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The Effect of The Use of The Digital Qur'an on Incrasin Interest In Reading The Qur'an of Stundent

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to ascertain how students in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta's Islamic Religious Education Study Program might become more interested in reading by using digitized versions of the Qur'an. The growing number of pupils utilizing the digital Qur'an is expected to facilitate access and boost interest in reading. This study uses descriptive and qualitative methodologies to describe how students' interest in reading is affected by using the digital Qur'an. To gather information, students in the Islamic Religious Education Study Program were given a questionnaire to complete. According to the study's findings, the majority of students believe that using a digital Qur'an can make them more interested in reading. Accessibility, the availability of services for translation and interpretation, and audio readings that might enhance comprehension are the primary auxiliary variables. Nevertheless, some students also brought up challenges including the discomfort of reading for extended periods of time on a cellphone screen and the disruption from other apps' notifications. Overall, this study indicated that the digital Qur'an increased students' interest in reading; nevertheless, several aspects still need to be addressed to make this application more focused and pleasant.

1. Introduction

The Qur'an is the last holy book revealed by Allah SWT to His Prophet and Messenger. There are four prophets who received the book, including the Prophet Muhammad PBUH who received the book of the Qur'an as a revelation, the Prophet Moses the book of the Torah, the Prophet David the book of Psalms, and the Prophet Jesus the book of the Gospel. And Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Musa were also given the holy book by Allah SWT in addition to receiving it himself (Syukran, 2019). The word "Qur'an" (qara'a, qira'atan, and qur'an) in Arabic refers to reading, collecting, and compiling. According to Subhi, the most commonly held belief is that the name "Qur'an" comes from the Arabic word "qara'a," which means "recitation."

The book of Allah given to the Prophet Muhammad PBUH and arranged in the mushaf is known as Sharia. The Qur'an is a guideline revealed by Allah SWT through his messenger the Prophet PBUH. All aspects of life that have been determined by Allah SWT have been explained and guided by the Qur'an. So the Qur'an is used as a legal guideline that brings truth.

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِتَحْكُمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ بِمَا أَرَاكَ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَكُنْ لِلْخَائِنِينَ خَصِيمًا

Meaning: Indeed, We have sent down the Book (Qur'an) to you (the Prophet Muhammad) with the right that you may decide (matters) among mankind by what Allah has taught you. Do not be an opponent because of the traitors. (Surah an-Nisa verse 105)

تَرَكْتُ فِيكُمْ أَمْرَيْنِ لَنْ تَضِلُّوا مَا تَمَسَّكْتُمْ بِهِمَا : كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَ سُنَّةَ رَسُولِهِ

Meaning: "I have left you two things. You will not go astray as long as you hold on to both, the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger." (HR. Malik; Al-Hakim, Al-Baihaqi, Ibn Nashr, Ibn Hazm. This hadith was authenticated by Shaykh Salim Al-Hilali in At-Ta'zhim wa Al-Minnah fi Al-Intishar As-Sunnah, pp. 12-13).

The Qur'an can also serve as an explanation for everything to be a guide and mercy for His people.

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ شَهِيدًا عَلَى هَؤُلَاءِ وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تِبْيَانًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ

Meaning: (Remember) the day (when) We presented a witness (messenger) to each of the people from their own (circle) and We brought you (the Prophet Muhammad) to be a witness over them. We have sent down the Book (the Qur'an) to you to explain everything as a guide, mercy, and glad tidings for the Muslims. (Surah an-Nahl : 89)

In addition, studying the Qur'an is essential for human life. Reading it becomes important because Allah SWT has given it to the Prophet Muhammad to change Muslims from ignorance and darkness to the light of Islam and make them the greatest Muslims of all time. One of the virtues or benefits of the Qur'an is its ability to intercede for those who read and study it on the Day of Judgment. The message of Allah SWT that was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad PBUH is found in Surah Al-Alaq verses 1-5. It states:

