	<p style="text-align: right;">Date : 28/06/2007</p> <p><b>Directing Students of LIS to the Wider World of Librarianship</b></p> <p><b>Ida Fajar Priyanto</b> Gadjah Mada University Library Yogyakarta, Indonesia</p>
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### **Abstract**

*Indonesia is a country with more than 200 million of population. While the number of libraries is so huge, there are only three universities opening graduate schools of library and information science and several universities open the undergraduate schools. The three universities (University of Indonesia, Padjadjaran University, and Gadjah Mada University) offer different focuses of librarianship. Gadjah Mada University focuses on literacy and access to libraries.*

*Established in 1996, the school has shift from under the Department of State Administration to Sociology and now it is an independent department. Within the last two years as an independent department, the students of the Graduate Schools of Information and Library Management, Gadjah Mada University have been directed to manage the nation's problem, i.e. illiteracy. However, it seems that students find it difficult to be "outside" of the library. Therefore, the researches they do are still closely related to the management of library operation; instead of the "outside" world of the library.*

Keywords: *library, education, literacy*

### **Introduction**

The study of librarianship has evolved and undergone changes in terms of the course materials. This is due to the development of this discipline itself as well as the impact of information technology implemented in libraries. The impact of information technology on library has especially been seen in the late 1990s with the implementation of library

automation, especially the computerized catalog. The library education was also affected and therefore curriculum of librarianship also changed and the department of librarianship also changed their names from department of librarianship into department of library studies or information and library studies and later some used information science.

In the developing countries like Indonesia, the change was also seen in the last decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century, but it mostly happened in the changing of curriculum and course contents. More departments of librarianship included courses on information technology, database management, library automation, etc. the inclusion of those courses were much appreciated by lecturers and students.

The graduate level also raised the issues of information technology in their curriculum, but the issues were more on implementation, management, policy and regulation. Apart from this situation, recently, there has been an awareness of the importance to analyze what happens beyond the library—the community, the publishing industry, state policy, and information technology. Such issues have been discussed by librarians and information experts. Gadjah Mada University caught the idea of solving or helping to solve social problems in relation with the library, reading and illiteracy. Therefore, the students are then expected to do researches on the above aspect.

### **Library education in Indonesia**

Indonesia is a country with more than 200 people and it consists of more than 13,000 islands. The big islands are Sumatra, Borneo, Sulawesi, Java and West Papua. Java is the most densely populated island in Indonesia. This island has roughly about one third of the whole population of Indonesia. And modern libraries may be found in this island. In addition, it is in this island that library education is better and more advanced. However, nowadays library education in Indonesia is still developing. There are various training both basic training on librarianship and modular training such as training on computer network for libraries, training on database search, data input training, etc. The basic

training of librarianship is the one which offers basic library management and services such as collection development, classification, cataloging, library services, indexing etc.

Formal education in librarianship is increasing both in the number of institutions offering the program as well as in quality; however, the institutions are mostly available in Central Java—the most densely populated island. Currently there are 20 universities offering diploma program in librarianship, while those offering undergraduate and graduate program are few. The following is the table of higher education institutions offering diploma program in librarianship:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Higher education institution name</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	North Sumatera University	Sumatra Island
2	Padang State University	Sumatra Island
3	Lampung University	Sumatra Island
4	Riau University	Sumatra Island
5	Lancang Kuning University	Sumatra Island
6	Syah Kuala University	Sumatra Island
7	University of Indonesia	Java Island
8	Bogor Institute of Agriculture	Java Island
9	Bandung Institute of Technology	Java Island
10	Yarsi University	Java Island
11	Padjadjaran University	Java Island
12	Diponegoro University	Java Island
13	State University of Sebelas Maret	Java Island
14	Gadjah Mada University	Java Island
15	Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University	Java Island
16	Airlangga University	Java Island
17	Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University	Java Island
18	Hasanuddin University	Sulawesi
19	Sam Ratulangi University	Sulawesi
20	State Islamic University of South Borneo	Borneo

As we can see above, there are 19 higher education institutions offering a diploma program in librarianship. Most of the institutions are in Java (11 institutions), in Sumatra (6 institutions) and Sulawesi (2 institutions) and Borneo (1 institution) and there is no one library education available in West Papua yet. The courses offered in the diploma

program are mostly related to daily activities of library operation, such as publishing, information resources, collection development, information organization in libraries, user education, library and information services, software application, library automation, Internet in libraries, preservation, etc. Before students finish their education, they are required to do practical in a library field work for a month and submit a paper about his or her field work.

