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Utilisation of Digital Literacy to Improve Writing Skills of Indonesian Literature Students

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Abstract

This research aims to investigate and analyse how the use of digital literacy can improve the writing skills of Indonesian Literature students. In an increasingly digitally connected era, effective writing skills are becoming increasingly important for Literature students. However, despite the abundance of digital tools and platforms available, there is still a lack of in-depth research on how digital literacy can concretely influence the improvement of writing skills among Indonesian Literature students. This research will explore various relevant literature sources on digital literacy and its application in education. With an in-depth analysis of the literature, this research will identify the best approaches and methods that can be used to improve the writing skills of Literature students through digital literacy. The research method used is a descriptive qualitative approach. Indonesian Literature students batch 2020-2022 are the research subjects. They will be involved as respondents and key informants in filling out questionnaires in this study. Data will be collected through literature study, questionnaires, and interviews. The results of this study will be analysed in depth to identify the progress made in the writing ability of Indonesian Literature students after attending the digital literacy training. In addition, this study will also evaluate the effectiveness of various digital literacy techniques and strategies used in improving critical aspects of writing, such as structure, language style, creativity, and understanding of literary content.

Keywords: Utilisation; Digital Literacy; Writing Ability; Indonesian Literature

1. Introduction

Advances in information technology are an integral part of the ongoing digital revolution in Indonesia. In its rapid development, this technology has had a significant impact on various aspects of human life, including education. In the world of higher education in particular, the digital revolution has had a major impact on learning design, where digital media is utilised as a tool to increase student knowledge [1].

In today's digital era, the literacy of Indonesian society is still said to be low for now, therefore it is necessary to create innovations to improve literacy in Indonesia. This is supported by the progress and sophistication of today's technology which is not impossible to do. Students are now required to not only master old literacies such as writing and reading [2].

At present, students are required to be able to master three literacies, namely data literacy, technology literacy, and human literacy because it really helps students to answer the demands of the future which are likely to become more competitive. Students currently have a very vital role in the development of the industrial revolution in Indonesia. The ability to utilise digital literacy is needed by students for their self-development and can even be applied to research and the creation of scientific papers [3]. Students play a role as a liaison in delivering opinions, suggestions, and criticisms from the community to the government. Currently, the role of students is needed on the technology side for a more advanced and superior Indonesia. In addition, students are the nation's hope for the advancement of the world of education because students with high literacy comprehension skills can be a channel for ideas or ideas today [4].

Rahmi and Cerya in Sybarudin (2022) explain the concept of digital literacy as the ability to understand and utilise information from various digital sources. It is also emphasised that digital literacy includes skills in using technological devices and managing information from digital media efficiently and effectively in various situations [5].

Literacy in the digital era is expected to have a significant impact in various fields. Digital literacy skills not only bring new ideas, but also encourage innovation and adaptation in various aspects to answer the demands of modern times. By improving digital literacy skills, Indonesia can form a smart and qualified generation. Making maximum use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is expected to develop a culture of literacy. As important as this emphasis on literacy culture is, it plays a central role in shaping a smart society and contributes to the formation of a superior nation [6]. Furthermore, Indonesia faces a potential shortage of quality human resources unless the younger generation and literacy advocates take proactive steps to independently increase their capacity and broaden their horizons through the use of information and communication technology.

Based on information from the official website of the Ministry of Education and Culture (kemendikbud) <https://repositori.kemdikbud.go.id/>, several factors influence literacy-related activities, including access, skills, alternatives and culture. Therefore, efforts are needed to strengthen and maintain a culture of literacy in the digital era in order to improve skills, encourage equitable access to education, eradicate illiteracy, improve intellectual understanding, prepare for global challenges, and change people's mindsets and reasoning in response to global developments.

Digital literacy opens wider access to literary information and references, allowing literature students to explore more in-depth literary works, both classical and modern. With various learning platforms and resources available, students can enrich their understanding and insights in various aspects of literature [7].

One of the main advantages of digital literacy is the formation of online literary communities. Through these communities, literature students can interact with other writers and readers, share ideas and receive constructive feedback on their works. This contributes to developing writing skills and improving the quality of literary works produced.

Not only that, writing tools are also an important part of digital literacy. Specialised apps and software help students edit and improve technical aspects of writing, such as grammar, spelling and writing style. Thus, students can produce better quality work that is more easily understood by readers [8].

Digital publishing also provides new opportunities for literature students to publish their works more easily and quickly. Digital publishing platforms allow students to gain experience in sharing their work and receiving responses from readers directly. Furthermore, digital literacy encourages the exploration of different genres and writing styles. Students can access works of diverse literary styles and find expertise that suits their interests and talents. This can open up new opportunities to produce creative and innovative literary works [9].

