

THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN SUPPORTING THE PROCESS OF ISLAMIC DA'WAH

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Abstract - The library is a very vital tool in the life of a modern and educated society. The existence of libraries in Islamic history has had a tremendous influence on the development of civilization and world science. The library as an information center plays an important role as an information disseminator. The library is a place for preachers who can deliver Islamic lectures through various information media in it. All of this shows that there is a religious influence on library practice in the form of religious texts which later becomes a context for the progress of science. Libraries have a responsibility so that library users are able to see the ethical implications of various kinds of changes in society that come from technological and scientific advances. To be able to adapt to existing changes, it is very important to instill basic values to library users, namely: 1) Material values, namely a number of knowledge about Islam. The longer a person studies, the more books he reads, the more his religious knowledge increases; 2) Formal values, namely the value of personal formation which is concerned with the absorption of library users for all the materials they receive so that they are able by their own power to form a complete, solid, and resistant personality; and 3) Functional values, namely reading materials that are relevant to the expectations and needs of the library user community in everyday life..

Keywords: Libraries, Islamic Da'wah, Digital Information

1. Introduction

The library is a very vital tool in the life of a modern and educated society. Treeman said that the library as the heart of an institution both symbolically and physically. The existence of libraries in Islamic history has had a tremendous influence on the development of civilization and world science. This is evidenced by the triumph of Bait Al-Hikmah in Baghdad around the 2nd century AD. Discourse on Islamic libraries is often found in classical literature. These issues such as the emergence of religious-based Muslim libraries from the beginning of the formation of the Islamic community itself, because basically there was a religious influence on library practices at that time. The practice of libraries at that time was like providing Islamic collections in the form of the Qur'anic manuscripts in mosques and prayer rooms and other places of worship that did not escape the influence of religion on library practice (Masruri, 2006: 2).

The library as an information center plays an important role as an information disseminator. Irsan said that the library is a place for preachers who can deliver Islamic lectures through various information media in it. Librarianship in the context of Islam relies on text traditions and contexts. According to Hak (2015: 31-32) the text tradition is earlier than the context tradition, where the text tradition can be traced through the religious (Islamic) tradition itself, namely the writing of the Qur'anic and Hadith

manuscripts and their civilization. All of this shows that there is a religious influence on library practice in the form of religious texts which later becomes a context for the progress of science to date.

The development of knowledge and science certainly cannot be separated from the influence of libraries and Islam. In an effort to build Islamic civilization, Muslims at that time presented a library as an icon of the existence of science. According to Zulaikha (2008:2). The library is used as an agent that brings change to the wider community, where the change is highly expected by the wider community in its role to shape the character of a better Arab society. Islamic libraries and libraries have indeed triumphed for several centuries which then suffered a setback caused by several factors that could not be overcome by Muslims at that time. This development began during the pioneering, formation and coaching period and there was a setback that resulted in Muslims experiencing scientific stagnation. All of that is a process that has been passed by Muslims during the time of building a civilization of knowledge which later gave birth to a new civilization for Muslims that glorifies science for Muslims themselves and extends to various regions in the world such as Europe.

Very high attention to science oriented to education and upholding the honor of scientific manuscripts became the basis for the growth and development of Islamic libraries at that time (Zuhrah, 2008: 66). The existence of literature such as books is not only used as a medium, but also has moral values that underlie attention to book literature. This concern requires the dissemination and preservation of book literature as an action that supports the advancement of science and education in the future. It can be said that the existence of Islamic libraries at that time became a center of knowledge. The existence of the library at that time functioned as a learning center for Muslims in building civilization and its glory so that it lasted several centuries. History records that there is information and knowledge that is not well documented by Muslims, so that the order of Muslims in terms of economic, social, political, cultural and other aspects of life has stagnated which in the end Muslims only become followers of other nations. which is advanced, which in this case is the western world, in fact western progress itself is the adoption of the works of the Muslims themselves.

