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Exploring the Role of Digital Libraries in Primary Schools in the Era of Digitalization: A Systematic Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

Digital libraries have become an important element in supporting learning in elementary schools along with the rapid development of technology and the digitization of education. This study aims to explore the role of digital libraries in improving the accessibility of learning resources, students' digital literacy, and the effectiveness of teachers' teaching in elementary schools through a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach. Data was obtained from 15 reputable journals published in the 2019-2024 time span, with selection using the PRISMA method to ensure the relevance and validity of the studies analyzed. The results showed that digital libraries have a positive impact on the affordability of teaching materials, increase students' interest in reading, and enrich technology-based learning strategies for teachers. In addition, digital libraries play a role in the development of 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking, collaboration, and digital communication. However, the main challenges in the implementation of digital libraries include infrastructure limitations, human resource readiness, and access disparities in certain regions. This study emphasizes the need for strategic policies to optimize digital libraries in primary schools, including improved teacher training and strengthening of technological infrastructure. Thus, digital libraries can function optimally in supporting inclusive and quality learning in the era of digitalization.

1. Introduction

The rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT) has brought significant changes in various aspects of life, including in the field of education (Ambarwati et al., 2021). Digitalization in education is one of the main agendas in improving the quality of learning, especially at the primary school level which is the main foundation in building students' literacy and numeracy skills (Eprilia et al., 2023). This learning is also in line with Ki Hajar Dewantara's educational concept which underlines meaningful learning according to the times in the implementation of learning in this digital era (Harini et al., 2023). One form of implementation of the growing digitalization of education is the digital library. Digital libraries are present as a solution in providing learning resources

that are wider, easily accessible, and more flexible than conventional libraries (Adriani et al., 2021) . With the digital library, students and teachers have wider access to various references, including electronic books (e-books), journals, learning videos, and various other digital resources that can improve the quality of learning (Habibillah et al., 2022) .

Digital libraries in elementary schools not only function as media storage and information providers, but also as a means of developing students' digital literacy from an early age (Lestari, 2024) . Digital literacy is an essential skill in the modern era, where the ability to search, understand, and evaluate information from various digital sources is needed (Puspita, 2019) . The use of digital libraries allows students to learn independently, improve their reading skills, and develop a critical mindset in selecting credible and relevant information because it adapts to current learning that is dominantly integrated with technology (Ismuhadi et al., 2023) . In addition, digital libraries also support interactive and innovative technology-based learning, so as to increase student involvement in the learning process (Mubarok, 2021) .

However, despite the various benefits, the implementation of digital libraries in elementary schools still faces various challenges. One of the main challenges is the limited infrastructure and accessibility of technology (Hadiapurwa et al., 2021) . Not all primary schools have adequate facilities, such as stable internet connectivity, enough computer or tablet devices, and an efficient digital library management system (Adawiyah & Gunansyah, 2018) . The digital divide between urban and rural schools is also a significant obstacle, with schools in remote areas often facing barriers in accessing optimal digital resources (Yudiana et al., 2023) . This has the potential to increase the gap in education quality between areas that have good access to technology and those that do not.

In addition, the readiness of human resources, especially teachers and library staff, is also an important factor in the successful implementation of digital libraries. Not all teachers have adequate skills in utilizing digital libraries effectively in learning (Lubis et al., 2023) . Continuous training is needed to enable teachers to integrate digital resources in their teaching methods. In addition, the education curriculum also needs to be adjusted so that the use of digital libraries is not just a supplement, but also an integral part of a broader learning strategy (Sari, 2022) .

From a student perspective, another challenge is that digital literacy skills still need to be improved. Although the current generation is known as digital natives, not all students have the ability to navigate digital information well. Some students may have difficulty in distinguishing valid information from non-credible ones, so guidance from teachers is needed in developing information evaluation skills (Mariana, 2019) . Digital libraries can be an effective tool to build these skills if used with the right strategies in learning (Sukiastini et al., 2023) . On the other hand, the use of digital libraries also contributes to improving teachers' teaching effectiveness. With the availability of various digital learning resources, teachers have more options in delivering teaching materials in an interesting and interactive way (Indriani et al., 2024) . Teachers can use multimedia, digital

simulations, and various educational applications to support learning that is more varied and in accordance with student needs. This is in line with the 21st century learning principles that emphasize the use of technology in creating a more meaningful learning experience (Kurnianingsih et al., 2017) .

