

DESIGNING READING MATERIAL BASED ON NORTH SUMATRA STATE MUSEUM

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ABSTRACT

One crucial step in promoting cultural and historical education in the area is the creation of reading materials about the North Sumatra State Museum. The purpose of this research project was to design and develop reading materials suitable for the museum setting in order to raise public awareness and appreciation of the region's rich cultural and historical legacy. A qualitative technique is used in the research, involving document analysis, interviews, and observation. The resultant reading material can enhance the museum experience by being a useful tool for both formal and informal education. The outcome of this study is a reading guide with comprehensive details about the museum's artifact collection, local history, and the significance of cultural elements. It is hoped that the outcome of this effort will increase public awareness of the North Sumatra State Museum as a knowledge hub that is crucial to the documentation and preservation of the rich cultural heritage of the region, as well as spark interest in and understanding of the area's cultural and historical heritage.

Keywords: *Reading Material, Descriptive Text, North Sumatra State Museum.*

ABSTRAK

Salah satu langkah krusial dalam mempromosikan pendidikan budaya dan sejarah di daerah tersebut adalah pembuatan bahan bacaan tentang Museum Negeri Sumatera Utara. Tujuan dari proyek penelitian ini adalah untuk merancang dan mengembangkan bahan bacaan yang sesuai dengan lingkungan museum untuk meningkatkan kesadaran dan apresiasi masyarakat terhadap kekayaan warisan budaya dan sejarah daerah tersebut. Teknik kualitatif digunakan dalam penelitian ini, yang melibatkan analisis dokumen, wawancara, dan observasi. Bahan bacaan yang dihasilkan dapat meningkatkan pengalaman museum dengan menjadi alat yang berguna untuk pendidikan formal dan informal. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah panduan membaca dengan rincian lengkap tentang koleksi artefak museum, sejarah lokal, dan makna unsur budaya. Hasil dari upaya ini diharapkan dapat meningkatkan kesadaran masyarakat terhadap Museum Negeri Sumut sebagai pusat pengetahuan yang sangat penting dalam pendokumentasian dan pelestarian kekayaan warisan budaya daerah, serta memicu minat dan pemahaman terhadap Museum Negeri Sumut. warisan budaya dan sejarah daerah tersebut.

Kata Kunci: *Bahan Bacaan, Teks Deskriptif, Museum Negeri Sumatera Utara.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Reading is one of the four abilities that pupils must acquire when learning a language. Reading is the process of

identifying and deciphering information from written texts. It requires a number of abilities, including the capacity to comprehend word meanings and make

connections between new and prior knowledge. Duran (2013) asserts that, similar to cause and effect, reading and reading comprehension are related. This conveys the idea that reading should be done in order to fully comprehend the information that is presented in the text. One of the abilities that children need is reading since it allows them to learn new things.

Reading offers opportunities to learn vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, and sentence, paragraph, and text construction, according to Harmer (2001). Thus, the ability to read well can help develop a variety of other talents. According to Grab (2009), reading is the primary method for comprehending a reading content. The reader learns a great deal of information and comprehension by reading.

Reading is an activity that needs to be done by all individuals, especially in the current era of globalization. Reading has the potential to improve a person's abilities, especially in understanding various concepts. Apart from that, reading also plays a role in developing critical thinking. Reading activities have a very important role because knowledge can be obtained through the reading process.

The North Sumatra State Museum, which draws attention to historical artifacts kept and conserved in this museum, is the reading material the researcher used for this study. The museum preserves cultural heritage collections, including the original cultural artifacts from the ethnic groups of North Sumatra and artifacts from the Dutch colonial era. It is regarded as a repository of history and unique goods. Because of this, visitors from abroad, in particular, like coming to this museum.

As a result, the researcher chose the North Sumatra State Museum as the subject of this research proposal because a large portion of the Indonesian population is still ignorant about the

museum's purpose, location, and contents. One type of cultural institution is the North Sumatra State Museum. This museum has a crucial role in preserving the cultural and historical heritage of the area. However, even though it has great potential as a source of knowledge, the North Sumatra State Museum is often not utilized optimally in increasing reading interest and knowledge of the general public, especially students and researchers.

