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## Comparative Analysis Of Digital Or Print Book Reading References Among Journalism Students

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### Abstract

This research is related to the preference for reading printed books with digital books by UIN Jakarta Journalism Study Program students. The purpose of this research is to find out the reading preferences of UIN Jakarta students and find out the advantages and disadvantages of reading printed or physical books. The method used in this research is a quantitative approach method with a descriptive research type, this method uses frequency and percentage variables. This study concludes that UIN Jakarta Journalism Study Program students prefer to read physical books with various advantages of the physical book itself compared to reading digital books which still have shortcomings in quality and convenience for readers.

**Keywords:** Journalism, Digital, Preferences, Reading, Book



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### Introduction

Research related to this title is as follows. First, focus on the definition of reading. Marimbun (2019) states that reading is a demand for individuals because reading is an effective activity to gain insight. According to Safira (2021), reading activities are cognitive activities that include the process of absorbing knowledge, understanding, analyzing, and evaluating. Reading has an important role in everyday life.

Furthermore, research that focuses on reading interest in the digital era. First, Hasanah and Deiniatur (2019) stated that in this modern era, interest in reading is very concerning. Currently, children prefer to play gadgets or games. Pramesti and Irwansyah (2021) also concluded in their research that people's interest in reading has indeed decreased since the emergence of digital media. Adding to the previous research above, according to Ruddamayanti (2019) digital books or e-books are one of the technologies that can be used as learning media. In increasing students' interest in reading, digital books are the right choice because it cannot be denied, now students hold more cellphones than their books.

Furthermore, research focuses on digital books and printed books. First, Kisno and Sianipar (2019) found that students tend to choose digital books as reading media to improve learning performance. Contrary to previous research, Sutanto (2019) said that digital books cannot completely replace printed books. Then Nurbaiti (2019) added in her research that the growth of ebooks or digital books is increasing but does not have a significant impact on the growth of physical books. The increasing number of published titles shows that the reading interest or literacy culture of the Indonesian people continues to improve. Nurbaiti and Mariah (2020) also concluded in their research that for some people reading physical books is still an option when compared to reading digital books. But physical books are also an important factor affecting people's reading interest in the industrial world of the 4.0 era. So that both types of printed or digital books have their appeal to attract individuals

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according to different age groups. Tjahjaningsih et al. (2022) concluded that printed book media and digital books can improve the reading skills of children in grades 1, 2, and 3 in Pabean Village.

The difference between this research and previous studies is the object of Journalism Students. Students become objects to prove in this study, whether with sophisticated technology and increasingly modern times, students prefer to use digital books or indeed printed books still cannot be replaced until now. This research will also focus more on the advantages and disadvantages of printed books or digital books.

Theories that support reading. First, Anderson Richard (Safira, 2021: 6) reading is the process of forming meaning from written texts. Added by Cole (Safira, 2021: 6), Reading involves vision, eye movements, inner speech, memory, knowledge of words that can be understood, and the experience of the reader. Second, Anderson (Jatnika, 2019: 2) states that reading has its main purpose, namely to seek and obtain information, cover content, and understand the meaning of existing reading. Third, according to the Commission on Reading report (Andina, 2017: 195) reading is considered an important foothold for success, not only in school but also throughout one's adult life. Therefore, literacy skills need to be owned by everyone to create a prosperous society. The conclusion of the definition of reading from the above opinion is that reading is an important activity that everyone must do to obtain information and can create a prosperous society.

Next, the theories about digital books. First, Saadiyah (Yusminar, 2014: 40) suggests that an e-book is an electronic version of a traditional printed book that can be read using a personal computer or by using an e-book reading device. Second, Andikaningrum et al (Mentari et al, 2018) digital book, also known as an e-book, is a publication consisting of text, images, and sound and published in digital form that can be read on computers or other electronic devices such as Android, or tablets. Subiyanto further explained (Mentari et al, 2018) e-books or electronic books are the evolution of printed books that we usually read every day. Fourth, Andina (2011: 83) digital books are publications in the form of text in digital form that is produced, published, and read by smartphones or computers. Based on the above opinions, it can be concluded that the definition of a digital book or e-book is a book consisting of text, images, and published in digital form that we can read using a computer, cellphone, or reading device that has electricity.

