# Enhancing Students' Reading Interest through Effective Library Management Implementation

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DOI Article: https://doi.org/10.58857/JHCSE.2024.v01.i03.p02

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| <br><br>*Corresponding Author:*<br>Tuti Yuliana Dewi<br>email:<br>tutiyulianadewi@gmail.com | This study aims to analyze how library management can contribute to improving students' reading interest at SD Inpres 1 Kawatuna. Based on interviews with the principal, teachers, and library managers, it was found that although the library facilities are quite adequate, the main challenge faced is the low interest of students in visiting the library. The main factors influencing the low interest in reading are the limited variety of book collections that are relevant to students' interests, as well as the lack of interesting literacy activities. Therefore, more creative efforts are needed to improve literacy programs that can attract students' interest and support better reading habits.<br><br>In addition, this study shows the importance of technology integration in literacy activities, such as the use of digital applications and e-books, to attract students who are more familiar with technology. Although challenges related to limited funds still exist, support from various parties such as the government, community, and parents is needed to create a conducive and attractive library for students. With good library management, improving the quality of book collections, and fun literacy activities, it is hoped that it can increase students' interest in reading which ultimately contributes to improving the quality of education in Indonesia. |

## INTRODUCTION

Reading interest is one of the important factors in improving the quality of education among students. Students who have a high interest in reading tend to understand the subject matter more easily and are able to develop critical thinking skills better. Good literacy is a prerequisite for success in learning, because literacy gives students access to obtain various information they need. The results of research by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2022 showed that the reading literacy rate of the Indonesian people was at 66.9%, while elementary school students' literacy only reached 63.8% (Fadilla et al., 2023). This low literacy rate is influenced by various factors, one of which is

the development of technology that diverts students' attention to prefer playing with gadgets rather than reading books (Rambe, 2024). In addition, the trend of social media and short video content also shortens students' attention spans, so that activities that require longer concentration, such as reading, become less interesting.

The School Literacy Movement Program initiated by the government aims to increase reading interest among elementary school students (Putri & Dewi, 2021). However, the implementation of this program faces a number of challenges, especially related to library management that is still not managed professionally and inadequate facilities and infrastructure. One of the main problems is the limited variety of book collections, which prevents students from finding interesting reading that suits their interests (Fuady et al., 2023). Therefore, a planned strategy is needed to create a library that is not only conducive but also attractive to students. This strategy will help support a positive literacy culture in schools, which in turn can increase students' interest in reading and create better reading habits (Subekti et al., 2022).

School libraries should function as active learning resource centers, providing easy and quality access to students to enhance their reading interest. Libraries should provide educational and interactive reading materials, so that students not only obtain information but can also interact and socialize with their peers. This allows students to develop social and intellectual skills simultaneously. However, the lack of visits to the library is a significant problem, which is caused by students' less supportive perceptions and the lack of utilization of existing library resources (Alkhajar et al., 2024). This shows the importance of improving students' perceptions of the library as an interesting and useful place for learning activities.

An observable example is SD Inpres 1 Kawatuna in Palu City, which has a large library and a sufficient collection of books. However, even though the existing facilities are quite adequate, students' reading interest in this school is still not optimal. The main factors causing low reading interest are the limited collection of interesting books and the lack of enjoyable literacy activities for students (Rahman et al., 2022). This shows that even though good physical facilities already exist, strategies to increase reading interest also need to involve creativity in developing literacy programs that are more interesting and in accordance with students' interests. Therefore, collaboration between libraries, educators, and literacy programs that actively involve students is very much needed in creating activities that motivate students to visit the library more often and read books.

Based on the results of the analysis conducted, good library management is highly dependent on the provision of adequate facilities and infrastructure, a varied collection of books, and the implementation of interesting and innovative literacy activities. In order for students' interest in reading to increase significantly, full support from the school and government is needed. Improving the quality of school libraries will have a positive impact on students' interest in reading, which in turn will have a positive impact on the quality of education in Indonesia (Tanjung, 2023). With complete facilities and fun literacy activities, it is hoped that students can get used to reading, which will enrich their knowledge and improve the overall quality of education.

It is also important to create a supportive atmosphere around the library, by providing programs that directly involve students. Activities such as book clubs, reading contests, or literacy seminars can be effective ways to make the library more attractive to students. The involvement of parents and the community in supporting these literacy activities is also very important, because they can strengthen the role of the library in students' lives. In this case, support from parents and

the community can provide additional motivation for students to visit the library more often and improve their reading habits.