In the current information era, where technology and digital media dominate, traditional libraries and printed literature are increasingly being abandoned. Therefore, it is important to find innovative ways to connect the North Sumatra State Museum with the younger generation and wider society. One solution is to design museum-based reading materials, which combine the richness of museum collections with interesting and relevant literature.

Museum reading-based materials can be an effective tool in promoting the history, art and culture of North Sumatra to the public. Through this approach, the researchers can encourage interest in reading, increase understanding of regional history and culture, and motivate visitors to participate more in knowledge exploration. In the context of educational innovation, museum-based reading materials can also be a valuable learning tool for schools and other educational institutions.

Therefore, this research will focus on designing reading materials based on the North Sumatra State Museum. The goal is to create an engaging, informative, and accessible literary resource that will benefit the wider community, including students, researchers, and museum visitors themselves. Creative and effective steps in designing museum-based reading materials can be a relevant and sustainable solution in strengthening the

role of museums as centers of education and knowledge.

Descriptive text is a type of text that describes or explains in detail an object, place, event, person or concept so that readers can clearly visualize the content being explained. The main purpose of descriptive text is to provide detailed information about a particular topic and allow readers to imagine or understand the topic without having to see it directly. The reading material that the researcher produces is descriptive in character, outlining the museum's core ideals as well as the background to the North Sumatra State Museum's founding.

A descriptive text, according to Mahsun (2014: 28), is a text that describes a specific thing or item based only on its physical attributes. Another type of writing that describes or illustrates what the author will write is called a descriptive text. Scholars produce engaging and valuable reading materials to increase public awareness of the North Sumatra State Museum. Scholars produce engaging and valuable reading materials to increase public awareness of the North Sumatra State Museum.

The first study, Krismanto (2021), is titled "Problems of reading culture in Indonesia (Library study of problems & their solutions)." The authors have conducted several other studies. Reading comprehension is one of the things that students need to know and is equally important, according to both their research and the researchers'. There are still a lot of contributing factors to the relatively low reading proficiency of students.

Their focus on students identifying the reasons behind low student learning and offering strategies to enhance their skills distinguishes our research from theirs, which focuses on giving the public reading materials to encourage

them to add to their collection and develop a curiosity about reading.

The second, titled "Crisis in the ability to read fluently in Indonesian children during the Covid-19 pandemic," is Chandra (2021). Their research and the researchers' findings are similar in that reading abilities are crucial and help children become accustomed to reading at a young age. Additionally, the ability to read fluently while using care to employ pauses, intonation, and expressions in reading distinguishes their research from ours. Their ability to read fluently and their journals during the COVID 19 period is demonstrated by their attention to these details and their comprehension of the use of phrases and punctuation in sentences.

The third, titled "Teachers strategies in teaching reading comprehension," is Nurdianingsih (2020). Both of their studies and the researchers' use of interviewing tools and encouraging students to read more to understand more are commonalities. Their journal employs two teachers, and at different points during the study process, the first teacher reads aloud, uses brainstorming, and also requests more detailed information about the reading.

This is how their research differs from ours. The second teacher employed a variety of techniques, including going through the dictionary, reading aloud, rereading, assessing particular assignments, and posing more focused queries. Afterwards, they combined their three stages of strategy pre-reading, while reading, and post-reading.

Regarding the aforementioned research, the author penned two inquiries:

1. What is the State Museum of North Sumatra?
2. How the North Sumatra State Museum can be used as reading material?

The researcher hopes that by carrying out this research, readers can extract historical values from reading materials written descriptively by studying the North Sumatra State History Museum. Research generally yields benefits in the form of reference material that serves as the foundation for further scientific development. These studies' advantages are in theory as reading material that can offer in-depth understanding of the region's history, culture, and heritage. A deeper comprehension of museum collections, their provenance, and their significance in relation to history and people's lives can be gained from this research. Practically by offering scholars, researchers, academics, and the general public a useful source of information. The study's findings can serve as a guide for future research and education.

