

Exploring the Utilization of Museums for Academic Purposes among UIN Lecturers

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Abstract-The purpose of this study is to explore the phenomenon of the lecturers in utilizing information resource centers, especially museum for academic needs. As the cultural heritage center, museums have a very significant role in providing comprehensive information to meet the lecturer academic needs. This research was conducted at the UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta by using the phenomenological approach of qualitative method. The techniques of data collection are observation and interview. Informants of this study are lecturers of the faculty of Adab and Humanities. The research findings revealed that all the lecturers tended to agree and stated that museums have significant role to meet their academic needs, they complement other resources such as libraries. This study found out the activities that are usually carried out by some lecturers utilizing the resources of museums for the academic purposes: collecting teaching materials, giving student tasks, writing journal articles and conducting research report. Unavailability of university budget for museum academic visiting is the main reason for the lecturer not utilizing museum as the information resources.

Keyword---University Museum. State Islamic Universities. Lecturers. Academic Purposes

I. INTRODUCTION

As an Islamic higher education institution. the existence of State Islamic Universities is expected by many Muslims to become universities that contribute meaningfully not only to Muslims but also to other religious people in Indonesia [1]. Such great public expectation of the UIN. it requires UIN to do at least four actions. First is UIN must be able to maintain existence of identity of religious studies. Second UIN must be Academic Excellence. Third. UIN must be able to integrate the science of religion and technology sciences. Fourth. UIN must be an open and modern educational institution [2]. Therefore in order to improve the competitiveness of UIN with other universities is required to develop cooperation with various universities and other institutions that are broader not only limited in the fields of Islamic studies but also in the areas of other studies [3].

Museums in the context of scientific studies, especially in

the higher education are a center for the transfer of cultural and scientific development as well as technology. Its existence therefore includes the functions of education, research, recreation or entertainment, and preservation of collective memory of society [4]. Based on the observations that universities under the administration of the ministry of research and technology and higher education Republic of Indonesia such as University of Indonesia, Gajah Mada University, University of Pendidikan Indonesia and University of Airlangga they have university museums. Even each university there is more than one university museum. Those are university museums managed by study programs, faculties and universities.

Unfortunately, the status of university museums at those universities is still considered by many academics merely as warehouses that store historical objects. It should duly be also treated as center of information resources to support the students and faculty members to meet their information needs for both education and research purposes. Therefore the understanding paradigm of university museum must be changed among academics from understanding as a physical entity to a value entity. In the other word we must understand the university museum as an institution not just a merely physical building [5].

As a cultural heritage institution, museums and libraries have similar mission to maintain collective memory and to improve community intelligence and empowerment. Therefore, the museum objects consist also of information on the basis of lifelong learning for the community to create a democratic society, justice, professionalism, openness, measurement and partnership [6].

The collection of university museum is not just a collection of objects, but more than that it also is able to reveal various intellectual works and cultural practices that fundamentally are the processes of human social relations [7]. Because of a museum has potential for people to learn the world around them and everything about their past its role in inspiring every one very significant to make the future better [8]. The museum

generally consists of two types. The first is general museum and the other one is special

The university museum is one of types of museum which is a repository of collections or objects that have a study value held by a university- level educational institution. The university's museum was founded to support teaching and research within institutions of higher education (universities). The university museum is also considered a laboratory for science technology and art and culture [10].

There are two perspectives of people in understanding the university museum. First one is the meaning of university museum as a laboratory and the other is a university museum as a historical development of the university in term of cultural, social, technological heritages. Because of museum is also considered a laboratory, the museum is needed not only in the areas of historical studies, sociology, anthropology, art and culture but also for studies of science and technology, medicine, forestry and so on.

Some examples of universities in Indonesia which have university museums such as the University of Indonesia there is a medical museum, at University of Airlangga there are museum of history and museum of anthropology, at Gajah Mada University there are museum of UGM and also museum of anthropology, museum of history and museum of forestry, at UPI there is a museum of Indonesian history of education.

On the basis of fact there are two kinds of museum at Indonesia universities. The first one is museum on the history of the university and the second one is that serve as a laboratory to support teaching and learning and research activities of students and lecturers. The Islamic perspective on preservation of human cultural heritage is very relevant to the concept of the museum.

Various human cultural heritage as museum collections can be used as a means of education and research. Empirically it has been done by Muslims in the history of its development from the beginning not only with its attitude but also with its positive behavior. Therefore, Muslims treat the cultural heritage of other civilizations nations by respecting and maintaining the cultural heritage and artwork of the civilizations of previous nations. Beginning with the entry of Muslims into Egypt under the leadership of 'Amr Al'As (642 AD), at that time Muslims found many relatively large temples, towering statues, and a wealth of antiquities which referred to civilization - pharaonic or ancient (pharaonic), Greek, and Christian civilization. There is no one (among Muslims) who destroys all the objects of civilization inherited from previous nations [11].