Thus, to increase reading interest among students, there needs to be closer collaboration between various parties, including schools, libraries, parents, and the community. In addition, more creative strategies based on student interests must be applied in literacy programs. Libraries should not only be places to read, but also centers of fun and educational activities. If this can be realized, the quality of education in Indonesia will increase, with students who have good reading skills and sharper critical thinking skills.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study to analyze the implementation of library management in increasing students' reading interest at SD Inpres 1 Kawatuna, Palu City. This approach was chosen because it allows researchers to dig deeper into the experiences, interactions, and factors that influence increasing students' reading interest through library management. Case studies provide in-depth insight into the phenomena that occur in the field, as well as how library management can contribute to increasing students' reading interest at the school. This study focuses on aspects of library management, available book collections, and literacy activities carried out at SD Inpres 1 Kawatuna.

In this study, data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews with related parties, such as principals, teachers, and library managers. In addition, direct observation was also conducted to understand how students interact with the library and use existing facilities. Participatory observation allows researchers to directly witness student activities in the library, as well as identify factors that influence their reading interests. Data obtained from interviews and observations were then analyzed thematically to identify key patterns in library management and their influence on students' reading interests.

Data triangulation was also applied to ensure the validity of the research results. This triangulation involves comparing data obtained from various sources, such as interviews, observations, and library documentation. By using triangulation, researchers can obtain a more holistic and in-depth picture of the phenomenon being studied. In addition, this approach allows researchers to explore library management from various perspectives, both from the perspective of library managers, educators, and students. Thematic analysis was used to identify emerging themes related to factors that influence reading interest, such as the quality and diversity of book collections, interesting literacy activities, and the role of the library as a learning resource center that supports student development.

Using this methodology, the study aims to provide deeper insights into how library management can contribute to improving students' reading interest. The results of this study are expected to provide practical recommendations for schools and other stakeholders in creating more conducive libraries to support a positive literacy culture in schools. This study is also expected to contribute to the development of better education policies, especially in terms of school library management to improve students' reading interest in Indonesia.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

## Results

This study aims to analyze how library management can contribute to increasing students' interest in reading at SD Inpres 1 Kawatuna. Based on interviews with the principal, Indonesian language teachers, and library managers, it can be concluded that although the library facilities are adequate, the main challenge faced is the low interest of students in visiting the library. The principal stated, "*We have a sufficient collection of books, but the variety of books that suit students' interests is still limited. We have tried to introduce literacy activities such as reading competitions, but many students are still less interested in visiting the library.*" This shows that although the physical facilities of the library are available, the literacy activities offered need to be more interesting so that students are more interested in visiting. According to the principal, more enjoyable literacy activities are needed to increase student participation in visiting the library.

In addition, the library manager added, "*We are trying to make the library more attractive by adding a more diverse collection of books that are in accordance with students' interests.*" This indicates that library management is greatly influenced by the availability of book collections that are in accordance with students' needs and interests. Although the book collection has been increased, the main problem faced is limited funds that hinder further development of the book collection and other supporting facilities. The use of social media to promote literacy activities and the latest book collections is also one of the efforts taken by the library. The Indonesian language teacher also emphasized the importance of creating interesting literacy activities, such as book clubs and reading competitions, to encourage students to visit the library more often and increase their interest in reading.

In addition, the results of interviews with Indonesian language teachers showed that although the library functions as an important learning center, the lack of student interest in visiting the library is a major challenge. The teacher said, "*We also try to make reading activities more interactive by using other media, such as e-books and digital reading applications.*" This illustrates that technological developments must be utilized to attract students' interest in reading by integrating technology into literacy activities. Although these activities are expected to increase students' interest in reading, further evaluation is needed regarding the success of this strategy in boosting overall reading interest.

From the results of this study, it can be concluded that good library management at SD Inpres 1 Kawatuna can increase students' interest in reading, but there are still several factors that need to be improved. Improving the quality of book collections, providing reading materials that are relevant to students' interests, and more creative and enjoyable literacy activities are the keys to attracting more students to the library. The use of social media and digital applications also shows great potential in promoting libraries and literacy activities to students, who are more familiar with the digital world. In addition, limited funds are one of the main challenges in library management, so it is important for schools and the government to support sustainable library development.

Collaboration between various parties, including schools, library managers, and the community, is also very necessary to create literacy activities that can attract students' attention. This can create a supportive atmosphere to increase students' interest in reading in the library. In this context, support from parents and the community can also strengthen the role of the library in students' lives and motivate them to visit the library more often. With good library management

and support from various parties, it is hoped that students' interest in reading can increase, which ultimately contributes to improving the quality of education in Indonesia as a whole.

