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A Survey Research: What is the Role of the Mendeley Application in the Student Environment?

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Abstract: The use of reference or citation managers such as Mendeley has begun to be applied by students in making scientific papers, especially making bibliography. This research aims to survey the role of the Mendeley application among students. This research is survey research. The sample for this research is final year students. Data was collected using a questionnaire technique which was accommodated with a Google form. The data obtained is quantitative data which is then analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques. From the sample of students who filled out the questionnaire, the results obtained were that some students knew and applied Mendeley, but others had difficulty and did not understand how to use Mendeley.

Keywords: Mendeley, student, reference manager.

INTRODUCTION

In the process of writing a scientific work such as a paper, term paper, proposal and thesis, there are several obstacles that students often experience, namely a lack of accuracy when including quotations and difficulties in managing references (Dewi et al., 2023). When including a reference source, the content of the quotation must match the original meaning of the source. However, there are still many students who experience difficulties or confusion when writing scientific papers (Jasiah et al., 2023). Students often forget the importance of writing citations. Mahsusi & Hudaa (2022) explain that a citation is a reference written on a particular work (book, article, dissertation, report, etc.) produced by the author, editor, etc. which clearly shows that the work document was found.

Current technological developments have made it easier for writers to quote or cite to avoid plagiarism through various applications (Nursidika et al., 2021). This application is called Citation Management Tools or References Manager like Mendeley, Zotero, and other applications. Mendeley is an application that can be used to create quotations in writing academic papers or articles (Hanafiah et al., 2021). Using the Mendeley application can make it easier for researchers to retrieve reference sources and content from academic journals manually or automatically.

Goma et al. (2022) explains that Mendeley is software that has the ability to process scientific databases in the form of e-books, e-journals and other references. Mendeley functions as a library accompanied by the ability to process bibliography in the
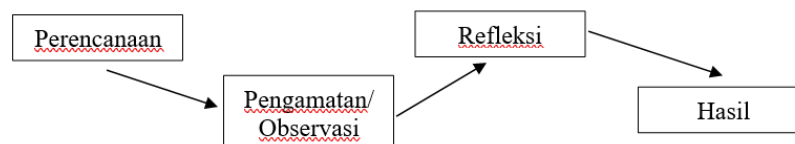
preparation of scientific papers (Asbari et al., 2022). Mendeley is a free, stand-alone program/application that is used to manage libraries and develop academic social networks that are useful for managing libraries for papers, sharing libraries online, and searching for the latest literature.

The use of reference management such as Mendeley is considered important in writing scientific work because it can make it easier for academics (writers) to carry out good citations and reference management and can minimize the occurrence of plagiarism. Plagiarism has become a culture among students, especially when writing scientific papers. Therefore, efforts are needed to minimize the occurrence of plagiarism, one of which is by using Mendeley. Apart from that, students can easily prepare and create bibliography or reference lists from various forms of citations from various types of journal sources.

Many students in the Construction Management study program are familiar with and use the Mendeley application, but some students only know but do not understand how to use the Mendeley application. Based on the results of questionnaires filled out by Medan State University students, the Construction Management Study Program shows that many students do not understand and how to use Mendeley. This may be because the sample chosen was 2nd semester students whose knowledge of the Mendeley application was not that deep. The Mendeley application was introduced in the Digital Literacy course where every student was required to download the Mendeley application.

METHODS

The type of research used is quantitative research. Quantitative research is systematic scientific research into parts and phenomena and the causality of their relationships. Quantitative research is defined as a systematic investigation of phenomena by collecting data that can be measured by collecting structured data through measurement instruments such as questionnaires or systematic observations. The data collected is then analyzed using statistics to produce results using statistical, mathematical or computational techniques. This quantitative research can be descriptive, correlational and associative based on the relationship between variables.
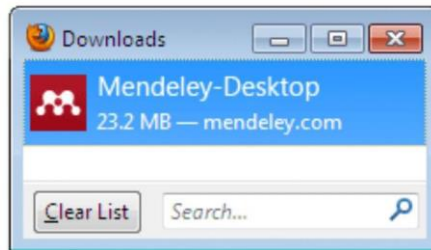

Figure 1. *Research Design*

This research uses a questionnaire measurement instrument with the aim of finding out the level of student understanding in using Mendeley for developing Digital Literacy. The questionnaire prepared consists of several questions about students' understanding of the Mendeley Application.
This research procedure was carried out in 5 stages. In the first stage, researchers first plan together the type of research that will be carried out. Develop a problem formulation, objectives and research instruments. In the second stage, researchers prepared a research instrument, namely a questionnaire with several questions to determine the level of students' understanding of the Mendeley application. The third stage is determining how many samples are needed to fill out the questionnaire. In this research, the required sample is 30 samples, namely 30 students from Medan State University, Construction Management Study Program in 2023. After determining the sample, questionnaires were distributed via the WhatsApp group. The distribution of questionnaires will be carried out on June 7 2024. The fourth stage is processing and analyzing the data after the required samples have been met. The fifth or final stage is the stage of interpretation and presentation of the results which are included in a table or graph.
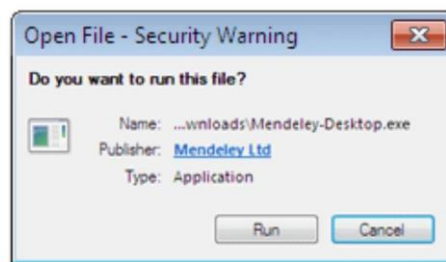
RESULTS

