The Strategic Roles of Sebelas Maret University Libraries in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui mengenai bagaimana peran strategis yang telah dilakukan oleh perpustakaan Universitas Sebelas Maret dalam mendukung pembangunan berkelanjutan. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus. Hasil penelitian menunjukaan bahwa peran perpustakaan UNS dapat terlibat tujuan pembangunan berkelanjutan yang tanpa kemiskinan (tujuan no 1, pendidikan berkualitas (tujuan no 4), Pekerjaan Layak dan Pertumbuhan Ekonomi (tujuan no 8) dan Kota dan Komunitas Berkelanjutan (tujuan no 11). Selain itu, peprustakaan UNS masih dapat melakukan berbagai peran lainnya untuk mendukung tujuan pembangunan berkelanjutan yang lain.

Kata Kunci: perpustakaan perguruan tinggi, pembangunan berkelanjutan

Abstract

This research aims to find out what strategic role the Sebelas Maret University library has played in supporting sustainable development. The method used is a qualitative research method with a case study approach. The research results show that the role of the UNS library can be involved in sustainable development goals without poverty (goal no. 1, quality education (goal no. 4), Decent Work and Economic Growth (goal no. 8), and Sustainable Cities and Communities (goal no. 11). In addition Therefore, the UNS library can still carry out various other roles to support other sustainable development goals.

Keywords: academic library, sustainable development

Introduction

The rapid progress of increasingly complex information and communication technology marks a new era, the Industrial Revolution 4.0. In this era, how humans carry out their activities has changed in scale, scope, complexity, and transformation compared to previous eras. Humans will face global uncertainty that requires the ability to predict rapid changes in the future. Thus, each country must respond to these changes integrated and comprehensively and involve all global political stakeholders, from the

public, private, and academic sectors to civil society.

Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 era without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are to improve the economic welfare of society sustainably, maintain the sustainability of society's social life, maintain the quality of the environment, and ensure justice and the implementation of good governance. They are designed to maintain improved quality of life from one generation to the next. SDGs refine the more comprehensive Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by involving more developed and developing countries, expanding funding sources, and emphasizing human rights through the involvement of community organizations and the media, philanthropists, and business actors, as well as academics and leaders. [1]

Sustainable development or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global development agenda launched by UN member countries to end poverty, improve prosperity, and protect the planet by achieving 17 (seventeen) goals by 2030. The 17 goals namely: (1) No Poverty; (2) No Hunger; (3) Healthy and Prosperous Life; (4) Quality Education; (5) Gender Equality; (6) Clean Water and Adequate Sanitation; (7) Clean and Affordable Energy; (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth; (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; (10) Reducing Inequality; (11) Sustainable Cities and Settlements; (12) Responsible Consumption and Production; (13) Handling Climate Change; (14) Ocean Ecosystem; (15) Land Ecosystem; (16) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and (17) Partnership for Basic Principles. [2]

Universities have a significant involvement in the achievement of the SDGs. [3] This role is carried out through teaching, research, community involvement, non-academic services, and management practices. [4] One crucial element in achieving SDGs in a higher education environment is through libraries. As mentioned by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)[5], Libraries have involvement in SDGS. The current transformation of university libraries is not only a place to borrow or return book collections but has shifted to libraries as a source of knowledge. [6], inovation center [7], research [8], and dissemination of information [9] which can encourage the realization of SDG goals.

Sebelas Maret University (UNS) is one of the campuses that continuously supports achieving the SDGs goals by 2030. This can be seen in the UNS research business strategic plan roadmap for 2020-2024[10], furthermore, in 2022, the UNS will research 500 programs to address various sustainable development goals (SDGs).. [11]

By utilizing information technology, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and collaborative and innovative strategies, libraries can become a driving force for the success of universities in achieving SDG targets. Thus, increasing the role of libraries enriches access to information and accelerates the achievement of sustainable development goals at the local and global levels. The library is one of the units within UNS that supports UNS in achieving its stated vision and mission, including the SDGs.

Based on the description above, this research was conducted to determine what strategic roles the UNS library has played in achieving the SDGs and plans. It is essential to carry out this research to see further how sustainable development programs can also be carried out through activities in university libraries.

Method

This research uses a qualitative research method with a case study approach because it aims to understand the role of the UNS library in supporting SDG programs by developing a more in-depth analysis. Data were collected using observation techniques, semi-structured interviews, and documentation studies. In interviews,

researchers examined informants, including lecturers, librarians, and students. Researchers carried out the documentation study by analyzing various documents and archives, the UNS library website, and social media

Result and Discussion

As one of the leading universities in Indonesia, UNS has committed to creating meaningful education that aligns with the university's sustainable development goals (SDGs). Apart from that, UNS has also established an SDGs Center to realize various kinds of programs related to SDGs. Based on the results of the discussion in the Focus Group Discussion, the following are the programs that the UNS library has implemented

1. Implementation of the first point of SDGs: No Poverty

To eradicate poverty, libraries need to expand the range of services. This can be seen in the National Library's efforts to establish village libraries, which are expected to help alleviate poverty. [12] The scope of library services is intended to open access for the academic community and the wider community to use the library so that library services can provide benefits to society as a whole without exception. This is done by the UNS Library providing digital library services so that users can enjoy services from the library according to the users' needs, as stated by several informants below:

> "...Apart from providing printed collections, we also provide digital collections so they can be accessed from anywhere. Thus, library collections can be accessed from anywhere and at any time...." (Informan 3)

> "We have many qualified librarians to support our services…. " (informan 2)