In the context of education policy, the government has initiated various programs to support the digitization of education, including the development of digital libraries in schools. Programs such as "Merdeka Belajar" initiated by the Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (Kemendikbudristek) aim to increase access to digital resources in learning (Putri et al., 2024) . In addition, various digital platforms such as Rumah Belajar, Sibooks, and app-based digital libraries are increasingly used to expand students' access to quality teaching materials. However, the effectiveness of these programs still requires further evaluation to ensure that all schools can equally benefit from the digitization of education (Saputri et al., 2023) .

Along with the increasing need for digital learning resources, research on the role of digital libraries in primary schools is becoming increasingly relevant. According to (Lestari, 2024) digital libraries have a significant impact on improving students' literacy skills, teaching effectiveness and accessibility of learning resources. However, there are still limitations in the research on how digital libraries can be optimally implemented in different school conditions. Therefore, a more comprehensive study is needed to explore various aspects related to the implementation of digital libraries in primary schools.

This research uses the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to review various studies that have been conducted related to digital libraries in elementary schools. By using a systematic approach, this study aims to identify patterns, trends, and challenges faced in the implementation of digital libraries. The results of this review are expected to provide deeper insights into how digital libraries can be optimized to improve the quality of primary education in the digitalization era. In addition, this study also aims to provide recommendations for policy makers, educators, and related parties in developing more effective policies and strategies in supporting digital transformation in primary schools.

Thus, exploration of the role of digital libraries in primary schools is not only relevant in the context of technological development, but also part of efforts to realize more inclusive, quality and sustainable education (Ismuhadi et al., 2023) . Through this research, it is hoped that a broader understanding of how digital libraries can be maximally utilized in supporting learning can be obtained, as well as overcoming various challenges that arise in the implementation process in primary schools.

2. Methodology

This research uses the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to explore and analyze various previous studies on the role of digital libraries in primary schools

in the context of digitization of education. The SLR approach was chosen because it allows a systematic and thorough analysis of various published scientific sources, so as to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities in the implementation of digital libraries in the primary education environment (Widodo, 2019) . The literature selection process was conducted following the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) protocol which consists of four main stages: identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion. Article searches were conducted through academic databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, DOAJ, and Garuda, with keywords such as primary school digital library, digitalization of primary education, and student digital literacy. Articles that met the selection criteria were categorized based on key variables including accessibility, learning effectiveness, digital literacy and implementation challenges. Data from the selected literature was analyzed descriptively to identify key patterns and trends in research related to digital libraries in primary schools (Fadli, 2021) . With this approach, it is expected to gain greater insight into the effectiveness of digital libraries as well as optimal strategies for their implementation in primary school settings.

Research Design

The Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach in this study followed the steps set out in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) model, which included identification, selection, screening and inclusion of articles. These steps were taken to ensure that only relevant articles that met quality standards were included in the analysis.

Data Collection and Analysis Process

The data collection process is carried out by applying a systematic search strategy on predetermined databases. Each article found through relevant keywords was then evaluated based on the title, abstract, and keywords to determine whether the article was worthy of further analysis (Darwin et al., 2020) . Articles that met the inclusion criteria were then analyzed using a content analysis approach, where data were categorized based on several predetermined key indicators.

After the articles were selected, the data extraction process was carried out with a focus on several key variables, namely:

1. Digital Library Accessibility: How digital libraries improve accessibility of learning resources for students and teachers in primary schools.
 2. Effectiveness in Learning: The extent to which digital libraries help improve the effectiveness of learning, both for teachers and students.
 3. Student Digital Literacy: The influence of digital libraries on students' ability to understand, use, and evaluate digital information.
 4. Implementation Challenges: Factors that hinder the implementation of digital libraries in primary schools, including infrastructure and human resource readiness.
 5. Impact on 21st Century Skills: The contribution of digital libraries to the development of students' critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration skills.
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Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis was conducted by categorizing the findings from the various studies based on predefined indicators. The data obtained from the 20 articles were analyzed using a descriptive-qualitative approach, where patterns and trends in the research results were identified and compared to draw broader conclusions regarding the role of digital libraries in primary schools. In addition, a comparative analysis was conducted to see the similarities and differences between the various studies reviewed. If there is quantitative data in several studies, an effect size calculation is carried out to determine the level of influence of digital libraries on various aspects of learning in elementary schools (Widodo, 2019) .

