



# **Analysis of the utilization of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic at the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar**

**Muhadir Abd. Rasyid<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Postgraduate Program, Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin of Makassar

Correspondence Email: [muhadir0405@gmail.com](mailto:muhadir0405@gmail.com)

## **ABSTRACT**

The collection of Islamic studies in Arabic is one collection provided by the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar. This collection always accompanies the existence of State Islamic University as the most prominent Islamic educational institution in Indonesia, so this collection must get attention to meet the information needs of students who need it. State Islamic University is expected to be a forum for Muslim scholars to combine classical scientific traditions with study methodologies that adapt to the demands of the times. Therefore, the presence of the library is expected to be a place to provide these types of collections so that students can preserve Islamic traditions and formulate adaptive and progressive study methods so that they become comprehensive scientific transmission. This article describes a portrait of the utilization of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic at the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar using qualitative descriptive research methods. The data collection techniques are observation, interviews, documentation, and triangulation. Data is analyzed through stages: data reduction, presentation, and conclusions. The results showed the types of collections of Islamic studies in Arabic that were used by students, namely tafsir, hadith, Arabic, history, and jurisprudence (law). It is used by reading, reviewing, discussing, taking pictures, and scanning. The collection is used for academic needs, interests, completeness, and ease of access to the collection. Constraints on the utilization of this collection include low accuracy of the retrieval system, low completeness of collections, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, non-permanent location of libraries, and limited quantity and ability of library management resources.

**Keywords:** Collection utilization; Islamic collection; information needs

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Today, information is a primary need and cannot be separated from its existence for the community, especially students. The presence of students is inseparable from the presence of the library as a forum for providing various information to meet student information needs. Libraries in serving the needs of students have assets called collections. According to Law No. 43 of 2007, library collections are all information in the form of written works, printed works, and recorded works in various media that have educational value, which are collected, processed, and submitted (Republik Indonesia, 2007, p. 2).

The library's collection is very diverse in shape and type. This diversity is in line with the development of technology and information today. This development is an absolute thing and will happen to a library as, according to S.R. Ranganathan in his theory of library law, "a library is a growing organism" (Lancaster, 1988, p. 11). In addition, each library's variety and type of collection is adjusted to the type of library. Similarly, the type of university library presents and adjusts its collection in terms of quantity and quality to support the achievement of the tri-dharma of higher education as stated in Law No. 43 of 2007 concerning university libraries article 24 paragraph 2 (Republik Indonesia, 2007, p. 15).

One of the educational institutions in Indonesia that is present as a forum for creating Muslim scholars is the State Islamic University. The presence of State Islamic University, especially its derivative institutions, namely libraries, is expected to be a place to provide types of collections that can meet the information needs of Islamic studies students. State Islamic University and Islamic studies are like two sides of a coin that are interconnected and inseparable. This is because the curriculum integrates Islamic treasures (religious science families) with modern methodology and science (general science families) (Muqoyyidin, 2014, p. 133).

Based on the picture above, one of the libraries present responded to this, namely the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar. The Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar generally provides various collections, including the Islamic collection. Islamic collections are identified as references in finding information whose subjects are nuanced to Islamic studies or Islamic religious knowledge. This collection is simply a collection related to Islamic religious knowledge. It is a collection usually placed in the Islamic classification grouping 2X0 to 2X9 and stored on shelves or in particular rooms.

The Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar must support its parent institution to achieve the tridharma of higher education. The Postgraduate of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar has a study program that cannot be separated from Islamic studies. Therefore, the library must provide a collection of Islamic studies in quality and quantity in accordance with the learning reference needs of the available study programs and the intellectual needs of students at the Postgraduate

of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar. This activity is carried out to support the transmission of scientific integration between Islamic studies and science supported by good methodology to give birth to modern scientific treasures that can answer community problems.

The utilization of Islamic studies collections, especially those in Arabic, at the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar tends to be less than other collections. This statement is evident from the number of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic used on the reading table, which is smaller and rarely found. In addition, the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic on the shelves is predominantly dusty. Based on this, it indicates that most collections of Islamic studies in Arabic are not used, rarely or even never used by students. This phenomenon is certainly a big question mark and needs to be evaluated, especially since the presence of the collection is expected to be an incubator for producing Muslim scholars.

Meanwhile, as a golden generation of observers of Islamic studies, students have been less enthusiastic in the study activities on the collection. In fact, to achieve actual progress as a progressive Muslim, mastery of Islamic traditions as a reference for the academic community is necessary. This lack of interest will result in the poor quality of the college graduates themselves. The birth of Muslim scholars who could not preserve the brilliance of previous scientists was caused by several factors, including weak mastery of material and study methods, weak involvement in Islamic traditions, high apologists, no harmony between natural desires and efforts, and failure to communicate classical scientific sources with the times (Safi, 2007, p. 5).

