

Analysis of Content Utilization and Institutional Repository Access Policy: A Case Study of the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram

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ABSTRACT

The development of institutional repositories in the university environment continues to increase, but most of the previous research still focuses on policy, management, and technical infrastructure aspects. The research gap arises due to the lack of studies that empirically examine the impact of semi-open access policies on the pattern of repository utilization by students as the main user group. In addition, research in the context of Islamic-based private universities is also still rarely carried out. Based on these gaps, this study is directed to: (1) examine the implementation of the semi-open access policy in the repository of the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram; (2) identify the pattern and intensity of repository use by students; and (3) mapping policy, technical, and institutional factors that affect the effectiveness of repositories as a source of academic reference. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach involving 24 informants through interviews, observations, documentation, and statistical analysis of repository visits in the period October–December 2025. The findings show that the UMMAT repository has carried out the institutional deposit function optimally, but the implementation of semi-open access makes students use more metadata than accessing full-text documents. The visit data showed fluctuating but consistent dynamics as a reflection of students' academic needs. The main contribution of the research lies in the provision of empirical evidence on the influence of semi-open policies on repository utilization behavior, as well as the affirmation that the model is an adaptive strategy that is relevant in the management of scientific papers. These findings help to enrich the repository literature in Indonesia and provide the basis for the formulation of more contextual and responsive access policies.

ABSTRAK

Perkembangan repositori institusi di lingkungan perguruan tinggi terus mengalami peningkatan, namun sebagian besar penelitian sebelumnya masih berfokus pada aspek kebijakan, manajemen, dan infrastruktur teknis. Kesenjangan penelitian muncul karena masih terbatasnya studi yang secara empiris mengkaji dampak kebijakan akses semi-terbuka terhadap pola pemanfaatan repositori oleh mahasiswa sebagai kelompok pengguna utama. Selain itu, penelitian dalam konteks perguruan tinggi swasta berbasis Islam juga masih jarang dilakukan. Berdasarkan kesenjangan tersebut, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk: (1) mengkaji implementasi kebijakan akses semi-terbuka pada repositori Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram; (2) mengidentifikasi pola dan intensitas penggunaan repositori oleh mahasiswa; serta (3) memetakan faktor kebijakan, teknis, dan institusional yang memengaruhi efektivitas repositori sebagai sumber

referensi akademik. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif dengan melibatkan 24 informan melalui wawancara, observasi, dokumentasi, serta analisis statistik kunjungan repositori pada periode Oktober–Desember 2025. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa repositori UMMAT telah menjalankan fungsi deposit institusional secara optimal, namun penerapan akses semi-terbuka menyebabkan mahasiswa lebih banyak memanfaatkan metadata dibandingkan mengakses dokumen full-text. Data kunjungan menunjukkan dinamika yang fluktuatif namun konsisten sebagai cerminan kebutuhan akademik mahasiswa. Kontribusi utama penelitian ini terletak pada penyediaan bukti empiris mengenai pengaruh kebijakan semi-terbuka terhadap perilaku pemanfaatan repositori, sekaligus menegaskan bahwa model tersebut merupakan strategi adaptif yang relevan dalam pengelolaan karya ilmiah. Temuan ini memperkaya literatur repositori di Indonesia dan menjadi dasar perumusan kebijakan akses yang lebih kontekstual dan responsif.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Advances in information technology have triggered a fundamental change in the paradigm of knowledge management in higher education. The digital transformation requires higher education institutions to develop information management systems that are not only oriented towards expanding the dissemination of knowledge, but also responsive to academic, legal, and technical needs. One of the concrete manifestations of this transformation is the development of an *institutional repository* as a strategic means to collect, manage, preserve, and distribute scientific works of the academic community in digital format. Institutional repositories not only serve as an infrastructure to support the principle of *open access*, but also as a policy instrument that provides flexibility in access arrangements, so that universities can balance commitments to information disclosure with copyright protection and other *institutional* interests.

