
Use of Digital Literature by the Students of Faculty of Arts of University of Dhaka: a Current Trend Analysis

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Abstract

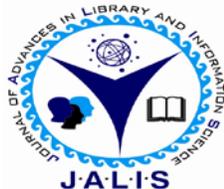
The aim of this paper is to find out the current trend of using digital literature by the students of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Dhaka. Survey method was applied to collect data from the target students. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed among the students of 10 departments of arts faculty, and 180 students respondents returned. The result of this study shows that the maximum of the respondents was male and maximum were living in university halls. Students were very much aware of digital literature, and they were using it. They were using it for their course work and research work. They used a general search via google, yahoo, etc. for collecting their information.

Keywords

Digital literature, e-resources, usage, awareness, students, arts faculty, University, Bangladesh.

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Introduction

In today's world, information has become a crucial component of our daily life. To meet up our daily life necessities, we need to access and use various kinds of information sources and services. Now we get information easily at anywhere at any time by the widespread development of the internet and other related technologies (Singh et al., 2015). Improvement in the area of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) has facilitated the use of internet, mass storage media, networking, interactive video technology, virtual reality, and private and public databases. It has opened a new door to collect, organize and disseminate information on a larger scale. Today information is not confined to store, retrieve, communicate and broadcast electronically but also it can be shifted, selected and transformed into various modes. Nowadays, a significant number of valuable information items are available only in digital format (Bavakutty et al., 2013). There are 48 public universities, 108 private universities and 3 international universities in Bangladesh. Of the 48 public universities, 6 are agricultural, 5 are engineering, 14 are general, 4 are medical, 10 are science and technology, 4 are specialized, and 3 are off-campus universities (University Grant Commission Bangladesh, 2020). University of Dhaka (DU) is the pioneer university in Bangladesh. The available digital resources of DU are most beneficial for its faculty members and students. Digital literature contains many resources that are very helpful to the students for their course works, assignments, monographs, thesis, reports, etc. It is also beneficial to the research students and faculty members to fulfill their needs. The DU has been publishing its publications such as research reports, thesis, and journals, etc. in electronic format and stored in its digital repository. These materials are accessible via the internet.

Background of the Study

The University of Dhaka is the largest and oldest university in Bangladesh. It was established in 1921 under the Dacca University Act 1920 of the Indian Legislative Council. It started its academic activities on 1 July 1921. It has 13 faculties, 83 departments, 12 institutes, 20 residential halls, 03 hostels, and more than 56 research centers. There are 37018 students, 1992 teachers, 1201 PhDs Researchers, and 1956 MPhils Researchers. The University of Dhaka currently offers graduate, post-graduate, Mphil, and PhD degree in respective departments. It is situated in

the capital city of Bangladesh in 275 acres of land with all technological and infrastructural facilities. The Faculty of Arts is the most prominent and largest faculty at this University. It consists of 17 departments, and it has 7779 students and 1662 teachers. Dhaka University Library is also the largest academic library in Bangladesh. The library has more than 685,750 information resources, including printed books and binding periodicals. Most of the resources of its have now been converted to digital form. The library also has a collection of more than 9,600 e-books from various publications (Dhaka University Annual report 2017-2018, 2020; Dhaka University Academic Calendar-2019, 2020).

Literature Review

Digital literature is the digital representation of any literature. It is a form of literature including works produced exclusively on and for digital media, such as computers, tablets, and mobile phones. Digital literature encompasses various types of resources forms such as e-books, CD-ROMs, e-journal, e-articles, e-thesis, e-magazine, online databases, Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and so on (Akpojotor, 2016). Some digital literature can be printed out but some digital literature which is produced with and for the digital medium, it could not be printed smoothly or not possible on paper such as hyperlinks, full-text search, etc. Singh (2020) conducted a study to find out the awareness and usage level of library users. He explored that majority of the students are very aware of e-resources. They frequently use e-resources for their course and research work. Especially, research scholars are heavily relying on e-resources to obtain appropriate information. Another study found that students use both E-Resources and print resources but the number of e-resources users is less than the number of print resource users (Idiegbeyan-Ose et al., 2019). Akpojotor (2016) carried a study to find out the level of awareness and usage of e-information resources of LIS students in Nigeria. The results showed that LIS students are much aware and profoundly use e-information resources. The study also stated that LIS students are experienced in the use of e-information resources.

