Dissemination of the Use of Reference Tools in Scientific Writing

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ABSTRACT

This community service activity aims to improve students' skills and knowledge in using the reference tool in writing scientific papers. This community service activity was carried out on students of the Department of Physical Education Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu with 40 participants. Implementation methods in activities include: (1) Preparation Phase. At this stage the team did all the preparations for the implementation of the activity, starting from noting the number and readiness of the participants who would take part in the training and developing a WhatsApp Group to facilitate communication and distribution of materials before and during the training. In addition, at this stage the PKM team prepares PowerPoint materials about the Mendeley application which will be delivered starting from the introduction of the application, its benefits, how to install it to how to use it on a laptop. (2) Service Implementation Stage. At this stage, the material is delivered both how to install and use the Mendeley application and online training/practice guidance. (3) Evaluation Stage. At this stage the PkM team evaluates the implementation of activities by distributing a questionnaire via "google form" which consists of several questions related to the development of abilities and student responses as participants in using the Mendeley application. As a result of this activity, students are now able to use the Mendeley application in writing scientific papers. Students in this activity are very enthusiastic and have high motivation in learning.

KEYWORDS
Reference Tool;
Mendeley;
Writing;
Physical Education

1. Introduction

Higher Education always strives to advance and develop in order to maintain its reputation and improve its achievements. This will affect the views of the general public and the world of education. To become an advanced university, there are several indicators of achievement that can be seen, including the work of lecturers and students recognized by academics, one of which is in the form of writing as a scientific paper that can be used by other people, for example by the government in establish a policy that concerns the interests of the wider community [1], [2]. Thus, the scientific work produced should use good and correct language so that the core to be conveyed is easier to understand [3]. In addition, most scientific works must be the result of the personal thoughts of lecturers/students plus several scientific works/books by other people that can be used as additional references so that they can guarantee their quality [4]. Some of the weaknesses that often occur in writing scientific papers by beginners include making paragraphs that are less effective, writing/sentences that are less easy to understand, less precise how to make quotations and how to write references used [1], [5], [6].

In general, one indication of a quality written work is related to the element of plagiarism which often occurs due to a person's lack of knowledge about citing techniques or how to do citations [7]–[9]. Therefore, lecturers and students in particular must be equipped with knowledge on how to do good citations in order to produce good and quality scientific works to be published in national/international

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journals [10], [11]. Meanwhile, from various types of references that are currently very easy to find, students must have a good ability to search, find and then determine appropriate and appropriate references to be used in writing their thesis/final project/scientific work [12]–[15]. Because this is also one of the important points in assessing the quality of a scientific work [16]. It is no less important related to the management of article references from various scientific journals that must be carried out by students [17]. Article reference management can be done manually or with the help of an application [18]. The application assistance not only helps in compiling the bibliography properly and correctly and making citations, but also managing reference documents, retrieving metadata of reference documents, grouping, taking notes and other things [19].

The contribution of this community service is students of the Department of Physical Education, Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu. Determination of targets is carried out with several considerations, one of which is the condition of students who are in the preparation of scientific papers as final assignments in the form of thesis and journal articles, as well as student complaints stating difficulties in managing a large number of reference sources [2], [20]. In addition, based on the results of interviews conducted with the Head of the Department of Physical Education, Mr. Feby Elra Perdima, M.Pd before this service activity was carried out, he said that students did not fully understand how to make an easier bibliography using applications/software, because it is usually done manually [21]–[23].

In managing references sourced from books or journals, it can be done with the help of several available software/applications, such as Mendeley, Endnote, Zetero and others [24]–[27]. The existence of software such as Mendeley that can be used to help write citations, allows writers to process their reference documents [26], [28]. Mendeley is an application developed by "Gregor Mendel" and "Dmitri Mendeleyev" where this application was launched by Mendeley Ltd to make it easier for writers to manage references/literature [29], [30]. By using Mendeley students can manage writing references easily [31]–[34]. As a reference manager, students can record information for each reference source file into Mendeley once, then just call/refer to the reference many times in the body of the article [35].

Based on the results of an interview with Mr. Feby Elra Perdima, the community service team will provide training to students on the use of the Mendeley application to help students make bibliography easier. However, considering that the distance from Pekanbaru City to Bengkulu City is very far and also due to the current condition that is still a pandemic, the training will be held online through Zoom Meeting, and will be held 4 times. It is hoped that through this training students can produce good scientific works and be able to write citations and bibliography correctly. This activity aims to improve the skills and knowledge of students of the Department of Physical Education, Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu, in using the reference tool in writing scientific papers.