In the context of Indonesia, the development of *Institutional Repository* shows significant dynamics. Data on the portal (Rama Ministry of Education and Culture, 2024) There are 288 active repositories managed by 280 universities and research institutions, with an accumulation of more than 2.4 million digital documents stored in the Rama system of the Ministry of Education and Culture. Its management practices show a variety of access policies, ranging from full open access, closed access, to partial or semi-open access models. These variations indicate that full openness is not always the most appropriate choice for all institutions, especially when dealing with legal, ethical, and technical issues in the management of scientific papers. Therefore, semi-open repositories are evolving as a form of adaptive policy to respond to the complexity of academic content management.

In West Nusa Tenggara Province (NTB), the use of *Institutional Repository* shows significant development. Various universities in this region have built and developed a repository system to meet the information needs of the academic community while

increasing the visibility of the scientific works they produce. Research results (Ridwan, 2023) revealed that the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram occupies the second position as the best university repository in NTB according to the Webometrics ranking. The findings indicate that the repository ecosystem in NTB is developing positively and shows an increasingly strong level of competition. This situation encourages other institutions, including UIN Mataram, to continue to improve the quality of repository management in order to be able to provide more optimal information services and meet the needs of users.

Essentially, institutional repositories not only serve as a repository for scientific papers, but also have a strategic role in supporting academic activities, research, and decision-making processes. Factors such as ease of access, speed of information retrieval, and completeness of content are important elements that determine the level of user satisfaction with repository services. Therefore, efforts to increase the use of repositories need to be carried out through better system development, improvement of metadata quality, and consistent and continuous content updates.

Although *the open access movement* is widely viewed as a normative standard in scientific dissemination due to its contribution to increased academic visibility and impact, institutional policy practices show a tendency to adopt semi-open models to accommodate diverse stakeholder interests. Considerations of copyright protection, plagiarism prevention, and control of certain types of content are the main factors in the implementation of this policy. In a semi-open repository scheme, metadata is generally publicly accessible, while full-text documents fall under certain access settings. This configuration confirms that semi-open repositories do not merely reflect limitations, but rather are rational and contextual policy responses to the practical challenges of managing scientific papers.

A number of previous studies have examined *Institutional Repository* from a variety of perspectives, including policy, management, and sustainability. (Othman & Izzuddin Mohd Tamrin, 2024) emphasizing that the effectiveness of repositories is greatly influenced by institutional policies, organizational structures, and the availability of resources, particularly in the context of digital preservation. (Aliwijaya & Khoir, 2025) found that access restrictions are still widely applied in response to copyright and academic ethics issues. The findings are reinforced by (Rodliyah, 2023) which identifies variations in access policy practices in Islamic universities, ranging from metadata disclosure to full text restrictions as per institutional policies.

Other research highlights the link between access policy and repository content development. (Mbughuni et al., 2023) It shows that access policies have direct implications for the availability and growth of digital collections. In the context of Indonesia, (Latiar et al., 2023) emphasizing limitations *Interoperability Repository* with a national indexing system, while (Ulum & Setiawan, 2016) and (Ernaningsih, 2018) affirming the strategic role of libraries and the diversity of access policies in content management. However, these studies tend to focus on governance and infrastructure aspects, while empirical evaluation of content utilization, especially from the perspective of students as the main users of repositories, is still relatively limited.

Although the literature has made an important contribution to understanding *institutional repository* policy and practice, most research still places *full open access* as a normative orientation, while semi-open repositories are more often positioned as a form of

constraint, rather than as a strategic policy model. In addition, research that empirically links semi-open access policies with the level and pattern of repository utilization still focuses more on the perspective of managers and infrastructure aspects. Studies that place students as the main subjects in evaluating how access policies shape repository utilization behavior are still relatively rare, especially in the context of Islamic-based private universities.

The Repository of the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram functionally functions as an institutional deposit center that collects theses, scientific papers, theses, and some lecturer works, with a relatively high level of upload compliance because it is integrated with academic policies. In its implementation, the UMMAT repository implements a semi-open access model, where metadata can be accessed publicly, while full-text documents are organized through certain access mechanisms according to the institution's policies. This configuration makes the UMMAT repository an empirical representation of a semi-open repository that is relevant to be studied, especially in relation to its use by students as a source of academic reference.