2. Research Methodology

This study uses a qualitative approach, which is a procedure that produces descriptive data from data sources in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior. Qualitative research is easier to make adjustments to the reality that has multiple dimensions. In addition, qualitative research is easier to present directly the nature of the relationship between researchers and research subjects, and has sensitivity and adaptability to many influences arising from the patterns of values encountered.

Data analysis is done by looking for the meaning (meaning) of each existing data. The data analysis process is carried out by reviewing all available data, so that data reduction can be carried out by making abstractions in the form of a summary of the

core of the process and existing statements and arranging them in units, making it easier to draw conclusions.

3. Results and Discussion

a. The Role of Library

The library is the heart of an educational institution, which is the center for collecting, storing, maintaining and presenting various writings from the work and other information from the past, present, and predictions of the future. The existence of a library is very important in national development, which plays a role in improving the quality of human resources. Currently, the library has developed as an information center for students, lecturers, researchers, and the general public. Therefore, the task of librarianship is needed to realize the values, roles, and functions of libraries, especially in the implementation of librarianship tasks in a professional manner.

In general, there are three important roles of libraries in national development, which are explained as follows: 1) The role of libraries as centers of knowledge can give birth to innovation and creativity; 2) The role of the library as a center for community empowerment to develop literacy-based potential; and 3) The role of the library as a cultural center.

In addition, in principle, libraries also have 3 (three) main functions, namely: Acquisition (procurement) Collection, Preservation (storage or preservation), and information dissemination (service). These three functions place the library in the middle between collections and users. So, if you want to invite the active participation of the community to enrich and utilize the mosque's library collection, it is important to pay attention to the diversity of the collection.

Libraries have a responsibility so that library users are able to see the ethical implications of various kinds of changes in society that come from technological and scientific advances. To be able to adapt to existing changes, it is very important to instill basic values to library users, namely: 1) Material values, namely a number of knowledge about Islam. The longer a person studies, the more books he reads, the more his religious knowledge increases; 2) Formal values, namely the value of personal formation which is concerned with the absorption of library users for all the materials they receive so that they are able by their own power to form a complete, solid, and resistant personality; and 3) Functional values, namely reading materials that are relevant to the expectations and needs of the library user community in everyday life.

To support the realization of the values needed by library users, the library needs to prepare an appropriate collection. Collections are a very valuable library asset and the basic capital of library services. Collections must be tailored to the needs of users in order to provide the best service. A good collection can be seen from the mapping of knowledge based on the subject of collections in the library, the types of collections that are often used, the diversity of types of collections, the updating of information, the number of collections borrowed, and the number of collections that are read by users when visiting the library. Collections are a very valuable library asset and the basic

capital of library services. Without a good and adequate collection, the library will not provide good service to the user community.

Library collections must be complete in the sense of a variety of subjects and sufficient in size to support the goals and programs of the parent institution in order to provide the best service, library collections must be adapted to the needs of users. This can be seen from the types of collections that are often used, the diversity of types of collections, the up-to-date information contained, the number of collections borrowed, and the number of collections that users read when visiting the library.

b. The Role of Libraries in Da'wah

Islam is a divine teaching that contains the values of life which is a concept and is applied in real life, through da'wah. Da'wah itself is an effort to spread Islam in the community. Islam itself strongly encourages its followers to read and write, where the first commandment in the Qur'an is explained in QS Al Alaq [-]: 1-5.

أَقْرَأْ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (1). خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (2). أَقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ (3)
(3). الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (4). عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ (5)

Translate::

“Read in the name of your Lord who created (1). He created man from thick blood (2). Read for the sake of your glorious Lord (3). Who teaches (humans) with a pen (4). Teaching humans the unknown (5)”

Da'wah is an activity that seeks to create a social order that is in accordance with the provisions outlined by Allah SWT. As a business, da'wah covers very broad aspects. The effort includes an invitation or call to carry out the teachings of Allah SWT. Objects or targets in da'wah activities are people with diverse backgrounds and positions, which have their own differences and characteristics.

Da'wah activities in various forms, can be carried out individually or in groups, can be directly or through the media in the community. Da'wah can be carried out through writing and also through social institutions such as schools, mosques, taklim assemblies, community organizations and libraries.