Meanwhile the undergraduate level of education is available in Java only.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Higher education institution name</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	University of Indonesia	Jakarta (West Java)
2	Padjadjaran University	Bandung (West Java)
3	Diponegoro University	Semarang (Central Java)
4	Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University	Yogyakarta (Central Java)

The courses offered in this level relate to understanding and implementation of library management in day-to-day management. However, a more in-depth study is also emphasized in this level of education. Students are also required to write term-papers at the end of their study. The term-papers that the students write are based on their study.

And the graduate level of education is offered in three universities in Java, namely:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Higher education institution name</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	University of Indonesia	Jakarta (West Java)
2	Padjadjaran University	Bandung (West java)
3	Gadjah Mada University	Yogyakarta (Central Java)

The three universities offering graduate school of librarianship has different focuses of learning. University of Indonesia focuses on the management of a library; Padjadjaran University has an interest in library services; and Gadjah Mada University is interested in literacy. The focus on literacy was just coined quite recently. Earlier, Gadjah Mada University's focus was especially on service quality.

## **Gadjah Mada University, Graduate School of Library and Information**

### **Management**

The Graduate School of Library and Information Management at Gadjah Mada University is actually a transformation from Master in Librarianship which was established in 1996. In the beginning, this course was managed by Department of State Administration and it ran for 4 years. The courses offered dealt with library services and management. The course was then closed due to the idea of the new head of department that librarianship should be a separate discipline.

In 2002, however, the Dean of Faculty of Social and Political Sciences thought about the importance of reopening a graduate school of librarianship as he considered the need of more librarians who were capable of managing social problems, i.e. literacy and reading habit. In fact, when some librarians complained about the decreasing number of library users, librarians often blamed themselves that their libraries have poor collection or they do not have representative libraries. Besides, there were only three universities in Indonesia offering masters degree in librarianship. The reopening of the department was no longer under the department of state administration; instead, it was under the department of sociology together with the opening of social welfare department.

After 2 years after the reopening of this librarianship, the university considered the need to develop the department in order to accommodate the fields of archives and museum studies or museology in the future. Those two studies have not been available in Indonesia yet.

### **Curriculum**

The curriculum of the department of information and library management has shifted from library management to information and library management. This is due to the fact that earlier, this department was under the department of state administration and after reopening, the department is under the department of sociology. The contents deal more with social problems, namely, literacy, reading habit and “aliteracy”—the term for the condition of people who can read but do not want to read.

Under the department of sociology, the librarianship may deal more with social problems mentioned above. Therefore, social life and social problems may be solved. After the department was moved to begin and start managing the department by itself.

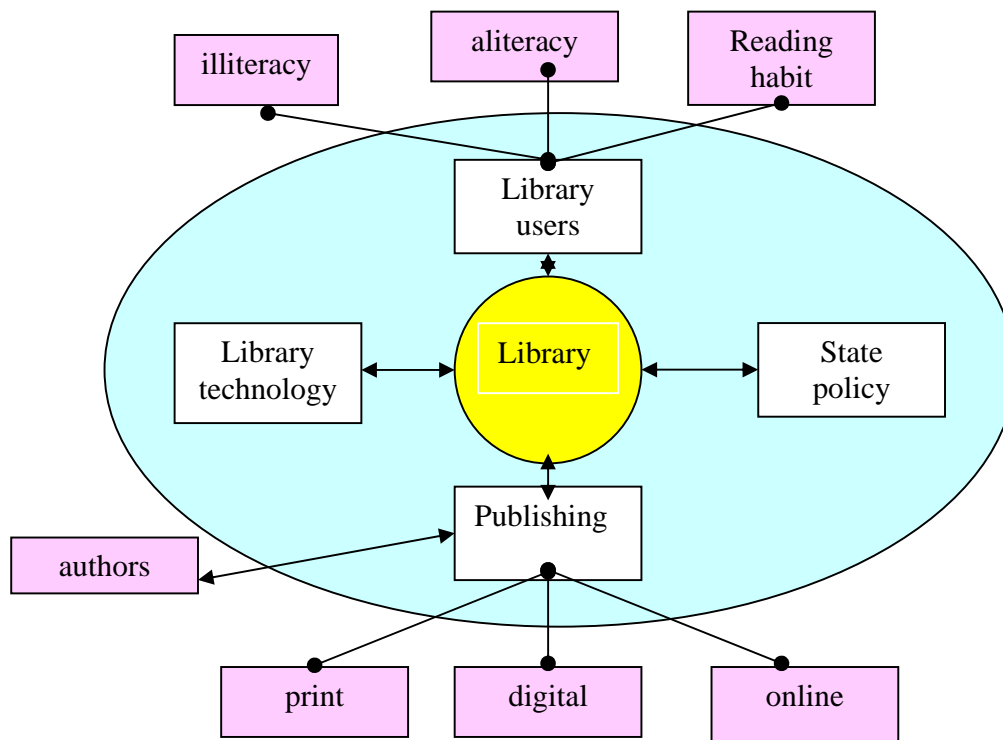
However, This can be seen from its curriculum which includes:

1. Introduction to Sociology
2. Theory of Development and Information
3. Media, Culture and Community
4. Philosophy of Information and Knowledge
5. Information Resources and Provision
6. Library Management
7. Library Operating System
8. IT-Based Library Service
9. Public Relations and Library Promotion
10. International Librarianship
11. Research Seminar
12. Theses

Nowadays, as a separate discipline, Department of Library and Information Management still emphasizes on the importance of literacy and people's interests.

