

# Digitizing Local Archives and North Sumatera Culture through Literacy Using the E-Library Website

Intan Maulina<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Khoiruddin Harahap<sup>2</sup>  
Universitas Deli Sumatera<sup>1</sup>, Politeknik Ganesha Medan<sup>2</sup>  
[intanmaulina@unds.ac.id](mailto:intanmaulina@unds.ac.id)<sup>1</sup>, [choir.harahap@yahoo.com](mailto:choir.harahap@yahoo.com)<sup>2</sup>

Submitted : xxxxx | Accepted : xxxx | Published : Oct 31, 2022

**Abstract:** Digitizing local archives and culture through literacy using an e-library website is a reflection as well as an effort to save phenomenal memories which are unique and hardly repeated. An archive is a crucial component of social life and literacy, and it must be conserved because of its historical significance. Archives need to be preserved because the nation's cultural treasures due to the fact beyond activities documented via data are legal evidence. Technology and information advancements are one of the options that can be used by the public to store online documentation and archiving. Literature can reflect the historical history of a country and are also a cultural driver in the cultural development of society. The type of research used in this study is library research. Data collection techniques were carried out by observation, documentation studies, and interviews at the five research locations, namely the North Sumatra Provincial Library and Archives Service, Tebing Tinggi City Library and Archives Service, Pematangsiantar Library and Archives Service, Regency of Central Tapanuli Library and Archives Service, Sibolga City Library and Archives Service and North Tapanuli Library and Archives Service. The result of this research is that the best library service was shown by the library in Tebing Tinggi, but the Regency of Central Tapanuli Library and Archives Service area has an unprecedented and excellent collection of books and they have got an e-library from Kubuku as a digital library for society. The results of this study are expected to show how the archiving of cultural books through digitization is carried out in several areas in North Sumatra. This research will be a reflection for the government to pay more attention to the importance of local archives in their regions.

**Keywords:** Archives; Culture; Digitizing; E-Library; Literacy; Local

## INTRODUCTION

An archive is a crucial component of social life and literacy, and it must be conserved because of its historical significance. Political institutions are in charge of social life and their historic significance (M.J. Calano: 2012). Additionally, archives serve as a repository for and a reflection of social and institutional power. Edward also notes that archives are not empty rooms but rather dynamic settings where discursive practices like linking artifacts between the past and the present, the visible and the invisible, and engaging in intercultural dialogue are all present (Edward: 2021).

Archive digitization is an activity of moving archive media from published forms to virtual bureaucracy. The reason of digitization must additionally be understood as scanning analog files into virtual layout and as a chain of activities that produce virtual copies available at the Internet or different devices (U.S. NARA, 2016). Digitizing documents is crucial to work to do in modern digital era. Archives need to be preserved because the nation's cultural treasures due to the fact beyond activities documented via data are legal evidence. Technology and information advancements are one of the options that can be used by the public to store online documentation and archiving. The digital culture archive is both a reflection and an attempt to preserve extraordinary memories that are impossible to replicate. The literature can reflect the historical history of a country and are also a cultural driver in the cultural development of society. As a result, literature play a significant role in the shaping of history.

Actions performed by people, organizations, or governments still don't prioritize literature archives. There is still a very low level of awareness of literature and culture. This research is more specific to show how

\*name of corresponding author



This is an Creative Commons License This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.

digitizing local archives and North Sumatera culture through literacy using the e-library website in some libraries in North Sumatera. This research is done in some area namely the North Sumatera Provincial Library and Archives Service, Tebing Tinggi City Library and Archives Service, Pematangsiantar Library and Archives Service, Regency of Central Tapanuli Library and Archives Service, Sibolga City Library and Archives Service and North Tapanuli Library and Archives Service.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous research relevant to this research is by Azim. Archive digitization is the process of converting information into a digital format (Azim et al., 2018). Azim defines records as information created, received, and maintained by an organization as evidence. Meanwhile, archives are documents that contain the historical background of a rustic organization. Archives contain the first source documents that have accumulated over the lifetime of a private organization and are retained to demonstrate the organization's functioning. Currently, digitization could be a new method for record and archives management to store archives or documents for survival in the future. Digitization can also improve accessibility rapidly and build more ways to present archived results to a broader range of the latest users.

Another studies was performed by Kuswati in 2021 on components of digitizing and disseminating historic manuscripts. The foundation of this studies makes use of a literature study technique and comparative studies methods. The studies outcomes confirmed that digitization and facts dissemination sports have been done by the Radya Pustaka Surakarta Museum, the Regional Library, and Archives Agency of South Sulawesi Province, and the Lestari Sastra Foundation. The findings of this studies claimed that the Regional Library and Archives Agency of South Sulawesi Province and the Sastra Lestari Foundation have digitized and disseminated and accomplished transliteration in order that the general public easily reads the disseminated historical manuscripts.

