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Library Users' Understanding and OPAC Utilization for Information Retrieval at STIKes Binalita Sudama Library

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ABSTRACT
The Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), a system that facilitates users in retrieving and locating resources available in libraries, has been widely adopted in academic libraries. The usefulness of OPAC depends on users' ability to understand its functions and to search for available information within the library. This study aims to determine the correlation between users' understanding and their utilization of OPAC at STIKes Binalita Sudama Library in retrieving information. A quantitative associative design was employed, with 84 respondents selected through simple random sampling to complete a questionnaire. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, a normality assumption test, and simple linear regression. The descriptive analysis indicated that users' understanding was high (mean = 25.25), and OPAC utilization was likewise high (mean = 29.68). The regression analysis revealed that users' understanding had a significant effect on OPAC utilization in retrieving information ($\beta = 1.021$; $p < 0.001$). The coefficient of determination (R^2) was 0.746, indicating that 74.6% of the variance in OPAC utilization was explained by users' understanding, while the remaining 25.4% was attributable to other variables not examined in this study. The assumptions of simple linear regression were tested and found not to be violated. It is concluded that users' understanding of the importance of utilizing OPAC plays a critical role in helping them retrieve information, thereby enhancing their ability to access and obtain accurate and relevant resources in academic libraries

Kata Kunci:
Perpustakaan akademik;
Pencarian informasi;
Pemahaman pemustaka;
Online Public Access Catalog;
Edukasi pengguna.

ABSTRAK
Katalog Akses Publik Online (OPAC), sebuah sistem yang memfasilitasi pengguna dalam mengambil dan menemukan sumber daya yang tersedia di perpustakaan, telah diadopsi secara luas di perpustakaan akademik. Kegunaan OPAC bergantung pada kemampuan users' untuk memahami fungsinya dan mencari informasi yang tersedia di perpustakaan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui korelasi antara pemahaman users' dan pemanfaatan OPAC di Perpustakaan STIKes Binalita Sudama dalam mengambil informasi. Desain asosiatif kuantitatif digunakan, dengan 84 responden dipilih melalui pengambilan sampel acak sederhana untuk mengisi kuesioner. Data dianalisis menggunakan statistik deskriptif, uji asumsi normalitas, dan regresi linier sederhana. Analisis deskriptif menunjukkan bahwa pemahaman pengguna' tinggi (rata-rata = 25,25), dan pemanfaatan OPAC juga tinggi (rata-rata = 29,68). Analisis regresi mengungkapkan bahwa pemahaman users' memiliki efek signifikan pada pemanfaatan OPAC dalam mengambil informasi (β = 1,021; $p < 0,001$). Koefisien determinasi (R^2) adalah 0,746, menunjukkan bahwa 74,6% varians pemanfaatan OPAC dijelaskan oleh pemahaman users', sedangkan 25,4% sisanya disebabkan oleh variabel lain yang tidak diteliti dalam penelitian ini. Asumsi regresi linier sederhana diuji dan ternyata tidak dilanggar. Disimpulkan bahwa pemahaman pengguna tentang pentingnya memanfaatkan OPAC memainkan peran penting dalam membantu mereka mengambil informasi, sehingga meningkatkan kemampuan mereka untuk mengakses dan memperoleh sumber daya yang akurat dan relevan di perpustakaan akademik

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1. INTRODUCTION

Information and communication technology has advanced so quickly that library services are now technology-based information retrieval services rather than traditional methods. It is expected of academic libraries to guarantee that users may effectively and independently obtain information in addition to providing access to information resources. The Online Public Acces Catalog (OPAC) is one of the most popular retrieval systems in academic libraries. It allows users to search library resources using a variety of access points, such a title, author, subject, and keywords. Compared to traditional card catalogs, OPAC offers quicker and more accurate access to bibliographic information, which has greatly increased the efficiency of information retrieval. As a result, OPAC is now a crucial part of contempory library services, assisting with research, teaching, and learning in universities (Haryanto, Supradewi, & Rohaida, 2022).