Overcoming the information gap by providing various services is one of the efforts the UNS library can make to support SDGS goals related to overcoming poverty. This is in line with research conducted by Happiness Chijioke Michael-Onuoha et al. which explains how libraries in Nigeria eradicate poverty through the availability, accessibility, and use of appropriate information so that the capacity and empowerment of Nigerian citizens increases.. [13]

2. Implementation of the fourth point of SDGs: Quality Education

One aspect of supporting quality education for libraries is the availability of collections. Library collections continue to grow following technological developments and community needs. Providing quality collections is an important aspect in supporting quality education. This is mentioned in the following interview:

> "Our conventional libraries do have working hours, but for digital libraries, access can be done at any time. Apart from that, the digital collection is larger and more updated ….." (Informan 1)

> " The library routinely provides Online Literacy Series (OLS) activities, apart from introducing the various databases that we subscribe to, there are usually sharing sessions on how to avoid plagiarism, how to submit journals and so on. "(informan 2)

The UNS Library strives to provide a variety of access to learning resources. This shows that a library is not just a pile of books, but the library must be able to serve or act as a source of information for its users. This is in line with the article written by Hairul Fauzi entitled Library Management as a Learning Resource.[14] This article explains the importance of library management as a learning resource so it can be optimally helpful. The UNS library also

routinely holds information literacy activities by introducing various subscribed databases, teaching how to use a reference manager, submitting to national and international journals, and avoiding predatory journals. In the writing and scientific publication guidance service, it is hoped that it can help readers with research-related matters during the study period.

Apart from that, the existence of past collections that contain information about the past has its advantages for the owner. As said by informant 4, as follows:

> "Our conventional library also has several rare collections, including ancient Javanese manuscripts. Apart from carrying out preservation for rare collections, we also carry out preservation to keep the collections in the library intact and undamaged so that they can be used for a long time.." (Informan 4)

Many research has been carried out regarding library and preservation efforts. Research conducted by Nida Nurmustafha et al. entitled Preventive and Curative Preservation Activities of Collections at the Indonesian Computer University Library explains the various efforts made by the Indonesian Computer University Library in carrying out preventive and curative preservation.. [15]

A sound library provides quality collections. What is meant by a quality collection is that the library offers a variety of information, from the latest information that can be used by users in general or rare information that researchers with various forms of collections in digital or non-digital form usually use.

3. Implementation of the eighth point of the SDGs: Decent Work and Economic Growth

The quality of human resources is an investment in economic growth. Human resources are capital in production, apart from natural resources and capital factors. In research conducted by Drucker & Goldstein[16] in the United States, it was shown that activities in universities primarily knowledge-based, such as teaching and research, were found to have a large positive effect on various measures of regional economic progress. Higher education activities such as conducting basic research and acting as a repository in serving a region's expertise greatly influence the region's ability to attract and retain various technology-intensive companies to provide a regional workforce with modern knowledge skills and respond flexibly to uncertain economic condition and change quickly.

Higher education is one of the educational institutions that is responsible for preparing its students to become useful members of society. The responsibilities of higher education are contained in the Tri Dharma of Higher Education which consists of education and teaching, research and community service. [17] In the Tri Darma, higher education states that the main functions of higher education are human resource development, science and technology development, and agents of change. As part of higher education, libraries provide resources that help students in career preparation. Although it has yet to be done, the UNS library needs to provide links with industry by providing information about internship opportunities, continuing education, and collaboration with companies to support economic growth.

4. Implementation of the eleventh point of SDGs: Sustainable Cities and Communities Community spaces are physical or virtual places designed to facilitate social interaction, collaboration, and exchange of information between community members. These spaces can vary significantly in form and function, depending on the needs and goals of the community. Libraries can be used as community spaces by integrating various functions and services that support social interaction, education, and collaboration. Library support can provide physical space for gathering places, holding community activities and programs, providing digital facilities and technology

access and as an information and service center.

The UNS Library has several times held several related events with support for community space. At the book review event held by the UPT UNS Library, "Ki Padmo Susastro", apart from inviting the general public, there was also a community of observers of Javanese culture and Javanese poets. According to the informant, the UNS library is trying to expand its role as a gathering place for communities around Solo. Based on the responses from the participants at the book review event, the library will hold similar events in the future. The type of library used as a community place is generally a public library [18] [19] . However, it does not rule out the possibility that university libraries can act as community places.

DISCUSSION

The UNS Library implemented various programs related to the SDGs long before they were proclaimed. However, no planning, synergy and evaluation in each activity would enable these programs to be carried out more optimally.

Second, the UNS library allows collaboration with other units inside and outside the UNS environment. For example, the library can collaborate with the UNS Career Development Center (CDC), which is a means for students and alums to prepare and improve career prospects in the future. Activities include internship information and procedures, Career Development Activities, Job Vacancies from Companies, Campus Hiring, Job Fairs, Tracer Study, and information about alumni ties. Meanwhile, outside UNS, libraries can increase collaboration with libraries, archives and museums, communities, and other interested parties.

Third, the SDGs are collaborative work, so support from various leadership parties, the academic community, and librarians are also needed apart from requiring systematic steps. Thus, it is essential to increase the knowledge and awareness of all librarians and human resources in libraries as the backbone of implementing the SDGs

Conclusion

The role of the UNS Library UPT in supporting the SDGs program is carried out through various activity-based and collection-based services. Informants understand SDGs as a reference for a library providing services to build community character. Based on this, the researcher concludes that the UNS library has carried out various programs related to SDG goals, and in the future, this role can still be optimized. It has a strategic role in supporting the SDGs program and can still be improved further in the form of providing information related to job vacancies and assisting visitors in developing library competence by providing references to available collections or training to increase the chances of being accepted for the job. A library can also collaborate with communities to carry out education related to activities that are currently popular in the community.

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