Kuriand Doddamani(2016)carried a study to observe the awareness and usage of e-resources of a particular university in India. The results revealed that due to the lack of formal training, users don't correctly utilize the e-resources. Tamrakar and

Garg(2016)surveyed to estimate the usage of e-resources by a particular university in India. The study showed that the maximum of the users could access their interested e-resources. Adeleke and Nwalo(2017)investigated to reveal the availability and level of awareness and usage of e-resources by the Postgraduates students. The outcomes showed that due to the lack of IT skills to search, they don't use of e-resources properly. Bavakutty²studied on use of e-resources by Kannur Universities in India. They explored that e-resources are gaining prominence over print resources due to internal positive features alike up-to-date-ness, worldwide in reach, easiness of access, retrieval and use. The whole population is aware of e-resources. It is also seen that shortage of facility and training a significant number of respondents are not IT skilful.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to analyze the current trend of using digital literature by the students of Arts faculty of the University of Dhaka. To achieve the main objective, this study focused on the following issues:

- To find out the level of awareness about using digital literature among the students.
- To identify for what purposes students of Arts faculty use digital literature.
- To determine the satisfaction level of using digital literature by the students of the Faculty of Arts
- To identify the hindrance that was faced by students of Arts Faculty to use digital literature.

Scope and Limitation

The University of Dhaka has different types of digital literature. This study was conducted to know about the use of digital literature by the students of the Faculty of Arts. Due to time limitations, the study was limited to the students of 10 of the 17 departments of the Arts Faculty of the University of Dhaka only. It would be better if we covered all of the faculties and departments of this university.

Methodology

To determine the appropriate methodology of this study, it was necessary to review the relevant

literature conducted earlier about the usage of digital literature by the students and other disciplines. After reviewing the relevant literature, it was able to understand that the survey method is the most suitable method for this study. A closed-ended questionnaire was designed for data collection. Different types of questions were present on the questionnaire about the usage of digital literature. Some of the questionnaire's items were self-developed, and others were developed from different types of reliable sources. 5 point Likert Scale (1-Poor, 5-Excellent), Yes/No, and multiple answer method was used for the questionnaire.

The respondents were selected randomly from different departments of Arts faculty of Dhaka University for the experimental survey. The final questionnaire was prepared after analyzing the empirical survey. The questionnaire was distributed to the students of the selected department of Arts faculty of Dhaka University. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed to the students of ten departments and from which 180 questionnaires were returned. The response rate was 90%. The data were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)-25 software.

Data Analysis and results

Table 1 deal with personal information about the respondents. A total of 180 responses were received from the students of faculty of arts of the University of Dhaka. Among total respondents 124(68.9%) are male, and 56(31.1%) are female. Moreover, other demographics information of the faculty members are as follows: the majority 157(87.2%) of the students are from 20-23 age groups, and the lowest 12(6.7%) of are from 24-27 groups. Additionally, the table indicates that highest 58(32.2%) of participants are 4th-year undergraduate level and the lowest 32(17.8%) of participants are masters postgraduate level students. It is to be noted that 1st-year students are totally absent.

It is worth mentioning that, out of 10 participating departments, 06 departments, i.e., department of English, Bangla, History, Islamic History and Culture, Islamic Studies, Information Science and Library Management are 20(11.1%). The remaining 04 departments, i.e., department of Philosophy, Linguistics, World Religion and Culture, and Arabic are 15 (7.3%). Additionally, students were also asked about their residence. The majority of the students

148(82.2%) are on-campus students, and the rest of the 32(17.8%) are off-campus students, (Table 1).