Based on the phenomenon and explanation above, the need for a collection of Islamic studies in Arabic in terms of quality and quantity is needed by students to be used as a reference in order to produce scholars who can preserve Islamic scientific traditions and formulate adaptive and progressive study methods, so that they become comprehensive scientific transmission. Therefore, this research is needed to determine the extent of Islamic universities' condition, existence, and attention, especially the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar, to collect Islamic studies in supporting and supporting students. The researchers raised the research theme: Analysis of the Utilization of the Collection of Islamic Studies in Arabic at the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar.

## **2) METHODS**

Researchers in this section will explain some of the methods used in collecting data related to the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic at the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar. Peggy Johnson explains that from her approach, the evaluation of collections can be viewed quantitatively and qualitatively. According to him, quantitative collection evaluation looks more at aspects of growth and statistical use of collections. While the qualitative approach is more based on the results

of observations regarding the availability of collections and the use of collections (Winoto, 2018, pp. 77-78).

The research method used is a type of qualitative descriptive research. The data source of this study consists of 2, namely non-human data sources and human data sources. Non-human data sources consist of related documents and observational results. The data source is in the form of humans, namely the secretary of the library and S2 and S3 students of the Postgraduate of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar with Islamic studies study programs such as the Department of Qur'an and Tafsir, the Department of Hadith, the Department of Arabic Language Education and the Department of Arabic Language and Literature. The data collection techniques used are observation, interviews, documentation, and triangulation using interview guidelines, observation guidelines, and mobile phones as instruments for this study. Data is analyzed by applying concepts initiated by Miles and Huberman, namely through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing (Sugiyono, 2016, pp. 247-253).

Furthermore, regarding theoretical collection evaluation, two evaluation methods are commonly used in library institutions and information centers: collection-centered and use-centered. The study examines the evaluation of collections using use-centered methods. The evaluation based on user-centered methods includes 5 forms of activities, namely (1) circulation studies; (2) use opinion/studies; (3) analysis of ILL statistics; (4) in-house use studies; (5) (shelf availability) (Evans & Saponaro, 1937, p. 318).

### **3) RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Presenting the data of this section, researchers discuss in detail the use of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic. in the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar. The Arabic-language Islamic studies collection focuses on several things, starting from the reasons students use it, how to use it, the types of collections used, and the obstacles experienced in utilizing the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic.

#### **a. Reasons to Use the Collection of Islamic Studies in Arabic**

Based on the data, the reason students use the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic at the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar is caused by 2 factors, namely internal and external factors. According to Handoko, internal factors come from the user's self, while external factors come from outside or the user's environmental conditions (Prawati, 2003, p. 27). In detail, according to Nicholas' theory, students use the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic because of needs, interests, completeness of collections, and access to information (Fatmawati, 2015, pp. 8-9). The following is a description of the research results found.

### (1) Academic needs

In this case, the need relates to one's job or profession. Student is the employment status that someone gets when entering college. In addition, students are also obliged to follow the lecture process that has been set. Therefore, libraries must provide sources of information according to the academic needs of each student in the existing study program. In relation to this, researchers see that students use the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic in the graduate library for reasons of academic need. Academic needs include utilizing a collection of Islamic studies in Arabic as a reference for papers, research, and students' learning/lecture process.

### (2) Student interests

Interests are related to a person's personality. Personality is a student's encouragement or interest in a graduate library's collection. In relation to the reason students use the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic, researchers see that students generally use this collection to benefit their respective personalities. This personal interest helps add and enrich students' scientific treasures about Islamic studies or materials by utilizing a collection of Islamic studies in Arabic in the form of classical and modern books.

### (3) Completeness of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic

The completeness of the collection is essential for libraries to pay attention to because libraries have responsibilities and obligations in providing various collections that can help and support users in accordance with expertise in their respective fields. Students use this collection because the availability of Islamic studies in Arabic in the form of classical books is more complete and only available in postgraduate libraries than in other libraries.

### (4) Easy access to the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic

Access to information, in this case, is one related to mileage. Students use distance as an excuse in consideration of getting convenience in the form of time efficiency to visit and utilize the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic because their residence is close to the postgraduate library.

## **b. How to Use the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic**

In general, the way students use the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic at the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar is in line with Lasa's theory that library collections can be used by users in several ways, namely reading (Lasa HS, 2007, p. 182). Furthermore, the use of reviewing the collection is also in accordance with what was revealed by Sutarno that some of the ways users use the collection are by studying (Sutarno, 2006, p. 220). In addition, users also use the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic by photographing and scanning. Here is a description of these various methods.