2. Method

This community service activity (PKM) is carried out online using the Zoom Meeting in August 2021 with the target of service/participants being 40 semester students of the Department of Physical Education, Bengkulu Province, Bengkulu Province. The implementation methods in community service activities at the Department of Physical Education, Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu, include:

2.1. Preparation Stage

At this stage, the Team made all the preparations for the implementation of activities, starting from recording the number and readiness of participants who would attend the training and developing a Whatsapp Group to facilitate communication and distribution of materials before and during the training. In addition, at this stage the team prepares powerpoint material about the Mendeley Application which will be delivered starting from the introduction of the application, its benefits, how to install it to how to use it on a laptop.

2.2. Implementation Stage

At this stage, the material is delivered both how to install and use the Mendeley application and online training/practice guidance [36]–[39]. The stage of delivering the material was done by way of a presentation using PowerPoint, after that the team explained and showed the steps to install and use the Mendeley application in Ms. Word [33]–[35], [39]. After that, training/practice guidance was carried out, where before the start of the activity the participants had been given information through the WhatsApp Group to take part in the activity using a cellphone so that they could immediately practice it on their respective laptops. Due to the situation and conditions, the team conducted online guidance by explaining slowly and gradually each step so that activity participants could understand and follow easily.

2.3. Evaluation Stage

At this stage the team evaluates the implementation of the activity by distributing a questionnaire via the google form which consists of several questions related to the development of abilities and student responses as participants in using the Mendeley application. The results of the evaluation were also strengthened by conducting interviews by the Team to each participant.

3. Results and Discussion

The Mendeley desktop utilization training session begins by introducing participants to the Mendeley desktop software. Mendeley desktop is a term used for software or freeware that provides a reference manager program. The program will make it easier for authors to include references. There are various kinds of software that can be chosen to make it easier to write references, one of which is Mendeley Desktop. This community service activity received a very positive response from partners, namely students from the Department of Physical Education, Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu. This is because this program is in accordance with their needs, namely to write thesis and produce scientific works as a condition for completing studies. This training was attended by students who actively participated in following the entire process of activities using Zoom Meeting is shown in Fig. 1.

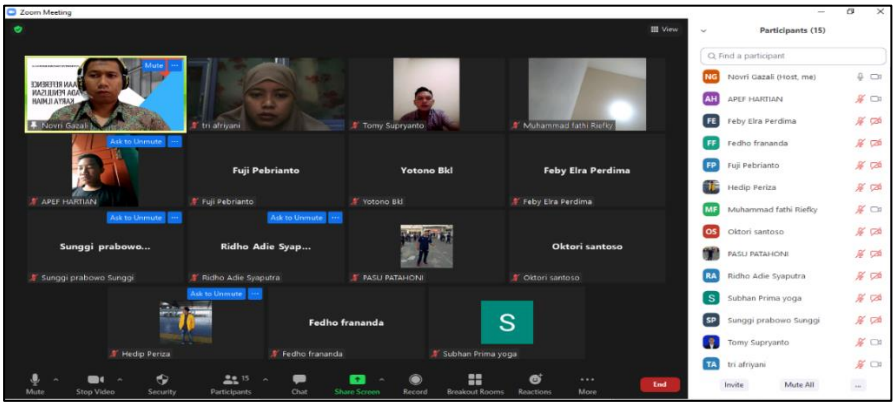

Fig. 1. Training Activities

All of the training participants were highly motivated, that is, they were very enthusiastic about the training activities. This indicates that the training participants are aware of the importance of writing a thesis or scientific work, which in this case is greatly helped by using the Mendeley application. After the training, the participants gave a positive impression and hoped that the next trainings could be held again at their place. Increasing the ability to write a thesis or scientific work is a demand for every student at this time. This is a forum for increasing student competence which will ultimately have an impact on improving the quality of education. As stated by Windarto, Hartama, Anjar Wanto, and Parlina, that this Mendeley training activity is a special program for academics in citing scientific papers [40]. So that with

this training program, students feel it is very helpful to be more productive. Briefly, based on the results obtained from the community service activities (PKM) that have been described, it can be seen that this service activity received a very good response from the participants. The students of the Department of Physical Education, Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu, were very active in each activity session. The activities attended by the service participants went well, where there was good and proactive cooperation among the participants who were very enthusiastic in discussing the material that had been given in the training. The success of this service activity can be seen from the high willingness or sincerity shown by the participants through activities during the activity. This shows that they feel the benefits of this community service activity so that they consider the importance of using the Mendeley application in helping them write scientific papers.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the implementation of the activities that have been carried out, several conclusions can be drawn as follows the knowledge of students from the Department of Physical Education at the Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu about training on the use of Mendeley desktops in general was still inadequate before the training was carried out. Delivery of training on the use of Mendeley desktops to trainees can increase knowledge as well as a stimulant so that students are more creative in making interactive scientific references. The activity carried out by a lecturer at the Islamic University of Riau at the Department of Physical Education at the Universitas Dehasen Bengkulu is a positive activity that aims to assist students in managing reference managers properly to improve the quality of education in Indonesia.

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Author Contribution

All authors contributed equally to the main contributor to this paper. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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