

THE ROLE OF MOSQUE LIBRARY AS A KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTION

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Abstract

Mosque plays the crucial role in all aspects especially in education process during the period of Prophet of Muhammad S.A.W. It is not just only as a place of worship, but it has a various functional role in human development and society in terms of spiritual and physical. It can be proved by the existence of the mosque library around the world. In reality, the mosque and library is a good combination of knowledge for the community. Most of the research was discussed generally on the mosque library and its role was still unclear among the community. The goal of this research is to identify the role of mosque library as a knowledge institution in Malaysia. The concepts that related to the mosque library in this research are the role of mosque library and its collection. From this research, that mosque library in Malaysia has its own potential to develop and become one of the main knowledge centers to their citizens.

Keywords: Mosque library, Islamic library, Mosque, Role of Mosque library, collection

1. Introduction

Generally, the community around the world thought that the mosque as a main place of worship in the daily life of Muslim. Such assumptions should be changed so that the community in this era of modernization has a better understanding of the concept of the mosque. Actually, the mosque is not only the place of worship but it is used as a place of activities for the advantage of the public. One of the activities that can be done in the mosque is learning and reading activities. Learning and reading activities play an important role in the emergence of the mosque library.

Therefore, this research aims to discuss the role of mosque library as a knowledge Institution in Malaysia. Therefore, there are several variables found based on the previous such as the role of mosque library, the collection of the material, the classification, management, challenges, facilities and the system. Therefore, the discussion focuses on two variables, which are the role of the mosque library and the collection of the materials in the mosque library.

In this research, most of the previous study focuses on the mosque as a place of worship. It is difficult to find that the mosque as reading places. Although there are several mosques that have libraries, but its role is still unclear. Therefore, this research will be a focus on the role of mosque library in Malaysia and its collection.

There are some issues that have been explained that related to on how the effectiveness the mosque library as a knowledge institution in Malaysia. Based on our research, there is a limitation that occurred during conducting the research, which is topics of the library was too general such as the role of mosque and mosque library, collection, classification, management, challenges, facilities, and system that it is not specific. Therefore, it is difficult to us in conducting our research

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that focused on the mosque library. The aim of this study is to investigate the effectiveness the role of mosque library as a knowledge institution in Malaysia.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 is literature review. Proposed framework is in Section 3. Section 4 is expected outcome and final section contains some concluding remarks.

2. Literature Review

Table 1 shows the several types of variables that have been reviewed from thirty articles. However, based on the previous research, the discussion only focuses on two variables, which are the role of the mosque library and the collections of the materials in the mosque library. These several variables were analyzed to discover the role of mosque library and the collection of the materials in mosque library.

The word mosque can be identified from the Arabic word, which is 'Masjid', the place of worship. The Mosque just not refers to the building but it can become a place to devote to Allah. According to Tamuri et al. (2012), the mosque has the greatest liability in the community across the globe starting from the era of Prophet Muhammad S.A.W and as a place for teaching and learning related to the Islamic education. They stated the mosque is related to teaching and learning based were really benefited by the student improvement. In order to emphasize the role of the mosque as a knowledge institution, an effective plan should be generated with an implement on the training of sustainable facilities management (Sapri et al., 2016). Moreover, Wahab et al. (2016), focus on the roles of a mosque in the expansion of ummah in order to generate the mosque in Malaysia as the main center. The expert committee of that mosque will be able to manage the mosque in good ways (Wahab et al., 2016)

The effort of Prophet Muhammad in spreading the Islam has brought to the mosque as the one-stop center around the world. The mosque can be said as a place for discussion activities by scholarly as well as the place of worship. Besides, the mosque becomes more important since there is an establishment of the mosque library around the world. Some research show the mosque library role to the intellectual life, as Rahmawati (2013) measures that the mosque library is a public library that really benefits to all stage of the community and helps in the improving the intellectual of the nation and concludes that with the existence of mosque library it is likely to improve the reading culture of the community. According to Sutriano et al. (2016) suggest that one of the ways to prosper the mosque is the establishment of the mosque library because the library is the information provider. The author further states that the establishment of the mosque library in the Islamic world always ignores by the community nowadays and some of the mosque libraries need the professional librarian for the upcoming generation (Mamat, 2013). Based on the research from Kurniasih et al. (2015) suggest that the managers of the mosque library have to know the main function of mosque library in order to administer the mosque library efficiently and effectively.