The subsequent studies applicable is from Zhanna (2020) in her case examine highlighted the vital function of digitization withinside the method of retaining intangible cultural historical past by using the instance of visualizing samples of Kazakh peoples dances. She stated that currently, plenty paintings is being performed withinside the international to hold ICH on the initiative of the United Nations with the aid of using the UNESCO Convention for the Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which became followed on October 17th, 2003. This studies explains that digitalization is carried out from peoples dance moves in step with scripts from choreographers, together with Kazakh peoples dances observed in books on Kazakh peoples dance testimonies and choreographers along with Shara Zhienkulova, Dauren Abirov, Aubakir Ismailov, and topical. According to the researcher, visualization of folks dances in video layout is greater reachable than peoples dances defined in choreography textbooks with the aid of using peoples dance level masters. With the digitization of conventional dances, absolutely each person can get admission to them through the net and an attempt to hold conventional dances for destiny generations and as an actualization with the aid of using present day dance choreographers.

### METHOD

Type of research used in this study is library research. The researcher collects the data in the form of books, manuscripts, or magazines relevant to the object of research or collecting data in literary form (Nazir: 2003). Library research type or commonly referred to as literature research or literature study can also be interpreted as an activity to collect literature data through reading, recording, and processing of research materials (Mestika: 2004). This qualitative study approached literature reviews described the findings of the data obtained regularly and was well explained so that it can be understood by the readers. This research was conducted using a qualitative approach (Sugiyono: 2016).

Data collection techniques were carried out by observation, documentation studies and interviews to the five research locations, namely the North Sumatera Provincial Library and Archives Service, Tebing Tinggi City Library and Archives Service, Pematangsiantar Library and Archives Service, Regency of Central Tapanuli Library and Archives Service, Sibolga City Library and Archives Service and North Tapanuli Library and Archives Service.

### RESULT

#### The Importance of Digital Archives in North Sumatera Culture

The emotional and evidential impact of archives is what gives them their strength. Archive materials can be used to relive regional or local history or to share a personal narrative especially archives of literacy and culture of North Sumatera. Transform names into personalities and explain your reasoning for your choices and demonstrate the complexity of people, groups, and cultures. Visually Archives are ordinary, vast, and tucked away in crates and are typically assumed to be the information environment of a collective memory that must be searched by professionals when it comes to traditional heritage. The past must be fixed in both time and space in some way.

Contains documents incident reports; they are not events themselves. It is a sign of heritage that it remains a present reality and the record of the past must be seen in this light. Heritage is primarily widely recognized and

\*name of corresponding author



keenly cared for visual expressions of a culture in terms of its cultural "goods" of all things the sense of the word, its buildings and its art, its dance and its song can be easily experienced and transmitted. However, documents with no purpose beyond written communication and without literary pretensions, may not rank very high and is in great danger of being treated as such as worthless (Taylor 1982-83: 118-119).

### Archives and Digitization Literacy and North Sumatera Culture

North Sumatera is occupied with the aid of using ethnic Malays, Batak (Batak Toba, Mandailing, Simalungun, Karo, Pakpak-Dairi,) and Nias there has been the Sultanate of Deli, Serdang, Langkat, Asahan, there has been Romusa in a completely long term to release the tobacco trade (Deli Tobacco) within side the Dutch colonial period (Shahrial & Muhammad: 2018) and Sumatra is certainly considered one among the most important islands in Indonesia. In different words, the harmonization of lifestyles in North Sumatera is well set up and there may be not often thrilling and cultural strife. The range of tribes and cultures in North Sumatera is a wealth of personality that could stay advanced as literacy and getting to know sources in colleges and universities. These literacy sources consist of herbal sources, human sources, economy, and culture (customs, art, and literature).

The strength of documents is in their evidential and emotional impact. Whether revisiting country-wide or local records or telling a non-public story, archives turn names into personalities, deliver us the arguments behind selections, and screen the complexity of individuals, communities, and societies. Visually unremarkable, voluminous in quantity, and hidden away in boxes, files have usually been taken as a right because of the statistics surroundings of conventional heritage, a collective reminiscence to be ransacked via way of means of specialists when a few details of the beyond is to be constant in time and space.

### DISCUSSIONS

In conducting this research, it was found in several libraries in North Sumatera that the libraries lacked of local archive sources as well as books about their respective regional cultures. The findings showed that from the five libraries visited, there were the North Sumatera Provincial Library and Archives Service, Tebing Tinggi City Library and Archives Service, Pematangsiantar Library and Archives Service, Regency of Central Tapanuli Library and Archives Service, Sibolga City Library and Archives Service and North Tapanuli Library and Archives Service for ease of access and library socialization, the best library service was shown by the library in Tebing Tinggi.