In the framework of implementing the policy, evaluation of the level of utilization of the UMMAT repository by students as the dominant user group is essential. The use of the repository is not only determined by the availability of collections and access policy configurations, but is also reflected in the intensity of visits that represent browsing activities, access to information, and academic needs in a given period. Therefore, the study of statistical data on repository visits is a strategic step to understand how semi-open policies affect user access patterns. The analysis of monthly visits allows the identification of the dynamics of repository utilization, either in the form of increases, decreases, or certain patterns that reflect students' responses to the implemented repository system. Thus, visitor statistics function as an empirical indicator to assess the effectiveness of the UMMAT repository in supporting the academic activities of the academic community.

Image. 1 Statistics of Visitors to the UMMAT Repository October 2025

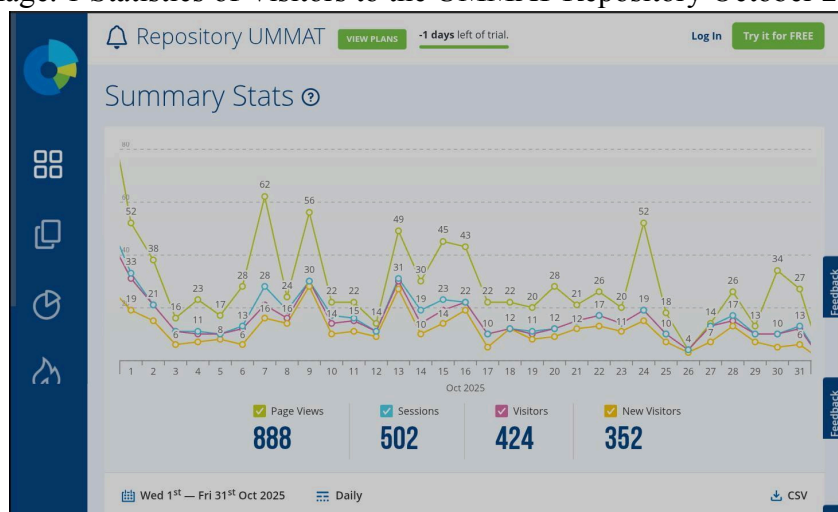


Image. 2 Statistics of Visitors to the UMMAT Repository November 2025

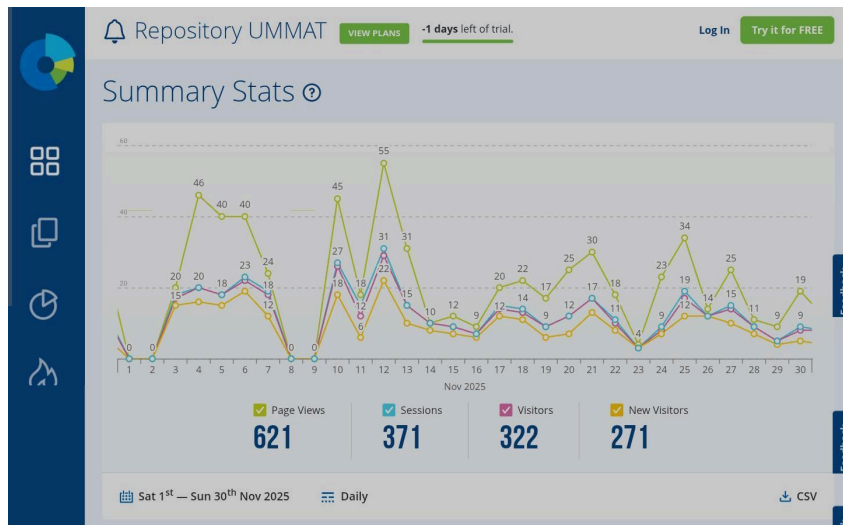
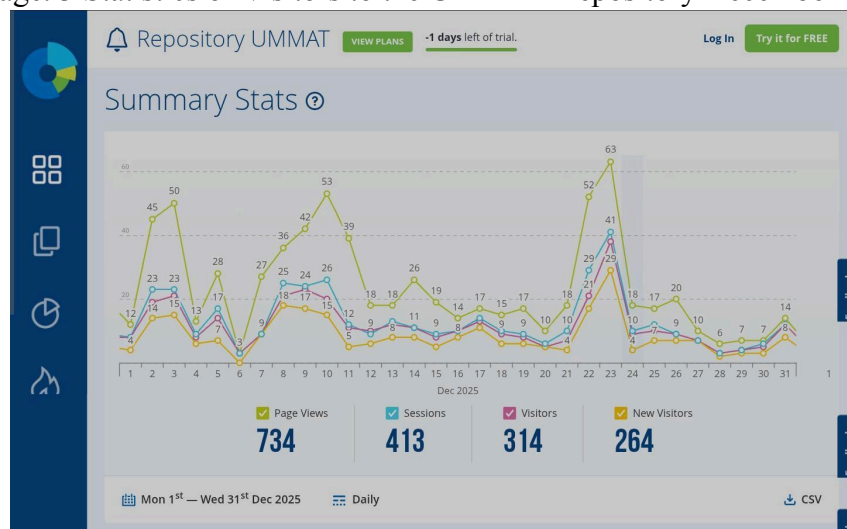