It means: "Read it by saying the name of your creator, your Lord. He is the one who transforms a clot of blood into a human. Your Lord is the One who uses the pen to educate (humans) to want to read. He is the one who gives man knowledge

that he did not have before. (Surah Al-Alaq 1-5)

From the above description, it can be concluded that the command of the Qur'an to read, especially in Surah Al-Alaq, has a universal meaning. In order to be connected with *bi ismi rabbika* (by calling the name of your Lord), it contains commands to study, research, gather, and so on. In addition to reading earnestly, this connection is a prerequisite that encourages readers to choose readings that do not plunge them into actions that are against the name of Allah SWT. This command was initially given to the caliph who had never read any book, although the person would not be able to read until the end of his life. This is not surprising given the meaning of these words, which have been described twice during the first revelation. This miracle will not change if we consider the idea of *iqra'*—that this obligation is required for all Muslims, not just for the Prophet Muhammad (Winardi, 2016).

Technological advancements have the potential to significantly change human behavior, helping to meet all their demands and facilitate process management. It starts with the methods that are often used in interacting. In modern life, there are even three components that cannot be separated. These three supporting pillars are closely interrelated such as innovation, culture, and religion as science and technology advance at an increasing pace and this will stimulate efforts to revitalize the use of the results of scientific and technological advances.

The influence of scientific and technological advances on the Qur'an is also inseparable. Recent innovations include software that connects with the *mushaf*, known as a digital Qur'an that can be downloaded and viewed through *the Play Store*. It must be admitted that its availability as an application can be beneficial for Muslims by learning it more simply because it is equipped with recorded readings, colored *tajwid*, translations, and this digital Qur'an application is very beneficial for its users. This service is available online and offline.

Research on the impact of technology on learning the Qur'an continues to grow, especially related to the use of digital Quran applications. A number of studies have shown that the use of digital Quran applications can increase interest in reading the Quran because of its adaptive, accessible, and easy-to-understand nature. Research, students' interest in reading it regularly can be encouraged by the application of the Qur'an, especially because of the existence of translation and interpretation tools that make it easier for them to understand the verses. Although the use of the digital Qur'an is easy, there are still a number of obstacles that must be overcome. For example, social media or updates from other apps sometimes cause students to lose focus when reading the Qur'an online. In addition, because reading on a cellphone screen is different from reading the physical Qur'an, some students find it more difficult to concentrate when reading the digital version. This shows that although digital Qur'an apps offer a lot of promise, a number of external variables such as usability, digital distractions, and individual habits still affect students' interest in reading (Muhammad, 2024).

Currently, there is still little data on the impact of the digital Qur'an on the reading interest of PAI UMS Surakarta students. There have not been many writings that specifically examine how the application of the Qur'an affects the reading interest of students of the Islamic Religious Education Study Program, even though many previous studies have focused on how students apply or interpret the Qur'an in general. In addition to describing the obstacles that cause when using this practice, this research is needed to better understand how the use of the digital Qur'an affects the reading interest of students of the PAI UMS Surakarta Study Program.

Muhammad observed that the use of the digital version of the Quran can help students better understand its content and motivate them to read and study its interpretation more often (Muhammad, 2024). This is in line with research which shows that when students use digital devices with audio features and Quran translations, they are better able to understand the context and meaning of the verses. However, technical constraints such as unstable internet connections or software issues can also reduce the convenience and effectiveness of using the digital Quran (Rosalina 2022).

Seeing this context, further research is needed to describe how students' reading interest in the Islamic Religious Education Study Program of the University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta can be influenced by the use of the digital Qur'an. In addition to describing the challenges faced by students in accessing and utilizing the use of the digital Qur'an, this study also seeks to describe whether the program can increase the frequency and intensity of students' Qur'an reading.

2. Methodology

This research uses qualitative methodology and descriptive approaches. Qualitative research produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable needs with the aim of methodically describing the facts found in the field which are verbal sentences of phenomena rather than in statistical. Explaining the descriptive research approach in relation to the subject being studied is the goal of this analytical descriptive research approach.