According to Qian (2011), e-books started to appear on the market in the late 1990s. However, the product was more in demand by those who were already digitally inclined. In addition, several things make digital book products a bit of a bottleneck. Nevertheless, digital books have the following advantages that printed books do not have.

### **1. Advantages and disadvantages of digital books**

#### **A. Usability**

Following the opinion of Zambarbieri D & Carniglia E. (2012), one of the advantages of digital books is that, compared to conventional books, digital books can be updated easily, and error correction and information addition can also occur in a faster time compared to conventional books.

#### **B. Readability**

Another advantage of digital books is emphasized by Siegenthaler et al. (2011) who state that "in some situations, e-readers have better readability than printed books."

#### **C. Ease of Use**

According to Richardson and Mahmood (2012), it is easy to get digital books, because to buy digital books, we don't need to come to a bookstore or visit the library directly. Richard and

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Mahmood also added that digital books are very easy to use because digital books are very light and can be read anywhere.

D. Durable

The last advantage of ebooks according to Haris (2011: 16) e-books cannot be weathered like books in general. With a digital format, e-books can last an unlimited amount of time with the quality remaining the same

Apart from the advantages, digital books also have the following disadvantages.

A. The number of digital books on the market

According to Shin (2011), the main disadvantage of digital books is the lack of book titles that can be stored by a reading device or e-reader. Because digital books from a publisher have a format that is not always the same as the format that can be accepted by the e-reader.

B. Dependence on battery

Reading digital books is inseparable from our dependence on batteries, including of course when we read digital books using a laptop though. Everything depends on the availability of batteries or electricity. This is certainly never the case with printed books (Richardson and Mahmood, 2012: 184).

C. Quickly damaged

Moh Aries said that e-books have weaknesses, namely, the risk of being lost and damaged due to viruses or storage problems.

According to Tampuboloan et al. (2016), books are one of the sources of information used by students to increase or develop their knowledge and provide learning motivation. Books contain a lot of information that can be used as a reference for their studies and provide an in-depth explanation of a topic and sometimes have a greater role in understanding the topic. continued by Landoni (2013) books can be generally understood as a medium for communicating information, where the information carried includes facts, teaching materials, discursive writing, and fiction. Based on the above opinion, it can be concluded that a book is a source of information that can provide an in-depth explanation of a topic or develop the knowledge of its readers.

## 2. Advantages and disadvantages of printed books

According to Tian Belawati (2003: 95), the weaknesses of printed books include.

- A. Unable to present movement, the presentation of the material is linear, unable to present events in sequence.
- B. It is difficult to guide readers who have difficulty understanding certain parts of the printed book.
- C. It is difficult to provide feedback for questions asked that have many possible answers or questions that require complex and in-depth answers.
- D. Cannot accommodate students with limited reading ability because printed books are written at a specific reading level.
- E. One-way presentations as printed books are not interactive and therefore tend to be used passively, without adequate understanding.

According to Flanagan (1991:10), the advantages of textbooks are as follows.

- A. It is organized because it emphasizes the important aspects of a topic.

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- B. Shows the cooperation of the material in each place, and summarizes the relevant information into a single, compact, and economical form.
  - C. Contains suggestions for learning activities that can further aid individual learning.