Image. 3 Statistics of Visitors to the UMMAT Repository December 2025



Based on statistics on UMMAT Repository visits in the period from October to December 2025, the use of the repository shows a fluctuating pattern. In October, visit activity was at an all-time high with 888 *page views*, 424 visitors, and 352 new visitors, indicating high user interest, including the dominance of new users over repository content at the beginning of the observation period. Entering November, there was a significant decrease in all indicators, where the number of *page views* decreased to 621, visitors to 322, and new visitors decreased to 271, reflecting the weakening of the intensity of user interaction, both repeat and new users to the UMMAT repository. In December, the activity of revisits increased with 734 *page views*, 314 visitors, and 264 new visitors, although it has not reached the level in October, this trend indicates a recovery in repository utilization towards the end of the year. Overall, the visit pattern emphasized that the use of repositories is dynamic and influenced by academic needs in a certain period, and shows that students continue to use repositories as a source of reference even though the access policy implemented is semi-open.

Based on this framework, this study is positioned to place the semi-open access policy as the main focus of the study, not as a deviation from *open access*, but as a strategic adaptive policy in the management of scientific papers. The novelty of the research lies in the effort to empirically relate the semi-open access policy to the pattern and intensity of the use of repository content by students as dominant users, especially in the environment of Islamic-based private universities which are still relatively understudied. In line with that, this study aims to analyze the implementation of the semi-open access policy in the repository of the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram, examine the pattern and level of utilization of repository content by students, and identify policy, technical, and *institutional factors* that affect the effectiveness of the repository as a source of reference and support for students' academic activities.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Institutional repository (IR) is defined as a set of digital services developed by universities to collect, manage, preserve, and disseminate scientific works of the academic community (Lynch, 2003). In its development, IR is no longer understood as just a technical infrastructure, but has shifted to become a strategic instrument in knowledge governance, scientific dissemination, and institutional access policy formulation (Pinfield et al., 2020). The existence of repositories contributes to increasing the visibility of scientific works, long-term preservation, and expanding access to academic resources. However, recent studies have shown that the existence of a repository structurally does not automatically guarantee open access or high utilization rates. Without an explicit access policy and integrated with utilization strategies, repositories tend to operate only as institutional archives (Gadd et al., 2003; Pinfield et al., 2020).

Within the framework, access policy is positioned as the key factor that shapes the actual function *Institutional Repository*. (Ulum & Setiawan, 2016) emphasizes that the repository policy architecture that includes *submission policy*, *content policy*, *metadata policy*, and *Preservation Policy* has a strategic role in building legitimacy and supporting system interoperability. However, the study still views the policy primarily as an administrative prerequisite and has not elaborated on its implications on user utilization behavior. Instead, (Gadd et al., 2003) shows that the tension between the principles *Open Access* and copyright protection often results in policy configurations in the form of embargoes, *restricted access*, or semi-open models. These findings confirm that semi-open repositories are the result of rational policy compromises in the context of managing scientific papers, not merely manifestations of limited access.