The existence of a library and the development of science are inseparable parts of each other. In this case the library provides various kinds of information both in printed and recorded (electronic) form that are useful for the development of science. Meanwhile, to obtain various information for the development of knowledge requires a library as a source of information.

In general, the library is a source of information, education, research, and preservation of the nation's cultural treasures as well as a place for recreation that is healthy, inexpensive and useful. In this case the library can be a medium or a bridge that functions to connect the sources of information and knowledge contained in the library collection with its users. The preachers and students are one of the groups of library users who need information and knowledge in the library.

To obtain this information and knowledge, the preachers and students need to carry out various activities related to learning, either in the form of reading various existing literature or by conducting small-scale research to examine various knowledge related to Islam that can be used for preaching.

The function of the library as a place of study/learning has been explained by Sulistityo Basuki, who stated that the library is a means of formal and non-formal education. That is, the library can be used not only as a means of learning, but also can be used as a means of learning outside the official education.

Libraries can also act as institutions to develop reading interest, build reading habits, and reading culture, through the provision of various reading materials in accordance with the wishes and needs of Muslims. Thus, libraries can play an active role as facilitators, mediators, and motivators for those who wish to utilize and develop their knowledge and experience.

The implementation of da'wah activities through the library, among others, can be shown in the following ways:

First, as an information institution, libraries are required to provide various materials or sources of information that are in accordance with the interests and level of thinking of the users. This is not only based on the suitability of the collection with the users, but also as a strategy to attract them to come to the library and so that the material or information provided can be understood by library users. In the perspective of da'wah, the compatibility between the material and the community as the object of da'wah will be very helpful in understanding the information or message conveyed so that it can be practiced in life.

Second, the library must not only provide materials or sources of information that are appropriate to the level of individual development, but also must be able to sort and select or select them. In this case, the library must act as a censorship institution, which is expected to provide correct information and not confuse, let alone mislead the public. The library will be a messenger of truth and a messenger of Allah's verses.

Third, information in various forms and types is the material or collection provided by the library. Therefore, in addition to the need for various forms of information storage media such as books, magazines, newspapers and audio-visual materials, there is also the need for a variety of information content. The provision of one type of information will make users limited in knowledge. The provision of diverse information, such as by providing materials and various schools of thought or sects, is expected to broaden people's horizons and erode school fanaticism which in turn can reduce unrest in society due to differences in the issue of khilafiyah.

Fourth, the library must be able to become a center for Islamic information, as a reference center in the field of Islamic studies. The library will become a means of learning and research for the community in the field of Islamic religious knowledge, or a means to fill spare time to increase public knowledge. In addition, libraries are also required to actively disseminate various Islamic information to the wider community, either directly or in collaboration with other socio-religious institutions in disseminating it, such as disseminating various ulema's fatwas related to certain issues.

Fifth, the library within certain limits is also expected to be able to organize various scientific activities, either through book review, seminar discussions and other activities as a means of developing public insight and knowledge. With these various activities, it is hoped that the library can participate in shaping the aspired society that is in accordance with the objectives of Islamic da'wah, namely the formation of a community order that is in accordance with the provisions of Allah SWT and His Messenger.

4. Conclusion

The existence of a library in the field of da'wah is a must. This is considering the importance of libraries as the heart of information and education and has an important role in the process of developing insight for the community. The existence of a library among preachers is very important, to assist the development of da'wah materials that will be broadcast by the da'i to the public through da'wah.

Libraries as a source of information for the community, can be used as a means of supporting da'wah among Muslims. Utilization of the library as a means of da'wah can be done through activities including: empowering the library as a center for da'wah information, as a place to learn religious sciences, as a place for documenting historical works and Islamic artifacts, and as a place to foster inspiration and inspiration for Moslems.

By empowering the library for the purposes mentioned above, the library can function as a source, media, and instrument for Islamic da'wah. Dai's role can be more helpful because Muslims can obtain various Islamic knowledge in the library. Muslims can further improve and empower themselves independently in the library by doing positive things.

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