Utilization relies on the user. Although OPAC is available, the implementation of howOPAC varies according to the user's impression towards OPAC and the level of information literacy of the user, in which users that already know how to useOPAC will be able to do designing of information search strategy, analysis of collected information through searching, identification of location of information resources in the library. Conversely, users who do not understand the concept of OPAC, tend to find information by asking librarians, so the OPAC facility is only considered a storage location (Anggraeni, Dhiyaulhaq, Shofura, Cantika, & Paramasatya, 2025) The level of information literacy is significantly correlated with low levels of OPAC use. This confirms that even the best of technological facility cannot achieve its desired effectiveness in terms of information retrieval in any case. Daris & Sayekti argue that it is essential for users to know searching techniques, bibliographic descriptions and information retrieval. So, it is crucial to enhance the perception of information (Daris & Sayekti, 2025).

A number of previous studies have addressed various issues affecting OPAC use in the academic libraries. In a recent empirical investigation, Yunita et al., for example, established that university students view OPAC as a useful and easy to operate tool, but its intensity of use was for the most part found to remain at low to medium level (Yunita, Iqbal, Chairunnisa, Oktasari, & Novianti, 2023). Similarly, Shokane and Bopape indicated that university students understood the core functions of OPAC, but were incompatible with the more advanced features such as Boolean operator and field searching techniques and that they experienced some levels of difficulties while conducting basic searches (Shokane & Bopape, 2023). Moreover, Iswika et al. draws the picture that there is a significant relationship between library users' computer confidence and their use of OPAC, in the context of limited training and socialization opportunities provided to them (Iswika, Sa'diyah, & Asep, 2022). These findings show that user knowledge and skills continue to influence the quality of the subject searches despite technological innovations made to improve library systems.

The OPAC system has been implemented by the Library of STIKes Binalita Sudama to provide easier access to the library's collection, accessible online through the library's official website (perpustakaansbsm.web.id). A preliminary review of the website's access

statistics over a seven-day monitoring period (7–12 May) recorded a total of 2,436 requests and 25.62 MB of bandwidth. Of these, only 907 requests (37.2%) originated from Indonesia, while the remaining 62.8% originated from other countries such as the United States, China, Greece, and Cyprus a pattern that plausibly reflects a substantial share of automated or bot traffic rather than genuine access by the library's 521 registered users. This preliminary observation suggests that the actual volume of purposeful, user-driven OPAC access may be considerably lower than the raw traffic figures indicate, and that aggregate web-traffic statistics alone cannot reveal whether registered users genuinely understand and independently operate the system. Such a pattern implies that the mere availability of an information retrieval system does not automatically translate into its optimal utilization by its intended users. Instead, users' understanding of the system how it functions and how to operate its search features appears to be the more decisive factor shaping the likelihood of OPAC being used purposefully during the information-seeking process. Therefore, an empirical examination of the relationship between users' understanding of the information retrieval system and their utilization of it is required to substantiate this preliminary observation and to provide an evidence-based basis for improving library services.

Despite the growing body of literature on OPAC usability and user awareness, a specific gap remains regarding users' understanding as a determinant of OPAC utilization, particularly within the context of a private health-sciences higher education institution such as STIKes Binalita Sudama. Prior studies have predominantly examined OPAC utilization through the lens of system usability (Shokane & Bopape, 2023), technology acceptance (Yunita et al., 2023), and computer confidence under conditions of limited training exposure (Iswika et al., 2022), while comparatively few have positioned users' cognitive and procedural understanding of the retrieval system as the primary explanatory variable. Moreover, most of these studies were conducted in general university library settings, leaving the information-seeking behavior of users in specialized, health-sciences-oriented academic libraries underexplored. The present study addresses this gap by empirically testing the extent to which library users' understanding predicts OPAC utilization at STIKes Binalita Sudama. Its novelty therefore lies both in the focal variable examined users' understanding as a direct predictor of utilization, rather than merely a background attribute and in extending information retrieval research to a previously under-examined institutional setting.