Studies on *Self-archiving* It also highlights a lot of factors that affect the availability of full-text content. (Swan, 2005) and (Pinfield et al., 2020) stated that the participation of academics in self-deposit is highly determined by policy clarity *Institutional*, academic incentive schemes, and system facilities. However, the majority of research in this cluster focused on content producers, not on the consequences of access policies on user use patterns of repository. As a result, *Institutional Repository* It is more often analyzed from the perspective of managers and authors, while the user dimension, especially students as the largest user group, still receives relatively little empirical attention.

From a technical perspective, studies on repository software, metadata schemas, and interoperability emphasize the importance of system readiness in supporting the visibility and effectiveness of information retrieval (Pinfield et al., 2020). However, some literature

tends to assume that technical readiness will directly increase utilization rates, without critically examining how semi-open access policies shape access patterns and user information search strategies. This shows a reductionist tendency that separates the technical aspect from the dimension of policy and utilization practice.

In the context of Indonesia, (Irawan et al., 2021) found that an increase in the number of online publications was not always followed by a strengthening of policies *Open Access*, so that the repository thrives in diverse policy configurations. (Ernaningsih, 2018) Identify the dominance of metadata access with full-text restrictions as an indication of the repository's still strong orientation as a control instrument *Institutional*. More up-to-date research findings (Wardiyono et al., 2024; Araf & Safirotu, 2023; Rodliyah, 2023) It reinforces that variation in access policies, including the application of the semi-open model, is the dominant practice influenced by legal, ethical, and institutional culture factors. However, most of these studies still place *Open Access* as a normative orientation and has not positioned semi-open repositories as an object of empirical evaluation associated with student utilization behavior.

Based on the literature review, it can be identified that there are analytical gaps in three main domains, namely: (1) the limited research that links semi-open access policies with repository utilization indicators; (2) the lack of studies that specifically place students as the main subjects in evaluating the effectiveness of repositories; and (3) the scarcity of research in the context of Islamic-based private universities.

In line with this gap, the novelty of this research lies in the focus on semi-open repositories as the main focus of the study as well as in empirical testing of the relationship between access policies and repository utilization by students. The University of Muhammadiyah Mataram repository is positioned as a case study to analyze how the semi-open policy configuration shapes the pattern of access, intensity of use, and strategies for the utilization of student content in supporting academic activities.

3. METHOD

This research applies a qualitative approach with an analytical descriptive design which aims to comprehensively describe the practices of content utilization and repository access policies in the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram (UMMAT). The qualitative approach was chosen because it provides space for researchers to understand phenomena in depth and contextually based on the perspective and experience of the research subjects (Creswell, 2018). The research was carried out in the UMMAT Library UPT with research subjects including librarians managing the repository and students as the main internal users of the repository.

The number of informants in this study is 24 people, consisting of 2 librarians managing the repository, 1 head of the library, and 21 students as active users of the repository. The determination of the number of informants is based on the principle of data saturation, which is that data collection is stopped when the information obtained has been repetitive and no longer produces new categories or themes. The selection of informants is carried out through purposive sampling techniques, namely the deliberate determination of subjects based on considerations of competence, experience, and direct involvement with the use and management of the repository (Sugiyono, 2019).

The data types in this study consist of primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through semi-structured interviews with librarians and students, as well as

direct observation of the repository system to identify patterns of content utilization and implementation of access policies. Secondary data is collected through documentation studies that include repository management guidelines, visit statistical data reports, and relevant *institutional* documents . The data collection process will be carried out in December 2025 by upholding the ethical principles of research, including informant consent and identity confidentiality.

Data analysis was carried out using thematic analysis techniques as proposed by Braun and Clarke (2019). The analysis stages include: (1) data familiarization through repeated reading of interview transcripts and observation notes; (2) initial coding to identify relevant units of meaning; (3) theme development through the grouping of codes into conceptual categories; (4) the study and consolidation of themes to ensure coherence and distinction between themes; (5) defining and naming themes according to the focus of the research; and (6) the preparation of an analytical narrative by relating the findings to the theoretical framework and the results of previous research.