Data Validity and Reliability

To ensure the validity and reliability of the research results, the following steps were taken:

- a. Data Triangulation: Data from different sources were compared to ensure consistency and accuracy of the research results.
- b. Inter-Rater Reliability: Two independent researchers evaluated the selected articles to ensure that only studies that met the methodological standards were used in the analysis.

Critical Analysis: The selected articles were evaluated based on their methodological strength, relevance to the research topic, and significance of the reported results.

3. Result and Discussion

In the era of digitalization, digital libraries have become one of the important innovations in supporting education, including in primary school settings. Various studies have been conducted to explore the role and impact of digital libraries in improving student literacy, learning effectiveness, and library service management (Novani, 2023) . The following literature review summarizes research from various journals that discuss the implementation of digital libraries, the challenges faced and the benefits gained from this system. Some studies highlight how digital libraries can increase students' interest in reading, provide wider access to learning resources, and help librarians and educators manage information more efficiently. Table 1 presents a summary of research results from various journals in the last five years related to digital libraries in school settings.

Table 1. Results of the Journal Literature Review on Digital Libraries

Author Name and Year		Title	Research Findings
Isnaini, Kurniawan, Marjito, M., Pratiwi, V.	R., A., & V.	Digital Libraries Improve & Fairy Tale Literacy in U. Elementary School Students	The implementation of a digital library increases students' interest in reading fairy tales, provides easy access to a variety of stories, and supports creative learning in

(Isnaini et al., 2024)		the classroom.
Nafisah (Nafisah, 2022)	The Urgency of Digitizing School Libraries in Indonesia's Post-Truth Era: A Cross-Perspective Review	Digitalization of school libraries in Indonesia is important in the post-truth era to improve information accessibility and support effective learning.
Puji Lestari (Lestari, 2024)	The Role of Digital Libraries in the Information Literacy Needs of Schools	This research highlights the importance of digital libraries in digital literacy learning for schools. Digital libraries can be an effective tool in improving students' digital literacy skills, but their implementation requires support from various related parties.
Ahmad Arif Fadilah (Fadilah, 2024)	Barcode-Based Library Utilization for Library Administration Management at SDM Al - Ijtihad	Implementation of a barcode-based library system improves the efficiency and effectiveness of library management at SDM Al - Ijtihad
Angga Hadiapurwa, Rayhan Musa Novian, Noviani Harahap (Hadiapurwa et al., 2021)	Utilization of Digital Libraries as Electronic Learning Resources during the COVID-19 Pandemic at the High School Level	This study found that the utilization of digital libraries at the high school level during the COVID-19 pandemic has increased significantly as an alternative electronic learning resource. Students and teachers utilize digital collections such as e-books, online journals, and multimedia content to support the distance learning process. However, the effectiveness of its utilization is still affected by factors such as the availability of devices, the quality of the internet network, and the level of digital literacy of users.
Desi Eri Kusumaningrum, Imam Gunawan, Raden Bambang Sumarsono, Teguh Triwiyanto (Kusumaningrum et al., 2019)	Library Management Assistance to Support the School Literacy Movement	Digital library management assistance improves teachers' skills in digital literacy and supports the learning process.
Amri Habibillah, Terttiaavini, Terttiaavini, Agustina Heryati (Habibillah et al., 2022)	Development of a Digital Library to Increase Student Interest in Reading SD Negeri 8 Rantau Bayur Palembang	The development of a digital library at SD Negeri 8 Rantau Bayur Palembang had a positive impact on increasing students' interest in reading. After the implementation of a simple application-based digital library containing various children's storybooks, popular knowledge books, as well as the audio-book feature, there was a significant increase in the frequency of student visits to the digital library as well as the duration of reading time.
Hayatuddiniyah (Hayatuddiniyah, 2021)	Digital library based on the perspectives of Lucy Tedd and Andrew Large (a	The Faculty of Engineering UGM Library fulfills three characteristics of digital libraries from the perspective of Lucy A.