While digital literacy offers a variety of benefits, there are still some challenges to be faced. Firstly, unequal access to technology results in gaps in the utilisation of digital literacy potential as some individuals or communities do not have equal access to devices and internet connections. Secondly, in the face of overwhelming amounts of digital information, individuals struggle to sort and evaluate relevant and accurate information, making critical skills in digital literacy increasingly important but difficult to develop. The ability to identify fake news, protect privacy and adapt to technological change are also central issues in overcoming digital literacy challenges [10].

Overall, the utilisation of digital literacy in Indonesian literature education is expected to increase students' interest and writing ability, as well as make a positive contribution in developing the world of Indonesian literature to a higher level.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1. Students' errors

Quoted from the book *The Role of Digital Literacy in Pandemic Times (2021)* by Devri Suherdi, digital literacy is the knowledge and skills of users in utilising digital media, such as communication tools, internet networks and so on. User skills in digital literacy include the ability to find, work on, evaluate, use, create and utilise them wisely, intelligently, carefully and precisely according to their uses [11].

Digital literacy refers to a person's ability to access, understand, evaluate, use and participate effectively with digital content and technologies. It includes an understanding of various digital tools and platforms, as well as skills in recognising accurate and relevant information in the online world. Digital literacy is becoming increasingly important along with the growth of information and communication technology, especially the internet.

Digital literacy in simple terms refers to the ability to understand and use information from a wider variety of sources, with the help of computer devices. Digital literacy competence includes skills in using communication and information technology as the core of digital literacy. One is expected to have the ability to master digital technology tools, as an indication of digital literacy mastery. This includes not only the internet, but also various types of digital technology, including competence in communicating effectively through digital platforms [12].

Digital literacy skills will develop better if applied in real-world situations and used to solve problems. Digital literacy allows individuals to change activities through the utilisation of digital technology devices. Everyone is expected to have awareness as a skilled individual in terms of digital literacy, both in the context of daily life, work and learning.

2.2. Improve Writing Ability

Writing ability is a skill that enables one to express ideas, thoughts, and information through the written word. It involves more than just stringing sentences together; it is a complex process that requires a deep understanding of grammar, vocabulary, narrative structure, and the context of communication. With strong writing skills, one can present their message clearly, persuasively, and effectively to readers [13].

When someone has good writing skills, they are able to organise their ideas logically, choose the right words to communicate their intentions, and use punctuation correctly to regulate sentence flow. This ability also involves creativity, as writers often need to create an interesting narrative or unique style to capture the reader's attention.

The ability to write is not something that is mastered overnight. It is a journey that involves constant practice and a commitment to learning. On this journey, writers will learn from experience, be it from success or from mistakes. Feedback from peers, teachers, or editors also plays an important role in helping writers see aspects that need improvement [14].

Good writers also need to understand their audience. Effective writing involves the ability to adapt to different types of readers, using language and style that suits the purpose and aim of the communication. This allows writers to convey their message in the most relevant and impactful way possible.

In an increasingly digitally connected world, writing skills are becoming increasingly important. From professional emails to social media posts, someone with strong writing skills has an edge in communicating themselves appropriately and effectively. Therefore, the effort to continuously develop and improve writing skills is a worthwhile investment in one's personal and professional development.

2.3. Challenges and Benefits of Digital Literacy Implementation

In the world of digital literacy, there are challenges and opportunities to be faced. Among them are:

1. Digital Literacy Challenges

Digital literacy has at least two challenges that must be faced, and can be overcome by applying digital literacy in every use of information and communication technology.

a. The flow of information

The strongest challenge of digital literacy is the overwhelming flow of information. This means that people receive too much information at the same time. This is where digital literacy comes in: to search, find, sort and understand the right information.

b. Negative content

Negative content is also one of the challenges of the digital literacy era. For example, pornographic content, SARA issues and others. The ability of individuals to access the internet, especially information and communication technology, must be accompanied by digital literacy. So that individuals can know which content is positive and useful and which content is negative.

2. Digital Literacy Benefits

Reporting from *The Benefits of Digital Literacy for Society and the Education Sector During the Covid-19 Pandemic* by Eti Sumiati and Wijonarko, digital literacy has brought many benefits to people's lives [15]. These benefits include:

- a. The activity of searching and understanding information can broaden an individual's horizons.
- b. Increase the ability of individuals to be more critical in thinking and understanding information.
- c. Increase an individual's mastery of 'vocabulary', from the various information read.
- d. Improve an individual's verbal ability.
- e. Digital literacy can improve an individual's focus and concentration.
- f. Enhance an individual's ability to read, construct sentences and write information.