The validity of the data is maintained through triangulation of sources and methods, namely by comparing the findings of interviews, observations, and documentation to increase the credibility and consistency of the data. The focus of the study is directed at two main dimensions, namely the use of repository content by students (types of collections accessed, purpose of use, and access patterns) and repository access policies (degree of openness, internal regulations, and mechanisms for regulating access rights). These two dimensions are used as the basis for the coding and theme development process, so that thematic analysis is carried out continuously from the data collection stage to the drawing of conclusions.

4. RESULTS

The results of the study indicate that the repository of the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram has structurally acted as a means of *institutional deposit* through the implementation of the policy of mandatory uploading of student scientific papers. The implementation of these policies directly contributes to the formation of a relatively complete and organized digital collection, with the dominance of content in the form of theses, scientific papers, and academic reports. Empirically, repositories have consistently carried out the function of preservation and scientific documentation, thus acting as a basic infrastructure in institutional knowledge management.

The effectiveness of repositories can be seen not only from the availability of collections, but also from the level of utilization by users. Based on statistical data on UMMAT repository visits in the period from October to December 2025, the use of repositories shows a fluctuating but consistent pattern. In October 2025, there were 888 *page views*, 424 visitors, and 352 new visitors, which reflects high user interaction and affirms the role of repositories as an initial medium for scientific research by students. The dominance of new visitors indicates that the repository has significant visibility in reaching users.

By November 2025, all visit indicators will decrease to 621 *page views*, 322 visitors, and 271 new visitors. This decline can be attributed to reduced academic activity, although the number of visits that still remain at hundreds of users shows that the repository is still being used on an ongoing basis. Entering December 2025, visit activity increased again with 734 *page views*, 314 visitors, and 264 new visitors. This trend confirms that repositories operate dynamically and are used periodically according to the academic needs

of students. Thus, the visit statistics support the conclusion that although the access policy is semi-open, the repository still performs its actual function as a source of academic information.

Regarding access policies, the findings of system observations and interviews with librarians show that the UMMAT repository provides open access to metadata and abstracts, but restricts access to full-text documents, especially for relatively new scientific works. Access management has not been governed through explicit written policies, but rather refers to operational practices and internal considerations. This configuration puts repositories in a semi-open category, where the visibility of scientific papers is publicly opened, while the distribution of full-text documents remains institutionally controlled.

In the context of utilization, students use repositories mainly as a means of exploring topics, determining research focus, and initial references in the preparation of scientific papers. This is in line with the findings of visit statistics that show that *the intensity of page views* is higher than the number of document downloads. The limitations of full-text access make the repository more of an academic orientation resource than a primary literature base for in-depth study.

Overall, this study confirms that the UMMAT repository effectively performs the function of digital deposit and preservation, and shows a real level of utilization based on the statistics of the last quarter's visits. However, in the aspect of scientific dissemination, the repository still operates in a semi-open framework, which affects the pattern of student utilization. This configuration places the repository in a transitional phase between institutional archives and scientific communication infrastructure, where the disclosure of basic information has been realized, while access to knowledge is comprehensively controlled by *institutional policies*.

5. DISCUSSION

The findings of the study show that the UPT repository of the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram Library has operated effectively as a deposit center *Institutional* through the implementation of the policy of compulsory uploading of student scientific papers. Structurally, the repository has carried out the function of preserving and documenting knowledge, so that the digital collection is formed completely and well managed. The high level of student compliance strengthens the role of the repository as the basic infrastructure of institutional knowledge management, in accordance with the concept of Lynch (2003), while supporting the findings of the (Pinfield et al., 2020) which emphasizes the effectiveness of repositories that are integrated with the institution's academic policies in building sustainable digital collections.

In the context of scientific communication, the UMMAT repository has not fully functioned as an open dissemination channel. Access to metadata and abstracts is publicly available, but the distribution of full-text documents is restricted, so repositories are categorized as semi-open. This configuration reflects the institution's strategic policy choices that consider the risks of plagiarism, copyright infringement, and misuse of scientific works, in accordance with the views of the (Gadd et al., 2003) and (Swan, 2005).

