



ANALYSIS OF FACTORS CAUSING THE LOW INTEREST IN VISITING THE MOSQUE LIBRARY

Nasrullah¹

¹Department of Library Science, Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar
Correspondence Email: nasrullah.nasir@uin-alauddin.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Mosque libraries are essential in providing access to pilgrims to expand religious knowledge and Islamic activities. However, the low interest in visiting pilgrims to the mosque library is a challenge that needs to be overcome. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the internal and external factors that influence the interest of visiting pilgrims in the mosque library. This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study method in the Al-Markaz Al-Islami Makassar mosque library. Data was collected through interviews, observation, and analysis of related documents. Respondents in this study were worshipers who visited the mosque and mosque librarians who were in charge of managing the library. The results showed that internal factors were causing the low interest in visiting pilgrims in the mosque library, including lack of religious awareness and limited education, lack of interest and personal motivation and perceptions, and limited time and priorities. In addition to internal factors, external factors also play an important role in influencing the attraction of visiting pilgrims. These include the lack of effective promotion and information, the availability and quality of a collection of relevant religious reading materials, facilities, and a comfortable and pleasant library environment. Based on these findings, a comprehensive effort is needed to increase the interest of visiting pilgrims in the mosque library. Mosque library managers can increase promotion and information to pilgrims, improve the quality of reading material collections, improve library facilities, and create a conducive environment. In addition, it is necessary to educate pilgrims about the benefits and uses of mosque libraries in deepening their understanding of religion.

Keywords: Library visit interest; mosque library

1. INTRODUCTION

The library functions as a means for the community to seek various sources of information that can assist them in developing themselves and improving their intellectual quality. The library is an institution that is expected to assist the government in developing knowledge and information resources, to increase the intelligence and education of the people in the country (Masriastri, 2018). The library's presence is nothing but to provide easy access in finding the information needs of the public at all ages, professions and levels of education. One of the important roles of the library is as a means of education, which is the key and the main pillar in developing quality human resources. A solid education is based on literacy, namely the individual's ability to read, write and understand information well. Therefore, the library is very important in providing various literacy sources that the community can access.

Based on Law number 43 of 2007, there are various types of sure libraries, National Libraries, Public Libraries, College Libraries, School Libraries and Special Libraries. One of the unique libraries is the special library, because it has a collection of library materials that suit users' needs in their environment. A special library focuses on providing information and resources relating to a particular field of knowledge (Iswati et al., 2018). One type of special library is the mosque library.

The mosque library is a special library that provides sources of information on religion and other knowledge for mosque pilgrims. The mosque library has the same function as other libraries, namely organizing and providing library materials for its visitors. However, the difference lies in the collection's focus on Islamic religious disciplines than general science (Nasrullah et al., 2022). The mosque library is earmarked for the development of pilgrims' education, so the mosque is used as a place of worship and to add intellectual insight through the mosque library. The mosque library needs to meet the information needs of its pilgrims, be a place that is open for social activities in society, as well as a means of continuous learning throughout life. (Hariyah, 2015).

As a place for information services, the mosque library is expected to become a favorite place for worshipers to seek information. Of course, the mosque library manager will try to improve services so that the interest of pilgrims to visit the mosque library will increase. The mosque library acts as a center for community activities, hoping that the people involved in the mosque, both pilgrims and the general public, can actively prosper the mosque which was previously only used as a place of worship (prayer). (Effendi, 2020). According to Inabah (2020), the purpose of visitors visiting the library is not only to borrow books, but some read and do assignments in the library. Basically, mosque libraries exist so pilgrims can visit them to answer their information needs.

However, in reality, the public's interest in visiting the library is still relatively low, one of the reasons is the low interest in reading in the community (Prawastiyo & Hermawan, 2020); Suharyadi & Saputra, 2020). It should be noted that the mosque library will continue to strive to develop its service strategy so that the pilgrims feel satisfied with the services provided (Nasrullah, 2022). The more comfortable the pilgrims are in enjoying the mosque library's services, the more often the pilgrims will visit the library. But in reality, some things cause pilgrims to be less interested in visiting the mosque's library.

This study will describe the factors causing the low interest in visiting pilgrims in the mosque library. This research differs from previous studies on interest in visiting the library because most of the research locations are in school libraries or college libraries. In contrast, this study will specifically reveal the factors causing the low interest in visiting the mosque library.

2. METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study method in the library of the Al-Markaz Al-Islami Makassar mosque, which is located at Jalan Masjid Raya No. 57, Bontoala District, Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province. The research was carried out in March 2023. The data collection was carried out through interviews, observation, and analysis of related documents. Respondents in this study were worshipers who visited the mosque and mosque librarians who were in charge of managing the library of the Al-Markaz Al-Islami Makassar mosque. The data obtained was analyzed through data reduction, presentation, and conclusion.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Internal Factors Cause Low Interest in Pilgrims' Visits in the Mosque Library

1. Lack of Religious Awareness and Limited Education

Lack of religious awareness is an internal factor that can cause low interest in visiting pilgrims to the Al-Markaz Al-Islami Makassar mosque library. Some pilgrims do not realize the importance of more profound religious knowledge and understanding. They do not understand that the mosque library is valuable for deepening religious knowledge and increasing understanding of Islamic teachings. This lack of religious awareness can reduce one's interest in visiting the mosque library. Furthermore, educational limitations can also be an internal factor that influences pilgrims' interest in visiting the mosque library. Limited education or lack of access to formal education can hinder a person's interest in reading and seeking knowledge in the mosque library. If a person is not skilled at reading or has limited literacy skills, they may feel uncomfortable or unsure about utilizing the mosque's library resources. Educational limitations can also affect one's understanding of

religion as a whole. If someone has limited knowledge of religion, they may not realize the benefits of further reading and studying in the mosque's library. The factors of lack of religious awareness and limited education are interrelated and can contribute to the low interest in visiting at the mosque library. To overcome this problem, more focused religious education and increased religious literacy can help improve the awareness and interest of the pilgrims in utilizing the mosque's library as a valuable source of spiritual knowledge.

2. Lack of Personal Interest and Motivation

Interest is an inner urge that encourages someone to do or be interested in something. Individuals' lack of interest in mosque libraries can be caused by several factors, such as lack of interest in reading, lack of interest in religious knowledge, or ignorance of the benefits that can be obtained from mosque libraries. If someone is not interested in reading or exploring religious knowledge, they may not feel interested in visiting a mosque's library. Lack of personal motivation is an internal drive that pushes a person to act or behave in a certain way. If a person is not motivated to visit a mosque's library, they may be reluctant to put in the time and effort to do so. Several factors that can reduce personal motivation are lack of awareness of the importance of in-depth religious knowledge, lack of encouragement to increase understanding of religion, or lack of self-confidence in accessing mosque library resources.

3. Time Constraints and Priorities

Many pilgrims may have a hectic and busy schedule in daily life. They work, study or have family responsibilities that limit their free time. In these situations, they may perceive the visit to the library as something that requires additional time that they do not have. This limited time can reduce their interest in visiting the library. Different priorities each pilgrim has different priorities in his life. Some pilgrims focus more on other religious activities such as prayer, study, or social activities at the mosque. They perceive the time spent in the library as a lower priority compared to these activities. When the pilgrims have other priorities considered more important, their interest in visiting the library may decrease. Pilgrims have difficulty dividing their time between the demands of work, family, worship, and other activities. In this situation, visiting the library is not on their priority list due to difficulties managing time efficiently.

To overcome this factor, making the pilgrims aware of the importance of using time wisely is important. Appropriate promotion of the value and benefits of reading in libraries, providing flexible schedules for accessing libraries, and offering educational programs that fit into busy schedules can help improve perceptions of and interest in visiting pilgrims. Additionally, supporting pilgrims by providing information and practical

advice on effective time management can help them prioritize library visits in their daily routines.

External Factors Cause Low Interest in Pilgrimsal Visits in the Mosque Library

1. Lack of Effective Promotion and Information

Lack of promotion of the mosque's library does not actively promote itself and the activities offered, and pilgrims may not have sufficient awareness about the existence of a library in the mosque. Lack of promotion can result in a lack of knowledge about available book collections, educational programs, or special activities that can be accessed at the library. As a result, the interest in visiting pilgrims may decrease because they do not know or are not interested in what the library offers. In addition, ineffective information about the library and its activities are not conveyed clearly and effectively to the pilgrims. They have difficulty understanding the benefits or values that can be obtained by visiting the library. Unstructured, disorganized, or poorly updated information can also discourage visits. Pilgrims must clearly understand how the library can help them develop themselves, increase their understanding of religion, or acquire new knowledge.

