

# THE ROLE OF UIN ALAUDDIN MAKASSAR LIBRARY IN SUPPORTING “MBKM” PROGRAM

**Taufiq Mathar<sup>1</sup>**  
**Hijrana<sup>2</sup>**  
**Haruddin<sup>3</sup>**  
**A. Khaidir Akbar<sup>4</sup>**  
**Irawati<sup>5</sup>**  
**Satriani<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Library Science, Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar

<sup>2</sup>UPT Perpustakaan (Repositori) UIN Alauddin Library

e-mail: [taufiq.m@uin-alauddin.ac.id](mailto:taufiq.m@uin-alauddin.ac.id)

## ABSTRACT

An academic library plays important roles in supporting teaching, research, and learning activities in the institution. All services that the academic library provides must adapt to current and future conditions of the library users, especially how the library can support the current program in Indonesian universities called as Independent Learning-Independent Campus (MBKM). This paper is aimed to describe the role of UIN Alauddin Makassar’s Library in supporting *Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka* (MBKM). This qualitative study gathered the data through literatures and based on observations. The data from literatures were analysed by analysing the literature contents while the observed data used to strengthen the findings. This article showed that certain programs or activities that might be applied within the library are; enrich the number and forms of the collection, active interaction with the civitas, making active learning atmosphere, reference librarian or specialist subject, supporting accreditation in each study program, bibliometrics, and trained librarians.

**Keywords:** library roles; academic library

## 1) INTRODUCTION

The society is now in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 and Society 5.0. Human civilization is known from what it began from hunting and moving (nomadic) society, farming society, industrial society, and now society with full of information, as well as the future society that may be even more sophisticated with the information. From traditional water pumping tools to technological inventions that are only ordered through the application at our fingertips. This brief description is documented or recorded in many reading sources, in form of printed electronic. Today's society is an information society.

The impact of technology makes today's society able to be in the same space even though in a different time and place. We can watch live a news through streaming media coverage in other parts of the world without being there. We can now interact without carrying this physical body with other people far away. This is all because of technology, and it will continue to make great leaps forward that will continue to influence the views and ways of life of most people in various aspects of life such as the economy, education, politics, religion, and so on.

In the context of education, especially in the current pandemic situation, technology on the one hand provides is usefull in the learning process, in which teachers/lecturers and students can continue to carry out the online teaching and learning process. On the other hand, technology also still has many shortcomings and of course it cannot replace the role of the teacher/lecturer in giving a "touch" to the values of life to students. Educational institutions, including higher education, are led to be able to go hand in hand with technology although some people think that technology must be controlled because of its 'wildness'.

Like human civilization, education has changed from time to time, from what we know as Education 1.0 where teachers/lecturers become the center of knowledge, Education 2.0 where students become the center of learning, Education 3.0 where students play an increasingly important role in developing their education, while teachers/lecturers act as facilitators, and nowadays it is in Education 4.0 where students and teachers/lecturers jointly develop knowledge due to the globalization of science from the impact of this technology. Following these changes, Indonesia through the Ministry of Education and Culture, and Higher Institution has officially released a new program called "Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka" (MBKM) or Independent Learning-Independent Campus.

Some universities have implemented the *Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka* (MBKM) program, some have not at all with some reasons e.g., that they are not ready in several ways. The MBKM offers 4 policies that can be applied in higher education (Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia, 2021), for further details, several related sources have been explained and discussed the policies e.g., Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Direktorat Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi (2021), Harliansyah (2016), Denny (2021), Baharuddin (2021), Fuadi & Aswita (2021), and many others. Nadiem Anwar Makarim, the Minister of Education and Culture of Republic of Indonesia, explained that the Merdeka Campus (*Kampus Merdeka*) policy package is the first step in a series of policies for universities. "This is the initial stage of releasing the 'chains' to make it easier to move."

It is very necessary to prepare every campus in implementing this program, the findings of research conducted by Yusuf (2021) in several private universities in the provinces of West Java and Banten. In his article entitled “The Independent Campus Program for Higher Education in Indonesia: The Role of Government Support and the Readiness of Institutions, Lecturers and Students” concluded that the readiness of universities, lecturers, and students to contribute positively and have an effect on the success of this MBKM program, and of course with full support from the government itself. Therefore, universities, which is also in faculties, study programs, and including libraries are required to quickly adapt to the expected goals of this MBKM program. This paper will focus on the role of the UIN Alauddin Makassar Library in supporting the MBKM program.