The results of the study also confirm that students use repositories, especially for initial search, exploration of research topics, and reference of the structure of writing scientific papers. Statistical data on visits during October–December 2025 shows a dynamic pattern of use, with *page views* and new visitors signify real user interaction, even

if full-text access is limited. This confirms that repositories function more as a means of academic orientation than a primary source of literature, consistent with *Concept of Knowledge Sharing and Knowledge Utilization Explained* (Nonaka, Ikujiro; Takeuchi, 1995) and (Dalkir, 2017).

From perspective *Institutional*, the semi-open configuration puts the UMMAT repository in a transitional phase between institutional archives and scientific communication infrastructure. The knowledge storage function has been running optimally, but the distribution of the full text is still controlled by internal policies, reflecting a gradual adaptation to the paradigm *Open Access*.

The main contribution of this research lies in strengthening the perspective that the semi-open model is a rational policy strategy and *Legitimate* for Indonesian universities. Conceptually, semi-open is not just a transitional condition, but a policy configuration that allows the repository to continue to function as a means of preservation and visibility of scientific work while maintaining control *institutional*. Theoretically, this study emphasizes the role of access policy as a determinant variable in the formation of repository functions, while practically, these findings provide a basis for the formulation of more standardized, proportional, and contextual access policies so that repositories can develop into highly effective scientific communication infrastructures.

6. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the repository of the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram has structurally carried out the function of depositing and preserving scientific works of the academic community effectively, which is reflected in the implementation of the mandatory upload policy and the formation of a relatively comprehensive digital collection. However, within the framework of scientific dissemination, the UMMAT repository still operates in a semi-open configuration, which provides public access to metadata and basic information, but imposes restrictions on access to full-text documents through certain mechanisms. This configuration indicates that the orientation of repository management is still influenced by the principle of institutional prudence, particularly in relation to copyright protection and academic ethics.

Analysis of the use of the repository shows that students are still actively using it, which is reflected in the visit data in the October-December 2025 period which shows a fluctuating but stable pattern. The high number of *page views*, especially in October, and the number of new visitors indicate that the repository is being used as a first step in the search for academic information even though access to full-text is still limited. These findings confirm the function of the repository as a means of exploring the topic and the initial orientation of the research.

In terms of access policy, the UMMAT repository implements a semi-open model, which provides public access to metadata and abstracts, but restricts access to full-text documents. The policy has been shown to influence usage patterns, where students are more likely to use metadata information to identify research topics than to comprehensively explore the literature. This condition shows that the UMMAT repository is in a transition stage: it is already optimal as a digital archive, but it has not fully played a role as an open scientific dissemination infrastructure.

The main contribution of this research lies in strengthening the empirical findings that the semi-open model does not solely represent the limitations of the system, but is a form

of rational and contextual adaptive policy in the management of *institutional* repositories of higher education. By positioning the UMMAT repository conceptually parallel to the practice in a number of large universities in Indonesia, this study enriches the institutional repository discourse through an emphasis on access policy as a strategic variable that directly affects the formation of the repository function, content utilization patterns, and the direction of its transformation from just a digital archive to a scientific communication infrastructure.

7. SUGGESTION

Based on the results of the research, it is recommended that the UPT Library of the University of Muhammadiyah Mataram maintain and optimize the implementation of the semi-open access policy model as a rational and contextual adaptive approach. Policy strengthening can be done through the establishment of clear full-text access criteria, embargo mechanisms, and internal licensing procedures, so that repositories are still able to display the visibility of scientific works through metadata while maintaining copyright protection and academic ethical principles. Increasing information literacy and socialization to students is important to increase the use of repositories as a means of exploring academic topics and references, without having to open full access that has the potential to cause abuse. In addition, periodic evaluation of policy effectiveness and comparative studies with semi-open practices in other universities can provide an empirical basis for the development of best practices, ensuring that UMMAT's repository gradually evolves from a digital archive to an effective scientific communication infrastructure, while maintaining the strategic value of the semi-open model.

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