### (1) Reading

Reading is the most dominant way students do it in graduate libraries. Students read the Arabic Islamic studies collection for assignment reference needs and fill their free time to add insight. Students usually read collections of Islamic studies in Arabic individually or in groups because the reading of collections, such as collections of books, differs from collections in general.

### (2) Reviewing

Studying is a process of gaining a deep understanding of something. Students study the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic because the use of this collection is different from collections in general. Students study the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic to deepen their understanding of the meaning contained in the content of the collection that is being used.

### (3) Discuss

Discussion is an activity to exchange ideas with others about something. Students use the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic to be used as material in discussion activities. Students discuss the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic through the instruction of lecturers during temporary lecture activities.

### (4) Taking pictures

Taking pictures is capturing images using a smartphone camera. Students do this by photographing certain materials or content in the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic for home use if the material has not been completed in the library. Students photograph this collection when the library's operating hours have ended.

### (5) Scanning

Scanning or scanning is a method used to convert a hardcopy document into a softcopy so that it can be saved and opened in digital format using specific applications or tools. This method has been prevalent in information technology development like today. Students use this method because scanning does not take long, and only uses mobile phones with applications such as CamScanner or AdobeScanner.

## **c. Types of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic Used**

Based on the data, in general, the type of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic used by students at the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar is a type of collection of classical and modern books in the form of tafsir, hadith, Arabic, history, and fiqh (law). In addition, majors that utilize the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic come from students majoring in tafsir, hadith, Arabic language and literature, as well as Arabic language education, which is a department with Islamic

studies. The following is a description of the types of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic that students use according to their respective majors.

(1) Department of Qur'an and tafsir

Students majoring in the Qur'an and tafsir are more dominant in utilizing the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic in accordance with their majors, namely the books of tafsir. The other collections he uses are the Book of hadith, the Book of Arabic, and the Book of Rules of Arabic.

(2) Department of hadith science

Students majoring in hadith science predominantly use the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic in accordance with their majors, namely the books of hadith. The other collections he used were the book of tafsir and fiqh (law).

(3) Department of Arabic language education

Students majoring in Arabic education predominantly utilize a collection of Islamic studies in Arabic in accordance with their majors, namely the Book of Arabic Rules. The other collections he uses are the Book of tafsir, the Book of hadith, and the Book of fiqh (law).

(4) Department of Arabic language and literature

Unlike other majors, students majoring in Arabic language and literature do not take advantage of the type of collection of Islamic studies in Arabic, such as the book of tafsir, hadith, and the book of fiqh (law). Instead, they only use the collection of Arabic studies in Arabic in Arabic books and books of Arabic rules.

Based on the explanation above, it shows that students at the Postgraduate Library of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar are dominant in utilizing the type of collection of Islamic studies in Arabic per their respective majors. In addition, the type of collection of books used by students is in accordance with what Dalimunte stated that, in general, the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic is one of the sources of Islamic references available in the library, namely the type of collection of yellow books (classical) and the type of contemporary book collection (modern) (Dalimunte, 2017, p. 131). The type of book collection used in this case is in the form of books of tafsir, books of hadith, books of fiqh (law), Arabic books, and books of Arabic rules.

#### **d. Obstacles to Utilizing the Collection of Islamic Studies in Arabic**

(1) Low retrieval system accuracy

The constraints of the retrieval system are the dominant obstacles students experience. The retrieval system in the graduate library can be said to have not been effective and efficient, causing difficulties. One of the obstacles is that collections traced

through the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) are not found on shelves; instead, traced collections are on shelves but not listed on OPAC. This phenomenon occurs because the collection is not on the shelf or has been scattered so that it is on another shelf. Based on this, students are more dominant in browsing collections directly to the shelves without using OPAC.

## (2) Low completeness of the collection

The completeness of the collection is low in terms of the quality and quantity of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic in the postgraduate library.

### a) Quality of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic

Constraints in terms of quality are seen from the physical quality and quality of collection content. In terms of physical quality, the available collections experience physical defects such as tearing and partial loss of sheets so that the content or contents of the collection cannot be seen and utilized. Physical defects of the collection occur because the type of collection is a collection that is classified as old or old, and the collection does not receive appropriate care or preservation. Meanwhile, in terms of content quality, the discussion content of the collection is not updated. The collection of Islamic studies in Arabic is only limited to the old collection, so the information in it has not been developed or updated. According to students, many Islamic studies in Arabic are more updated today, especially the collection of Arabic books and fiqh (law) books, which are constantly developing along with the times.

### b) The quantity of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic is small and limited

Constraints in terms of quality are seen from the quantity of volumes. Students are constrained when there are volumes of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic that are not on the shelves or arranged in the order of the volumes so that the completeness of a book becomes imperfect. This type of collection is in the form of books. Most have several volumes, and each volume discusses a different thing. This results in students' unmet needs when the information they need is correct in the missing volume.