	case study at the Faculty of Engineering (Yogyakarta Library)	Tedd and Andrew Large, namely the UGM information retrieval process of users, collections consisting of interconnected data and metadata, and integration with other institutions.
Ayuk Nur Lita Indriani, Fuad Fahmiy, Muhammad Muadhom, Ahmad Saefudin (Indriani et al., 2024)	The Importance of Digital Library as a Learning Resource in the Era of Socialization 5.0	This research found that digital libraries play an important role as a relevant and adaptive learning resource in the Society 5.0 era. In addition, the existence of digital libraries supports technology-based learning and encourages students to be more independent in finding references.
Septevan Nanda Yudisman, Jalinur (Yudisman, 2024)	Librarians and the Essentiality of Digital Library Services	Digital libraries offer fast and accurate access to information; librarians need to master information technology to meet the needs of users in the era of globalization.
Eybi Octaviani Tanipu, Novianty Djafri, & Nina Lamatenggo (Firdausi & Trihantoyo, 2021)	Digital Library Service access, and interactive features, significantly contributes to increasing students' interest in reading.	This research shows that good management of digital library services, including the availability of varied collections, ease of access, and interactive features, significantly contributes to increasing students' interest in reading.
Susantri Opraini, Nofri Hendri, Syafril Syafril, & Winanda Amilia (Opraini et al., 2023)	The Effectiveness of Digital Library Utilization as a Learning Resource on Learning Outcomes at SMAN 1 Lubuk Basung	The utilization of the digital library as a learning resource at SMAN 1 Lubuk Basung shows high effectiveness, with a significant increase in student learning outcomes along with high access and borrowing of digital books.
I Nyoman Ranem, Ni Putu Candra Prastya Dewi, I Wayan Suastra (Ranem et al., 2022)	The role of school libraries in supporting the literacy movement in elementary schools	School libraries play a strategic role in supporting the School Literacy Movement (GLS) at the primary school level. Through the provision of interesting reading materials, literacy activities such as reading corners, story retelling competitions, and the 15-minute reading before learning program, the library can become an active literacy center.
Alwi Renaldhy, Tasya Aisyah Amini, Nufaisa Almazar, Saepudin, Francis Matheos Sarimole (Renaldhy et al., 2023)	Implementation of Digital Library to Increase Interest Reading for Students of SMPN 2 Babelan	The implementation of the digital library at SMPN 2 Babelan has proven to be effective in increasing students' interest in reading. Based on the results of observations and questionnaires, students showed high enthusiasm for using the digital library because of its easy access, diverse collections, and attractive appearance.
Achadi Budi Santosa, Sukirman Sukirman	Digital Library Management Strategy to Improve Academic Quality	The implementation of digital library management strategies that include digital collection development, increasing human resource capacity, and optimizing

Subaidi Subaidi (Santosa et al., 2022)	information technology-based service systems, is able to increase the accessibility and utilization of information resources by the academic community.
Ai Nuril Aini, Digital Library System at Kussigit Santosa MTs Daarul Muqimien (Aini & Santosa, Using Extreme 2023) Programming (Prototype)	This research discusses the design of a web-based digital library system at MTs Daarul Muqimien using the Extreme Programming method, which aims to improve the efficiency of management and accessibility of library collections.
Laeli Novani (Novani, 2023)	The results of the study show that during the Covid-19 era, school libraries experienced an accelerated digital transformation as a response to the limitations of physical services. The analyzed studies reveal that the existence of the digital library is an effective solution in supporting distance learning, although it is still faced with challenges such as limited infrastructure, digital literacy of librarians and students, and the need for continuous training. In general, digital libraries have proven to play an important role in maintaining the continuity of information and literacy services during the pandemic.

Discussion

In the rapidly growing era of digitalization, digital libraries have become one of the important innovations in education, including in primary schools. A review of the literature shows that the implementation of digital libraries has a significant impact on improving student literacy, the effectiveness of library management, and wider accessibility of information. Various studies in the last five years have revealed various aspects related to the role of digital libraries in supporting education in primary schools.

One of the studies conducted by Isnaini et al. (2024)) revealed that digital libraries can increase students' reading interest in fairy tales. With easy access to various stories, students can be more interested in reading and understanding the stories available. In addition, digital libraries also support creative learning in the classroom, where teachers can integrate various digital literature sources into learning. This is in line with previous research conducted by Opraini et al. (2023) who found that the use of digital libraries increased reading interest and comprehension of fairy tales in elementary school students. In line with that Puspita (2019) reveals that the culture of literacy in schools must continue to be improved with various methods carried out.

