

# THE ROLE OF STUDENTS IN LIBRARY MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' READING INTENTION AT SMP PENCAWAN MEDAN

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## Abstract

Reading interest is one of the key indicators in improving the quality of education, especially at the junior high school level. However, the low literacy culture and suboptimal library management remain significant challenges faced by many schools, including SMP Pencawan Medan. This community service activity aims to enhance students' reading interest by maximizing the function of the school library through the participation of university students as agents of transformation. The method used is a participatory approach, in which university students, teachers, librarians, and students are actively involved in every stage of the activity, from organizing book collections and designing a comfortable library space to implementing various interactive literacy programs such as reading competitions, reading corners, and book discussions. This approach is designed to foster a sense of ownership, enhance collaboration, and stimulate creativity and innovation in library management. The results of the program show a significant increase in students' interest in literacy activities and in the frequency of library visits. University students were able to create a more engaging and inclusive atmosphere that not only improved students' access to reading materials but also cultivated reading habits as a way of life. This activity demonstrates that student participation in library management has a significant impact on increasing students' reading interest and strengthening the literacy culture within the school environment. With continuous support, this cross-sector collaboration can serve as a model for efficient and effective school library development in the future.

**Keyword:** *Reading Interest, Interactive Literacy Activities, Community service, Participatory approach.*

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## Introduction

Education is the key to a person's success, which begins with getting a decent and quality education, because the importance of education can bring a good name to both the country and the nation. According to the Education Unit Law No. 20 of 2003, article 1

paragraph 1 states that education is a form of action carried out by students in a planned and conscious manner in a learning situation, so that the learning process can develop the individual's potential to learn and develop their own abilities for Intelligence, how much knowledge is learned from various sources of knowledge, and how someone utilizes the available educational resources are all factors that can determine a person's quality. The library is the right place to increase knowledge and improve the quality of education because their goal is to educate people with a variety of books available. In accordance with the Regional Regulation of Gresik Regency No. 18 of 2013, chapter 1 article 1 paragraph 5 states that the library is an institution that manages printed works, collections of written works, and printed creations professionally using basic methods to meet the needs of education, preservation, observation, data, and entertainment of readers (Maulidiyah & Roesminingsih, 2020)

Reading interest is very important to improve students' education and knowledge, especially at the junior high school level. Learning to read and write is a basic skill that must be emphasized at all levels of education. Students need to be literate so that they can absorb and process information in other ways. (Beno et al., 2022). Limitations in library management are one of the reasons why many schools still face problems in building a strong literacy culture. School libraries should be active and engaging learning centers for students. However, many are not well managed in terms of collections, layout, and literacy activities.

In such a situation, students must actively participate in community service programs. Students have great potential to help schools improve their library management. This service not only helps schools but also facilitates social learning for students. Student involvement in library management at SMP Pencawan is expected to help create a more lively and enjoyable literacy atmosphere and consistently attract students' interest in reading.

The aim of this service is to increase the role of libraries as school literacy centers. It will achieve this goal by using a variety of approaches, including effective book management, attractive space design, and the development of innovative and interactive literacy programs. As a result, it is hoped that Pencawan Middle School students' interest in reading will increase. Ultimately, this will help them achieve better learning achievements.

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## Literature Review

Reading interest plays a crucial role in improving the quality of education and has been the focus of various previous studies. Maulidiyah and Roesminingsih (2020) emphasized that libraries are strategic institutions that contribute significantly to education by providing a wide range of books as learning resources, cultural preservation tools, and even entertainment. Adequate library services and facilities have been proven to increase students' reading interest.

However, many school libraries still suffer from poor management. According to Ma'arif, Husnah, and Rizqiyah (2022), structured and efficient library management greatly affects the availability of relevant and high-quality reading materials for both students and teachers. Well-organized collections, comfortable reading spaces, and varied literacy activities are essential elements in creating an engaging and dynamic school library.

The active involvement of university students in community service programs has also been widely discussed in literature as an effective strategy to foster literacy culture in schools. A study by Dahlya et al. (2025) revealed that student involvement in school library management helps create a more interactive, lively, and student-friendly atmosphere. University students introduced innovative services such as reading competitions, reading corners, and book discussions, which significantly increased students' motivation to visit the library.

Beno et al. (2022) highlighted that literacy goes beyond reading and writing skills—it encompasses the ability to comprehend, process, and apply information critically. Therefore, participatory library management that involves university students not only improves library visit frequency but also fosters sustainable and enjoyable reading habits among junior high school students.

Overall, these studies demonstrate that developing school libraries as literacy centers requires a collaborative, creative, and sustainable approach. The involvement of university students as agents of change in library management has proven effective in strengthening literacy culture and significantly increasing students' reading interest.