2. Availability and Quality of Collections of Relevant Religious Reading Materials

The availability of a collection of relevant religious reading materials is an important factor in attracting pilgrims to visit the library. Suppose the library does not have adequate collections on the Islamic religion, such as the Qur'an, Tafsir, Hadith, biography of the Prophet Muhammad, or other Islamic literature. In that case, the pilgrims may feel less interested in using these facilities. Limited or inadequate collections can reduce the attractiveness of the library as a source of knowledge and reference for pilgrims. In addition to availability, the relevance factor of the material is also important. Pilgrims may seek reading material relevant to their spiritual needs, such as understanding Islamic teachings, religious practices, ethics, morals, or other topics related to Muslim life. If the library does not provide relevant and up-to-date materials, pilgrims may feel that the library is not meeting their needs adequately. Therefore, the library needs to pay attention to the needs of the pilgrims and ensure that the collection of religious reading materials provided is following their interests and needs. Mosque libraries also need to update and expand their collections regularly. In a continuously developing and dynamic environment, there are progress and changes in various aspects of life. To increase the interest in visiting pilgrims, the library of the Al-Markaz Al-Islami Makassar Mosque needs to continue to pay attention to and respond to the needs of pilgrims. By providing a collection of relevant, quality and continuously updated religious reading materials, as well as through effective promotion and interesting activities, libraries can be a valuable

source of knowledge and inspiration for worshipers and an important vehicle for spiritual and intellectual development within the mosque community.

3. Comfortable and Fun Library Facilities and Environment

Comfortable and adequate facilities are essential to create an attractive library environment for worshipers. For example, ergonomic desks and chairs, adequate lighting, suitable air conditioning or heating, and sufficient areas for reading and studying. When worshipers feel comfortable in the library, they tend to spend more time there exploring the collection of books and seeking knowledge. Therefore, it is important for libraries to pay attention to worshipers' comfort and physical needs in designing and maintaining library facilities. A fun and interesting library environment can also influence the interest in visiting pilgrims. For example, an orderly and attractive room layout, beautiful decorations, soothing colors, and a calm and quiet atmosphere. A comfortable and attractive environment can create an atmosphere that is conducive to reading, studying, and reflecting. Pilgrims will feel inspired and motivated to visit the library if they feel comfort and pleasure in it.

Acknowledgment

We want to express our gratitude to all those who have helped in this research. We thank the Al Markaz Al Islami Makassar Mosque library librarians who have provided the opportunity for the authors to conduct interviews and obtain data in this study.

REFERENCES

- Effendi, M. N. (2020). *Reposisi Peranan dan Fungsi Perpustakaan Masjid dalam Mencerdaskan Umat Islam*. Jurnal El Pustaka, 1(1).
- Hariyah. (2015). *Perpustakaan Masjid: Upaya Membangun Kesadaran Inklusif*. Aca:Jurnal Dokumentasi Dan Informasi, 36(1).
- Inabah, H. (2020). Pengaruh Minat Kunjung Pemustaka di Perpustakaan "Puspa Cendekia" SD Negeri Pakis 1. Unilib Jurnal Perpustakaan, 11(1). <https://journal.uui.ac.id/unilib/article/view/14538/10014>
- Iswati, Ariwibowo, H., & Ignatius, J. (2018). *Peran Pustakawan pada Perpustakaan Khusus dalam Menunjang Kinerja Internal Lembaga Konsultan Manajemen (Sebuah Kajian Literatur)*. Jurnal Eksekutif, 15(1).
- Masriastri, I. G. A. K. Y. (2018). *Perpustakaan dan Masyarakat Informasi*. Al-Maktabah, 3(2). <https://ejournal.iainbengkulu.ac.id/index.php/almaktabah/article/view/1373/116>

- Nasrullah. (2022). *Strategi dan Tantangan Pustakawan dalam Meningkatkan Pelayanan di Perpustakaan Masjid*. PusakaJurnal Khazanah Keagamaan, 10(1). <https://blamakassar.e-journal.id/pusaka/article/view/665/381>
- Nasrullah, Ardiansyah, F., Khaerunnisa, A., & Ismaya. (2022). *Pengelolaan Perpustakaan Masjid Berdasarkan Keputusan Direktur Jendral Bimbingan Masyarakat Islam Nomor 543 Tahun 2019 di Perpustakaan Masjid Al-Markaz Al-Islami Makassar*. Tik Ilmeu Jurnal Ilmu Perpustakaan Dan Informasi, 6(2). <https://doi.org/10.29240/tik.v6i2.5316>
- Prawastiyo, C. ., & Hermawan, I. (2020). *Pengembangan Front-End Website Perpustakaan Politeknik Negeri Jakarta Menggunakan Metode User Centered Design*. Jurnal Teknologi Terpadu, 6(2).
- Suharyadi, A., & Saputra, B. D. (2020). *Strategi Optimalisasi Layanan Perpustakaan Sekolah Melalui Program "Kanji Kuper" SD Negeri Ngrancah*. Nusantara -Journal of Information and Library Studies, 3(2).