2. METHOD

Prior to conducting research, a pre-planned strategy known as a research design is developed with the aim of systematically and impartially obtaining the data and information required to answer research questions or meet research objectives.

Descriptive research, according to Ramdhan (2021), is research that uses a method to describe a research result with the intention of giving a thorough description, explanation, and validation of something. The goal of this descriptive research design is to provide a clear and comprehensive description of an object. Interviews and observations are used to gather information in order to paint a complete picture of this museum. The development method (research and development) is applied in this research design. Creating, developing, and designing reading materials based on the North Sumatra.

The estimated duration of this research is five months, beginning in

June 2023 and ending in October 2023. Accurate data is gathered for the study at the North Sumatra State Museum, giving readers insight into the institution, history, and values of the museum.

To support this research, secondary data from archives and museum documents as well as information from books were used as data sources.

The tool used in a study to gather data is called a research instrument. In order to ensure that the data gathered is accurate, relevant, and helpful for accomplishing research goals, the author carefully designs the research instruments.

Observation. In this instance, direct observation was conducted within the museum to examine the exhibits and the historical artifacts in order to gather as much data as possible for future reading.

Interview with a number of museum employees to gather details about the museum's founding history, the historical artifacts it displays, and its guiding principles.

The State Museum of North Sumatra conducts research using a variety of data collection methods to gather thorough and pertinent information. The researchers gather this research data in a number of ways, as follows: The processes involved in gathering information or data that offers a description and in-depth comprehension of a subject or phenomenon are known as descriptive qualitative data collection.

The writer can employ methods such as document analysis, interviews, and observation to gather qualitative descriptive data.

Observation: Researchers used observation to gather firsthand information about the subjects or phenomena they were studying. There are two ways to go about doing this observation: either as an observer who simply watches without interfering, or as

a researcher who actively participates in the situation being studied. In order to gather precise and comprehensive data on the research topic, researchers use observation to record and watch behavior, interactions, and situations as they happen. Interview: In order to obtain a comprehensive grasp of the opinions, perceptions, experiences, and points of view of the participants with regard to the research subject, researchers conducted direct interviews with informants. Researchers can uncover richer and more in-depth information about the topic they are researching by speaking with the sources directly. Document analysis: Information pertinent to the research topic was gathered by researchers from a variety of written sources, including notes, newspapers, reports, and other documents. These records may be found in books, journals, papers, archives, or other written materials pertaining to the subject of the study.

Analyzing documents adds context and validates the interpretation of information gleaned from other sources. Through a thorough examination and analysis of pertinent documents, researchers can obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under study.

Before moving on to more in-depth analysis, descriptive data analysis techniques play a crucial role as an initial step in understanding and exploring the data. This method's primary goal is to give a general overview of the North Sumatra Museum. The application of Miles and Huberman's triangulation theory in data analysis involves a comprehensive approach to exploring and explaining something in order to gain a deeper understanding of the data. Sugiyono (2013) explains the Miles and Huberman model as follows.

Data reduction. Reducing data is an action to maintain the essence and

identify core elements, focus on significant aspects, and reveal patterns and themes. The researcher determines what he wants to achieve, chooses the data collection method, understands the data better and takes any documentation. The collection selection process is carried out during data reduction because the museum collection is very large so the researcher chooses the relevant collection.

Data presentation. Data presentation is a summary of information that has been compiled so that researchers can draw conclusions and take next steps. Researchers organize and present information related to collections, history and other aspects of the museum.