PAI UMS students act as informants and research subjects. Research data collection procedures with observation, questionnaires, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis techniques use data visualization, data inference, data reduction, and data validation. Cross-referencing techniques of data sources to ensure the accuracy of information.

3. Result and Discussion

According to the results of a study on students of the University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta in the Islamic Religious Education Study Program, the use of digital Qur'an applications can increase reading motivation. In general,

students' interest in reading the Qur'an increases when using digital technology. The main reason students choose to use the digital version of the application is because of the ease of use and features that make it easier to understand the content of the Qur'an.

According to the students who participated in this survey, they had enough access to download and use it regularly. Students can take their Bibles with them wherever they go thanks to this app, which is considered very practical. This provides meaningful flexibility in the daily lives of those who are often busy with various academic and non-academic activities (Figure 1). With most students using it in fairly frequent frequency, either daily or several times a week. Ease of access is the main reason that encourages students to use this application continuously. In addition, the additional features available on the app such as translation interpretation and verse search also contribute greatly to their experience. Not only that, the existence of audio recitation also provides comfort and convenience for those who want to listen to the Qur'an.



Figure 1. Reading Alquran using handphone and Mushap

When it comes to using in-app features, the majority of college students reveal that they most often use the text of the Qur'an itself and verse search. This verse search feature allows students to easily search and find the specific verses they need, both for study purposes and as part of their worship routine. The tafsir and translation feature is also a feature that is used quite often by most respondents, which indicates that they want a deeper understanding of the verses of the Qur'an. Although the audio recitation feature is available, its usage is still relatively lower compared to the text and verse search features that focus more on understanding the text.

Thus, although the digital Al Quran application offers a number of advantages, users certainly face a number of challenges. Interference from other app notifications that appear when using digital Al Quran applications is one of the main challenges identified. This can make users uncomfortable, especially when they read the Quran and try to concentrate and be solemn. In addition, a number

of students voiced their concerns with the large number of ads that appeared when using the app. Some students also feel that the small font size is an obstacle, especially those with visual impairments.

Regarding focus and concentration, most respondents revealed that they felt that there was no significant difference between reading the Qur'an digitally or physically. However, a small percentage of students find it more difficult to focus when using digital Qur'an apps, mainly due to the inevitable interruption of ads and notifications. This shows that even though digital apps offer a variety of advantages, the user's comfort must still be taken into account to ensure that they can carry it with focus and solemnity.

Nevertheless, the majority of students feel that the use of digital Qur'an is quite effective in increasing interest in reading the Qur'an. The ease of access provided by the application, coupled with the existence of features that support understanding, makes this application a more attractive choice for students. The students also showed a desire to continue using the digital Qur'an application in the future, although they gave some suggestions related to improving the application such as adding an offline mode so that it can be accessed without an internet connection and reducing advertisements that interfere with user comfort.

Al-Qur'an Digital

The Quran can be stored on smartphones or other small electronic devices thanks to the "Digital Quran" app. The development of the Qur'an can be controlled by future developments. For example, it can be said that computer technology will be the foundation for the development of the Qur'an in the future. Given the variety of models and types of computer hardware and software, the new digital Quran format will undoubtedly appear periodically (Kurniawati, 2016).

There are so many digital Quran applications available. One of them is the Indonesian Al-Quran Application which has been authorized by the MUI. The "Digital Quran" scheme stores the Quran on small electronic devices, such as smartphones and other gadgets. Future advances in information and communication technology will have a great influence on how the Quran develops. For example, it can be said that computer technology will be the basis for the future development of the Quran. Undoubtedly, new digital Quran formats will appear sporadically due to various models and types of software (Kurniawati, 2016).

Reading Interest

The way to understand that interest in language is as a like, or inclination of the heart towards desire. Although Slameto may interpret the meaning of the term, interest is defined as a feeling of liking something or an activity without anyone commanding it. Pleasure always follows interest, and from that pleasure a certain level of satisfaction is achieved (Zumarwan, 2021)..

