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# THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LIBRARIANS' COMMUNICATION IN SOCIALIZING THE E-LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS OF THE STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF NORTH SUMATRA (UINSU)

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#### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of librarian communication in promoting the E-Library system to students at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra (UINSU) Medan. The focus of this research is to understand how librarians convey information about the features, benefits, and procedures for using the E-Library, as well as to identify challenges encountered during the socialization process. This research employs a qualitative approach using the field research method. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with the Head of the Library, library staff, and students who had participated in the E-Library socialization program. Additionally, non-participatory observation and documentation were utilized to complement the data obtained. Data analysis was conducted in three stages: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings reveal that the effectiveness of librarian communication in promoting the E-Library is influenced by the communication methods employed, such as the use of visual media and a personalized approach in delivering information. Challenges faced include limited digital collections, technical issues with the E-Library system, and students' low digital literacy. To address these issues, it is recommended that the library increase regular digital literacy training, expand the digital collection through partnerships with publishers, and improve the stability of the E-Library system. By implementing these measures, students are expected to be more encouraged to optimally utilize the E Library as a credible and high-quality source of religious information. This is an open access article under the CC-BY-SA license.





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# **INTRODUCTIONS**

Advances in information technology have brought significant changes in various aspects of life, including in the world of education. One of the innovations that is growing rapidly is the digital library system or e-library. This system is designed to make it easier for students to access various sources of academic literature without having to come directly to the physical library. The State Islamic University of North Sumatra (UINSU) as a higher education institution also adopts an e-library system to support student academic activities. Libraries, museums, and archives have long played an important role in supporting the formation of society in Indonesia by generating, organizing, and providing information strategically. They document knowledge from various local, regional, national, and international sources of information so that they are able to survive throughout the history of their existence. (Enemies & Shirley, 2021) (Nurcahyadi, 2022)

The development of technology in libraries as a support for facilities and infrastructure is also very necessary to improve the quality of services. With the existence of supporting technology, the planned library development strategy can be more easily realized. The use of technology in libraries has been partially implemented, such as the use of OPAC before looking for books on the shelves. In addition, technology also makes it easier for librarians in the process of borrowing and returning books. In the context of higher education, digital libraries are a solution to optimize access to academic information. According to, although e-Libraries offer ease of access, diverse collections, space savings, and advanced search features, many students are still reluctant to use them due to a lack of technical understanding and low awareness of the long-term benefits. This shows that intensive socialization is very important to increase the use of e-Library. Through approaches such as regular training, technical guidance, and engaging promotions, students can better understand how the e-Library can effectively support their academic activities. (Yusniah, 2021) (Ardina et al., 2024)

Based on research conducted by, students still experience difficulties in using this platform optimally due to the lack of socialization and guidance related to how to use it. In fact, with the features that Kubuku has, students can access various digital literature that is relevant to their lectures and research. According to, the main obstacles faced by students in accessing religious information are limited understanding of search features and lack of clear instructions for use. This shows that not only is the existence of the platform important, but also effective guidance so that students can make the most of it. (Yusniah, 2021) (Nasution et al., 2022)

In addition, according to, librarians are not only tasked with managing digital collections but also act as facilitators who actively introduce e-Library features to users, especially students who are looking for religious literature. The active role of librarians is very important to overcome the obstacles faced by students in accessing information through the e-Library. According to , the Uses and Gratifications theory highlights that students actively choose e-Libraries to meet their religious information needs, both for academic purposes and personal understanding, with certain underlying motivations. This confirms that the use of e-Library is influenced by students' awareness of the benefits they can get from the platform. (Stuttgart & Mardianto, 2019)(Albaburrahim & Wahyudi, 2022)

UIN North Sumatra (UINSU) Medan as one of the Islamic-based universities has provided an e-Library to meet the religious and academic information needs of its students. However, although e-Library offers various conveniences such as wider access to information, efficient search, and diverse collections of religious literature, the use of e-Library among students is still relatively low. This phenomenon shows that many UINSU Medan students prefer to search for religious information through social media, blogs, or online platforms that are not necessarily valid than using the e-Library that has been provided by the campus. This is due to the lack of understanding of students on how to access and utilize the e-Library features effectively. In addition, suboptimal socialization regarding the benefits



and functions of e-Library is also the main factor in the low use of the platform. As a result, the potential of the e-Library as a credible and trusted source of religious information has not been utilized to the fullest.