## **2) METHODS**

This research is a descriptive study using a qualitative approach that uses literature sources as the main data sources. The research data obtained from library materials and also from direct observation at the library. The research data collected were analyzed using content analysis techniques, in which every literature used, especially those related to this study, was reviewed qualitatively. Meanwhile, the data from the observations will be used to strengthen the analysis of the data that has been reviewed which will then be used for discussing and taking the conclusions.

## **3) RESULTS**

From various literature materials and observations as well as interviews that have been conducted at the research area, this paper offers programs and activities that can be scheduled for UIN Alauddin Makassar’s library to support the MBKM program in the institution. Before that, it is necessary to note that there are 4 points that are emphasized in the MBKM program, namely the opening of new study programs, higher education accreditation systems, legal entity universities, and the right to study for three semesters. By looking at these 4 points, the library might contribute in several parts. This section will not describe in a concrete way what the offer of support that can be given to the 4 points, but only provides an overview of what should be made in this library to support the MBKM program.

1) Enrich the number and variety of library collections, especially digital collections

The current library collections are not limited to the printed ones. UIN Alauddin Makassar Library has provided collections that can be accessed in full text via the available internet network. E.g., electronic collection services such as scientific papers can be accessed through the website <https://repositori.uin-alauddin.ac.id/> which provides full text for collections of students' works like theses, dissertations, research reports and various other gray literature collections. Not only collections that can be accessed through the institutional repository page, the library also provides a database of the home of the UIN Alauddin Makassar journals which can be accessed in full text through the website <https://journal.uin-alauddin.ac.id/>. Meanwhile, the digital library can be read via the digital library application called "Perpustakaan Syekh Yusuf". The library users might download the application through Android Play Store. After the application is downloaded, the library users must register first. It is only filling the student ID card numbers or citizen card numbers for general users. Currently, the collections of digital libraries are still very insufficient for serving all the civitas within the campus. Therefore, the library must enrich the numbers and forms of the collections.

2) Active interactive

During the pandemic, direct interaction is limited to break the chain of the spread of COVID-19. Currently, the UIN Alauddin Makassar library activates social media services in meeting the needs of users for example regarding reading materials which are a reference source for carrying out assignments and in writing scientific papers. Nowadays, with the advance of technology, consultation services are provided 24 hours without any limitations of space and time. In library building, physical borrowing of collections will be limited considering the current situation. To help users, librarians must have skills in searching for information, such as being able to search optimally through online media to assist users in providing information on reading materials. The librarian must be able to search for information through Google quickly and accurately. Not only that, librarians are also able to identify and browse the information available in many online databases. Such databases usually provide a fairly complete and diverse collection, for example <https://e-resources.perpusnas.go.id/>, database owned by the National Library of Indonesia has provided various collections such as journal articles, books, and other collections. A librarian must have abilities like a teaching staff who in this context are able to interact more actively with their users. In the campus, they can be the best partners for the entire civitas.

3) Provide active learning atmosphere

MBKM wants students to learn actively, not passively. In order to support active learners, the university library is supposed to be able to present or provide media/facilities that can support active learning so that students can feel comfortable in studying. From what we observed in the library, a comfortable situation has not been created. The facilities that support active learning have not yet been settled. To prepare it, it must be supported by existing regulations and also the readiness of the library itself, as stated by Yudhawasthi & Christiani (2022). Without regulation and readiness of resources, including librarians, library support to create an active learning situation is difficult to realize.

4) Reference librarians (subject analyst)

A reference librarian provides reference library materials to users, to teach users how to use references as needed. The reference librarian also has an obligation as an information consultant service for users who are still confused in finding sources of information to fulfill the needs of their writing scientific papers. At the library, UIN Alauddin Makassar offers a concept to provide information consulting services to users for students who will write theses, dissertations and research reports, although it is not done too often. Not limited to fulfilling information for students, reference librarians also provide consulting services for teaching staff in finding sources of information and improving skills in writing scientific papers.