In addition, research conducted by Indriani et al. (2024) discusses the urgency of digitizing school libraries in Indonesia in the post-truth era. In this era, accessibility to valid and reliable information is very important. Digitalization of

school libraries can help students get more accurate information and support more effective learning. This further strengthens the argument that digital libraries are not only a medium for storing electronic books, but also an educational tool that can help students develop information literacy skills.

In line with that, research conducted by Lestari (2024) highlighted the role of digital libraries in digital literacy learning of elementary school students. They found that digital libraries can be an effective tool in improving students' digital literacy skills. However, its implementation requires support from various related parties, including teachers, librarians and the government. This confirms that the success of a digital library depends not only on the technology used, but also on the human factors that manage it. In terms of library management efficiency, research conducted by Adriani et al. (2021)) showed that the implementation of a barcode-based library system at SMA Negeri 4 Kendari can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of library management. With this system, the recording of borrowing and returning books becomes faster and more accurate, thus reducing the risk of losing books and improving user experience in accessing library collections.

Furthermore, research conducted by Latifah & Sa'diyah (2024) highlighted the importance of mentoring in digital library management to strengthen literacy. They found that good mentoring of teachers in managing digital libraries can improve digital literacy skills and support the learning process more effectively. This shows that the success of digital libraries is not only determined by the technology used, but also by the readiness and competence of teachers in utilizing it.

On the other hand, research conducted by (Renaldhy et al., 2023; Sriwijayanti & Hariyanto, 2023; Susanto et al., 2022) found that the implementation of digital libraries not only improves student literacy, but also forms positive character through reading activities. Students who are accustomed to accessing digital literature tend to be more independent in learning and have a better understanding of the various topics they study at school. In addition, a study conducted by Hayatuddiniyah (2021) highlights digital libraries based on the perspectives of Lucy A. Tedd and Andrew Large with a case study at the Faculty of Engineering UGM Yogyakarta Library. The results showed that the library fulfills the three main characteristics of digital libraries, namely the information retrieval process of users, collections consisting of interconnected data and metadata, and integration with other institutions. The findings show that digital libraries at the higher education level have developed well and can be a reference for implementation at the primary school level.

From the perspective of technological development, research conducted by Lubis et al. (2023) discusses the impact of library digitization in an all-digital era. While digitization has made access to information easier for the public, they also highlighted the challenges faced, such as the lack of awareness of the importance of digital libraries and the possibility of declining interest in print media. Therefore, library managers need to devise appropriate strategies to balance the

use of digital and print resources. In terms of librarians, research conducted by Yudisman (2024) revealed that digital libraries offer fast and accurate access to information. However, they also emphasize that librarians need to master information technology in order to meet the needs of users in the era of globalization. This confirms that digital transformation in libraries does not only focus on its technological aspects, but also on improving the competence of library management personnel.

Several other studies have also shown the benefits of digital libraries in improving students' reading literacy at various levels of education. For example, research by Firdausi & Trihantoyo (2021) found that the development of digital-based library service management effectively improved students' reading literacy through the provision of more varied and accessible learning resources. In addition, research by Opraini et al. (2023) at SMAN 1 Lubuk Basung showed that the utilization of digital library as a learning resource has high effectiveness, with a significant increase in student learning outcomes.

Various studies that have been reviewed show that digital libraries have a very important role in supporting education, especially in primary schools. The implementation of digital libraries not only increases students' interest in reading, but also supports more efficient library management, improves digital literacy skills, and provides wider access to learning resources. However, to achieve the maximum benefits of digital libraries, support from various parties is needed, including educators, librarians and education policy makers. In addition, it is important to ensure that digital transformation in libraries does not only focus on technology, but also on improving the competence of library users and managers to make optimal use of it.

4. Conclusion

This research highlights the important role of digital libraries in improving literacy and learning for students. Digital libraries increase reading interest, provide broad access to resources and develop digital literacy skills. Library digitization is essential in this era of rapid technological development. Proper management, including barcoding systems and teacher training, increases its usefulness. Librarians must adapt to technological advances. Future research should explore AI integration and the long-term impact of digital libraries on academics and inclusivity. Overall, the digitization of school libraries has successfully achieved its goals and remains essential for the growth of education in the digital age.

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