### 3. Print and Digital Book Reading Preferences

A reader's personal preferences play a role when choosing a reading format. For example, book enthusiasts usually enjoy print media more, technology enthusiasts enjoy digital media and technological developments, and not a few are more practical in choosing reading formats according to their needs at the time (Shrimplin et al, 2011). Wang and Bai (2016) students tend to use digital text media only for leisure reading and not for academic studies. Bansal (2011) students tend to use digital text media due to their concerns about the environment caused by paper and printing machines. Tveit and Mangen (2014) found that students and readers with low ability prefer e-books while students who love to read prefer print media. Stoop et al, 2013 summarized fundamental usability issues with electronic formats that seem to drive print format preference for readers, such as difficulties with eyestrain, complicated page-turning, and other text functions such as highlighting and note-taking. Gender can also play a role in format preference (Eshet-Alkalai & Geri, 2007).

Based on this explanation, in this study to determine students' reading interest and reading preferences, researchers used indicators based on Suryabrata's (2008) opinion, namely feelings of pleasure, student interest, student attention, and student involvement. Researchers also use indicators according to Tveit and Mangen (2014) to determine reading preferences, namely physical reactions, emotional reactions, speed quality, and intellectual reading concentration.

There are several reasons which concern the object of this present study. First, students according to the Agent of Change are movers. Students as a model to change direction, change the idea of being left behind to become advanced, and change the uninformed to become knowledgeable. Second, students are more aware of technological advances and care about the progress of the times as well.

On this study, there are several reasons which concern the subject of this present study. First, reading is a very important activity in the life and activities of students to obtain various information that will determine their personal development. Second, because of the development of the times that have felt very sophisticated in recent years to be able to change the lifestyle of the community or students to obtain various information. In the past, students could get information from books made of sheets of paper. But now along with the times, books are not only in paper form but can be digital.

From the above theory, researchers will prove these theories by providing results or answers to questions.

1. Do students prefer to read printed books or digital books?
2. What are the reading preferences of university students?

In line with the formulation of the problem, the research objectives of this study are as follows.

1. To find out the reading choices of students
2. To find out the reading preferences of university students

### Method

The method used by researchers is a quantitative approach method with a descriptive research type designed to measure students' reading interest preferences with printed books or digital books. This research uses descriptive analysis techniques using frequency and percentage tables. To measure the variables used a Likert scale questionnaire which will be filled in by respondents by the variable

indicators. The population in this study were students of the Jakarta Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Journalism Study Program, Faculty of Da'wah and Communication Sciences who were still active in the second semester as many as 160 students, with 30 students as respondents. Data collection in this study used questionnaire techniques, and interviews

According to Sugiyono (2017: 142) a questionnaire, or questionnaire is a data collection technique that is done by giving a set of questions or statements to respondents to answer. The questionnaire or questionnaire used in this study is a type of closed questionnaire or questionnaire because the respondent only needs to mark one of the answers that are considered correct. The data collection instrument in this study used a questionnaire, namely a list of statements prepared in writing which aims to obtain data in the form of answers - the answers of the respondents. The Likert scale is used to measure the attitudes, opinions, and perceptions of a person or group of people about social phenomena. The Likert scale used in this study is a minimum score of 1 and a maximum score of 4 because it is known with certainty the respondent's answer, whether it tends to agree or disagree. So that the results of the respondent's answers are expected to be relevant, Sugiyono (2014: 58).

The questionnaire distribution was carried out from April 27, 2023 - May 10, 2023. Questionnaires and interview questions are based on reading interest indicators and reading experience indicators. The number of questionnaire questions totaled 50 questions. The interview was conducted with one of the female students of Jakarta Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University. The interview was conducted via WhatsApp, the interviewee was given 5 questions by the researcher. Then, the interviewee answered with voice notes transcribed by the researcher. The interview was conducted on April 27, 2023. The collected questionnaire data will be analyzed using frequency tables and percentages.

## Results and Discussion

Data analysis in this study used a manual method using frequency tables and percentages. The variable reading preferences with printed books or digital books were obtained from the distribution of questionnaires. This questionnaire instrument includes 7 indicators to determine reading interest and reading preferences in students according to Tveit and Mangen (2014), namely, physical reactions, emotional reactions, quality, speed, and intellectual reading concentration. Then added to the indicators of reading interest according to Suryabrata (2008), namely feelings of pleasure, student interest, student attention, and student involvement.