Through all the above considerations, this research intends to study on the effect of library users' perception on the use of OPAC for information retrieval at the Library of STIKes Binalita Sudama. Theoretically and practically, the result of this research is expected to broaden literature of information retrieval and information literacy in the area of library and information Science. It may be a reference to the librarians and library managers to design a program of user education, information literacy, and OPAC orientation to improve the services performance of digital library.

2. METHOD

This research employed quantitative research with associative research design. Quantitative research is research that focuses to measure the relation between variable by using numbers and statistic testing. Through this data, the researcher can objectively assess the research hypotheses founded and find out about the existance of causal relation between the measurable variables (Creswell & Creswell, 2017; Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2019). In this research, the independent variable was the understanding of library user to OPAC while the dependent variable was the utilization of OPAC for information retrieval. This research took place in the Library of STIKes Binalita Sudama Medan, Indonesia which had implemented an online electronic form for digital Library service, including the OPAC system.

The population of this research was all of the registered users who have used the OPAC machine (Online Public Access Catalog) of the Library STIKes Binalita Sudama. The population of users of the library according to the record is 521 users. Taking 10% of the population as a margin error (nothing assumed), the sample size was calculated using Slovin's formula to be 84 respondents. Since the respondents were selected by simple random sampling technique, all members of the population had an equal chance of being sampled and sampling bias was eliminated, which also increased the generalizability of the sample (Bougie & Sekaran, 2019). Simple random sampling is the most common sampling technique used in quantitative survey methodology because it produces statistically generalizable and representative samples (Etikan & Bala, 2017).

The primary data was obtained by utilizing a questionnaire. The structured questionnaire was designed using the operational indicators for variables of the research, which includes knowledge of library users and usage of OPAC. The questionnaire was comprised of several statements of research subjects to measure their understanding toward some specific aspects of OPAC such as the functions of OPAC, the functions of searching through OPAC, methods of searching through OPAC, as well as how they use OPAC when they search information through the use of an online public access catalog.

Table 1. Operational Indicators of Research Variables

Variable	Dimension	Indicator	Item Code
Library Users' Understanding (X)	Knowledge of OPAC	Understanding the function of OPAC	X1
		Understanding OPAC search features	X2
	Search Skills	Ability to search collections by title, author, or subject	X3
		Understanding bibliographic information displayed in OPAC	X4
		Understanding collection location information	X5
		Understanding keyword searching	X6
	Independent Use	Ability to use OPAC independently	X7
	Usage Intensity	Frequency of OPAC use	Y1

OPAC Utilization (Y)	Perceived Ease of Use	Ease of finding information	Y2
		Speed in finding collections	Y3
		Time efficiency	Y4
	Effectiveness	Accuracy of search results	Y5
		Effectiveness in information retrieval	Y6
	User Acceptance	User satisfaction	Y7
		Perceived usefulness	Y8

The questionnaire items were grouped into two research variables. The independent variable, Library Users' Understanding (X), consisted of three dimensions, namely knowledge of OPAC, search skills, and independent use. The dependent variable, OPAC Utilization in Information Retrieval (Y), consisted of four dimensions, namely usage intensity, perceived ease of use, effectiveness, and user acceptance. Each indicator was measured using one statement item using a five-point Likert scale.

Before distributing the questionnaire, validity and reliability testing were conducted to ensure that the research instrument measured the intended constructs consistently. Item validity was assessed using the Pearson Product Moment correlation by comparing the calculated correlation coefficient (r-count) with the critical value (r-table) at a significance level of 0.05. An item was considered valid when the r-count value exceeded the r-table value. Reliability testing was performed using Cronbach's Alpha. A Cronbach's Alpha value greater than 0.70 indicated that the instrument possessed satisfactory internal consistency and was considered reliable for data collection (Hair, Black, Babin, & Anderson, 2019; Taber, 2018).