## Discussion

The discussion of this study shows that although the library facilities at SD Inpres 1 Kawatuna are quite adequate, the main challenge faced in increasing students' reading interest is the lack of student attraction to visit the library. One of the contributing factors is the limited variety of book collections that are relevant to students' interests. The limited book collection makes students feel less interested in visiting the library, which ultimately affects their low level of reading interest. Therefore, improving the quality of book collections that are more diverse and in accordance with students' interests is an important step to attract more students to visit the library (Daman & Fahmi, 2022).

In this case, the diversity of book collections such as comics, picture stories, and popular books can motivate students to read more and visit the library more often (Yoni, 2020). In addition, more creative library management is needed to create interesting and enjoyable literacy activities for students. Efforts that have been made such as holding reading competitions and book clubs have proven effective in increasing student engagement with books more interactively (Yitu et al., 2024). However, a major challenge remains, namely the lack of student interest caused by disinterest in existing activities. Therefore, literacy activities need to be designed to better accommodate students' needs and preferences, such as introducing various types of reading media that are more relevant to their interests (Rahmawati et al., 2022).

Furthermore, the integration of technology in literacy activities, such as the use of e-books and digital reading applications, has great potential in attracting the reading interest of students who are increasingly accustomed to technology (Hapsari et al., 2019). Technology provides a more interactive and engaging reading experience, and schools must utilize digital media to support literacy programs. However, an evaluation of the success of using this digital media in increasing overall reading interest still needs to be done (Hasan et al., 2022). The use of more engaging digital applications and platforms could be an effective solution to face the challenges of a generation that is more connected to the virtual world than to the physical world such as libraries.

Limited funds are also one of the main challenges in library management, especially in terms of procuring book collections and improving library facilities and infrastructure (Dermawan et al., 2023). Further support from schools, government, and the community is needed to provide adequate resources so that library management can run optimally. Increasing funds for book collection development and providing better supporting facilities will greatly help create a more attractive and useful library for students (Hardiyanti, 2022).

Collaboration between schools, library managers, parents, and the community is very important to support the success of literacy programs in schools. By involving various parties, schools can create a more conducive atmosphere to increase students' interest in reading. Parents act as motivators in supporting their children's reading habits at home, while the community can support by providing various literacy activities (Kurniawati et al., 2024). All parties need to work together to create an environment that encourages students' interest in reading and develops their literacy skills.

Support from the community and parents is very influential in building sustainable reading habits among students. If the library can be made a fun and useful place for students, and is supported by parents and the community, students' interest in reading can increase significantly. This increase in reading interest will ultimately have a positive impact on the quality of education, by producing students who are not only academically intelligent but also have better critical thinking skills (Aziz & Nugraheni, 2022). Therefore, good library management, support from various parties, and improving the quality of collections as well as fun literacy activities can create a positive literacy culture in schools, which will improve the quality of education in Indonesia (Munawarah, 2020).

Overall, this study shows that good library management can increase students' interest in reading, although there are still some challenges that need to be overcome. Increasing a more varied book collection, more interactive literacy activities, and integrating technology into literacy programs are steps that need to be taken to increase students' interest in reading at SD Inpres 1 Kawatuna. With support from all parties, it is hoped that the library can become an effective learning resource center that can encourage students to visit more often, read, and develop their literacy skills optimally.

**CONCLUSION**

This study concludes that good library management at SD Inpres 1 Kawatuna can contribute significantly to increasing students' interest in reading, although there are still several challenges that need to be overcome. Improving the quality of book collections and the diversity of reading materials that are more in line with students' interests is a very important first step. More creative and interesting literacy activities, such as book clubs and reading competitions, are also needed to attract students' attention and encourage them to visit the library more often. Therefore, collaboration between schools, library managers, and external parties such as parents and the community is needed to create more effective literacy activities.

In addition, the integration of technology into literacy activities, such as the use of digital reading applications and e-books, can increase the appeal of libraries among students. Although funding constraints remain a challenge, the existence of libraries that are more attractive and relevant to students' needs and interests can help increase their interest in reading. With full support from schools, the government, and the community, it is hoped that libraries will become centers of learning resources that not only provide reading materials, but can also inspire students to read more and develop their literacy skills optimally. This increase in interest in reading is expected to have a positive impact on the quality of education in Indonesia.

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