



# Information Literacy Ability of Library Students of UIN Sumatra Utara in Thesis Preparation Using The Empowering Eight Model

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## ABSTRACT

*This study discusses the information literacy skills of Library Science students at UIN Sumatra Utara in preparing their thesis using the empowering eight models. This study aims to determine the level of information literacy skills of Library Science students in the preparation of their thesis. This type of research is a quantitative study with a descriptive approach. The population in the study were all library science students at UIN Sumatra Utara 2016, a total of 58 people. While the sample in this study was determined based on several criteria (using purposive sampling) to be respondents in this study. The data was collected using a questionnaire that was distributed via a link from the Google form. The data analysis technique used is descriptive analysis, the mean and grand mean. The results showed that the level of information literacy skills of Library Science students at UIN Sumatra Utara in preparing their thesis using the empowering model was high with an average score of 4.29 and was in the interval of 4.24 - 5.00.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Technological developments cause the flow of information and information capacity to explode and become difficult to control. So that special skills are needed to get correct, precise, and appropriate information. This ability is known as information literacy.

The skills of someone who masters information literacy can be seen from the development of a frame of mind when interacting with different information so that it makes the person sensitive in developing mindsets in the learning system, namely being able to create, analyze and evaluate information correctly and continuously (Harianti, 2017).

Not all study programs provide curricula or courses on information literacy. Information Literacy can usually be found in study programs related to "information", such as Library Science. Library science is knowledge that is neatly arranged concerning goals, objects, library functions,

as well as the functions of methods, arrangements, techniques, and theories used in providing library services (Sulistyo, 1991).

In one of the subjects in the Library Science study program, namely Information literacy, learning and teaching, there is a sub-discussion that discusses well-known models of information literacy, including The Big Six, Seven Pillars (Model Sconul), and Empowering Eight. In this study, the authors chose Empowering Eight as the model used to analyze the literacy skills of library science students. As the name implies, "Empowering Eight" is the most complex model which contains eight (8) stages or processes in information literacy. These stages are identification, exploration, selection, organization, creation, presentation, assessing or evaluating, and implementing.

Based on several facts related to information literacy above, it is also related to students' reading interest which is very minimal. This is due to the development of information technology which makes students more often seek information from the internet than books. The impact of this is to trigger plagiarism.

Information literacy consists of two combinations of words, namely information literacy which is a translation of foreign terms. In Indonesian, the meaning of the word literacy is the ability to write and read. The ALA (American Library Association) explains that information literacy is an ability that a person needs to recognize when information will be needed and that person has the ability to find, use, and evaluate information effectively and as needed. Literacy is needed along with all technological developments. Because each individual will be faced with various choices of abundant information, both in the world of education and in everyday life (Iannuzzi, et al., 2000)

According to the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) after mastering information literacy skills, individuals will be able to:

- 1) Knowing the extent to which information is effective and efficient
- 2) Evaluate critical information and sources
- 3) Incorporate selected information into its knowledge base
- 4) Using information effectively to achieve certain goals
- 5) Understand economic, legal, and social issues related to the use of information, access, and use of information ethically and legally (Associates, 2004)

## 2. RESEARCH METHODE

The research method that will be used is descriptive research method. Descriptive research method is a method that describes a behavior, thought, or feeling of an individual or group. As for the approach to be used in this study is a quantitative approach. The quantitative approach is an approach used to examine certain populations or samples, where data collection uses research instruments, data analysis is quantitative or statistical with the aim of testing established hypotheses (Sugiyono, 2018).

The research location to be carried out is in the UIN North Sumatra campus environment, especially in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Because the object of this research is Library Science students who are under the auspices of the Faculty of Social Sciences, UIN North Sumatra. However, during a pandemic like this, research is conducted via Google Form because it is not possible to go directly to the field. The time of the research was carried out from March to December 2020.

The population in this study were 2016 students consisting of 2 classes. The population of all semester VIII (8) students is 58 people. Based on the information above, the authors used

purposive sampling in this study. Purpove sampling according to (Sugiyono, 2018) is a sampling technique with certain considerations.

### 3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

The preparation of the thesis in the Library Science study program begins in semester VII (eight). The stages passed are the submission of the title to the Department, after the ACC the title is continued with the work on the proposal from CHAPTER I - CHAPTER III, if the ACC can proceed to the Proposal Seminar stage, then continue research and writing CHAPTER IV - CHAPTER V, after ACC it is continued with the final stage is the Thesis Session (Munaqasyah).