Table 2. Instrument Validity and Reliability

Instrument Test	Result
r-table	0.215
r-count	0.43–0.81
Cronbach's Alpha	0.876
Decision	Valid and Reliable

A scale type that has five degrees (from 1 for strongly disagree to 5 for strongly agree), which is popular as a suitable instrument for testing perceptions, attitudes, and inclinations of individuals on attitudes of individuals on behaviors on research in educational fields and social sciences (Jebb, Ng, & Tay, 2021; Joshi, Kale, Chandel, & Pal, 2015; Kusmaryono, Wijayanti, & Maharani, 2022; Taherdoost, 2019).

The collected data were analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics. Descriptive statistics, normality testing, simple linear regression, t-test, and coefficient of determination (R^2) were employed to answer the research objectives. Then, normality test was carried out to assure the fulfilment of the assumptions for parametric statistic. The research hypothesis was tested using simple regression test for testing hypothesis concerning library user' understanding variable effect on usage of library online catalog system and followed by t-test to ascertain significant of regression coefficient. The r square for checking the magnitude influence of understanding library users against on usage of online library system was also presented (Field, 2018). These types of analysis of statistic is one of methods that generally used for

testing relationship between two variables, in quantitative behavioral research analysis (Pallant, 2020).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the research of STIKes Binalita Sudama library this had the respondent amount of 84 library's visitors who then become research subject of respondents. The respondents had attributes of gender, academic program and study semester to get overview of research subject on study of STIKes Binalita Sudama. According the characteristic of respondents the study of STIKes Binalita Sudama library subject that experienced using of online library was from different study programs and level.

. Table 3. Respondent Characteristic

Enrollment Year	Total (f)	Percentage (%)
2023	28	33,3
2024	2	2,4
2025	54	64,3
Total	84	100,0

Respondents' Profile Demographic Characteristics Table 3 shows the summary of the respondents' demographic characteristics. Respondents comprise library users who are both male and female students of library collections from various majors and semester. The greater of the respondents were female, who had the intention to use library facilities for their studies, and most of the respondents who came from a higher semester had more intensive experience in managing the library's collection and accessing OPAC while they were studying.

The descriptive analysis was carried out in order to give a summary of the description of the two variables used in the study namely The level of understanding among library users about the utilization of OPAC in the search of information that provides a summary of the total score which include minimum score, maximum score, average score, standard deviation and class from each respondents to the variable. The research result is given in the Table 4.

Table 4. Recapitulation of Researh Variables

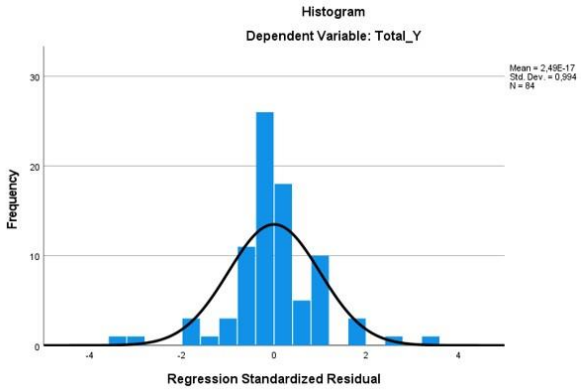
Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation	Category
Library Users' Understanding	84	7	35	25.25	6.66	High
OPAC Utilization for Information Retrieval	84	8	40	29.68	7.87	High

From table 4, the variable of Library Users' Understanding scored an average of 25.25 where it is in category high. This implies that respondents had a good understanding of functions and features of OPAC. Similarly for the variable of OPAC Utilization for

Information Retrieval also scored an average of 29.68 which is also in category high. This means that the respondents didn't just know how to use the system but also used the system actively to browse library's collection to get some information. Overall, both variables are classified as high. Which shows that Library Users of STIKes Binalita Sudama Library library had a good knowledge and application to the system for their need on information searching process in the system.