5) Accreditation data support

From the data obtained, in the last 2 years, especially during the pandemic, several study programs at this university have visited for accreditation. During the preparation for accreditation, each study program involves the library to prepare the data needed during the visitation later. Libraries have a very important role in providing data to meet the needs for study program and university accreditation. Data support is in the form of data on the number of collections owned by the library, both relevant or collections related to the study program in question as well as collections that are enrichment in nature. In addition, data regarding the number of librarians is also required by each study program in its accreditation form.

6) “Bibliometrikawan” of Bibliometrician

“*Bibliometrikawan*” or in English referred to as bibliometrician – the term bibliometrician is still rarely in Indonesia – means a person who is an expert in bibliometrics, which is a scientific discipline in which quantitative methods are used to examine scientific communication processes by measuring and analyzing various aspects of written documents (Pitchard, 1969). In

bibliometric studies, one of the studies is used to see trends in scientific communication. For example, a bibliometrician must be able to identify a trend in research in a particular field.

In the process, the study of bibliometrics also developed. From observations, during this covid-19 period, bibliometric studies are increasing. Not a few librarians in Indonesia who do it. Meanwhile, in this library, this study is still relatively new. Therefore, the library must also pay attention to or even prepare specifically for this "bibliometrician", which is believed to have a role in supporting the MBKM program.

#### 7) The trained librarian

Along with technological developments, libraries must provide collections that can be accessed freely without space and time limits, for this reason, librarian training needs to be held considering the situation and conditions during the pandemic. This training aims to improve the ability of librarians to provide closed services by ensuring that users can access the collections in the library according to their needs. Both in helping users to meet their information needs, librarians are also able to operate technology to support the fulfilment of user information.

## 4. DISCUSSION

From what is mentioned above, these programs and activities must be presented in this library. Here is a further review of each of the points mentioned above.

With changes in the style of access to information for most people, libraries are required to quickly follow the transformation of information access done by community. Most people today tend to look for information on the internet, Farida Nirma calls it a virtual community media (Damanik, 2012). The factor is of course due to the ease and cheapness of information to access in the virtual space, moreover information is now more present in electronic or digital form. This pattern does not only occur in urban communities or the information society, even in some rural areas where internet access is available, it tends in this direction. As a study conducted by Bambang Sunarwan (2013) about the pattern of using ICT in rural areas.

This trend in access to information of course also occurs in the world of education, because it is clear that people in the world of education are people of information. Seeing this, the university library whose function is to manage science and information is demanded to be faster and more alert in serving the information-hungry civitas. The current Covid-19 situation requires that the learning process be carried out online, so university libraries are also required to quickly adapt to such situations. College libraries are required to quickly adapt to technology,

especially the online services it provides (Fatmawati, 2021). With digital services, library collections can 'visit' the campus community to the devices they use.

The obstacle that is often found in libraries, including university libraries, is the limited budget for fulfilling library collections for all of their civitas. However, at this time to present library collections can be done in many ways, especially collections in digital form. Currently, there are not a few digital library sites where the contents can be accessed openly (open-access). Just look at, for example, the National Library of Indonesia which has subscribed to an online database containing both e-books and e-journals, and other digital readings. Through such sites, libraries that are limited in their collection procurement budget can at least take advantage of and inform all library users to back up their library collections in printed form.

This is where the role of the university library or its manager is so that how digital collections owned by other agencies and can be accessed openly, such as one of the examples mentioned above, can also be informed to its users. This can be done in many ways, for example by utilizing library websites or social media which is revealed by several research results that social media is an effective medium today for disseminating information. (Hoeroestijati, 2019), (Istiana, 2017), (Purbohastuti, 2017). In relation to the MBKM program in which students are expected to be more active, libraries through social media can do many things, such as active interaction, introduction of library forms and services, collections owned, distributing surveys, to offering quality reading to the civitas. Therefore, libraries must be proficient in using social media, for example: Facebook, WhatsApp, twitter, and so on. In fact, many libraries currently have their own YouTube channels to maximize their 'touch' to their users. Active learners must be supported by an active library too, in this case the use of social media can help. In its efforts to support the MBKM program, libraries can use social media to do many things, including seeing issues and challenges such as critical notes written by Anwar & Zhiwei (2019).