Figure 1. Tebing Tinggi City Library and Archives Service

Tebing Tinggi City Library and Archives Service additionally collaborate with schools in that city and have made a memorandum of understanding (MoU), which is why almost every day, students from kindergarten to senior high school will come to have a look at withinside the library to foster a love of literacy. They also have three library automobiles which can be on an obligation to go to schools and certain regions each day.

This observation additionally discovered that the excellent collections of books on the culture and history of North Sumatera are withinside the Regency of Central Tapanuli Library and Archives Service area. They also have an unprecedented and excellent collection of books.

\*name of corresponding author



This is an Creative Commons License This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.



Figure 2. Regency of Central Tapanuli Library and Archives Service

Ofcom said in Tsatsou (2018) the definition of media or virtual literacy is the cap potential to use, recognize and create media and conversation in diverse contexts. Zara Dinnen has also recently shown how digital technologies have become 'banal' in contemporary fiction, rendering us 'unaware of the ways we are co-constituted as subjects with media (Dinen: 2018).

These 'distributed media systems' approaches to literature featuring the electronic, or literature that is born and read within the electronic environment, are of ever-increasing prominence (Hayles: 2012). In Regency of Central Tapanuli Library and Archives Service additionally discovered that they have got an e-library from Kubuku as a digital library for society. Media literacy has been famous withinside the use of virtual media from the attitude of literacy research which then gave an upward push to new literacy practices in diverse social contexts. There are principles of virtual literacy. The first is virtual literacy as a beneficial ability or cap potential. The second is virtual literacy as "generation user interactivity" (Herdiani: 2021).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research is supported by the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education Indonesia, Kedaireka or Matching Fund 2022, batch 2, University of Deli Sumatera, Polytechnic of Ganesha Medan and the Research Foundation and Documentation of Sumatera for providing funding support and assisting the implementation of this research.

#### CONCLUSION

Digitizing local archives and North Sumatera culture through literacy using the e-library website is very important, especially in North Sumatera which is very rich in cultural diversity. It will help society to give an understanding of culture and literacy which is full of local values. The importance of archives and digitization of cultural literacy is very urgent to do, it can be started with a local library in every North Sumatera area to anticipate the loss of the history of this nation. The lack of local archives and North Sumatera literacy are very sad for the young generation. This generation will not understand the valuable cultural heritage in the future. The results of this study are expected to show how the archiving of cultural books through digitization is carried out in several areas in North Sumatra. This research will be a reflection for the government to pay more attention to the importance of local archives in their regions.

#### REFERENCES

- Azim, N. A., Yatin, S. F., Jensonray, R. C., & Mansor, S. A. (2018). Dgitization of Records and Archives: Issues and Concerns. *nternational Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 170-178.
- Calano, M. J. (2012). ArchivingBodies: Kalinga Batek and the im/possibility of an Archive. *Thesis Eleven*, 98-112.
- Dinnen, Z. (2018). The Digital Banal: New Media and American Literature and Culture. *Columbia University Press*, 1-13.
- Edwards, E. (2021). *Raw Histories: Photographs, Anthropology and Museums*. Oxford: Rountledge.
- Hayles, K. (2012). *How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

\*name of corresponding author



This is an Creative Commons License This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.

- Herdiani, E. (2021). Archives and Arts Digitization as Literacy Potential on Arts History Research. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities research*.
- Kuswati, S. N. (2021). KEgiatan Digitalisasi Naskah Kuno Sebagai Upaya Diseminasi Informasi. *LIBRIA*, 107-129.
- Mestika, Z. (2004). *Metode Penelitian*. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia.
- Nazir, M. (2003). *Metode Penelitian*. Jakarta: Ghalia Indonesia.
- P, T. (2018). Literacy and Training in Digital Reseach: Researchers' views in Five Social Science and Humanities Diciplines. *SAGE*.
- Sugiono. (2009). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif dan R & D*. Bandung: Prenada.
- Syahrial, Jilin, M. T., & Djafar, M. (2018). Sastra MELayu Sumatera Utara. *Magister Penciptaaan dan Pengkajian Seni*.
- Taylor, H. A. (1982). The Collective Memory; Archives and Libraries as Heritage. *Archivaria*, 118-130.
- U.S, N. (2016). Strategy for Digitizing Archival Material. *The U.S National Archives and Record Administration*.
- Zhanna, R. (2020). Digitization of Intangible Cultural Heritage as a MMethod to Save and Actualize it on the Example of Kazakh Folk Dance. *International Conference on Engineering & MIS*, 1-7.

\*name of corresponding author



This is an Creative Commons License This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.