## (3) Inadequate facilities and infrastructure

Facilities and infrastructure are related to room facilities in utilizing the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic. Although there is currently a particular room for this collection, it still has limitations. This limitation is because the room is a lecture and examination room. As a result, when the room is used for lectures and exams, it causes other students to be unable to use the collections in the room.

In addition to student constraints, librarians also have problems collecting Islamic studies in Arabic available in the postgraduate library. The following are these obstacles.



### (1) Non-permanent library locations

The non-permanent location of the library is the root of the problems that arise in the graduate library. Even according to librarians, graduate libraries have undergone 4-5 displacements. The move causes collection management to be not optimal; some collections are sometimes left behind and even lost during the moving process. In addition, this movement also impacts the physical collection and has physical damage because some people do not move the collection carefully.

### (2) Limited quantity and resource capabilities of library managers

The lack of library management resources is the reason the management of the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic is not optimal. Apart from quantity, another obstacle is caused by the lack of management ability to read and translate the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic. Therefore, the management and distribution of collections become hampered and not optimal. This impacts the input process of collecting metadata in the system, which is not adequately mobilized. The process of inputting collection metadata in the system is an obstacle for librarians because the process of managing collections differs. After all, it requires people who can read and translate it.

## CONCLUSION

Islamic university libraries should strive to develop, add, update, and provide collections of Islamic studies in Arabic in digital form in response to the development of information technology and the tendency of students to use digital collections due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the offers put forward by Habiba Nur Maulida in his article on the issue is to make alternatives that can provide ease, speed, and accuracy in accessing information to library users. The natural form of this is by developing web-based services connected to social media, such as *Al-Maktabah Al-Syamilah*. *Al-Maktabah Al-Syamilah* is a digital-based Islamic library software that has a complete and easily accessible collection (Maulida, 2019, p. 116).

The critical role of lecturers as educators is still significantly lacking in motivating students to utilize the collection of Islamic studies in Arabic. This is one of the reasons why students who use these collections are rarely found in libraries. Similarly, Mohammad Thoha said in his article that the wearability of the yellow book is relatively small because most students do not have the basic competence to master the yellow book. Similarly, the pattern of lectures and mastery of scientific papers by lecturers who do not require the use of yellow book references also causes low student interest in studying it (Thoha, 2019, p. 55).

## REFERENCES

- Dalimunte, M. (2017). *Buku topik inti kurikulum Fakultas Ilmu Sosial UIN Sumatra Utara*. Medan: Fakultas Ilmu Sosial UIN Sumatra Utara.
- Evans, G., & Saponaro, M. (1937). *Developing Library and Information Center Collections*. USA: Libraries Unlimited.
- Fatmawati, E. (2015). Kebutuhan Informasi Pemustaka dalam Teori dan Praktek. *Media Informasi Perpustakaan Sanata Dharma Vol. 13 No. 1*, 1-12.
- Lancaster, F. (1988). *If You Want to Evaluate Your Library*. USA: University of Illinois.
- Lasa HS. (2007). *Manajemen Perpustakaan Sekolah*. Yogya: Pinus Book Publisher.
- Maulida, H. (2019). Layanan Pustaka Islam Berbasis Digital. *Jurnal Iqra' Volume 13 No. 2*, 116.
- Muqoyyidin, A. (2014). Kitab Kuning Dan Tradisi Riset Pesantren Di Nusantara. *Ibda': Jurnal Kebudayaan Islam Vol. 12 No. 2*, 133.
- Prawati, B. (2003). Keterpakaian Koleksi Majalah Ilmiah Pusat Perpustakaan Dan Penyebaran Teknologi Pertanian Oleh Peneliti Badan LITBANG Pertanian. *Jurnal Perpustakaan Pertanian, Vol. 12 (1)*, 26-31.
- Republik Indonesia, P. (2007). Undang-Undang No. 41 tahun 2007 tentang Perpustakaan. Jakarta: Tamita Utama.
- Safi, O. (2007). *I and Thou in A Fluid Word: Beyond Islam Versus The West" dalam Vincent Cornell*. Westport: Praeger Publisher.
- Sugiyono, S. (2016). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif dan Kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- Sutarno. (2006). *Manajemen Perpustakaan*. Jakarta: Sagung Seto.
- Thoha, M. (2019). Eksistensi Kitab Kuning Di Perguruan Tinggi Keagamaan Islam (Studi Analisis Tentang Penggunaan Kitab Kuning Sebagai Referensi Kajian Keislaman Di STAIN Pamekasan dan STAI AL-Khairat Pamekasan). *Nuansa: Jurnal Penelitian Ilmu Sosial dan Keagamaan Islam Vol. 16 No. 2*, 55.
- Winoto, Y. (2018). *Dasar-Dasar Pengembangan Koleksi*. Kebumen: Intishar Publishing.