

## Training on The Utilization of Mendeley and Similarity in Increasing The Quality of Students' Academic Work

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### ABSTRACT

*Undergraduate students (S1) who complete their studies are required to be able to write not only a final project in the form of a thesis, but also a scientific paper in the form of scientific articles. However, the issue is that students view writing research reports as a very tiresome task, whether it's making quotations, creating lists, or many prefer a fast flow such as copy paste. As a result, this training activity is predicted to be beneficial for students in terms of writing research results and the outcomes of their studies in the form of scientific papers, as well as enhancing the quality of scientific articles for students, particularly in the field of education. The instructional approach is a combination of lecture, question and answer, simulation, and practice.*

**Keywords:** Mendeley; Similarity; Students

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### 1. Introduction

Students finishing their studies at universities, especially undergraduate students (S1), are required to complete a final project in the form of a thesis. Not only is writing the thesis the primary assignment, but it also teaches students how to apply their knowledge and skills. This includes not just knowledge in the subject of science, but also other abilities such as writing abilities, problem-solving abilities, interpersonal abilities, and other qualities necessary to generate a solid thesis using the proper approach.

A thesis is a written document that is submitted in order to satisfy one of the criteria for earning an academic degree from an institution (Leo, 2013). Apart from documenting the results of research and student studies in the form of a thesis, students are expected to publish the findings of their research and study in the form of a scientific journal.

Scientific journals are periodicals that publish scientific papers based on research findings and findings from scientific investigations. Writing scientific papers, on the other hand, need its unique set of abilities. The method of producing an article is distinct from that of a student writing a thesis. Even if their thesis's topic or study is founded on research, they must be able to present current issues and adhere to the laws and regulations of writing a scientific piece. The articles must follow the flow of producing good, fascinating scientific

papers, while also paying attention to the element of protecting one's own and others' intellectual property.

Students can contribute to the growth of scientific publications in higher education. Numerous higher education institutions in Indonesia have begun providing mini-research to students as a kind of learning innovation beginning in the first semester through coursework (Shoffah et al., 2021). However, many college students find the process of preparing a research report quite tiresome, whether it's creating citations or compiling a bibliography (Faizal, 2020).

Thus, it is envisaged that this training activity would be able to assist students in producing research findings and the outcomes of their studies in the form of scientific papers, as well as in increasing the quality of these scientific articles for students, particularly in the field of education.

## 2. Method

The Pancasila and Citizenship Education Study Program at the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu is the partner in this PKM activity, and the participants in this training activity are the Student Association for the Pancasila and Citizenship Education Study Program at the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu, which has a total of 25 members. The training activity entails providing training on the use of Mendeley and Similarity.

This activity uses training exercises to teach participants how to utilize the Mendeley and Similarity programs, from downloading to utilizing the applications. Conduct training and coaching sessions with partners on how to use the Mendeley and Similarity programs to their full potential. Lecture, question and answer, simulation, and practice are all utilized as instructional methods.

## 3. Discussion

The purpose of this community service project is to use Mendeley and Similarity to enhance the quality of scientific papers written by students in the Student Association of the Pancasila and Citizenship Education Study Program at the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu.

The Mendeley Desktop program is actually meant to make it easier for authors to create citations and bibliographies, so that writers are not suppressed by their errors in creating a bibliography, and to make it easier to access publications to be referenced (Windarto et al., 2018).

Mendeley is a free reference management tool that was released in 2008, as well as an academic social network that can assist us in managing our research, collaborating with other scholars online, and discovering new research (Faizal, 2020).

The American Psychological Association (APA) is frequently used in the fields of psychology, education, and other social sciences; the Modern Language Association (MLA) is frequently used in the fields of literature, art literature, and humanities; the American Medical Association (AMA) is frequently used in the fields of medicine, health, and biological sciences; and Turabian, Chicago, and others are frequently used (Imam et al., 2015).

This training activity is divided into three (three) stages: planning, process or execution, and assessment. The planning stage began with a letter of request from students of the Pancasila and Citizenship Education Study Program at the University of Muhammadiyah Bengkulu, who requested assistance in filling in the material. Next, resources connected to Mendeley and Similarity were collected and developed.

This procedure or implementation step is divided into three sessions, the first of which provides students with information on Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methodology. The lecture approach is used to convey this content, together with LCD media and Power Point presentations.

Students were supplied with information on Mendeley during the second session. The lecture technique is used to convey this information, which includes LCD media and Power Point slides, simulations, and practice with the Mendeley program. In the third session, students are supplied with material on similarity. The lecture technique is used to convey this content, together with LCD media and Power Point presentations, simulations, and practice using the Similarity program.



Figure 1. Giving Material with Presentation Method



Figure 2. Simulation



Figure 3. Assisting Students to use Mendeley and Similarity App



Figure 4: Students Practice in utilizing Mendeley and Similarity App

Meanwhile, Similarity Check is a technique for determining the degree of similarity between current and prior publications (Somantri & Farizi, 2020). Turnitin and iThenticate are two of the most well-known similarity checkers; with these applications, we may determine in detail whether our paper is similar to other publications (Somantri & Farizi, 2020). While determining the degree of similarity is not the same as plagiarism, it can be determined whether the contents of the articles we create are derived from a variety of sources using this procedure (Debnath, 2016).

This evaluation stage involves assigning numerous students to practice utilizing the Mendeley and Similarity programs in order to ascertain their level of comprehension of the supplied content. The students' happy reaction is evident during the question and answer

period, during which they not only ask questions, but also offer comments and exchange information with all participants in this activity.

This training session went quite well and was very familiar. The ceremony proceeded in an orderly fashion, with few attendees entering and exiting the room. Everyone present appeared to be content with this action. These types of activities are intended to be carried out sustainably and over a longer period of time in order to maximize outcomes and outputs.

#### 4. Conclusion

This training activity on the use of Mendeley and Similarity to improve the quality of scientific articles for students is expected to increase students' insight and knowledge, particularly about writing scientific articles for publication in scientific journals, by utilizing Mendeley as an application that assists students in citing or creating a bibliography, and by utilizing Similarity as an application that assists students in checking the level of plagiarism of scientific works.

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