To overcome these problems, more effective socialization efforts are needed with an attractive approach and in accordance with the character of students, such as through seminars, workshops, or interactive social media-based tutorials. With this effort, it is hoped that students' understanding of the e-Library can increase, so that they can more actively use it as an accurate and reliable source of religious information.

Overall, the use of e-libraries in meeting the needs of religious information among UINSU Medan students has great potential if supported by effective socialization, infrastructure improvement, and strengthening digital literacy. With the right strategy, e-Library can be the main means for students to access relevant, accurate, and reliable sources of religious information to support their learning process. This research aims to identify the challenges faced by UINSU Medan students in accessing e-Library, as well as formulate the right solutions to increase the use of e-Library in meeting their religious information needs. With a better understanding of the obstacles faced and effective strategies, it is hoped that UINSU Medan students will be able to maximize the use of e-Library as an effective and reliable means of academic support.

### **METHOD**

This research uses a qualitative approach with a field research method that focuses on an in-depth understanding of the effectiveness of librarian communication in socializing the E-Library system to UINSU Medan students. Through this approach, the researcher explores students' experiences, perceptions, and views regarding the way librarians convey information about the features, benefits, and procedures for using E-Library. (Moleong, 2021)

Data was collected through in-depth interviews with the Head of the Library, library staff involved in socialization activities, and active students of UINSU Medan who have participated in the socialization of the E-Library. In addition, the researcher also conducted non-participation observations to directly observe how librarians communicate in conveying information related to the E-Library to students, including methods, media, and languages used. Documentation is also used to complement data from various written sources such as books, articles, and reports related to E-Library socialization activities.

In analyzing the data, the researcher applies three stages, namely data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawn. The condensation stage is carried out by filtering and simplifying the data to make it more structured. Furthermore, the data that has been filtered is presented in visual form such as tables or diagrams to clarify librarians' communication patterns and their impact on student understanding. Finally, the researcher draws conclusions based on effective communication patterns and the obstacles faced by librarians during the socialization process, while still verifying to ensure the accuracy of the research results. This approach is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors that support or hinder the effectiveness of librarians' communication in socializing the E-Library system, so that a more optimal strategy can be formulated in increasing the use of E-Library among UINSU Medan students. (Moleong, 2021)

#### **RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS**

#### Results

The Effectiveness of Librarians' Communication Strategies in Increasing Students' Understanding of the Use of E-Libraries at UINSU



In the face of the development of digital technology, librarians at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra (UINSU) Medan implement various effective communication strategies to increase students' understanding of the use of E-Library. This strategy is designed so that students not only know the existence of the E-Library, but also be able to use it optimally in supporting their studies. One of the strategies implemented is through educational activities such as user education training. The program focuses on providing step-by-step guidance on how to access, search, and utilize academic references digitally. This approach is effective because students gain an in-depth understanding through hands-on practice guided by librarians (Abdurohim et al., 2022).

In addition, librarians take advantage of group communication methods by holding seminars, talk shows, and discussion rooms. This activity is designed so that students can actively interact, ask questions, and share experiences about using the E-Library. The interpersonal approach is also an important part of the librarian's communication strategy. Through technical assistance, librarians interact directly with students to provide solutions to the obstacles they face when using the E-Library. This assistance allows librarians to provide personal guidance so that students can more easily understand the necessary technical steps. By combining group and individual communication methods, the strategies applied by librarians have proven to be effective in improving students' understanding of the use of E-Library (Abdurohim et al., 2022).