The collection of the materials plays a crucial role in attracting the users to visit the library, especially the mosque library. Based on the articles review, some authors focus on the collection of materials in mosque library. There are several mosque libraries that are not fully functional due to the collection of material that has not been managed well and only a few mosque libraries that gives the best contribution to increasing the understanding of the community in that area (Sutriano

et al., 2016). Moreover, according to Mamat (2013), he found that most of the libraries normally comprise the collections for about 100 to 1000 copies of the books. The author stated that it is different to mosque library because mosque library comprises a collection not more than 100 copies of books. Rosfiantika & Yusup (2015), suggest that facilities in the form of a collection of the book should be provided to the congregation in order to attract them to visit the mosque library. Therefore, it can be said that collection of the materials is important in attracting the people especially the congregation to visit the mosque library.

The weakness of implementing mosque library in the mosque is the mosque library still did not have a suitable classification system that can use in manage all the materials in the mosque library. Idrees (2012a), in his research, mentioned that there is no actual practice about the usage of classification systems that available for Islamic collection in the mosque libraries. Mamat (2013) stated most of the classification in the libraries was using a western division of knowledge that ponders on Christian religious subject than others. According to Idrees (2012b), he points out that this happens due a background of the creators of the standard classification that unaware of the scope of Islamic knowledge and the diversity of topics and material being made. This is because all of the creators was from western except Ranganathan which from India but not Islam (Idrees, 2012b). However, there was still a few library especially in Indonesia apply the western classification such as DDC (Dewey decimal classification) (Kurniasih, et al., 2015; Mufid, et al., 2014).

A proper management can affect the mosque library management. Movahed (2014) suggested the Imams of mosque need to educate with the management in order to create an effectiveness of the management, especially in this modern technology. It is to achieve the vital goal that is to guide human closer to the God (Arasteh, 2014). In spite of this, Arasteh (2014) mentioned the important of the management that need to be strong by creating an effective organization in order to achieve the main goals of the mosque library. On the other hand, Laugu & Zulaikha (2015) emphasizes to create an environment, which affects people life through a good management as to show the important of mosque library as a place for conducting study or decision-making activity.

There are few challenges of implementing mosque library whether in Malaysia or others country especially Indonesia and Brunei. Based on Momin (2012), the mosque library is not suitable to be developed and not receiving allocation budget from the government to manage their libraries. Rosfiantika & Yusup (2015) agreed that one of the biggest challenges in implementing mosque library in any Islamic community is pursuit the best way to implement reading habit in mosque library as one of the activities for gaining the general knowledge and religious at the same times. Another challenge that has been identified by Baharuddin & Sulaiman (2015) is some of the systems of classification was not related to Islamic subjects because it is very limited to Islamic view.

Tamuri et al. (2012) mentioned in their study, there were a few of the facilities in the mosque were partial for the types of religious activities only. In another word, the facilities that have in mosque do not support any other activity especially in reading material that related religious topic only. According to Farhan Wijaya et al. (2016), the facilities can help the management became more efficiency. They found that a specialization should be made to support facilities management practice in the mosque. It is extremely significance for great facilities management practice to show

that advantages facilities management procedures are able in giving positive effect in flourishing the mosque.

Mufid et al. (2014) in their research in “Masjid Library Development: Implementation of Mosque Library Based on National Library's Ri 1” mentioned that the standard system is important for implementation in the mosque library management that perfect with the aim of the foundation of the library. Hoque et al. (2015) include the Islamic education system as an alternatives system that considered by parents to send their child for study. Abidin (2014) agreed on the Islamic education is important in knowledge development where it sustained the Islamic civilization continuously. This statement becomes more concrete when Noordin et al. (2016) mentioned the lifelong learning model that should merge into mosque library as to change the traditional approach.