Table 1. Summary of data analysis by indicator

%Interval	Indicator	n	N	%	Description
≥82%	Feeling Happy	496	600	83%	Strongly Agree
	Interest in Reading	483	600	81%	Strongly Agree
64-81%	Attention Reading	378	600	63%	Don't Agree
	Engagement	464	600	77%	Agree
45-63%	Physical Reaction	512	720	71%	Agree
	Emotional Reaction	972	1440	68%	Agree
≤44%	Quality, speed, and concentration	1009	1440	70%	Agree

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Source: Data processing result

From the results of data processing conducted by researchers, 83% strongly agreed on the indicator of feeling happy. From this it can be seen that students feel happy when reading books, getting assignments to read, finishing a book, and are happy to take the time to read. It can also be said that students have a very high interest in reading. Then, the results obtained were 81% strongly agreed on the indicator of interest in reading. UIN Jakarta Journalism Study Program students have an interest in reading books or getting reading assignments. With the pleasure and interest in reading in students, 63% was also obtained on the indicator of student attention. In this case, students do not agree to read in a noisy environment or do other activities. Students are more likely to choose to read in a quiet environment and with a calm mind to make it easier to concentrate on reading.

The table also shows 77% agreement on the student involvement indicator. Student involvement in this indicator is illustrated that students can summarize, and restate the contents of the reading, and provide advantages and disadvantages of the book they read. With a percentage that is not high enough, it can be stated that with the high pleasure and interest in reading students still cannot involve themselves in the reading they read.

Followed by indicators regarding student preferences for digital books or printed books. In the physical reaction indicator, 71% of students agreed. Physical reaction in this indicator is intended regarding the physical reaction of students when reading physical books or digital books. 71% of students agree that they are more comfortable holding physical books when reading compared to using digital books. Students also agree that they are more comfortable turning book pages in physical books than in digital books. Then in the indicator of students' reading preferences for emotional reactions, 68% of students agreed. The meaning of emotional reaction is how students feel when reading books, both physical books and digital books. Students agree that reading digital books is more tiring than reading physical books and reading printed books feels more natural than reading digital books. Then in the last indicator, quality, speed, and concentration get the results of 70% of students agreeing. The point in this indicator lies in the concentration and quality of reading in printed or digital books. Students agree that they find it easier to focus on reading with printed books than digital books, and by reading printed books they more easily remember the stories they read.

Through the results of interviews by asking questions to the interviewees. Interviewee 1 with the pleasure of reading to reduce the stress he experiences finds it easier to concentrate on reading in a quiet environment so as not to be easily distracted. With an interest in reading, he finds it easier to understand his reading book by marking or crossing out the book. Therefore, one of the advantages of printed books, she prefers reading printed books over digital books. Meanwhile, the second informant. With the pleasure of reading and the interest in reading to entertain and calm the mind, he prefers reading in a quiet environment so as not to be distracted which results in having to repeat the reading because he does not understand. Unlike the previous interviewee, she said that she is more comfortable using digital books because one of the advantages is that they are easy to carry wherever she wants and there is no need to be afraid of damaging them. She also said that digital books are on average cheaper than printed books. Digital books are also easy to find and do not require much time to go to the bookstore.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, UIN Jakarta Journalism Study Program students have a high interest in reading, which can be proven by their pleasure when reading and high interest in reading. With such a high interest in reading, there are still students who cannot summarize or retell the books they read. Then with the advancement of technology and digital reading facilities that are easy to find, students are still more comfortable reading with printed books. Because printed books still have advantages that cannot be owned by digital books as the advantages of reading printed books are not easily tired compared to reading digital books, by reading printed books it is also easier for students to remember what stories they read.

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