The process of preparing the thesis requires guidance and direction from the Supervisor as well as supporting references to strengthen theory and support research results. To get appropriate references and research results, literacy skills are needed to make it easier to obtain, compile and disseminate information. In this study the authors used the Empowering Eight model which was used as a reference to determine the literacy level of Library Science students in compiling their thesis. The indicators in the Empowering Eight model are as follows:

#### a. Identification

The first stage in the Empowering Eight literacy model is identification which means that students are able to identify their information needs, including identifying what topics will be raised as research material, identifying keywords, planning search strategies, and determining what resources can be used to obtain information. After knowing the average value of each indicator statement above, the total average value of the "identification" sub-variable is 4.37. It can be concluded that the literacy ability of library science students in compiling their thesis on the identification sub variable can be categorized as very high because it is in the interval 4.24 - 5.00.

#### b. Exploration

Exploration is the stage of finding resources that can be used to obtain information. Usually at this stage it is necessary to make observations or go directly to the field to find out what information is needed. After knowing the average value of each indicator statement above, the total average value of the "exploration" sub-variable is 4.28. It can be concluded that the literacy ability of library science students in compiling their thesis on the identification sub variable can be categorized as very high because it is in the interval 4.24 - 5.00.

#### c. Selection

Selection is the stage of selecting relevant information, collecting information and data obtained, and compiling citations according to applicable regulations. After knowing the average value of each indicator statement above, the total average value of the "selection" sub-variable is 4.47. It can be concluded that the literacy ability of library science students in compiling their thesis on the identification sub variable can be categorized as very high because it is in the interval 4.24 - 5.00.

#### d. Organization

Organization is the stage of sorting information including distinguishing between facts and opinions and fiction. Besides that, the activities in the organization are compiling information so that the presentation looks easy to understand, the way you can do this is by presenting tables or charts as needed. After knowing the average value of each indicator statement above, the total average value of the "organization" sub-variable is 3.93. It can be concluded that the literacy skills of library science students in compiling their thesis on the identification sub-variables can be categorized as high because they are in the interval 4.24-5.00.

e. Create

Creating is an activity of processing information using your own words (paraphrasing). This is done to avoid plagiarism. In addition, editing and revising are also included in this activity. This includes the preparation of a bibliography. After knowing the average value of each indicator statement above, the total average value of the sub-variable "creates" is 4.26. It can be concluded that the literacy skills of library science students in compiling their thesis on the identification sub-variables can be categorized as high because they are in the interval 4.24-5.00.

f. Presentation

Presentation includes practicing activities to present information, share information with appropriate listeners, adjust all the tools and equipment needed to support the presentation. After knowing the average value of each indicator in the statement above, the total average value of the "presentation" sub-variable is 4.38. It can be concluded that the literacy skills of library science students in compiling their thesis on the identification sub-variables can be categorized as high because they are in the interval 4.24-5.00.

g. Evaluate

Assessing is the ability to receive input and suggestions from others, the ability to assess the skills possessed by others, and also the ability to upgrade oneself based on constructive suggestions and input from others. After knowing the average value of each indicator in the statement above, the total average value of the "assess" sub-variable is 4.37. It can be concluded that the literacy ability of library science students in compiling their thesis on the identification sub variable can be categorized as very high because it is in the interval 4.24 - 5.00.

h. Apply

Applying is the ability to consider input from other people, whether the input can bring change for oneself or not. After knowing the average value of each indicator statement above, the total average value of the "applying" sub-variable is 4.31. It can be concluded that the literacy ability of library science students in compiling their thesis on the identification sub variable can be categorized as very high because it is in the interval 4.24 - 5.00.

From the results of the calculation of the eight sub-variables, it can be concluded that there are 7 sub-variables that have reached the very high category, and 1 high sub-variable. So it can be concluded that the information literacy ability of UINSU library science students in compiling theses is already very high because it has an average value of 4.29 and is in the interval 4.24 - 5.00.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis in research on the Information Literacy Ability of UINSU Library Science Students, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- a. The information literacy ability of UINSU library science students in compiling theses is already very high because it has an average value of 4.29 and is in the interval 4.24 - 5.00.
- b. There are 7 sub-variables that have reached the very high category, and 1 high sub-variable.

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