Figure 1. Librarians' Communication Strategies in Socializing the E-Library System

The Library of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra (UINSU) Medan implements various effective communication strategies to increase students' understanding of the use of the E-Library. This strategy is designed so that students not only know the existence of the E-Library, but also be able to use it optimally in supporting their studies. One of the strategies implemented is through user education activities, which are intended for new students



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as the first step in introducing the features and procedures for using the E-Library. Through this activity, librarians provide practical and step-by-step guidance so that students can easily access academic reference sources independently. This strategy has proven effective because students gain a hands-on understanding of how to search journals, digital books, and scholarly papers relevant to their studies. As explained by Mrs. Hidayati Raudah Hutasohit, S. Sos, Head of the UINSU Library:

"UINSU Medan librarians are actively socializing the use of the E-Library as a source of religious information for students. The strategies implemented include user education for new students, the use of social media, pamphlets, and digital publications. The library also holds seminars, talk shows, workshops, and Library Festivals to increase student awareness. The concept of 'Ngobrol Bareng Librarian' and thematic discussions on Islam are also applied so that students are more motivated to use the E-Library effectively. These various initiatives aim to make E-Library part of students' learning habits in the digital era."

Based on this explanation, librarians not only use formal approaches such as seminars and training, but also create a more relaxed communication space through interactive discussions and interesting events to increase student engagement. Furthermore, Mrs. Novita Sari, S. Sos, as the Coordinator of Public Relations Services of the UINSU Library, added:

"UINSU Medan librarians take advantage of digital innovations to socialize the E-Library in an interesting and effective way. Through Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube, they share tutorials, infographics, and interactive videos on using the E-Library. Live streaming sessions were also held to interact directly with students. In addition, the library applies the concept of gamification with quizzes and rewarded digital challenges. Virtual library tours and webinars with academic figures also enrich the student experience. This creative approach makes the library an interactive space that encourages students to be more exploratory in utilizing digital literacy."

Based on the results of the interview, UINSU librarians implemented innovative communication strategies by utilizing social media platforms and gamification concepts to attract students' attention. This approach has proven to be effective in increasing student participation in accessing and utilizing the E-Library. With a combination of conventional and digital communication strategies, the UINSU library plays an active role not only as an academic reference provider, but also as a facilitator in improving students' digital literacy to be more effective in searching, sorting, and utilizing religious information optimally. (Abdurohim et al., 2022; Sulistiani et al., 2022)

| Presenters                             | Heading                                   | Year |
|--|---|------|
| H. Musa Rajekhshah, S. Sos., M. Hum    | Be Literate, Save Our Generation          | 2022 |
| Prof. Dr. Nurhayati, M. Ag             |   |      |
| Nazaruddin Musa, S. Ag., S.S. M. LIS., | The Role of Libraries in Supporting       | 2022 |
| Ph. D                                  | Sustainable Development Goals (SDG'S)     |      |
| Hidayati Raudah Hutasohit, S. Sos      | Library Festival (Inclusion For All, Gen  | 2023 |
| Prof. Dr. Nurhayati, M. Ag             | Z Leads, The Way)                         |      |
| Dr. Adi Wijaya, M. Kom                 | Introduction to the Systematic Literature | 2024 |
|  | Review (SLR) Method                       |      |
| Donni Yudha Prawira, S. Sos., M. I.    | Technical Guidance for Librarians of      | 2024 |
| Kom                                    | UIN North Sumatra Library                 |      |
| Evi Yulfimar, S. Sos                   | -   |      |
| Hidayati Raudah Hutasohit, S. Sos      | Recovering by Reading Books               | 2024 |



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| N.S. Sururin Maudhunah, S. Kep    | Training on How to Access and Search     | 2024 |
|-----------------------------------|--|------|
|                                   | the E-Journal E-Journal Emerland Insight |      |
|                                   | and Oxford Database                      |      |
| Hidayati Raudah Hutasohit, S. Sos | Runag Talk                               | 2024 |

UINSU librarians apply various innovative communication strategies in socializing the use of E-Library as a source of religious information for students. This strategy is designed so that students not only understand how to access and use the E-Library, but also feel interested and motivated to make the most of it. The approach used includes conventional and digital communication methods. Through activities such as seminars, talk shows, and workshops, librarians provide hands-on education that focuses on how to effectively find relevant academic references. Meanwhile, the use of social media, such as Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube, is becoming a means to reach students with more engaging content, such as video tutorials, infographics, and live streaming sessions that allow for two-way interaction. (Filsca & Suryanto, 2024; São Paulo, 2019)

In addition, librarians also apply gamification concepts, such as quizzes and digital challenges with prizes, to increase student involvement in getting to know and use the E-Library. This effort not only makes the learning process more interesting, but also encourages students to be more active, critical, and independent in accessing religious information in the digital era. By combining various creative and interactive communication strategies, UINSU librarians play an important role as facilitators who encourage the improvement of students' digital literacy and ensure that the E-Library becomes an integral part of supporting their academic needs.