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## Methodology

In this service activity, a participatory approach is used to ensure that librarians, students, teachers, and students are actively involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of library activities. The goal is to create a teamwork atmosphere that can increase a sense of ownership of the library and encourage the growth of a sustainable literacy culture in schools.

Participatory approach is used as the main strategy in this community service activity to ensure that all parties in the school—librarians, students, teachers, and students—are actively and continuously involved in every phase of the activity, from planning and implementation to evaluation of the library program. This method not only increases activity, but also increases a sense of shared responsibility, improves teamwork, and builds a positive emotional relationship with the library at school.

It is hoped that, by involving various parties directly, an atmosphere of cooperation will be created that encourages creativity, initiative, and active participation in the process of developing the library as a learning center. In addition, the aim of this approach is to encourage the development of a strong and sustainable literacy culture, which is not only part of the academic routine but also becomes a literate lifestyle among students. This participatory approach is an important foundation in efforts to strengthen the role of the library as a dynamic, relevant, and responsive school center to the needs of students in the modern era.



**Figure . 1** the role of students in library management to improve students' reading intention at smp pencawan medan

## Findings

### A. Result

Based on research and literature review, it was found that student involvement in library management in secondary schools significantly increases students' interest in reading, based on various factors, such as: Collection Management and Spatial Planning: Students help organize books in an orderly manner according to title or theme, making it easier for them to find reading materials that they like. Structured library management is essential to ensure the availability of relevant and quality reading materials for students and teaching staff. With good management, the library can act as an effective learning center in supporting the educational process in schools. Thus, structured library management will have a significant positive impact on learning in the school environment. (Ma'arif et al., 2022).

In addition, good layout creates a comfortable and attractive atmosphere for students to read. Promotion and Service Innovation: Students actively promote new collections, hold literacy activities, and create interesting programs such as reading corners, reading competitions, and book discussions. These activities have been proven to attract students' interest in visiting the library and making the best use of it.

Collaboration with Teachers: Student-teacher collaboration in creating literacy programs and selecting collections appropriate to students' needs also increases the library's relevance and appeal. Improved Service: Students receive friendly service, assistance in searching for information, and instruction on how to use library facilities.

## Discussion

The role of students in managing the library of SMP Pencawan Medan really increases students' desire to read. By creating something new, improving the management system, and creating a more lively and student-friendly library, students are able to contribute to change.

Students have been shown to be attracted to visit the library through activities that

promote and create new services. In addition, better collections and reading rooms make it easier for students to find reading materials that suit their interests, so that the frequency of library visits and the amount of time spent there increases. Books should be arranged neatly on shelves according to their title or theme, not mixed with other books, have an appropriate layout, the titles are interesting to read, and the tables should be neat to encourage students' interest in reading. The library continues to operate despite some shortcomings in the necessary facilities.(Dahlya et al., 2025)



**Figure . 2** the role of students in library management to improve students' reading intention at smp pencawan medan

The success of library management depends on the cooperation between students, teachers, and librarians. By working together with this, literacy programs can be adjusted to the needs and characteristics of students. This will make the program more targeted and increase interest in reading. Books must be arranged on shelves regularly according to their titles or themes, not mixed with other books, have an appropriate layout, the titles are interesting to read, and the tables must be neat to encourage students' interest in reading. The library continues to run, even though there are some shortcomings in the necessary facilities.

However, library management is highly dependent on ongoing collaboration between students, schools, and other related parties; limited facilities, incomplete book collections, and lack of support from the school. Overall, the results of this community service show that the role of students in managing libraries is very important and effective in increasing the desire to read among junior high school students. If they have the right strategies and support, they can be the driving force of literacy culture in schools.



**Figure . 3** the role of students in library management to improve students' reading intention at smp pencawan medan

## Conclusion

Library increased reading interest among students at SMP Pencawan Medan. The participatory approach allowed students to engage in curating book collections, designing a comfortable layout, and developing various creative and engaging literacy programs. These efforts transformed the library into a more vibrant and enjoyable space that aligns with the students' interests and needs.

It has been proven that collaboration among students, teachers, librarians, and university students is essential in building a sustainable culture of literacy in schools. The results of this activity show that the library can become an effective center of learning when managed in a creative and collaborative manner. In the effort to improve literacy, the spirit of cooperation and student creativity played a vital role, even though several challenges remain, such as limited facilities and library resources. Therefore, university students should be continuously encouraged to participate in community service activities, particularly in library management, as it is an effective way to foster a This community service activity demonstrated that student involvement in managing the school literate generation for the future.

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