



Use of OPAC As A Means Of Refinding Information On STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library

Jonson Manurung

Rekayasa Perangkat Lunak

STMIK Pelita Nusantara, Jl. Iskandar Muda No. 1 Medan, Sumatera Utara, Indonesia 20154

E-mail: jhonson.geo@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: 12/01/2020

Revised: 22/09/2020

Accepted: 01/08/2020

Keywords:

*Online Catalog,
Library,
OPAC*

ABSTRACT

The development of Information Technology (IT) which is so fast lately, has an impact on services in the library. Library is an institution that plays a role in collecting, processing and distributing information which prioritizes search engines as a means of retrieving information. The rapid development of technology has made us co-exist with information technology itself. Now many library users have started to abandon the manual method of searching for information that takes a long time in the search process, and switch to using the Information Retrieval System that is on the network. Catalogs for some people are obsolete objects that are rarely used for information retrieval, but along with technological developments, online catalogs are now available that can be accessed via electronic devices, such as computers or smartphones called OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog). The impact is if there is no information retrieval system (OPAC), then searching for documents in the library will be more difficult because users have to browse directly to the shelf without first searching the OPAC. The Library of STMIK Pelita Nusantara is one of the higher education libraries in Medan, where the library information data collection is still manual, namely library users who come, often directly looking for collections on the shelf, or by asking library staff for help to find the desired book. From the background of the problem above, the writer is interested in taking the title of research on the Use of OPAC as a Means of Retrieving Information in the Library of STMIK Pelita Nusantara.

Copyright © 2020 Jurnal Mantik.
All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Now many library users have started to abandon the manual method of searching for information that takes a long time in the search process and switch to using the Information Retrieval System that is on the network. Catalogs for some people are obsolete objects that are rarely used for information retrieval, but along with technological developments, online catalogs are now available that can be accessed via electronic devices, such as computers or smartphones called OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog). The impact is if there is no information retrieval system (OPAC), when searching for documents in the library will be more difficult because users have to browse directly to the shelf without first searching the OPAC. The Library of STMIK Pelita Nusantara is one of the higher education libraries in Medan, where the library information data collection is still manual, namely library users who come, often directly looking for collections on the shelf, or by asking library staff for help to find the desired book.

2. Method

This type of research used in writing this thesis is a qualitative descriptive research type. Qualitative research methods, according to Moleong (2009), are research that intends to understand the phenomenon of what research subjects experience holistically and by means of descriptions in the form of words and language, in a special natural context and by utilizing various natural methods. Descriptive research is research to create a picture of a situation or event as it is. According to Suratmo (2002) "the description method is research based on data descriptions of a status, state, attitude, relationship or a system of thinking of a problem which is the object of research. The data collection method used in this study was interviews. This method allows researchers to obtain information by giving structured questions in writing to respondents, then the results of



the interview will be analyzed using descriptive methods.

The research process carried out in this study are:

2.1. Identifying Informants

The notion of an informant is a person who is considered to have a thorough knowledge of the problem and is willing to provide information to researchers. The technique of taking informants was done purposively. According to Sugiono (2006) Purpose sampling is "a sampling technique with certain considerations". The research conducted here did not determine the number of informants to be interviewed, but it was more determined by the quality of understanding on the problem under study. The informants in this study were librarians at the STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library.

2.2. Collecting Data

Data collection carried out in this study is through structured interviews in which the questions posed beforehand have been prepared and made a framework systematically before being at the research location, the data obtained is recorded with a tape recorder and assisted by other writing instruments. The data obtained is then read over and over again so that the author really understands the data or results that have been obtained.

2.3. Data Analysis

Data analysis is a way to organize data from the obtained interviews. According to Patton, quoted by Moleong (2002) data analysis is "the process of arranging the order of data, organizing it into a pattern, category, and unit of basic description". The steps that must be taken to improve understanding are:

a) Grouping Based on Categories, Themes, and Answer Patterns

At this stage, it requires in-depth knowledge of the data and openness to things that appear outside the field with what you want to explore.

In this study, researchers analyzed the results of the interviews based on the understanding of the things that were disclosed by the informants. The grouped data were then tried to be fully understood and important themes and keywords were found. So that researchers can capture experiences, problems, and dynamics that occur in the subject.

b) Testing existing assumptions or problems against data

After the categories and data are clearly defined, the researcher then tests the data against the assumptions developed in this study.

c) Seeking Explanatory Alternatives for Data

Based on the conclusions that have been obtained, the writer feels the need to find an alternative or other explanation about the conclusions obtained.

2.4. Writing Research Results

The data from the informants that have been obtained are then checked again whether the conclusions made have been completed. In this study, the writing of research data based on in-depth interviews and observations.