## Supporting and Inhibiting Factors in Librarians' Communication Strategies in the Socialization of the E-Library System to UINSU Students

In the implementation of the E-Library system at UINSU Medan, there are various supporting and inhibiting factors that affect the effectiveness of librarians' communication strategies in socializing this service to students. Supporting factors include the availability of adequate technology, full support from the campus, and training programs that are routinely held to increase students' understanding of the use of the E-Library. In addition, the active involvement of librarians who are responsive and able to provide guidance effectively is also the key to success in increasing the utilization of this service. However, there are also a number of inhibiting factors, such as the limitation of students' digital literacy, the lack of awareness of the importance of digital academic information sources, and technical obstacles such as network disruptions and slow servers. These factors are challenges that need to be overcome so that the socialization of the E-Library can run optimally and students can make the most of it to support their learning process.

In line with the results of the interview with Mrs. Siti Masitah, S. Sos as the IT Service Coordinator explained that; (Mrs. Siti Masitah, 2025)

"The main challenge faced by students in accessing religious information at the E-Library of UINSU Medan is not only due to the limited collection of religious books, but also influenced by communication factors in the delivery of information related to this service. According to Mrs. Siti Masitah, these obstacles include the lack of understanding of students in utilizing the search feature, which is mostly due to the lack of effective socialization from the library. In addition, technical obstacles such as slow servers and difficult login processes also make the situation worse. On the other hand, there are supporting factors that play an important role, such as librarians' efforts to provide direct guidance, the implementation of training on the use of E-Libraries, and the development of cooperation with publishers to increase digital collections. Effective communication strategies from librarians, such as the use of social media and a personal approach in



conveying information, are key in overcoming these challenges so that students can make optimal use of the E-Library for their academic needs."

Based on the results of the interview, it can be concluded that the main challenges in the use of the E-Library of UINSU Medan include the limited collection of religious books, the lack of effective socialization, and technical obstacles such as slow servers and difficulty in login. However, librarians' efforts through direct guidance, training on the use of E-Libraries, and cooperation with publishers are significant supporting factors. The right communication strategy plays a very important role in improving students' understanding of this service.

Inhibiting Factors in a Librarian's Communication Strategy:

- 1. Limited students' understanding of E-Library features The lack of effective socialization makes many students not understand how to take advantage of the important features in the E-Library. As a result, students tend to be reluctant to use the platform to search for academic references. This has an impact on the low utilization of credible information sources.
- 2. Technical constraints such as slow servers and inaccessible authentication systems This technical problem makes it difficult for students to access the E-Library, especially when the need for reference is urgent. Frequent login systems and network interruptions also worsen the user experience. This reduces students' interest in using E-Library again.
- 3. Lack of use of communication media that is attractive to students The lack of interactive educational content on social media causes students to be less interested in understanding the benefits of E-Library. Without creative and interesting promotions, students tend to choose other reference sources that are more popular.
- 4. Lack of active involvement of students in socialization sessions Students are often less enthusiastic about participating in E-Library socialization activities because they are considered less interesting. In addition, the less flexible schedule makes many students unable to participate in these activities.

Supporting Factors in a Librarian's Communication Strategy:

- Librarians' efforts in providing direct guidance
   The face-to-face guidance provided by the librarian helps students understand the features of the E-Library more clearly. This approach is effective because it allows students to ask directly about the difficulties they face.
- 2. Implementation of routine training This training serves to increase students' understanding of how to make optimal use of the E-Library feature. With regular training, students can be more confident and used to using the platform.
- 3. Development of cooperation with various publishers

This step aims to add a digital collection that is relevant to the academic needs of students. With more diverse and up-to-date references, students are more interested in using the E-Library as a source of information.