Table 1. Student’s demographic information

Demographic information	Categories	No. of participants (N=180)	(%)
<i>Gender</i>	Male	124	68.9%
	Female	56	31.1%
<i>Age group</i>	16-19 years	11	6.1%
	20-23 years	157	87.2%
	24-27 years	12	6.7%
<i>Academic Year</i>	2nd Year	38	21.1%
	3rd Year	52	28.9%
	4th Year	58	32.2%
	Masters	32	17.8%
<i>Department</i>	English	20	11.1%
	Bangla	20	11.1%
	History	20	11.1%
	Islamic History and Culture	20	11.1%
	Islamic Studies	20	11.1%
	Information Science and Library Management	20	11.1%
	Philosophy	15	8.3%
	Linguistics	15	8.3%
	World Religion and Culture	15	8.3%
	Arabic	15	8.3%
	<i>Residence</i>	On-Campus	148
Off-Campus		32	17.8%

Descriptive table 2 shows department-wise participant’s responses. It shows that 20(100%) of respondents of the Department of Information Science & Library Management and the Department of Arabic know about digital literature.

Table 2. About Digital Literature

Variable	Yes	No	Total
English	18(90%)	2(10%)	20
Bangla	14(70%)	6(30%)	20
History	18(90%)	2(10%)	20
Islamic History and	19(95%)	1(5%)	20

Culture			
Islamic Studies	17(85%)	3(15%)	20
Information Science and Library Management	20(100%)	0(0%)	20
Philosophy	13(87%)	2(13%)	15
Linguistics	14(93%)	1(7%)	15
World Religion and Culture	14(93%)	1(7%)	15
Arabic	15(100%)	0(0%)	15
Total	162(90%)	18(10%)	180

Descriptive table 3 shows that 20(100%) of respondents of the Department of Information Science & Library Management and the Department of Arabic are using digital literature. On the other hand, lowest 67% are from Department of Linguistics.

Table 3.Using status of Digital Literature

Variables	Yes	No	Total
English	16(80%)	4(20%)	20
Bangla	16(80%)	4(20%)	20
History	16(80%)	4(20%)	20
Islamic History and Culture	15(75%)	5(25%)	20
Islamic Studies	14(70%)	6(30%)	20
Information Science and Library Management	20(100%)	0(0%)	20
Philosophy	11(73%)	4(27%)	15
Linguistics	10(67%)	5(33%)	15
World Religion and Culture	14(93%)	1(7%)	15
Arabic	15(100%)	0(0%)	15
Total	147(82%) Male=96(65.3%) Female=51(34.7%)	33(18%) Male=28(84.8%) Female=5(15.2%)	180 (100%)

Table 4 shows descriptively that maximum students from various department prefer both print literature and digital literature to only digital literature. Two departments, the Department of English and the Department of Information & Library Management use the highest 12(60%) of both literature.

Table 4. Student's preferred literature types

Variables	Printed Literature	Digital Literature	Both of these
English	7(35%)	1(5%)	12(60%)
Bangla	5(25%)	11(55%)	4(20%)
History	5(25%)	4(20%)	11(55%)
Islamic History and Culture	6(30%)	3(15%)	11(55%)
Islamic Studies	3(15%)	8(40%)	9(45%)
Information Science and Library Management	6(30%)	2(10%)	12(60%)
Philosophy	3(20%)	2(13%)	10(47%)
Linguistics	7(47%)	4(27%)	4(27%)
World Religion and Culture	5(33%)	3(20%)	7(47%)
Arabic	5(33%)	3(20%)	7(47%)
Total	52(29%)	41(23%)	87(48%)

Respondents were asked to identify the types of literature they used most often. It is found that the majority 96(53%) of respondents use electronic books/ e-books, 73(41%) of respondents use electronic articles, 72(40%) of respondents use online database, and he lowest 6(3%) of respondents use other types of digital literature (Figure 1).

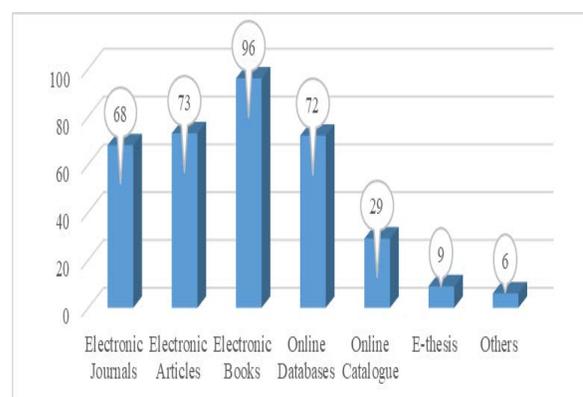


Figure 1Types of using Digital Literature

Table 5 shows the usage of digital literature's types by department wise. It indicates that 13(87%) of the students of Arabic department use electronic journal; (60%) of World Religion and Culture department use online databases, (40%) of Philosophy department use online catalogues; and (10%) of Information

Science and Library Management use other digital literature.