### **Researches of Library and Information Management**

The world of librarianship should not be within the library as a place. If it is, there is no understanding what is happening outside of the library where the population or the community is served by the library.



The above shows the surrounding of a library that must be taken into account. A library has users and they are an important part of the business. Learning about them will open our mind and may serve them better. The aspects of library users as well as the population as a whole—namely, literacy, illiteracy, aliteracy and reading habit—will affect the way a library serve its users and the library’s performance. Publishing is also very important as it is from this publishing that a library has information provided for users. Without information from publishing house a library will mean nothing. The information provided in a library may be printed, digital or online. Another type of format that a library may also has is “live” information that is provided for users through video conference. Publishing may be done by the author himself or herself. And the author is the main source of information that publishing may exist.

The other two aspects that may also influence the existence of a library are library technology and state policy. These two aspects are both beyond the library operation. The library technology may support the library operation while the policy will legally support the existence of a library. Thus, the four aspects beyond the library operation and management will definitely important to measure their needs of a library.

### **Bringing students to the wider world of librarianship**

In order to cope with the nation's problem of literacy, the department tries to bring students to do researches on literacy, community's perception of a library, reading habit, etc. This is done by way of bringing in an expert on basic education, lecture on reading habit, presentations on culture and tradition. In addition, students are also brought to the countryside and urban areas and meet people and share opinions about a library. Before they start writing theses, they should also visit the developed country to see the role of a library and how people make use of the library. This is done in order that students will understand the impact of culture on library use. In this way, students also learn the cultural differences and how people of different culture make use of a library.

The students' background seems to be the case. As most of the students have been librarians for years, their theses reflect their work experience. Some students did the researches in the libraries where they worked and some others did researches in their colleagues' libraries. In the interview with them, it is clear that the idea of writing theses about the libraries is based on the ease of doing researches and their familiarity with the library work flows.

Based on the data, out of 13 theses written at the end of 2006, 8 theses deal with the internal library management.



The titles are:

No	Title	Subject category
A	1. Strategy of Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University in Implementing Library Automation	Library Management
	2. Impacts of Technology on Accessibility: A Case Study on Readiness of Airlangga University Library to Benefit from IT.	Library Management
	3. Impacts of Leadership, Human Resource Quality, and Corporate Culture on Optimizing staff Performance	Library Management
	4. Professionalism of Librarians in Their Career Development at National Library of Indonesia	Library Management
	5. Implementation of service quality management at the Training Unit, National Library of Indonesia	Library Management
	6. Library Service performance: A Descriptive Study on Library Service Performance, National Library of Indonesia	Library Management
	7. Implementation of Strategic Planning Policy at National Library of Indonesia 2005-2006	Library Management
B	8. Prototype of a Library Website: A Case Study at South Jakarta Public Library	Information Technology
C	9. User Satisfaction with collection of Public Library of Yogyakarta	Library Users
	10. Publishers' Perception on Procedures and Quality of ISBN Service at National Library of Indonesia (Analysis on Publishers' Satisfaction)	Publishing
	11. The Role of Library in Developing Public Reading Interest: A Survey on South Jakarta Public Library	Library and Library Users
	12. The Relationship Between Service Quality, Teaching Method and Reading Habit and Use of School Library: A Case Study at School Library of SMUN 1, Depok	Library and Library Users
D	13. Implementation of Law No. 4, 1990 on Depository of Printed and Electronic Materials	State Policy/Law

As seen in the above list, most students are still in the boundary of library management (7 titles), Information Technology (1 title), State Law/Policy (1 title) and library and Library

users (4). It is clearly seen that there are only 4 theses related to the wider world of librarianship and those 4 theses related to library users are still viewed from the library side. The main problem of this is, again, the inability of students whose backgrounds are mostly librarians who have been working for years in the libraries. Students also said that they prefer to do researches on librarianship or library management as the place is more convenient for them.

### **Conclusion**

Bringing students of LIS to the wider world of librarianship need to show their roles within the library and their role outside of it. By involving students in researches in the community surrounding the library, there will be better understanding of the relationship, interaction and services of the library. However, if students are librarians who have been involved in the library management for years, it needs

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