The mean score of 25.25 indicates that most respondents already possess a good understanding of the basic functions of OPAC, including searching by title, author, subject, and keywords. This finding suggests that library users are generally familiar with the role of OPAC as an information retrieval tool. The relatively moderate standard deviation (6.66) also indicates that respondents' understanding does not vary substantially, meaning that most users demonstrate a similar level of comprehension regarding OPAC utilization. Likewise, the OPAC utilization variable obtained a mean score of 29.68 with a standard deviation of 7.87, indicating that respondents not only understand OPAC conceptually but also apply it consistently when searching for library collections. The high category of both variables reflects that knowledge and actual utilization coexist among the respondents.

In prior to running of simple linear regression analysis was performed of normality test to detect whether the regression residuals fit assumption of normalcy. The normality assumption is detected using of normality testing in the form of Histogram, and of Normal P-P Plot made by using of program of IBM SPSS Statistics.



The histogram shown in Figure 1 indicates that the distribution of the standardized residuals resembles the normal curve and is rather symmetric about the center. This behavior suggests the normality of the residuals and the absence of any serious violations of normality.

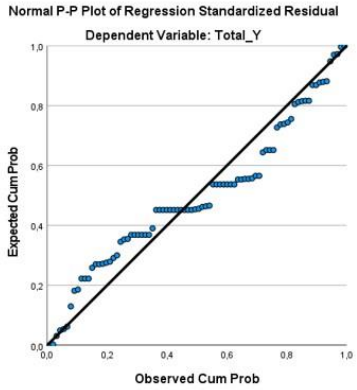


Figure 2. Normal P–P Plot of Regression Standardized Residual
Source: SPSS Output processed by the researcher (2026).

Observing the plotted residuals in Figure 2 we note that the points appear to lie near the diagonal line of reference with relatively little dispersion in some locations. Generally, the distribution pattern of the plotted points strongly suggested that the assumption of normality of the residual was not seriously violated for the present analysis based on simple linear regression. The data were thus interpreted to be normally distributed, and regression was conducted on the effect of knowledge level of library users on their usage of OPAC for information search.

A simple linear regression analysis was used in this research in order to identify how library users's knowledge impacts the usage of Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) for information search. Analysis has been performed using IBM SPSS Statistics and the result can be presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Simple Linear Regression Analysis

Variable	B	Std. Error	t	Sig.
Constant	3.907	1.718	2.274	0.026
Library Users' Understanding	1.021	0.066	15.508	<0.001

Based on Table 5, the regression equation obtained from the analysis is: Y = 3.907 + 1.021X

Value of the regression coefficient is 1.021 means that there is a relationship between the understanding of library users and usage of the OPAC with a coefficient value of positive (1.021>0), this indicates that with an increase of 1 unit in the understanding of library users, the use of the OPAC in seeking information in the STIKes Binalita Sudama Library increased by 1.021.

The positive regression coefficient (B = 1.021) demonstrates that library users' understanding contributes directly to increasing OPAC utilization. Practically, every improvement in users' understanding is followed by a proportional increase in their tendency to utilize OPAC for information retrieval. This finding implies that user competence is an important determinant of successful information retrieval activities. Therefore, improving users' understanding through user education programs is likely to increase the effectiveness of OPAC utilization in academic libraries.

To investigate whether user's cognition level significantly affect the usage of OPAC in information seeking, the awareness of using OPAC of library users was tested through t-test. The hypothesis test result can be described in Table 6.

Table 6. Hypothesis Testing Results

Variable	t-value	Sig.	Decision
Library Users' Understanding	15.508	<0.001	Accepted

Table 4 shows the result of t test was 15.508, the value of significance is less than the 0.001 which is less than the set at 0.10 level, therefore the H, (H Alternative Hypothesis) accept and reject H, (H null hypothesis). Based on the result, it means that knowledge of users' library give a positive and significant effect to use of OPAC in information search in Library of STIKes Binalita Sudama.

The t-value of 15.508 is considerably higher than the critical value, indicating that the effect of users' understanding is statistically very strong. Moreover, the significance value below 0.001 confirms that the probability of obtaining this relationship by chance is extremely small. Consequently, the hypothesis stating that library users' understanding significantly influences OPAC utilization is strongly supported by the empirical data.