Results and discussion. The results and discussion section is the stage where the information obtained from data analysis is presented and analyzed further. This involves presenting detailed findings from the data that have been analyzed, relating them to the research questions that have been asked, as well as providing the necessary interpretation and context. The researcher creates results about the museum and describes them in detail.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Based on the research carried out, information obtained regarding the North Sumatra State Museum and the form of reading material based on the information obtained.

a. Description of the Research Place

Based on interviews conducted with informants, information data regarding the North Sumatra State Museum obtained as follows:

Human culture is an integral aspect of life, and history plays a crucial role in shaping culture. Indonesia's territory, including the Province of North Sumatra, is home to a diverse

population, particularly in the city of Medan. The political hub of the country is Medan City. The province of North Sumatra is well-known for its exceptional cultural diversity and depth.

This cultural diversity is still present today in a number of North Sumatra locations, such as the North Sumatra State Museum, and has been preserved throughout history. The primary location for displaying and preserving cultural heritage is this museum. Aside from that, this museum is a great resource in an educational setting.

Located at Jl. HM. Joni No. 51 in Medan, the North Sumatra State Museum is a museum that has been there since 1954. This museum has a variety of collections, including historical and unusual items. The public is welcome to visit the museum and view the internal collections; this collection serves as a useful source of information.

In addition to serving as formal educational institutions, museums also serve as more laid-back hubs for public education. Workshops, seminars, and other informal educational events can be hosted by museums with the goal of fostering a greater awareness and appreciation of the history and culture of the area.

The museum serves as a research and study hub for scientists, scholars, and researchers who wish to delve deeper into North Sumatra's history, culture, and artistic expression.

b. North Sumatra State Museum-Based Reading Material

Based on the data collected and data reduction, a reading material prepared based on information about the North Sumatra State Museum as follows.

North Sumatra State Museum



Located at Jl. HM. Joni No. 51 in Medan, the North Sumatra State Museum is a museum that has been there since 1954. This museum has a variety of collections, including historical and unusual items. The public is welcome to visit the museum to view the collections within, and this collection serves as a useful source of information.

The physical appearance of the North Sumatra State Building Museum is unique and appealing. The distinctive architectural features of the structure, which are apparent at first look, make the North Sumatra State Museum stand out. The architecture of this structure is reminiscent of a traditional North Sumatran home. The total size of this museum complex is 10,468 m². The two levels of the main structure are utilized for different purposes. Requirements include areas for both temporary and permanent exhibitions, audiovisual rooms, lecture halls, museum head offices, administrative rooms, advice and instruction rooms, libraries, and storage spaces for collections. This main building's architectural style is modeled by a native North Sumatra dwelling. The front portion Several ethnic groups, including Malay, Toba Batak, Simalungun, Karo, Angkola/Mandailing, Pakpak, and Nias, are represented by the embellishments on the roof. There are reliefs on both sides that show many facets of North Sumatra's history and culture, including traditional homes and significant individuals like Sisimangaraja and preparation, the lab,

the mess, the ticket sales area, and the guard station.

The permanent exhibition space on the first floor is filled with prehistoric collections of North Sumatra. One of the highlights of this museum is the exhibition about the people and tribes who live in the North Sumatra region. The North Sumatra State Museum features a number of exhibition spaces with a wide range of holdings. The unique themes in each exhibition space pay homage to the history, customs, and cultural legacy of the province of North Sumatra. The exhibition area is divided into different gallery types that showcase prehistoric collections, ancient artifacts from North Sumatra that date back to the Hindu-Buddhist, Islamic, colonial, and historical periods, it also features national heroes and the history of the governor of North Sumatra's struggle.

1. Pre-History Collection Room

This room displays prehistoric collections including replicas of Trinil fossils/replicas of ancient human fossils, replicas of human skulls found by Eugene in layers of sand dating from the Armor era. Other collections include square rods, beads, animals, fish hooks, bronze bracelets, net pendulums, and dioramas of prehistoric life. Soft lights and narration accompanied by ethnic music create a tranquil atmosphere, inviting visitors to reflect on the rich past.



