

Destroying the Printed Scientific Works in the Preservation Effort In Academic Libraries In Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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Abstract

Indonesia is one of the countries in Southeast Asia that has more than 3000 higher education institutions. Before graduation, students are required to write a final project in the form of a term-papers, thesis, or dissertations depending on their levels of education. In the past, such projects were submitted to the library in the printed form. Now the final projects are submitted in the digital format. In addition, the academic librarians also digitized the printed term-papers, thesis, and dissertations previously submitted to the library. After digitizing the printed final project, the original items are destroyed. Librarians stated that the printed form of the final projects is no longer needed. However, with the destruction of the original form, the library actually has destroyed the high value of scientific works. This raises questions, how the preservation of scientific works are managed in the academic libraries and why academic libraries destroy the original manuscripts of scientific work. This is a qualitative study on repository digitization projects in the academic libraries in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Data were collected by interviewing librarians of four public Academic Library. From the study, it was found that preservation was carried out by digitizing the printed collection of scientific works (term papers, thesis, and dissertations). The printed scientific works that have been digitized are then shredded due to the limitation of library spaces. According to the librarians, by changing the form, from printed to digital format, these scientific works can be easily accessed by students. However, the libraries that have destroyed the printed works do not always implement open access. Therefore, the digitized scientific works cannot be accessed remotely.

Keyword: *Preservation, Digitization, Scientific Work, Higher Education Libraries, Distraction of Printed Works*

Introduction

In 2016 there was an uproar in Indonesian society that there had been the disposal of student final assignments (thesis and dissertations) by one of the universities in Indonesia. The incident went viral and became the talk among the academic and social community. People wonder why the final projects that have high-value academically are treated that way.

After the incident went viral, the head of the library conveyed the reason for the disposal of the final projects. There are two reasons expressed by the head of the library, First, the library

space at the university is very limited, so it is necessary to get rid of old collections, such as student final assignments. The final assignments that were removed were those that were more than ten years old. Second, the library has digitized all printed final assignments, so students don't have to worry about the information value of the final projects being saved.

Seeing this incident makes us rethink the meaning of preservation (preservation) of library collections. Preservation is basically an activity to maintain objects that have value from damage or weathering (Conway, 2000). By preserving the library collection, the library keep the collection from damage due to various reasons. The destruction of the printed final projects carried out by the academic library suggests that the library has actually forgotten the purpose of preservation itself, namely caring for and maintaining the collection.

The destruction of final assignments is a common practice for academic libraries. The destruction of the final projects is a common action and must be done, so that the library can have more space. With the availability of tools for digitizing books, libraries consider that they will be able to replace print collections with digital collections. Meanwhile Forbes (2015) explained that the print collection wins everything from digital and is good for brain development. The assessment is also in line with the final project collection which has turned into digital, of course, the value will be different from the printed form. The printed form of the final projects will be of value in the future.

Seeing the destruction of the final project carried out by the academic libraries, it is necessary to review the value of the final projects and how the preservation is carried out by the academic libraries. Is there a problem in preserving the final project so that the library takes steps to destroy the printed final projects?

Literature Review

Preservation

Preservation is an activity that aims to protect and maintain library collections and ensure the availability of access for users. It includes managerial, financial, and technical policies (Dereau & Clements, 1990). The managerial aspect is sometimes not considered in the preservation process so the preservation activities carried out by the library are only technical activities, namely cleaning up dirt in books. Technical and managerial aspects should synergize in the scope of preservation. the managerial aspect is designing the steps before carrying out the preservation,

while the technical aspect is a direct activity in the preservation of the collection such as spraying or cleaning the dirt in the book.

There are four preservation objectives, namely; maintain the value of information; maintain the physical form of the collection; overcome space constraints in the library; and speed up the acquisition of information. To achieve this goal, the library must be able to improve preservation capabilities, such as routine checking and maintenance of collections (Haryanto, 2015).

Scientific work

Scientific work is an article discussing a study based on a problem based on investigation, and observation, with data collection obtained from research and the analysis used, which must be scientifically based. (Djuroto & Supriyadi, 2014). Scientific work is serious research and has careful planning and has the value that continues to grow in the future.

Scientific works in libraries are often called gray literature. In the Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science (reference) Gray literature is printed or digital document material, such as reports, theses, dissertations, conference proceedings, etc. The work is not available on the commercial market because it is not widely distributed. Scientific works such as theses, theses, and dissertations are original products from universities, so universities have special rights to manage these scientific works.

