

Library Transformation through Open Virtual Literacy (OVL) during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Best Practices of Indonesian Center for Agricultural Library and Technology Dissemination, Ministry of Agriculture

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Abstract

The impact of the corona virus disease (COVID-19) as a global pandemic has a wide impact on human life around the world, including on libraries. Therefore, the Indonesian Center for Agricultural Library and Technology Dissemination, Ministry of Agriculture launched the *Open Virtual literacy* (OVL) program, namely online interactive communication literacy. OVL is a transformation of library activities and the dissemination of agricultural technology online through video conferencing (zoom meeting application) which aims to bring libraries closer to the community; increase community knowledge and skills in the agricultural sector; transactions medium for agricultural business, and is useful as a medium to bring together information sources/experts/agricultural business actors with massive stakeholders. The study method used descriptive analysis of the OVL activity from April to December 2020. The results showed that since the start of OVL in a period of nine months starting from April to December 2020, 244 virtual literacy times have been implemented. The types of virtual literacy carried out were technical guidance as much as 75 (30.74%), webinars 64 (26.23%), Focus Group Discussion 62 (25.41), Live Action Library/Agriculture 24 (9.84%) and Information Literacy 19 (7.79%). In addition, stakeholders who use OVL as a medium that brings together information sources/experts/agricultural business actors are 28 times (12.28%). Based on the results of the analysis, it is known that OVL is very useful for users and stakeholders.

Keywords: Information literacy; transformation; library ; agriculture

1. Introduction

The Indonesian Center for Agricultural Library and Technology Dissemination (ICALTD) Ministry of Agriculture which is one of the special libraries in Indonesia, is the only one that provides the largest source of agricultural information. ICALTD in accordance with its main duties and functions is to carry out library management and dissemination of information on agricultural science and technology, as well as to support the Ministry of Agriculture's program that realizes advanced, independent, and modern agriculture with the aim of sustainable farmer sovereignty and welfare, starting in 2020, ICALTD has made efforts to bring agricultural information closer to stakeholders, namely library users, the general public and related stakeholders who need agricultural information.

ICALTD which has offline services in four places, namely are the (1) PUSTAKA Juanda 20; (2) Gedung Perpustakaan dan Pengetahuan Pertanian (P3D); (3) Soil and Agriculture Museum; and (4) Dramaga Library for supporting agricultural development with a digital library, as a center for education and recreation, agricultural innovation show cases, workspaces/meetings, business incubators in agriculture, promotion of agricultural technology innovation, and facilitating technology; and start-ups and agricultural innovation.

The pandemic impact of covid-19 causes all library services to transform into several types of services from onsite/offline to online/virtual services. The transformation of services from onsite/offline to online/virtual carried out by the Center for Library and Dissemination of Agricultural Technology is a program conducted by Open Virtual Literacy (OVL) on March 3, 2020. Agricultural information sources are also to share the same contribution in facing the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Open Virtual Literacy (OVL) program is an interactive communication-based agricultural literacy activity to bring ICALTD more closer to audiences who need agricultural information wherever they are. people throughout Indonesia with the aim of increasing the knowledge and skills of people and farmers in agriculture; agricultural business transacting media; and as a medium to bring together sources of information for both agricultural experts and business actors, as well as to build a productivity spirit for librarians.

This program allows ICALTD to continue and interact with users, communities and other stakeholders even though they are far away and not in one place. In addition, the OVL program was launched with the consideration that agricultural literacy is important for farmers to master because Indonesia's economy is highly dependent on farmer productivity.

Farmers can be given training about agriculture through video conferencing, as well as get access to capital and guidance from cultivation to marketing so that they can get optimal benefits. The OVL program implemented includes activities to utilize various agricultural information content contained in the ICALTD portal to stakeholders, namely researchers, extension agents and policy makers within the Ministry of Agriculture; the general public, especially farmers, by transforming various agricultural contents so that they are easily understood by farmers. The information disseminated is related to increasing the productivity of researchers, extension workers, and policy makers so as to produce new technological innovations and various information related to farming for farmers to increase the productivity of the agriculture they run. This paper reviews the OVL implementation that has been implemented by ICALTD in 2020. The assessment method uses OVL utilization data for a period of one year in April-December 2020 with descriptive analysis.