The more abundant information on the internet, the more required the ability to quickly analyze the information. In the library, we know the term subject analyst, which is a person who has expertise in analyzing every subject which in this case is reading material in the library or in a wider scope, namely information that is wildly available in cyberspace. This is important, because the more information available today does not mean that a person can easily find the information he really wants. Therefore, in the library there must be a trained person who when a library user asks what reading material he wants, he quickly analyzes what kind of information the user really needs.

Another thing that is no less important is that higher education libraries are currently also contributors when universities or study programs/departments in their institutions are preparing their accreditation assessment forms. It is very clearly stated on the study program accreditation form, in some standards there is data that is required and comes from the library. For example, data on the number of collections relevant to the study program, the number of librarians, and literacy activities that may also be supporting data for the accreditation. Therefore, the synergy between the library and each study program must always be improved, especially with the sophistication of the current library management system, which can greatly assist libraries in recording and describing every resource in the library, including the collections needed in each study program. So, it is emphasized again that the university library can be more synergistic (not partial) with the existing study programs in the institution. For example, study programs or libraries can support each other in preparing quality reading materials for the civitas. It could also be that during a meeting related to the curriculum in the study program, there are libraries involved who can at least know what the needs are in terms of reading materials in the study program in question. This situation has not been too intensive in the UIN Alauddin Makassar Library. Therefore, it is important that libraries and study programs sit together to support each other, in this case the success of the MBKM program.

Bibliographic data in the library turned out to be an interesting field of study to be researched. Libraries must also understand bibliometric studies, namely studies that use a statistical approach to measure bibliography (read: reading material in the library). Bibliometric studies of which can be used to determine the level of utilization of library collections, subject analysis, authorship, keywords, and so on. It may seem simple to some people, but it turns out that the results of bibliometric studies can influence policies made in libraries. The presence of current programs/software makes bibliometric studies easier to do. Therefore, a 'bibliometrikawan', must be present in the college library.

In its efforts to support the MBKM program, the results of bibliometric studies can be used, for example, to present quality and primary reference materials to the civitas. Why is that? Because with this study, one of them can see trends in the use of collections. By looking at these trends, the library has the data to select and sort each reference material it has. As previously mentioned, many writings related to bibliometric studies have been carried out, both by academics, researchers, and librarians themselves. Therefore, it is important that every university library has someone who is well versed in this discipline of bibliometrics. Several writings that show the benefits of bibliometric studies, for example those written by Asep Haikal Kurniawan (2019), Sitti Husaebah Pattah (2013), and Makar Susan & Amy Trost (2018).



Librarians are at the forefront of providing services in the library. As the front line they must have a broad insight into the situation and condition of the surrounding community. Information that is increasingly available on the internet must be managed properly, and the librarian is the most authorized person in this regard. Therefore, continuous training must be an agenda in the library so that librarians are not left behind by the times that continue to advance in the future. As expected from this MBKM program, namely creating active learners, a librarian is also required to be active, not passive.

UIN Alauddin Makassar library should have made major changes because the campus community has changed greatly, both in terms of access to information, as well as their views on current library services. Traditional methods must be collaborated with modern methods in order to provide better service to their users, where previously waiting for users are now coming to users by using social media as previously described. Libraries that used to be considered only able to provide services during working hours, can now provide 24-hour non-stop services with the presence of digital library services. In order to create an active learning atmosphere, the library should also think about and redesign the layout of the library, including virtual spaces where the library can take part in the success of the MBKM program.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The MBKM program is a program that offers something new that is adapted to the demands of the times. Active learning, facilitator lecturers or driving lecturers, student exchanges, and so on are something that must be realized in order to create a more 'independent' learning climate in higher education which of course the outcome of all of that is to produce superior people. The UIN Alauddin library can also contribute to supporting the MBKM program on this campus. Several things can be done, namely by continuing to enrich reading collections, especially in digital format, more actively interacting with lecturers and students, providing space for active learners, preparing reference librarians, preparing supporting data for accreditation for universities/study programs, conducting bibliometric studies, and prepare trained librarians who understand how the MBKM program works in universities.

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