2. Hindu Buddhist History Collection Room

This room displays the history of Hindu and Buddhist statues, replicas of statues, including the Buddha statue, namely a bronze statue that came from the Tandihat II Monastery, as well as findings from Chinese sites, and the Panai Inscription which consists of ten lines of writing, most of which have been worn away. This hall takes visitors back to a time when Hinduism and Buddhism played an important role in the cultural and spiritual development of North Sumatra. Soft lighting and architecture reminiscent of ancient temples create an enchanting atmosphere. In this room, visitors can explore works and recordings ancient, belief system and spiritual practices adhered to by society during the Hindu-Buddhist era.



3. Ancient Religious Collection Room

This room displays traces of the early civilization of the people of North Sumatra which are related to beliefs (religious objects), including wooden chests (Nias), statues or adu, Pangulubalang of the Batak Toba tribe whose stones are considered guardian spirits, tables from the tribe. Pakpak, specifically a stone statue of a person in a position riding an animal such as a horse which is used as a guard and in the Laklak (Batak) library, is a bark manuscript written in Batak script and language.

Usually, this text contains mantras, predictions of good and bad days, as

well as ways to prepare potions to ensure the safety and protection of the village. Visitors can also explore ancient texts, religious texts, and historical documents that provide insight into the belief systems and religious rituals that humans performed in the past. The soft light from the lamps and the calm atmosphere create a very contemplative environment.



4. Islamic Period Collection Room

This room is a physical trace of evidence of the development of Islamic culture in North Sumatra in the 9th to 11th centuries. It contains a number of artifacts in the form of pottery and glass, manuscripts including the Manuscript on the Mandatory Nature of Allah, tombstones and a miniature of the Azizi Mosque whose building has a land area of 18,000 m² by a German contractor.

This hall is a window to the world where the Islamic religion has a significant influence on the development of culture, art and daily life of the people of North Sumatra. Visitors can explore ancient writings, religious texts and Islamic works of art. This explains the importance of this religion in developing norms and values in North Sumatran society.

The Islamic Period Collection at the North Sumatra Museum is a place that provides visitors with the opportunity to reflect on the positive impact of Islam on the life and culture of the local community.



5. Struggle History Collection Room

This room contains a collection of historical struggles telling the struggle of the people of North Sumatra from before 1908 to the period of the physical revolution 1945-1949. And it also displays collections which include traditional and modern weapons, traditional medicines, communication equipment used against invaders as well as paintings of heroes, events, history, posters and war.

This pavilion is a place to display the historical spirit of the struggle of the people of North Sumatra to achieve independence and maintain their cultural identity. Entering this room, visitors will immediately feel the atmosphere of the fighting spirit that is still alive. The walls are decorated with pictures of national heroes, heroic deeds and important moments on the journey to independence. Bright lighting and a sense of optimism create a motivating and inspiring atmosphere.



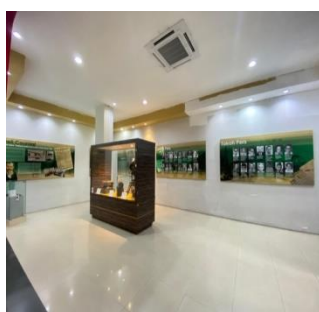
6. Press Collection Room

This room contains figures from the press of North Sumatra, a typewriter used in the Tjermin Karo Magazine office, TV-RI Studio Medan, a film camera that was used

in making feature films, one of which was the film *Buaya Deli* (1978), a Telex machine, a means of written communication via telephones in the 50s/60s and photo cameras that were used by journalists to find news. The Press Room of the North Sumatra Museum is a window into the history of media and journalism in this region.

This space shows how the press has played an important role in disseminating information, recording historical events and shaping public opinion over the past decades. Soft lighting and shades that reflect editorial life create an atmosphere related to the history of journalism, how news and information was disseminated in the past and how Technological changes affect media and journalism.

The newsroom also illustrates the role of media in promoting arts and culture in the region, with exhibitions that include arts and culture reviews published in previous publications. Visitors can understand how the media has helped document and promote the rich culture of North Sumatra.