2. Open Virtual Literacy (OVL)

The OVL program actually is a video conferencing activity using teleworking applications by combining video, audio and text to communicate with participants in cyberspace online to literate participants (the community) who follow so that agricultural information literates. The benefit of using video conferencing is that it facilitates the ICALTD directly with the public, effectively and efficiently. In addition, according to the government's appeal for social distancing and physical distancing, ICALTD through OVL can face-to-face interactions even though they

don't participate. OVL it is hoped that it can break the chain of spreading the corona virus in Indonesia.

OVL aims to increase the knowledge and skills of the community, farmers and extension workers in the agricultural sector; agricultural business transacting media; and as a medium to bring together sources of information, both agricultural experts and entrepreneurs, as a means of technical guidance for both agricultural technology and libraries, as well as building a spirit of productivity for librarians.

The use of OVL enables ICATLD to perform its main tasks and functions, which are usually mostly offline, online and interactive by approaching users (the library comes to you). OVL is expected to fulfill the presence of ICALTD wherever the community is, can reach people throughout Indonesia, can still interact with users, communities and other stakeholders even though the places are far apart and not in one place.

Another important task related to economic development for farmers is PUSTAKA's support for the Ministry of Agriculture's program to build agricultural ecosystems using digital means. Through Oviral, farmers are given training and knowledge about agriculture; get access to capital and guidance from cultivation to marketing so that they can get optimal profits.

Figure 1 showed concepts of the ICALTD task in library management. Most of the services and dissemination of agricultural technology are carried out offline, but through OVL, program is still running well by utilizing video conferencing. Library service programs, activities of the Museum of Soil and Agriculture, and activities of disseminating agricultural technology can still be carried out through oviral.

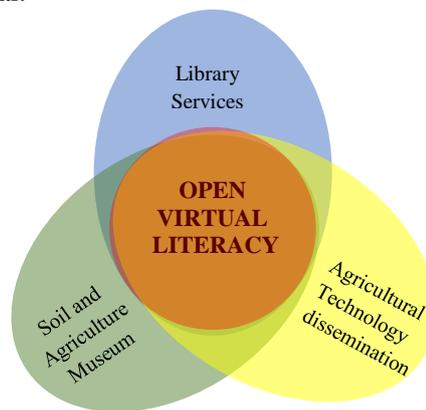


Figure 1 Open Virtual Literacy (Oviral) Concept

3. Implementation of Open Virtual Literasi (OVL)

3.1 Types of Services

During the period March-December 2020, OVL has been used 244 times by users, in means, OVL implemented by ICALTD on average once per day. However, this OVL program did not necessarily eliminate the onsite service activities that were previously implemented. The transformation of the Library Center and Agricultural Technology Dissemination services carried out in 2020 can be seen in Table 1.

On the Table 1 showed that PUSTAKA activities that use OVL are almost all library service activities except for library circulation. Library circulation during the Covid 19 pandemic emphasized digital library services through ITani applications and repositories. As for the dissemination of agricultural technology, an activity that uses OVL is live in action agricultural technology, which is a program to bring together farmers and agricultural experts. In the soil and agricultural museum activity, OVL was used for a virtual live tour of the museum which previously could only be done onsite.