Table 5 Department wise types of using Digital Literature

Variable	Electronic Journals	Electronic Articles	Electronic Books	Online Databases	Online Catalogue	E-thesis	Others
English	6(30%)	8(40%)	5(25%)	11(55%)	3(15%)	2(10%)	0(0%)
Bangla	4(20%)	0(0%)	11(55%)	6(30%)	1(5%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
History	8(40%)	10(50%)	9(45%)	7(35%)	1(5%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Islamic History and Culture	9(45%)	11(55%)	12(60%)	10(50%)	5(25%)	2(10%)	1(5%)
Islamic Studies	6(30%)	8(40%)	8(40%)	11(55%)	1(5%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Information Science and Library Management	12(60%)	8(40%)	15(75%)	8(40%)	6(30%)	2(10%)	2(10%)
Philosophy	4(27%)	3(20%)	6(40%)	3(20%)	6(40%)	2(13%)	1(7%)
Linguistics	3(20%)	5(33%)	8(53%)	3(20%)	4(27%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
World Religion and Culture	3(20%)	9(60%)	9(60%)	9(60%)	1(7%)	0(0%)	1(7%)
Arabic	13(87%)	11(73%)	13(87%)	4(27%)	1(7%)	1(7%)	1(7%)

Figure 2 shows that highest 67% of the respondents use digital literature for their course work purposes; 62% use it for doing their assignment; 41% use it for acquiring knowledge; 32% use it for knowing current information; and 3% use it for doing monograph and for learning.

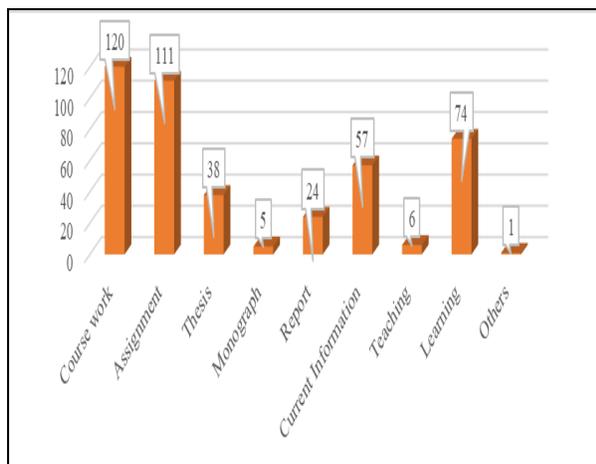


Figure 2 Purposes of using Digital Literature

Respondents were asked to identify what types of methods they usually follow for collecting digital literature. Table 6 indicates that majority 131(73%) of respondents collect digital literature by searching through web search engines like google, yahoo, etc.; 40(22%) collect it by using Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC); and 21(12%) collect digital literature by visiting the bibliographical databases with links to Digital Literature.

Table 6. Methods for collecting Digital Literature

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Searching through a web search engine	131	73%
Using a subject guide to web resources	31	17%
Using Online Public Access Catalogue-OPAC	40	22%
Looking up the link of Digital Literature on the DU website	35	20%
Seeing the list of Digital Literature on your Department website	30	17%
Seeing bibliographical databases with links to Digital Literature	21	12%
Others	4	2%

Respondents were asked to identify the most important benefits of using digital literature. From table 7 it shows that majority 116(64%) of respondents think that up-to-date information is the most important benefits of using digital literature; 99(55%) believe that the most crucial advantage of using digital literature is the free availability of accessing resources; 45% think that the most vital benefit of using digital literature is easy to quick retrievability of resources.