Preservation in Academic Libraries

Academic libraries are experiencing great challenges in this era. The collections in the library must follow the flow of globalization. Printed books will gradually be limited by the times and will be removed because students' information needs do not only exist in print collections but in digital collections (Vicki L, 2019). This results in the growth of digital collections in libraries. Academic libraries that are flooded with digital collections have finally forgotten the preservation of print collections.

The final assignment of students became victims of the transfer of the collection. A large number of existing final project collections makes the library strive to make it a digital collection. The effort to change the print collection to digital makes the library no longer carry out printed preservation of the final projects. By changing the media, the library feels that it has preserved the final project.

Research Methods

This study uses qualitative method and data collection is conducted through interviews and observations related to the preservation carried out by the academic library. Researchers conducted observations in four libraries. After conducting the selection of informants and academic libraries, the researchers found four university libraries, Mercu Buana University Yogyakarta (UMBY), Ahmad Dahlan University (UAD), and Indonesia Digital Technology University (UTDI).

No	Informan	University
1	Informan 1	Universitas Ahmad Dahlan
2	Informan 2	Universitas Mercu Buana Yogyakarta
3	Informan 3	Universitas Teknologi Digital Indonesia

Discussion

Yogyakarta is a city of education, and the many universities in Yogyakarta produce millions of final assignments that need to be managed. The academic libraries which are in charge of managing the final projects have their own ways of doing preservation, such as digitizing the final projects so that students can access the entire collection of scientific works easily. However, the printed collection of the final projects that have been digitized are removed from the libraries. This becomes a question, why the final projects of thesis and dissertations in the printed format must be destroyed.

Based on interviews and observations made by researchers. It was found that all libraries observed did the destruction of the final projects. The reason for destroying the final project is because the library needs to maximize the available spaces in the libraries. The library spaces are no longer able to accommodate the increasing number of final assignments every year.

Before the process of destroying the final projects is conducted, the library did digitization. Furthermore, the files from the final projects digitization process are uploaded by the librarians to the repository systems. Students may read the final projects that have been uploaded to the campus repository. However, most of the academic libraries that the researchers interviewed did not

display the entire texts of the final projects. The library only shows chapter 1, chapter 5, and the bibliography. According to some librarians, this is the university policy for the library services in order to prevent students from plagiarism.

After selecting the final projects to be destroyed, the librarians reported that the final projects are worthy to be destroyed. Later, the final projects are handled by the household section of the college. That is the place where the final projects that have been selected is destroyed.

Academic libraries, which still have a collection of printed final projects, do not display all of their collections. The final projects displayed are selected based on the years of publications, which are the last three years. This reason, according to one of the librarians who was interviewed, considered that the latest final projects were still needed by students as reference materials for supporting the final projects.

Currently, academic libraries in Yogyakarta are starting to not accept printed final project collections. For students who submit their final projects, they are required to upload the final project files themselves on the repository systems.

One of the librarians said that the academic libraries destroyed scientific papers because the academic libraries are no longer allowed to manage the increasing number of final assignments while the spaces in the libraries are limited. Meanwhile, the library spaces that previously stored final assignments have now changed its function to training in writing scientific papers.

Conclusion

The academic libraries in Yogyakarta have begun to reduce the printed collection of students' final assignments by digitizing them. The printed collections of the final projects that have been digitized are destroyed, while the final project files are uploaded to the repository systems. The destruction of the final projects was carried out because the libraries are no longer able to manage the increasing number of printed final assignments due to the limited spaces in the libraries.

The space formerly used as a storage for final project collections have been converted into a scientific work training or other collection spaces. This makes the libraries have wider spaces, so that it may carry out activities that can support the information needs of students.

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Short biographies of the authors

Muhammad Ikhsanuddin Muas finished her bachelor in Library and Information Science of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta in 2019. And continued to Master's Program in Interdisciplinary at the same university. He was interested in the development of preservation in libraries. He is also active in forums on library preservation.

Ana Pujiastuti finished her bachelor in Library and Information Science of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta in 2012 and now he is continuing his postgraduate studies at the same university. Currently, she works as a librarian of Ahmad Dahlan University. She likes to write journal articles or books with the theme of promotion, information literacy and librarian knowledge development.

Kartika is a postgraduate student at UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, Indonesia. She is from Banjarbaru South Borneo and graduated bachelor in Islamic education of UIN Antasari Banjarmasin in 2021. She is also active as a freelance digital artist and very interested in the library field such as reservation, service, digital library and etc.