2.5. Draw Conclusions

Initial conclusions can be drawn when the matrix is filled, but this is not so clear, in this case, it can lead to decision making to determine the next steps that must be taken. The conclusion is an unclear situation which then increases to a statement that has a strong foundation from the analysis process of the existing symptoms or from several problems discussed with various relevant parties which finally a conclusion occurs. This is intended if there is new data then it will change the temporary conclusion to immediately make improvements through the data obtained later

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Characteristics of Informants

The informants in this study were several library staff at the STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library. 2 informants are considered to know well about the problems in this study. Interviews were conducted through an approach and introduction first. After introductions were made, the availability was then asked for an interview. The characteristics of these informants are as follows:

Table 1
Characteristics of Informants

No	code	Position	Location of the Interview
1	I1	Head of Library	Library room
2	I2	Multimedia Section	Library room

The interviews conducted with the two informants took place informally and were carried out based on the interview guidelines that the researcher had prepared. The first informant (I1) is the Head of the Library of

STMIK Pelita Nusantara, he has an educational background in Library Science (S1). While the second informant (I2) is in charge of the multimedia division, he has an educational background in Library Science education (D3). The interview is conducted at the time specified when making an appointment for the interview. The atmosphere of the interview took place naturally, not made up or arranged in such a way for a specific purpose. Likewise, the language used is informal (informal) language. The interview content developed according to the answers given by the informants. Interviews were conducted repeatedly if the researcher felt that he did not understand the informant's answer, or the informant did not understand the meaning of the researcher's question.

3.2. Category

In conducting interviews, researchers certainly need guidelines in conducting interviews so that interviews are carried out well and researchers obtain the data needed and relevant to this research. The guideline will determine the categories to be obtained from the interviews. The categories that have been determined by researchers are as follows:

1. The SLiMS application
2. Reasons for choosing the SLiMS application as a means of retrieving information
3. Barriers to the SLiMS application as a means of retrieving information

3.3. SLiMS application

The use of the SLiMS application in the STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library began in mid-2017, before using this application, the Pelita Nusantara STMIK Library was still managing it manually. The party that installs the SLiMS application at the STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library is the UPTSI in collaboration with the librarian of the STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library and managed by the library. The reason STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library chose SLiMS as its automation application is because it is considered cheap, easy to use, and efficient in operation.

Following are the results of the author's interviews with informants:

I1: The reason for choosing it is because it is easy to use, right? This application is already commonly used in libraries. Furthermore, its use is easy to search and find information.

I2: Easy, because it includes all the functions of the library automation module, so it's easy to use.

Providing training/training to STMIK Pelita Nusantara librarians in the use of the SLiMS application can be seen in the interview conversation below:

I1: If there is no training for librarians on SLiMS, at most I attend library seminars from outside, so there is no specific training on SLiMS.

I2: So far, there is no training on SLiMS, sir.

Based on the statement from the interview above, training/training on SLiMS has never been held by the library to improve the capacity of its library staff.

There are several obstacles experienced by librarians in using SLiMS. The following is the statement of the informant with the researcher:

I1: Sometimes some books have the status of "available" in the system, but when you browse them, the status of the book becomes "not available" even though if you look at the shelf, the book does exist or is available. Then the bibliography table sometimes has errors, it's just in the library membership list, for example, you registered for membership today, and is valid for 4 years / 5 years in the future, but when you look again the next day, sometimes your membership status has expired or has left.

I2: The obstacle doesn't always come up, right, only occasionally. For example, an error bibliographic table, and the book availability status in the system is sometimes problematic. Then the barcode problem that sometimes doesn't come out.

As for the maintenance or maintenance of SLiMS carried out by the library, it can be seen in the interview as follows:

I1: Maintenance is done by updating the SLiMS version to the latest version. The update process is assisted by campus IT.

I2: Please maintain it by updating it to the latest version. so keep on following its development.

Based on the interview above, it can be seen that SLiMS maintenance is carried out by updating the SLiMS version.

3.4. Reasons for Choosing the SLiMS Application as a Means of Information Retrieval.

The second category that has been determined by researchers in the interview guidelines conducted to the two informants, is related to the reasons why the librarian of STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library chose the SLiMS application as a means of retrieving information. The following is the informant's statement to the researcher regarding library policy in selecting SLiMS as a Means of Information Retrieval.

I2: The reason is the same as before, because it is easy to use. Apart from being free, the modules in SLiMS



are already complete, sir, keep the OPAC operation simple.

I1: Because it's simple to use, sir, it's not complicated. There are also many guides on the internet.

The statements of the two informants above indicate that the reason librarians choose SLiMS as a tool for information retrieval is because of its easy and simple use.

Meanwhile, the indicators seen by librarians in choosing SLiMS as a tool for information retrieval can be seen in the following interview:

I1: First, easy to use, meaning that it is easy to operate by librarians and easy to use by library users. Then the information search speed is also quite fast, then in terms of appearance it is not complicated.

I2: From my point of view, yes because it's free, sir, and just like the previous answer, it's easy to use.

Those are some of the indicators seen by UDA librarians in selecting the SLiMS application as a means of retrieval of information in the library as mentioned by the informant to the researcher.