Table 7. Benefits of using digital literature

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Quick retrievability	81	45%
Free availability	99	55%
Up-to-date Information	116	64%
Link to other resources	30	17%
Full-text searching	27	15%
Others	1	.6%

Respondents were asked to know whether to think the available digital literature at Dhaka University is sufficient for the teachers and the students. Figure 3 shows that the majority 94(52%) of respondents think the available digital literature at Dhaka University isn't enough for the teachers and the students. On the other hand, 41(23%) of respondents think available digital literature at Dhaka University is somewhat sufficient.



Figure 3. Dhaka University digital literature is sufficient

Respondents were asked to identify the types of literature their teachers provide them. Figure 4 shows that 62(34%) of literature provided by teachers is printed. On the other hand, only 15% of literature provided by teachers is digital literature.

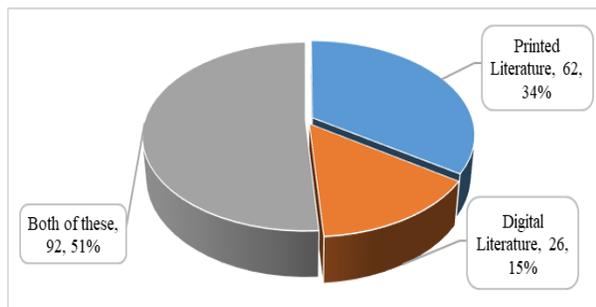


Figure 4. Teacher's provided literature types

From descriptive table 8, it is found that maximum 45% digital literature is provided by the Bangla department's teachers, on the other hand, no digital literature is provided by the World Religion and Culture department's teachers.

Table 8 Department wise teacher's provided literature types

Department	Digital Literature	Printed Literature	Both of these
English	1(5%)	13(65%)	6(30%)
Bangla	9(45%)	6(30%)	5(25%)
History	5(25%)	5(25%)	10(50%)
Islamic History and Culture	4(20%)	7(35%)	9(45%)
Islamic Studies	2(10%)	6(30%)	12(60%)
Information Science and Library Management	1(5%)	6(30%)	13(65%)
Philosophy	1(7%)	6(40%)	8(53%)
Linguistics	2(13%)	4(27%)	9(60%)
World Religion and Culture	0(0%)	7(47%)	8(53%)
Arabic	1(7%)	2(13%)	12(80%)

Respondents were asked to rate their level of success in research/academic work if they use university digital literature. Figure 5 reveals that majority 87(48%) of respondents rated as good; 39(22%) rated as fair, and only 4% placed as excellent in their level of success of using university digital literature.

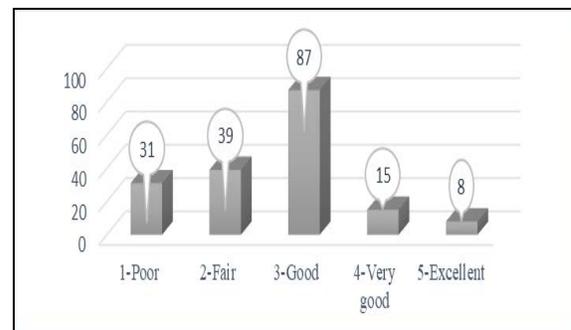


Figure 5. Rating level of success in research/academic work

Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the contents and services if they use university paid digital literature. Table 9 reveals the self-assessment of the satisfaction level of the respondents using university paid journals. It is noticed that among 180 respondents, 94(54%) of

respondents answered this question and rest 83(46%) didn't answer this question. The highest 22% of respondents rated themselves as 'good' for using materials which is available; 21% rated themselves as 'good' for subject coverage and 23% also rated as 'good' for ease of use. On the other hand, few 13% believe that the availability of computer facilities in

university is enough. Highest 21% respondents rated as 'good' for inadequate bandwidth to access the resources; 20% also rated as 'good' for easy navigation to resources from library websites and finally, 37% rated as 'good' with regards to overall satisfaction.

Table 9. Satisfaction level using university paid digital literature.