7. Colonial Collection Room

This room offers insight into a difficult time and changes in the history of North Sumatra. The collection of artefacts includes colonial clothing, household furniture from that period, weapons used during that time as well as historical documents that describe the colonial

period and its impact on the people of North Sumatra. Artifacts This shows how colonialism affected culture, economic life, and people's daily lives.



8. Archaeological Park

This ancient park is located within the museum complex and holds many historical artifacts from various sources, including the Padang Lawas Temple in the form of lion statues, makara, fragments of crocodile statues, fragments of human statues, carved inscriptions, Osa osa, and Nias stone statues. Apart from that, This museum displays artifacts and inscriptions from the Toba Batak culture, as well as artifacts from the China City and Barus sites. This archaeological park is decorated with tropical plants, beautiful flower gardens, and paths that guide visitors. To explore the natural environment. The green and peaceful atmosphere creates the perfect place to relax and reflect.



9. Ethnographic Collection Room

Located on the second floor of the Museum, the North Sumatra Ethnography Collection is a journey that introduces visitors to the rich culture and ethnic diversity that is

characteristic of the North Sumatra region. The Ethnographic Collection at the North Sumatra Museum is a journey that introduces visitors to the rich culture and ethnic diversity that make up the North Sumatra region.

This room contains traditional weapons and equipment for war, plantation equipment, agriculture, hunting and gathering, trade, household equipment, life cycle ceremonies, animal husbandry, fisheries, carpentry, blacksmith tools, tribal heritage objects (Karo, Melayu, Nias, Toba, Simalungun, Pakpak), traditional transportation, Malay traditional houses, North Nias, Karo, Pakpak, Mandailing, Simalungun and Toba, South Nias. When visitors enter this hall, they will feel a rich and colorful cultural atmosphere.



Discussion

Designing museum-based reading materials at North Sumatra Museum is an important step to educate the public about the culture and history of North Sumatra. Research at the Museum of North Sumatra proved to be a very collaborative and easy experience for researchers.

The Museum of North Sumatra is very open to research. The institution has clear policies and simple procedures for researchers who wish to access collections and meet informants. Museum staff and The collection curator seemed very supportive of this research. Staff provided the necessary information, helped meet informants, and provided the necessary access to documents and museum collections.

Collaboration between researchers and the North Sumatra Museum went very well. The openness, cooperation and willingness of all parties to work together in this research meant that researchers had no difficulty in meeting informants and obtaining the necessary data.

This study shows that museums in North Sumatra play an important role in preserving, researching and promoting cultural heritage. However, there is still room for improvement in several areas such as conservation and the use of modern technology for education and promotion. Furthermore, cooperation between museums and local governments, universities and cultural communities can be improved to maximize the positive impact of the museum.

4. CONCLUSION

Reading is an important skill for students, because it helps them gain new knowledge and build various other skills. It also participates in developing critical and important thinking in the current era of globalization. The North Sumatra State Museum was selected as the suggested study subject because it has an array of artifacts from the past and cultural heritage, but is often underutilized in increasing students' reading interest and knowledge.

Through research findings entitled Designing Reading Material Based on North State Museum, the reading material created for this research perfects its truth, benefits and impact. From the research process that has been carried out by collecting data from various sources to direct observation and interviews. This reading material is designed to describe the North Sumatra State Museum, so that readers can understand what the North Sumatra State Museum is, the function of this museum and it is hoped that it can increase students' interest in reading.

This reading material is able to cover material related to students' daily lives, making it more relevant and easy to understand. In this way, students can see how important historical and cultural knowledge is in the context of their own lives. In light of the aforementioned research findings, the researchers wishes to provide the following recommendations: Deepen readers' knowledge in the field of historical stories so that readers can understand and appreciate cultural values through historical story content. And increase conventional and non-conventional promotions to attract more tourists or readers because there is a lot of knowledge to be gained from this North Sumatra state museum.

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