4. Utilization of social media and personal approach

This strategy makes information about the E-Library more accessible and interesting for students. Creative content such as video tutorials, infographics, and Q&A sessions can increase students' interest in using the platform.

As the results of the interview with Mrs. Novita Sari, S. Sos as the Public Relations Service Coordinator explained that; (Mrs. Novita Sari, 2025)



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"The communication strategy of librarians in socializing the UINSU E-Library faces various supporting and inhibiting factors. Supporting factors include librarians' efforts in providing direct guidance, providing digital guidance, and digital literacy training that is routinely carried out. In addition, the use of social media as a means of promotion also helps to reach a wider range of students. On the other hand, the obstacles faced include a lack of effective socialization, a lack of students' understanding of the E-Library features, and technical glitches such as slow servers and problematic login systems. The combination of an active communication approach and adequate technical solutions is the key to success in increasing the use of E-Library among students.".

As the results of an interview with UINSU students Saif Arrasyid & Nurhelmili explained that; (Saif Arrasyid & Nurhelmili, 2025)

"In the communication strategy of librarians in the socialization of the UINSU E-Library, there are several striking inhibiting factors. One of them is the lack of socialization that causes many students, especially the batch before 2022, to not understand how to access and utilize the E-Library feature. A less efficient search system is also an obstacle, making it difficult for students to find suitable references. On the other hand, there are supporting factors that play an important role, such as the provision of clear digital guidelines and the efforts of librarians in conducting regular training for students. This strategy is expected to increase students' understanding of the use of E-Library so that they can access religious information more effectively.".

In line with the expression of an interview with UINSU students, Sapta Emir & Hilyatul Ilya explained that; (Sapta Emir & Hilyatul Ilya, 2025)

"The lack of student interest in using the E-Library is a challenge in the communication strategy of librarians at UINSU. Many students prefer to search for references through the internet because they think the E-Library is too complicated and impractical. The lack of promotion about the benefits of E-Library also makes students not interested in taking advantage of it. As a solution, librarians can increase promotion by creating educational content on social media, holding regular training, and organizing academic competitions that encourage the use of E-Library. This step is expected to attract students' attention and increase their understanding of how to access religious information effectively through the E-Library."

Based on the results of the interview above, the researcher concluded that obstacles in the communication strategy of librarians in the socialization of the UINSU E-Library include limited digital collections, technical constraints, and low digital literacy of students. The lack of socialization causes many students, especially the batch before 2022, to not understand how to access and utilize the E-Library properly. In addition, the assumption that searching for references through the internet is more practical also reduces student interest. To overcome this, librarians can expand digital collections, improve system stability, provide clear digital guidance, and hold regular training and active promotion through social media so that students are more interested in using the E-Library.

#### Discussions

Students of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra (UINSU) Medan access the E-Library as the main solution in meeting the needs of religious information that supports their studies. With a variety of academic references such as journals, digital books, and credible scientific works, E-Library allows students to deepen their understanding of Islam more comprehensively. As in Mona Elisa's research, et.al (2024) stated that digital libraries in the Islamic-based academic environment have an important role in providing relevant and reliable religious references. Digital collections such as e-books, e-journals, and theses related to Islamic studies are the main source for students in



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exploring Islamic studies, both for academic tasks, research, and the development of religious insights independently. (Yusniah et al., 2023) (Elisa & Yasmin, 2024)

However, as the research results of Muslih Faturrahman, et.al (2023), the use of E-Library among UIN North Sumatra students still faces obstacles, such as a less attractive website appearance and information that is sometimes not updated. This shows that although technology has supported digital-based library services, the suboptimal quality of the website can hinder students from accessing the resources they need. Therefore, libraries need to design a quality website with an attractive design and easy navigation so that students are more comfortable and interested in making the most of the E-Library.(Yüysü et al., 2024)

According to Abdul Karim Batu Bara (2012), librarians in the digital era must have relevant skills to introduce information technology effectively. This socialization can be carried out through routine training, seminars, and direct guidance so that students understand how to access and utilize digital resources properly. In this process, librarians are required to be creative, proactive, and have good communication skills so that students are interested in using these digital resources. In addition, librarians who are able to master information technology will find it easier to explain the features of digital sources effectively. (Coal, 2012)