Variable	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Total Responds	Missing
Materials available	21(12%)	20(11%)	39(22%)	7(4%)	10(6%)	97(54%)	83(46%)
Coverage of your subject	20(11%)	24(13%)	37(21%)	13(7%)	3(2%)	97(54%)	83(46%)
Ease of use	15(8%)	21(12%)	41(23%)	12(7%)	8(4%)	97(54%)	83(46%)
Availability of computer facilities in the university	36(20%)	21(12%)	24(13%)	9(5%)	7(4%)	97(54%)	83(46%)
Adequate bandwidth to access the resources	23(13%)	27(15%)	38(21%)	5(3%)	4(2%)	97(54%)	83(46%)
Easy navigation to resources from library websites	19(11%)	29(16%)	36(20%)	11(6%)	2(1%)	97(54%)	83(46%)
Overall user satisfaction	17(9%)	31(17%)	37(21%)	10(6%)	2(1%)	97(54%)	83(46%)

Respondents were asked to identify the types of problems they usually face while seeking Digital literature. Tables 10 shows that due to the slow download speed majority 39% of the respondents face problems while seeking digital literature. For the inability to evaluate the right information, 26% of respondents face problem while seeking digital literature and 7% of respondents face problem while they seek for digital literature because they don't know how to use digital information systems.

Table 10. Problems in seeking Digital Literature.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Inability to evaluate information	39	26%
Information overloaded	34	23%
Limited access to back issues	37	25%
Limited number of title available	43	29%
Slow download speed	69	39%
Lack of information searching skills	33	22%
Don't know how to use Digital Information System	10	7%
Lack of time to accommodate information	16	9%
Difficulty in finding relevant Literature	36	24%
Others	3	2%

Here given a summary of the finding that was collected from the students of Arts Faculty at the University of Dhaka. It will not cover all the findings of the study. Some major selected sections of the findings regarding digital literature usage and its current trends are discussed. Through this study, it is found that the maximum 68.9% of respondents are male, and 82.2% of respondents are living in university halls. Majority 90% of students are very well known about digital literature, and 82% of students are currently using digital literature, although only 23% of students prefer digital literature. 100% of respondents in the department of Information Science & Library Management use digital literature. Among 147 students who are currently using digital literature, 65.3% of students are male, and 34.7% of students are female. The research output also indicates that male students are ahead in comparison to their female counterpart in terms of the use of digital literature. Among various types of digital literature, 53% of students use e-books, 41% of students use online articles.

Students of the faculty of arts use digital literature for many purposes. Mainly, they use digital literature for their course work (67%) and their assignment work (62%). For collecting digital literature, students follow different types of methods. 73% of students follow the general search through web search engines like google, yahoo, etc. Students think there are many

Major Findings

benefits to digital literature. Mostly 64% of students believe up-to-dateness information is the most important benefits of using digital literature.

The University of Dhaka collects different types of digital literature for its teachers and students. Even then, the majority 52% of students feel this collection is not enough for teachers and students. The majority of the teachers of this university do not provide digital literature to their students. Only 15% of students mentioned that teachers provide digital literature to them. However, the study found that the overall students' satisfaction in digital literature of the university is good. The students are facing many problems while seeking digital literature. The highest 26% of students mention that they are facing the inability to evaluate information.

Recommendations

The importance of digital literature for any university is immense. Nowadays, no university can ignore its advantages over print collections. Digital literature opens up many exciting opportunities for university students. Also, digital literature has both merits and demerits, although it will be challenging to overcome every barrier in a short time. However, to provide better services, particularly in the usage of digital literature by the students, some recommendations have been made for the University of Dhaka as follows: Awareness and importance of the use of digital literature should be increased.

- The University of Dhaka should subscribe to more digital literature to cover all the subject contents.
- University should arrange different types of seminar, symposium, workshop, etc. to increase awareness and usage of digital literature.
- University should organize training programs for students to obtain the various types of search engines, recent news web changes, and develop advanced searching skills and techniques.
- University should increase the bandwidth of the internet on campus to minimize access time.
- University authority should facilitate better infrastructural and technological development to access digital literature.

Conclusion

In this modern world, technology has been advancing at an overwhelming pace. In line with technology, modern facilities have also spread in educational institutions. University libraries and their services are now being digitized from manual. Due to fast and easy availability, students are shifting from print resources to digital resources. Universities should be provided with more and more digital literature, considering the needs of the students. While conducting this research, it was observed that there is hardly any work on this topic at this university. To extend and amplify the use of digital literature and to continue such type of research process, further activities need to be conducted on this matter.

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