Muslim Arabs who previously had not had high and established academic and civilization cultures, then after they decided to interact with various civilizations inherited from nations that had advanced both in the East and in the West such as Greece, Rome, India, China, Egypt and Persia, then they were once the most advanced nation in developing sciences [12]. Their opportunity to be able to interact with various sources of scientific heritage and civilization of other nations is a gift of Allah SWT for Muslims. So that with the diligence of effort in developing knowledge, they (Muslims) have

succeeded in gaining glory in terms of building science, culture and human civilization which is recognized all the time. They contributed a lot of insight and contributed new knowledge they did through synthesis by integrating knowledge from East and West with the values of Islamic spirit [13].

Today there are currently policy changes in the services of university museums at several universities. Many university museums now offer its services not only to their university communities but also provide services to schools and outside university communities. The provision of university museum services for the purpose of education is to make a schedule of visiting hours and also provide assistance for explanations about some of the museum collection objects [14]

II. METHODS

This research was done in state Islamic university Jakarta, The qualitative method used in this study with the phenomenology approach. This approach was used in order to describe the general understanding of several individuals on their various experiences related to the concept.[15]The primary source of this study collected through observation and in-depth interview not only individually but also in the form of focus group discussion or panel[16, p. 135]. The criterions of the informants in this study are those who are considered competent and they also should be directly involved and experienced in running the library resource sharing program in their libraries.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As we mentioned before, even though all universities under the Ministry of Religion Affairs administration both public and private there is no one of them has a museum that serve as information resource center. But it does not mean that the activities of teaching and learning among students and also lecturers never utilize the museum. The findings of this study indicated that students and lecturers in their academic activities utilize not only libraries but also the museum as information resource centers.

Some activities that lecturers and students utilize the museum as a core information resource center are for the purposes of teaching materials, student tasks, writing journal article and conducting research reports. In term of teaching and learning materials and conducting research activities, lecturers usually utilize the objects of museum are aimed to have more accurate information on the historical facts, cultural art of nations and social development heritage.

When the students are asked by their lecturers to conduct the academic assignments they usually visit the museum to make academic report base on the museum objects about the respective topic or theme. The assignment then must be presented in front of class. Therefore, the assignments must also be proven and complemented with facts that referred from the objects of museum.

The complementary of references could be in variety forms such as photos and videos. Those assignment works of students are collected by the lecturers as learning media to be assessed. Then, finally the student works could also be part of the

laboratory collection.

In fact, it is believed that university museum is needed for the activities of teaching and learning and also research both for lecturers and students. Unfortunately, only few lecturers utilize museum for their teaching and learning and also research activities. There are some barriers faced by lecturers in utilizing the museum for their teaching and learning and also research activities. There is a regulation that hinders lecturers to collect sum of money from students even for academic activity purposes like visiting museum. But the faculty is also not allowed to allocate for the program of student visit.

To overcome the cost of museum visit program, the collection of fees for the program should be handled by the students themselves. Another obstacle in pioneering the university museum is the institutional problem in university statutes or structure of university. But if the university museum is considered as a laboratory in the university statutes then the status of museum's existence does not violate the rules.

The important factor to provide museum at university is the factor of good will from anyone. Because without good intentions everything never be done. The importance of the university museum for a university is to meet the requirements as a research university is very urgent. Therefore, almost reputed universities have university museums whether its function as laboratory or historical development of the university.

As university under administration of the ministry of religion affairs that State Islamic Universities are required to be able to compete with other universities under the administration of the ministry of research and technology and higher education. Even they must be also able to be equivalent with other international universities.

Currently, none of state Islamic universities have university museum which is aimed as a laboratory or as a collective memory of historical institution. At least, Some of state Islamic universities must have university museums as representation of all Indonesia state Islamic higher educations In Islam there is an important quote that always becomes motivation for every Muslim that able to manipulate his or her power more than what his or her thinking before. The quote is "Man Jadda Wa Jad" that means "Who want to strive then he or she succeed".

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Although none of the state Islamic universities have a museum, it does not mean that their learning culture does not utilize the museum as a center of information resources to fulfill their academic needs. This study indicated that both lecturers and students believe museum is one of the center of information resources beside library. The findings of this study show among activities that can be carried out by lecturers in utilizing museums are collecting teaching materials, giving student tasks, writing journal articles and conducting research report. Unfortunately, in practice only few lecturers who ever utilize museums as information resource centers to meet their academic needs. As research universities that the provision of university museums at the state Islamic universities is

something that is impossible to avoid. Considering that almost all reputable research universities in Indonesia and abroad have museums then ideally the state Islamic universities have no choice and are required to be able to try to equip the facilities that can support educational and research activities.

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