3.5. Barriers to SLiMS Application as a Means of Information Retrieval

The third category determined by the researcher in the interview guidelines was to find out what obstacles the librarian experienced in using SLiMS as a Means of Retrieval of Information.

Following are the results of interviews with informants:

I1: The first obstacle is the limitation of computers to open our OPAC, because so far we only have 1 computer to access the OPAC, and the SLiMS is still not online, only localhost. Then sometimes the search is problematic, sometimes books that have been set in the system as "available" but when traced, the search results state the status of the book to be "not available" even though when checked on the shelf, the book is there, if it has happened it is handled by the same party. IT.

I2: The most obvious obstacle is lack of funds, sir, that's why we only have one computer here. Then users also seem to be lacking in using this OPAC.

So, the obstacles experienced by librarians in managing SLiMS as a Means of Recall based on the results of the interviews, these obstacles were caused by both internal and external factors of SLiMS. The implementation and management of SLiMS as a Means of Retrieval of Information at the STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library is still not optimal, and what librarians do to increase the effectiveness of this application can be seen in the following interview results:

I1: The first thing is to upgrade, continue to make system improvements, this is done by IT, not librarians, but in accordance with the librarian's request here.

I2: Upgrading the SLiMS version and encouraging more users to use OPAC.

Based on the results of the interview above, it can be seen that the library has made several efforts to increase the effectiveness of SLiMS as a means of meeting back at the STMIK Pelita Nusantara Library.

The suitability of the SLiMS application as a means of information retrieval in the STMIK Pelita Nusantara library. The following are the results of the informant's interview with the author:

I1: It is appropriate for current use. There are no plans to replace our application, because replacing it is not easy. So far, the library needs it.

I2: It's appropriate, because I'm comfortable with this application.

Based on the results of interviews with informants, it can be concluded that the suitability of the SLiMS application as a Means of Retrieval of Information in the Library of STMIK Pelita Nusantara is appropriate.

3.6. Summary of Research Results

Based on the results of interviews with informants, data obtained through interviews, and through data analysis and triangulation that maintain the validity of this data, three categories can be obtained with sub-categories in the use of SLiMS as a Means of Retrieval of Information in the Library of STMIK Pelita Nusantara. The categories and sub-categories are as follows:

4. Conclusion

- a. The role of the library automation system in increasing the effectiveness of librarian performance is satisfactory. The use of SLiMS can be a tool to ease the work of librarians in carrying out routine library activities, such as cataloging library collection materials, circulation services, information retrieval (OPAC), membership management, collection inventory, statistics/reporting, and serial publication management.
- b. Barriers experienced by librarians in implementing SLiMS are issues of human resources, funds, and user awareness. Human resources in the library have less competence in the field of libraries, then there is a lack of funds to support and complete application support facilities as well as user awareness in utilizing this facility.

5. References

- [1] Arikunto, Suhartini. 2002. *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktek*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.
- [2] Christie, L.E. 1986. *Managing today and tomorrow with online information*. United States of America: Dow Jones-Irwin.
- [3] Crowford, Walt. 1987. *Patron Access: Issue for Online Catalogs*. Boston: GK Hall.
- [4] Departemen Pendidikan Nasional RI. 2004. *Perpustakaan Perguruan Tinggi : Buku Pedoman*. Jakarta.
- [5] Dunia Perpustakaan. 2017. *Sejarah Lengkap Software SLiMS*.
<https://www.duniaperpustakaan.com/2011/03/sejarah-lengkap-software-slims-senayan.html> (diakses pada 1 Desember 2019)
- [6] Hasugian, Jonner. 2009. *Dasar-dasar Ilmu Perpustakaan dan Informasi*. Medan : USU Press.
- [7] Indonesia. 2007. *Undang-undang No. 43 tentang Perpustakaan*.
- [8] Lasa, H.S. 2001. *Leksikon Kepustakawanan Indonesia*. Yogyakarta : Universitas Gadjah Mada.
- [9] Latipah, Ipah. 2016. *Tanggapan Pengguna Terhadap Penggunaan Katalog Online (OPAC) Simap Di Perpustakaan Kantor Arsip Dan Perpustakaan Daerah (KAPD) Kabupaten Bogor*. Tesis. Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah.
- [10] Lexi, Moleong. 2000. *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: Remaja Rodakarya.
- [11] Mahdiah, 2011. *Evaluasi Kinerja SLiMS Sebagai Sarana Temu Kembali Informasi Di Perpustakaan DPR RI*. Tesis. Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah.
- [12] Rifai, Agus. 2002. *Peran Pustakawan Intermediary Dalam Memenuhi Kebutuhan Informasi Pemakai*. al-Maktabah, Vol 4, No.1
- [13] Saleh, Abdul Rahman.et.al. 1996. *CDS/ISIS: Panduan Pengelolaan Sistem Manajemen Basis Data untuk Perpustakaan dan Unit Informasi*. Bogor: Saraswati Utama.
- [14] Sugiono. 2006. *Memahami Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: Alfabeta.