Tabel 1 Types of services on ICALTD 2020 during pandemic Covid (March-Desember 2020)

No	Types of Services	Onsite	Online	OVL
Library Services				
1	Library circulation	-	√	-
2	Library Training	-	-	√
3	Information Literacy training	-	-	√
4	Knowledge Sharing activity	-	-	√
5	Librarianship coaching	-	-	√
6	User education	-	-	√
7	Live Tour Library	-	-	√
Agricultural Technology Dissemination				
1	Website	-	√	-
2	ITani (digital library application)	-	√	-
4	Live In Action agricultural technology	-	-	√
5	Social Media content	-	√	√
Soil and Agriculture Museum				
1	Live Tour Museum	√		√

3.2 Open Virtual Literasi Programs

Based on the results of data analysis, it is known that the programs that use the most OVL are user education activities 75 times (30.74%), followed by Webinars 64 times (26.23%); 62 Focus Group Discussion / FGD times (25.41%); and the lowest is live action / live tour library / museum as much as 12.28% (24 times) (Figure 1). In addition, the information literacy program, which was initially carried out onsite, was carried out through OVL 19 times (7.79%) in 2020.

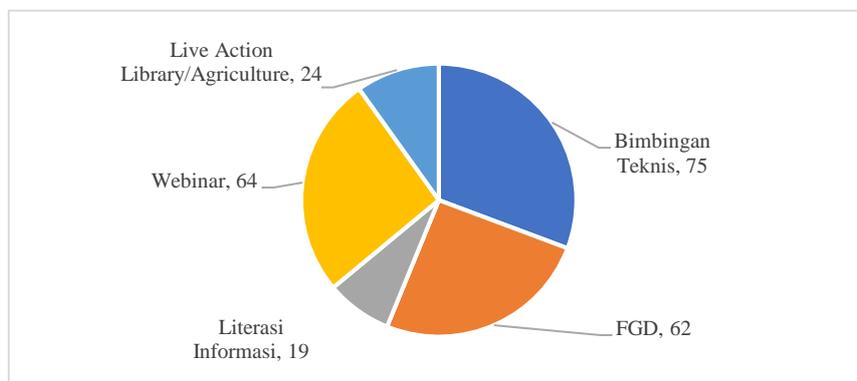


Figure 2 Open Virtual Literacy Program

User education occupies the most programs because ICALTD has the main task of fostering library work units within the Ministry of Agriculture. The user education is a routine activity for librarians throughout Indonesia. Forum Group Discussion (FGD) is also held very often, where the FGD is mostly focused on internal and external meetings which are usually held onsite but during the pandemic through OVL

During 2020, user trends indicated that OVL utilization was quite high, especially during April-July and began to slope slightly in the following months to December. However, when compared to the onsite utilization of various ICALTD services, OVL is felt very rapidly. (Figure 3).

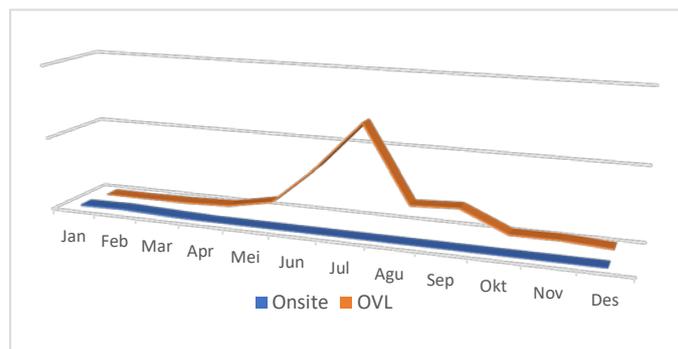


Figure 3 Trend of iCALTD user

4. Conclusion

PUSTAKA has the main duties and functions of carrying out library management and disseminating information on agricultural science and technology. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, ICATLD carried out activities namely bringing library services closer to its users, by utilizing a video conference program, namely the Open Virtual Literacy Program. The OVL program has been proven to be able to reach various users from within the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers and the wider community. The material in the OVL program is very diverse and it is hoped that it will be useful for increasing competence and productivity, and community welfare. Most importantly, PUSTAKA has started to function as "Bridging Invention to Innovation" towards a prosperous people through various findings and innovations made by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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