According to Hary Supriyatno (2023), the use of E-Library by students is an important factor in supporting Islamic studies. The existence of applications such as Kubuku that provides quality digital reference resources, including compulsory lecture books and additional collections, allows students to access religious literature without time and place constraints. With the availability of relevant collections and ease of access, students are more encouraged to use digital services to support academic tasks, research, and deepen their religious understanding independently and efficiently. (Suprivatno, 2023)

In line with the expression of Mayang Puspita Sari Rizki, et.al (2022), the use of E-Library also contributes to improving students' digital literacy, training them in sorting and analyzing academic information more systematically. With a keyword- and category-based search feature, students can find relevant references faster and more efficiently, thus supporting them in completing academic assignments, compiling thesis, and enriching their Islamic insights. According to Albaburrahim, et.al (2022), librarians have an important role in socializing the use of E-Libraries to meet the needs of religious information for the academic community. (Rizki et al., 2024) (Albaburrahim Revelation, 2022)

In carrying out effective communication strategies, librarians have several supporting factors. According to Retno Sayekti (2019), librarians are not only tasked with managing digital collections but also acting as facilitators who actively introduce the features of the E-Library to users, especially students who are looking for religious literature. In this process, librarians use various methods such as training, workshops, and direct mentoring so that students can access information sources effectively. This effort aims to increase students' understanding of how to search, assess, and make good use of religious information. In addition, librarians also collaborate with lecturers to integrate digital resources into the learning process. Thus, the socialization carried out by librarians plays an important role in helping students obtain accurate and relevant information in their religious studies. (Stuttgart & Mardianto, 2019)

However, there are several inhibiting factors in librarians' communication strategies. According to Rizgy Fadhilah Nasution, et.al (2022), the main challenges faced by students in accessing religious information at the UINSU Medan E-Library include limited digital book collections, technical constraints, low digital literacy, and lack of student interest in utilizing this platform. The limited collection occurs due to limited budgets, lack of cooperation with publishers, and the long book curation process, making it difficult for students to find suitable academic references. In addition, technical constraints such as server outages, unstable internet networks, and a less user-friendly interface make the user experience less than optimal. (Nasution et al., 2022)



According to Yusniah (2021), students still have difficulty using this platform optimally, which is caused by a lack of socialization and guidance regarding how to use it. In fact, with the features that Kubuku has, students can access various digital literature that is relevant to their lectures and research. Therefore, strategic steps such as training, seminars, and written guidance are needed that can help students understand and utilize Kubuku to the maximum to improve the quality of their learning and academic achievement. (Yusniah , 2021)

# **CONCLUSION**

The conclusion of this study shows that the effectiveness of librarian communication has an important role in socializing the E-Library system to students of the State Islamic University of North Sumatra (UINSU) Medan. Librarians play the role of the main liaison in conveying information related to how to use, benefit, and access the E-Library to students. Through effective communication, students better understand how to use the E-Library as the main source of religious information relevant to their field of study. In this socialization process, librarians use various communication methods, such as seminars, hands-on training, and the dissemination of digital guides to help students understand the features of the E-Library. This effort has been proven to increase student awareness about the ease of access to digital references, such as e-books, journals, and scientific articles that support Islamic studies, the preparation of academic assignments, and the production of digital da'wah content based on Islamic literacy.

However, even though librarian communication plays an important role, students still face several obstacles in accessing religious information through the E-Library of UINSU Medan. These obstacles include limited digital collections, technical disturbances such as unstable internet connections, and low digital literacy among students. In addition, there are still students who do not fully understand how to access the E-Library due to the lack of continuous socialization. To increase the effectiveness of librarians' communication in socializing the E-Library, various solutions are needed, such as expanding digital collections by collaborating with publishers, improving the stability of the E-Library system and interface display, and implementing regular digital literacy training. With a better communication strategy, it is hoped that students will be more encouraged to use the E-Library as the main source in obtaining credible and quality religious information.

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