Farida Rahim defines the interest in reading as a great desire from a person to read accompanied by the effort he makes (Rahim, 2019). Reading interest is the tendency to have a great desire or interest in reading. In order to understand what he or she is reading, one must also consistently put in the effort to read followed by pleasure without coercion, self-will, or outside support (Artana, 2016).

The Influence of the Digital Qur'an on Reading Interest

The use of digital devices to increase interest in reading the Qur'an is a way for Muslims to keep up with the times. Based on the results of research (Saputra, 2020) it is shown that the use of technology in religious education, especially when reading the Qur'an, can increase students' involvement and interest in the book. Since the digital Qur'an app makes it easy to access the text of the Qur'an anytime and from anywhere, students are encouraged to use it.

The availability of other services such as commentary, translation, and audio recitations that provide more complete information about the meaning of the Qur'an further supports this accessibility. According to (Rahim, 2020), readers who do not yet master Arabic can better understand the content of Qur'anic verses thanks to the availability of explanations and translations in the digital Qur'an application. Because of these characteristics, students who may not have been so interested in reading the physical Qur'an in the past may now feel more comfortable and inspired to do so.

Practicality of Using the Digital Qur'an

The usefulness of the digital Quran is one of the main factors that affect students' interest. Since the Al-Quran application is now available for mobile devices, students no longer need to worry about carrying a physical Quran. According to research, many people use the digital Qur'an mainly for practical purposes, especially young people who use online practices more often in their daily lives (Zainuddin, 2024)

In addition, students can read whenever they want, even while waiting or traveling, thanks to the convenience of carrying electronic devices that are already equipped with a digital Qur'an. Even in certain circumstances, the use of this application can help facilitate access to the text of the Qur'an (Hardiyani, 2021).

Features to Support the Understanding of the Qur'an

The features of the digital Quran application such as verse search, interpretation, and translation are very helpful for students in understanding the text. As many as 70% of respondents stated that the Quran is easier to understand because of the element of interpretation and translation, especially for those who are not fluent in Arabic. According to research, readers can better understand the context and meaning of the verses of the Quran with the help of interpretation and translation (Hidayat, 2024).

In addition, the verse search function on this app makes it easy for students to find verses that are relevant to a particular topic, which is very helpful in learning and discussing religions. The research findings further confirm this, which shows that digital Al Quran applications with verse search features improve users' understanding and interaction with Al Quran content (Suhartono, 2024).

Obstacles in the Use of the Digital Qur'an

Students face a number of challenges despite having many advantages. Among the problems that users often face are small text sizes, ads that appear within the app, and distractions from other apps. Ads can make using the program less convenient, and notifications from other apps, for example, can distract students' focus as they read the Qur'an. This shows that while the use is convenient, programmers must consider the user's comfort to ensure that the app continues to effectively stimulate interest in reciting and deepening the Qur'an.

According to research, digital distractions such as notifications and advertisements can reduce the quality of user experience when using Qur'an applications. To improve the user experience, app developers should collaborate to reduce or completely eliminate these distractions (Ginting, 2021).

Focus and Concentration in Reading the Digital Qur'an

Concentration and focus are two difficulties when reading the Qur'an using digital applications. Although the majority did not feel a significant difference, some students reported feeling less concentrated when reading the Qur'an on digital devices. These results are consistent with research which shows that the reader's concentration level can be influenced by the use of digital devices because these devices are often used for reasons other than reading. The results of this study show that the use still has a good impact on students' reading interest and understanding of the Qur'an, despite certain challenges related to digital focus and distractions (Hidayat, 2024).

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research, students of the Islamic Religious Education Study Program, University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta are more interested in reading when using the digital version of the Qur'an. Accessibility, Students' enthusiasm in reciting the Qur'an is driven by practicality and other features such as audio readings, explanations, and translations. While there are a number of issues, such as small text sizes, ads, and interruptions in notifications, it's still a powerful tool to encourage students to read and understand text more often.

Developers of digital Qur'an applications are expected to consider the user's convenience by minimizing distractions and ensuring that the program can be used without sacrificing user enjoyment. With these various improvements, it is hoped that students will be more interested in studying and studying the Qur'an.

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