Table 1. Types of Variables

| Author | Role | | Collection | Classification | Management | Challenges | Facilities | System |
|--|--------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| | Mosque | Mosque Library | | | | | | |
| Sutirion No; M.Pd.i (2016) | | / | / | | | | | |
| Ab. Halim Tamuri; Muhamad Faiz Ismail; Kamarul Azmi Jasmi; (2012) | / | | | | | | / | |
| Ali Saif Al-Aufi; Peter Johan Lor (2011) | / | | | | | | | |
| Triani Rahmawati (2012) | | / | / | | | | | |
| Fathurrahman (2015) | / | | | | | | | |
| Wan Ali Wan Mamat (2013) | | / | / | / | | | | / |
| Nor Azzah binti Momin (2012) | | / | | | | / | | |
| Maimunah Sapri; Zafirah Ab Muin; Ibrahim Sipan (2016) | | | | | | | / | |
| Nakhlu Zatul Akmam; A.T.M. Shamsuzzoha (2014) | | | / | | / | | | |
| Efi Rosfiantika; Pawit M Yusup (2015) | | | / | | | / | | |
| A.T.M Shamsuzzoha (2012) | | / | | | / | | | |
| Haroon Idrees (2012a) | | | | / | | | | |
| Hossein Javan Arasteh (2014) | | | | | / | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Dr. Khosro Movahed (2014) | | | | | / | | | |
| Haroon Idrees (2012) | | | | / | | | | |
| Nor Azlina Abd. Wahab, Norafifah Ab. Hamid, Norajilla Che Man (2016) | / | | | | | | | |
| Mufid, S.Ag., SS.,M.Hum. (2014) | | | | / | / | | | / |
| Muhammad Farhan Wijaya; Mohd Dani Muhamad (2016) | | | | | | | / | |
| Didin Saepudin (2016) | | / | | | | | | |
| Gerhard Endress (2016) | / | | | | | | | |
| Kurniasih, N.; Komariah, N.; Rachmawati; T.S. Rodiah, S. (2015) | | / | | / | | | | |
| Pawit M. Yusup; Evi Rosfiantika (2015) | | | | | | | / | |
| Maimunah Sapri; Zafirah Ab Muin; Ibrahim Sipan; Anthony Adjei-Twum; Farahwahida Mohd Yusof; Rosadah Mahamud; Mustafa Omar (2014) | / | | | | | | | |
| Md Obaydul Hoque; Muhammad Shafi Uddin; Muhammad Nazmul huda (2015) | | | | | | | | / |
| Essam A.H. Mansour (2015) | | | | | | | | / |
| Dr.Nurdin Laugu; Dr. Sri Rohyanti Zulaikha (2015) | | / | | | / | | | |
| Dhini | | | | | | | / | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| Dewiyanti; Bambang Setia Budi (2015) | | | | | | | | |
| Zainal Abidin (2014) | / | | | | | | | / |
| Siti Arpah Noordin; Mad Khir Johari Abdullah Sani; Mohamad Noorman Masrek; Ahmad Nadzri Mohamad (2016) | | | | | | | | / |
| Mohammad Fazli Baharuddin; Shaharom TM Sulaiman (2015) | | | | | | / | | |

The analysis analytic table shows there are seven variables was obtained from the reviewing of thirty articles. In general, the authors stated that the most variable found is assigned by the role of the mosque library while the least variable found is assigned by the facilities in mosque library.

After the migration to Medina, the first step of the Prophet Muhammad S.A.W was establishing the Mosque. The mosque is the ultimate center for the Muslim to conduct activities include religious, politics, military, social and educations under one roof. It was considered as the most effective religious buildings and a place where the Islamic civilization started and serves as the traditional place of worship. The role of the mosque is not just only as a place of worship, but it has a multifunctional role in human development and society in terms of spiritual, physical, and educational activities. According to Fathurrahman (2015), the existence of Islamic educational institutions is a continuation of the educational system of the mosque. This can be proved by the presence of the mosque library in around the world, especially in the Islamic country.

3. Proposed Framework

Figure 1 shows the research framework that will be our outlines for the research. It is to shows how the concepts converting into variables where the researches will more focus on. This will help the researcher to narrow down the scope by focusing on variables that are more specific. From our literature review, we found several variables such as the role of mosque library, collection, classification, management, challenges, facilities, and system that altered to the concept of the mosque library. However, since it was too general, thus, we decided to emphasize on two variables that are the role of mosque library and its collection of materials. The mosque library is independent variables, which it is stand-alone and cannot change by other variables that to be measured. Meanwhile, the role of mosque library and the collection of materials are dependent variables. This both variables will be manipulated by the change in independent.