3. Research Method

This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods. In this study, a qualitative approach was used. According to Prof. Dr Sugiyono, qualitative research methods are referred to as new methods because they have not long become popular, and are also known as postpositivistic methods because they are based on the philosophy of postpositivism. This method is also known as the artistic method because the research process is more artistic and less structured, and as an interpretive method because the research data focuses more on the interpretation of data collected in the field [16].

This research aims to describe how the role of digital literacy on the interest in writing of Indonesian Literature students, Faculty of Language and Arts, State University of Medan. The research data was collected using literature study techniques, interviews and questionnaire data. The questionnaire was conducted to the respondents. Respondents in this study were active students of Indonesian Literature Class of 2020-2022. Key informants in this study are sources who are directly related to digital literacy activities within the scope of the Indonesian Literature study programme, Medan State University. After all the data has been collected, then the researcher analyses the data that has been collected to obtain information related to existing facts. The last step taken by the researcher is to conclude the results of the research activities.

4. Findings and Discussion

In this section, researchers will describe the results of research that has been conducted through questionnaire data in the form of google forms, and interview activities with 3 key informants from 3 different generations. The following is a description of the results of the research analysis:

4.1. Assessment of Digital Literacy Knowledge for Indonesian Literature Students Fbs Unimed

This research involved 55 respondents, all of whom were Indonesian Literature students from the Faculty of Language and Arts (FBS) at Universitas Negeri Medan (UNIMED). The majority of the respondents were women, with a percentage of 83.3%, while men only accounted for around 16.7% of the total respondents. The age range of the majority of respondents was between 16 to 20 years old, covering 92.9% of the total population. A total of 83.3% of the respondents were in semester 3.

Table 1. Results of the Indonesian Literature Student Digital Capability Assessment Questionnaire

No	Question	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
		1	2	3	4	5
1	Typing Skills	0%	0%	0%	26,2%	64,3%
2	Web Search Skills	0%	0%	0%	16,7%	64,3%
3	Computer Literacy	0%	0%	7,1%	47,6%	42,9%
4	Internet Literacy	0%	0%	0%	14,3%	23,8%
5	Digital Literacy	0%	0%	0%	21,4%	11,9%
6	Like Using Digital Devices	0%	0%	0%	2,4%	45,2%
7	Comfortable Using Digital Devices	0%	0%	0%	4,8%	38,1%
8	Know Types of Digital Devices	0%	2,4%	50%	35,7%	11,9%
9	Understand Digital Literacy	0%	0%	0%	35,7%	52,4%
10	Willing to Learn Digital Technology	0%	0%	0%	2,4%	47,6%
11	Feeling Left Behind in Using Technology	9,5%	31%	16,7%	33,3%	9,5%
12	Important to Improve Digital Fluency	0%	0%	0%	2,4%	61,9%
13	Digital Assessment Training in Education Programmes	0%	0%	0%	7,1%	52,4%
14	Can Communicate by Sharing Digital Knowledge	0%	0%	0%	4,8%	52,4%

15	Benefits of Digital Literacy in Improving Writing Skills	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%
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Respondents' digital literacy skills have been assessed with positive results. Typing skills were highly rated, with almost half of the respondents (47.6%) scoring 4, and 9.5% scoring 5 on the rating scale. Computer literacy, including the ability to use a computer, was favourably assessed with 47.6% of respondents giving a score of 4 and 42.9% giving a score of 5. Internet literacy was also positively assessed, with 61.9% of respondents giving a score of 4, and 23.8% giving a score of 5. Overall, digital literacy was favourably assessed by the majority of respondents, with 66.7% giving a score of 4, and 11.9% giving a score of 5.

The majority of respondents considered digital literacy to play an important role in improving their writing skills. As many as 59.5% of respondents considered digital literacy to provide greater access to information and references, which contributed to improving their writing skills. In addition, 28.6% of respondents found digital literacy helpful in improving spelling and grammar in their writing. A small number of respondents also revealed that digital literacy enabled them to share their writing with more people (7.1%) and connect with writing communities (9.5%).

The majority of respondents showed a positive attitude towards using digital devices. More than half of the respondents (52.4%) stated that they liked using digital devices and about 57.1% felt comfortable with using them. Most of them (52.4%) were familiar with the concept of digital literacy. More than sixty per cent of respondents (61.9%) were willing to deepen their understanding of digital technology. Although a minority, 9.5% of respondents felt behind their fellow students in the use of digital technology. More than sixty per cent of respondents (61.9%) also believe that improving digital fluency is important, and 52.4% think that improvements in digital assessment training should be integrated in educational programmes.