The coefficient of determination (R^2) was calculated to measure the extent to which library users' understanding explains the variation in OPAC utilization. The result is presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Coefficient of Determination

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error the Estimate
1	0.864	0.746	0.743	3.997

Table 7 indicates the coefficient of determination (R^2) is 0, 746, which means that utilization of OPAC can be explained by the level of the library user in the form of knowledge is equal to 74.6% and the rest of 25.4% is contributed by factors that were not considered in this study. The implication of the result study is that the level of the library user knowledge on the role of the use of OPAC in the effort to retrieve the information by library of STIKes Binalita Sudama Library is one of factor that has a large influence on utilization of OPAC for retrieve the information on STIKes Binalita Sudama Library.

The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.746$) indicates that users' understanding explains 74.6% of the variance in OPAC utilization. This percentage can be considered relatively high in behavioral and social science research, suggesting that users' understanding is the dominant factor affecting OPAC utilization in this study. Nevertheless, the remaining 25.4% may be influenced by other variables that were not examined, such as digital literacy, system quality, ease of use, user motivation, previous experience with library technology, or librarian assistance. These findings indicate that improving users' understanding alone is highly effective, although complementary factors should also be considered in future studies.

Information Retrieval Theory Perspective

The descriptive findings indicate that both library users' understanding and OPAC utilization at STIKes Binalita Sudama Library fall within the high category, with mean scores of 25.25 and 29.68, respectively. Viewed through the lens of information retrieval (IR) theory, this pattern reflects more than a simple record of system familiarity: it signals that respondents have internalized the core stages of the search process that IR scholarship identifies as essential to effective retrieval query formulation, relevance judgment of retrieved results, and iterative refinement of search terms (Case & Given, 2016).

The comparatively high scores on the Search Skills and Independent Use dimensions of the Library Users' Understanding variable (Table 1) suggest that respondents are not passive recipients of OPAC output but active participants in constructing and evaluating their own search strategies. Case and Given (2016) argue that effective information retrieval is co-produced by the interaction between system capability and user cognition; a well-designed catalog cannot compensate for a user who is unable to translate an information need into an effective query, nor can it substitute for the ability to judge whether a retrieved record is relevant. Read in this light, the present findings indicate that library users at STIKes Binalita Sudama possess this cognitive capacity to a considerable degree, which helps explain why their reported understanding translates so directly into reported utilization.

Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) Perspective

The regression result offers a complementary, more mechanistic explanation of this relationship. The significant positive effect of users' understanding on OPAC utilization ($\beta = 1.021$; $p < 0.001$), together with a coefficient of determination of 0.746, can be meaningfully situated within the Technology Acceptance Model developed by Davis (1989), which posits that an individual's behavioral intention to use a system is shaped by two proximal beliefs: perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness. The operationalization of OPAC Utilization in this study (Table 1) mirrors this structure closely: the Perceived Ease of Use dimension (ease of finding information, speed in finding collections, time efficiency) and the User Acceptance dimension (user satisfaction, perceived usefulness) correspond directly to TAM's two core constructs.

Within this framework, users' understanding functions as an external variable that shapes both beliefs users who understand OPAC's search logic and bibliographic display are more likely to perceive the system as easy to operate, which in turn strengthens their perceived usefulness of the system for locating information efficiently, and ultimately their behavioral intention to continue using it. The strong explanatory power of understanding observed in this study (74.6%) therefore does not merely confirm a statistical association; it suggests that understanding operates as a cognitive antecedent to the ease-of-use and usefulness beliefs that TAM identifies as proximal determinants of system use.

These findings are consistent with, and extend, several prior studies on OPAC use in academic libraries. Daris and Sayekti (2025) similarly found that users who possess adequate search knowledge are able to retrieve information more effectively, while Shokane and

Bopape (2023) reported that undergraduates who understood OPAC's core functions still struggled with more advanced features such as Boolean operators, implying that understanding is not a binary condition but a matter of depth. Rahmadani and Desky (2024) likewise demonstrated that structured guidance in using OPAC improves users' information-seeking outcomes. The present study corroborates this line of evidence and adds a further contribution: by isolating understanding as the sole predictor variable and testing it within a private health-sciences library a setting rarely represented in prior OPAC research it demonstrates that the explanatory strength of understanding is not confined to general university contexts but extends to more specialized academic library environments.

