

The Role of School Librarians in Increasing the Reading Interest of Children Through Storytelling

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Abstract

The period between 0-12 years is the most important time for children in absorbing the values of life which will shape their character. In other words, experiences which occurred in that period will have an influence on the child's future. From where do they get the values of life which will shape their character? These can be obtained among others, through the various information sources which surround them. Currently, information technology has developed rapidly. The child's skill to access the internet can cause negative consequences, such as most of them will be addicted to playing games, get lazy to study and have no interest in reading. Most fatal is that children can access information which are inappropriate for them and which could harm their mind and behavior. How can we implant good values of life in an enjoyable way to children? Here the school librarian plays an important role to prevent negative effects of the development of information technology by increasing the children's book collection, introducing the children's collection, selecting appropriate books, which will provide a positive effect to the child's development. In addition, the school librarian can also help the child to develop an interest in reading children's literature by organizing activities, such as storytelling. Story-telling is similar to talking to children: giving them certainty, entertainment, interweaving relationships, giving information or explanations, arousing curiosity, and giving them inspiration. When reading aloud, the librarian actually conditions the child's brain to associate reading with happiness, creating information which functions as a back-ground to increase the child's vocabulary, and giving role-models of reading interest (Trelease, 2008:23). Story-telling is a form of communication. Its aim is to convey values of life, developing literate abilities, transferring knowledge, developing emotions and characters, strengthening family ties, entertaining and improving quality time (Faridh Zidni).

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Biographical note

Evi Rosfiantika and Herika Rainathami are lecturers at Information Science and Librarianship Department, Communication Science Faculty, Universitas Padjadjaran. A series of social services on Story telling in Elementary School level since late 2011. Evi Rosfiantika wa born May 17th, 1976 and got her undergraduate degree from Indonesian Literature, Institute of Education, Bandung and her master degree from Communication Faculty, Universtiy of Padjadjaran, Bandung. Herika Rainathami is a member of IASL. She was born on May 23rd, 1973 and got her undergraduate degree from Library Science, Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung, and her master degree from Information Science, Librarianship and Archive Science, Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta. She had seven years experience as a librarian before she become a lecturer.