Mendeley is an application that was developed in November 2007. It aims to build the ability to write scientific papers for Medan State University students, especially the 2023 Construction Management Study Program. The following is how to install the Mendeley application and register an account for students, including:

First, download the application on the official Mendeley website, save the file and download the hard drive.
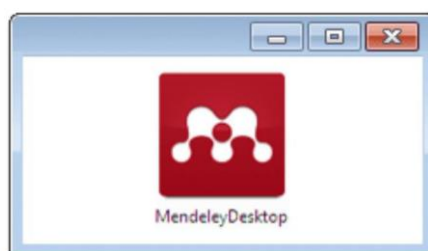

Figure 2. *Display when downloading the Mendeley application*

Second install Mendeley Desktop by double clicking the Mendeley desktop icon in the browser download window.

Figure 3. *Display when installing the Mendeley application*

Third, create an account with your first name, last name, email address and password and complete the usage information for each field asked for.

Figure 4. *The initial display of the Mendeley application*

Four, connect your Mendeley account to your Microsoft Word account by selecting the "Tools" > "Options" > MS Word menu. Until Mendeley is immediately available in Microsoft Word.
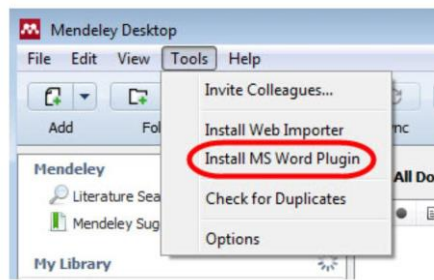
Figure 5. *Display when connecting Mendeley to Microsoft Word*

Five, Mendeley can be used by creating folders to store PDF files. Enter the file and Mendeley will automatically create a bibliography and citation list.
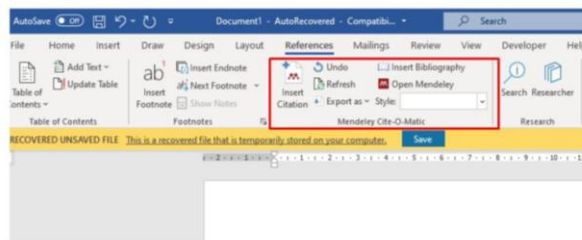

Figure 6. *Mendeley is already connected to Ms Word*

Based on the results of observations on Medan State University students in the 2023 Construction Management Study Program in using the Mendeley application when writing scientific papers. According to the questionnaire conducted by researchers, most students know the Mendeley application, but others have difficulty using Mendeley for bibliography.

Table 1. *Students' ability to recognize and apply Mendeley*

NO.	Pertanyaan	YA	%	TIDAK	%
1.	Have you heard of the Mendeley application?	24	80	6	20
2.	Do you know the function of the Mendeley application?	23	76,66	7	23,33
3.	Do you know how to install and create an account on Mendeley?	22	73,33	8	26,66
4.	Do you often apply Mendeley in using the "Bibliography"?	15	50	15	50
5.	Do you want to know how to use Mendeley to increase digital literacy?	24	80	6	20

Based on the survey results, it was found that 80% of students had heard of the Mendeley application, 76.66% knew the function of the Mendeley application, 73.33% of students were able to install and create an account, 50% of students had applied Mendeley in making bibliography and 80% of students wanted to know more more about Mendeley applications.

DISCUSSION

Technological developments in the era of society have indeed spread to all aspects of life, including the area of education (Dasopang et al., 2023; Lubis et al., 2021; Ningsih et al., 2023). One of the impacts felt is the emergence of various technology-based media that

make things easier for every academic person (Lubis & Lubis, 2024; Prihatmoko, 2016). Mendeley is a tool that is used as an auxiliary medium in citing and writing bibliography in scientific papers. Mendeley is part of the implementation of technological developments in the field of writing scientific papers. Using Mendeley in writing scientific writing makes it very easy to complete the written work. This is in accordance with the findings of (Ngibad, 2020) which states that using Mendeley can facilitate the process of citing and writing bibliography through a reference manager system that is very good and in accordance with the rules.

The research results show that most students know and use Mendeley in writing scientific writing. One reason is that Mendeley is very easy to use. This is in accordance with the findings of Puspita et al. (2021) which states that the process of using Mendeley is very easy, effective and efficient in writing scientific papers, especially in citing and writing bibliography.

CONCLUSION

Mendeley is a reference and academic document management application that is very useful for researchers, students and lecturers. Mendeley allows users to easily organize academic references and documents, as well as share references with friends, colleagues, or study group members. This application can also be integrated with Microsoft Word to create bibliography automatically and avoid errors in writing quotations or bibliography. Mendeley is available for free and has an intuitive and easy-to-use interface. Based on the survey results, it was found that 80% of students had heard of the Mendeley application, 76.66% knew the function of the Mendeley application, 73.33% of students were able to install and create an account, 50% of students had applied Mendeley in making bibliography and 80% of students wanted to know more more about Mendeley applications. Therefore, from the results of the survey that has been conducted, students should use the Mendeley application more often as training to increase digital literacy in making bibliography.

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