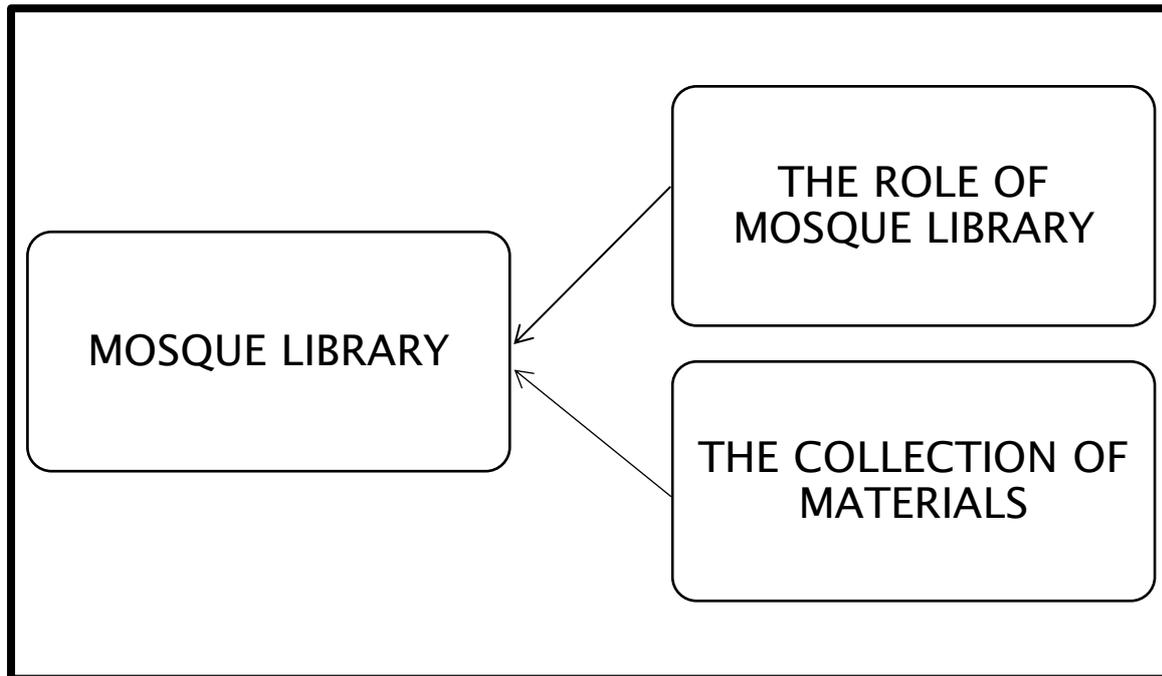


Figure 1. The mosque library research framework

3.1 *The role of mosque library*

The mosque library can be defined as a specific library that focused on the Islamic collection which priority for Jemaah and people who live nearest to the mosque. Rahmawati (2012) describe the mosque library is a part of the room located in the mosque that contains a source of information in the form of books or other materials. According to Mufid & Ag. (2014), the mosque library is where an institutions or work units that managing paper, printed collections or electronic sources in professional ways by following the standard systems that develop by the Mosque itself in order to meet the needs of research, knowledge, information, religion, and recreation aspects. However, nowadays the benefit of the mosque library only as a remembrance. In the Malaysian context, too many mosques built with beautiful but failed to establish a well-stocked library (Sulaiman, 2001).

Sutriono et al. (2016) discuss on the several finding in their research about the activity that already done in Mosque library, which is learning with the congregation about general knowledge and improving the facilities. Through these activities, it can attract the readers to visit and generate interest reading among the public. This is because the sophistication of the technology such as internet and television has brought to the low reading culture (Rahmawati, 2012). Hence, the reading awareness among the community influence the emergence of mosque library. The mosque library is very important to Muslim country especially in Malaysia since it can bring a better life to the community.

3.2 *The collection of materials*

There are many articles describing materials that available in the library of the mosque. To attract the interest of the users to visit the mosque library, it provides a

variety of collection materials that meet the needs of the user. According to Mufid & Ag. (2014), the mosque library is where an institutions or work units that managing paper, printed collections or electronic sources in professional ways by following the standard systems that develop by the Mosque itself in order to meet the needs of research, knowledge, information, religion, and recreation aspects. Almost of the mosque libraries provide a variety of collections that have a wide field, for example, the collection that related to religious and non-religious, world history, social science and also concerning education. However, several mosque libraries still have not well managed and their collections are limited to the readers (Sutriyono et al., 2016).

4. Expected Outcome

The goals of this research are to ensure the mosque library gets an acknowledgment in Malaysia as well as other regional Islamic countries such as Indonesia and Brunei in future. This is because we believe that mosque library in Malaysia has its own potential to develop and become one of the main knowledge centers to their citizens. Moreover, it can help to minimize unfamiliarity of the citizen on availability Mosque library in Malaysia nowadays.

This research also can give a contribution to improving the management of mosque library with their collection by implementing any library management system that suit to their collections especially for Islamic collections. Based on our observation from the previous study, there were still have some issues regarding on cataloging the Islamic sources. Thus, even the mosque just only has limited collection, they should apply any library management system so that people can utilize and access the mosque library collection easily.

Moreover, this research can build the awareness toward the community across the globe on the important role of mosque library as a knowledge institution. A few years ago, the mosque library started being neglected by the community. Nevertheless, through this research, the development of the mosque library will be outstanding and it becomes the focus to the next generation.

5. Conclusion

In a conclusion, it is clear that mosque library plays an important role as a knowledge institution and one stop center in Malaysia. In the era of globalization, the development of mosque library constantly grows in all around the world. However, their role is still unclear to the community, especially in Malaysia. With the developing of the mosque library, it can contribute to the reading culture among the community, especially in Malaysia. Besides that, the collection of the mosque library is the main aspects in the establishment of the mosque library. This is because it can influence the community to come to the mosque library and using it wisely and efficiently. Through of these variables, it can prove that the roles of mosque library as a knowledge institution in Malaysia can be improved and at the same time, the mosque library can prosper the nation, religion and the beloved country, especially in Malaysia.

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