Notably, this result should be read alongside the preliminary observation reported in the Introduction, which indicated that a considerable share of library visitors continued to rely on librarian assistance rather than the OPAC terminal. Taken together with the survey findings, this suggests a possible discrepancy between users' self-reported understanding and utilization on one hand, and their observed independent behavior on the other. One plausible explanation, consistent with information literacy research (Anggraeni et al., 2025; Muliyadi, 2023), is that users who have received at least basic orientation to OPAC and who therefore responded more confidently to the questionnaire report comparatively high understanding and use, while those who have not yet been exposed to such orientation remain underrepresented in active OPAC use and default to librarian-mediated search. This interpretation is consistent with Kumar et al. (2018), who found that limited promotion and user education constrain the practical uptake of library digital collections regardless of system availability.

Theoretical Implications

This study contributes to the information retrieval and information literacy literature by empirically demonstrating that users' understanding functions as a measurable antecedent — rather than a peripheral correlate of OPAC utilization. It reinforces the argument that information retrieval effectiveness is jointly determined by system capability and user cognitive competence (Case & Given, 2016), and it extends the applicability of the Technology Acceptance Model beyond general information systems into the specific context of library retrieval tools, showing that understanding-driven perceptions of ease of use and usefulness remain relevant predictors of system engagement in academic library settings.

Managerial and Practical Implications

These findings carry direct implications for the management of STIKes Binalita Sudama Library. First, because understanding explains a substantial share of utilization, the library should develop a structured OPAC orientation module, delivered during new-student induction and reinforced periodically, covering basic search functions (title, author, subject, keyword) as well as bibliographic interpretation and shelf-location skills. Second, an integrated user education program combining information literacy instruction with hands-on OPAC practice sessions should be institutionalized as a recurring library service rather than

a one-time activity, given that the preliminary observation reported earlier suggests a portion of users still default to librarian-mediated search. Third, the library may develop simple, accessible search guides or short video tutorials placed at OPAC terminals and on the library's digital platform, allowing users to build understanding independently and at their own pace. Finally, librarians should be positioned not only as service providers but as active facilitators of information literacy, periodically assessing user competence and adjusting orientation content accordingly. Collectively, these measures suggest that investment in user understanding is likely to yield greater returns for OPAC utilization than investment in system infrastructure alone.

4. CONCLUSION

This study aimed to identify the effect of user's understanding on OPAC usage for information retrieval by users of the STIKes Binalita Sudama Library. The results showed that the library users' understanding variable as well as the variable of OPAC usage was of high level, meaning that users as respondents had sufficiently known OPAC functions and made a good use of OPAC on information retrieval in the library. It can also be seen from the simple linear regression analysis result showing that the effect of user's understanding on OPAC usage gave a positive impact and significant effect on the usage of OPAC. As for coefficient of determination (R) is 0,746, it indicates that users' understanding contributed 74,6 percent of variance of the use of OPAC and proved that it is a determining factor of effective use of the library.

This research addition in the library and information science field which have been known that in the maximization information search on OPAC is as an information retrieval device and based on research that done it may conclude that the STIKes Binalita Sudama Library needs to improve information dissemination and user education about how to search effectively and efficiently to information searching on OPAC by having regular user orientation about OPAC, providing of information literacy education, preparing of searching manual of information search.

This study was limited to examining the effect of users' understanding on OPAC utilization within a single library at one higher education institution. Future research should incorporate additional variables such as digital literacy, system quality, perceived ease of use, user satisfaction, and technological readiness to develop a more comprehensive understanding of OPAC use. Extending this research across multiple academic libraries or institutions would also enhance the generalizability of the findings.

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