Half of the total respondents (50%) agreed that digital literacy has a very beneficial role in improving writing skills. Some of the main benefits identified include the ability to find references and information (40.5%), improved writing quality (35.7%), and easy access to information and references that support the writing process (52.4%).

In terms of the use of digital literacy software, Microsoft Word was the most commonly used by all respondents (100%). Meanwhile, the use of software such as Photoshop, Google Maps and Adobe Illustrator was not recorded by any respondents (0%).

Most respondents (73.8%) believe that digital literacy plays an important role in facilitating their writing process. Digital literacy opens up access to online resources that help find ideas and references (73.8%). In addition, a small number of respondents also saw digital literacy as a means to learn effective writing techniques (11.9%) and to avoid plagiarism through available software (11.9%).

4.2. Assessment of Digital Literacy Knowledge for Indonesian Literature Students Fbs Unimed

In this case, the researcher tried to interview several students of the Indonesian Literature Study Programme, which they came from various different batches. However, in this case, the focus and key informants in this study are 3 Indonesian Literature students from Stambuk 2020-2022. The reason why researchers made these three students as key informants is because in their daily activities these students are known to be active in writing and providing their works to the public domain. The following are the results of the interviews of the three students:

Table 1. Interview Results of the Benefits of Digital Literacy in Improving the Digital Skills of Indonesian Literature Students

Key Informant	Class Year	Key View	Key Aspects
1	2020	Digital literacy is important for online information access. Key source search and evaluation skills. This helps me especially in my assignments, I find it easier to find sources of information because of my literacy knowledge.	Analytical skills are enhanced through access to information. The use of writing aids is supportive.
2	2021	Digital literacy improves writing skills. Searching for information, critical thinking, communication are important. Having digital literacy skills in this day and age really allows me, especially as an Indonesian Literature student who enjoys writing to continue to create work, because with this knowledge all reading materials can be easily accessed and this facilitates my daily writing process.	Finding accurate information contributes greatly. Critical thinking and communication also support.

3	2022	Digital literacy provides access to sources and references. Improved search and evaluation skills. With good digital literacy skills, as a new student, I can easily find information that is relevant to my current courses or assignments and I believe digital literacy is also a knowledge that will be useful in the long run.	Understanding information sources enriches writing content. Collaboration and positive feedback in literacy.
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Based on the results of interviews with three main informants who are Indonesian Literature students from various years, it can be concluded that digital literacy has a significant role in improving students' digital skills. The main view that emerged was that digital literacy helps access online information and improves the ability to search and evaluate information sources. This has a positive impact on analytical, critical thinking and communication skills. The informants also agreed that digital literacy facilitates the writing process and finding accurate information, which in turn contributes to the quality of their written work. In addition, digital literacy is also considered important for collaboration and getting positive feedback in the literacy world.

Firstly, the first informant from the class of 2020 emphasised that digital literacy not only enables access to online information but also helps in honing analytical skills through searching and evaluating key sources. This informant also underlined the role of writing tools supported by digital literacy. The second informant, a 2021 student, emphasised writing, critical thinking and communication skills. They see digital literacy as an important foundation for accessing various reading materials and accurate information that support the process of writing literary works. Meanwhile, the third informant from the class of 2022 stated that digital literacy provides access to sources and references relevant to students' courses and assignments. This digital literacy skill is considered a valuable knowledge in the long run.

Students with good digital literacy skills can more easily access relevant information, improve their analytical, critical thinking and communication skills, and facilitate the process of writing literary works. In addition to the individual benefits, digital literacy also supports collaboration and positive feedback among literacy actors, creating a more productive and creative environment in the world of literature and writing.

5. Conclusions

In the overall explanation, the researcher argues that digital literacy allows students to improve their abilities, especially Indonesian Literature students. This research can be an appropriate reference source. This research covers various aspects, including objectives, theoretical framework, research methodology, questionnaire results, interview results with key informants, and the benefits of digital literacy in improving the writing skills of Indonesian Literature students. Here are some key points from your research. Digital Literacy involves a person's ability to access, understand, evaluate, use and participate effectively with digital content and technology. It includes skills in using technological devices and recognising accurate information in the online world. Writing skills involve the ability to express ideas, thoughts and information through the written word. Improved writing skills can help one convey messages clearly, persuasively and effectively to readers. Challenges in digital literacy, such as information overload and negative content. However, you also highlighted the benefits of digital literacy, such as increased insight, vocabulary knowledge and communication skills.

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