author using three indicators, namely facilitators, mediators and motivators, it can be concluded that the library and archives service of Kuantan Singingi district can be said to play a role in efforts to foster a culture of literacy in society.

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