Use Of Malaysia Religious Ebooks As Learning Resources At Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah (PSA)

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Abstract

EBooks or electronic books are a more engaging form of learning material for students than traditional books. This study intends to determine how widely used religious eBooks are in Malaysia as a source of information for students at Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah (PSA). In this study, respondents involved 68 PSA students who studied the Malaysian Community Values MPU23042 course during session 2:2022/2023. This research aims to assess the severity of using ebooks as educational resources among students and the acceptance of religious eBooks among PSA students in Malaysia. The study was conducted quantitatively in a survey, with questionnaire forms used as a study instrument. It was sent to the students involved immediately after completing the teaching and learning session. Based on the findings and data analysis, students who agree with using Religion eBooks in Malaysia as learning reference material exceed those who oppose it. Although some responders disagree with this ebook, the percentage is relatively low. The study's findings demonstrate the suitability of Malaysian religion eBooks as learning resources for PSA students by demonstrating their interactive ebook features, such as educational videos, digital reference friendly, simple fact columns, strengthening activities, digital quizzes, mind exploration, aphorisms, interaction spaces, and so forth. Further research will be considered regarding the broad distribution of religious eBooks in Malaysia throughout polytechnics offering the MPU23042 Malaysian Community Values course.

Keywords: Ebooks; Learning Materials; Learners

1.0 Introduction

The publication of the Religion ebook in Malaysia as learning material is an endeavour that aligns with the Ministry of Higher Education's (KPT) objective to continue to develop components of excellent teaching and learning at polytechnics. Along with modernity, electronic books, or ebooks, are one of the learning methods in the country's education system. Even students are increasingly susceptible to e-learning methods that provide them equal access to knowledge everywhere and at any time. As a result, it is the lecturer's function and responsibility to nurture e-learning through merging teaching technology with online learning.

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Discrimination in today's digital environment impacts how information is sought, especially among students. Comparatively, to traditional searches, students are more likely to find information fast and easily while using technology and the internet. The first e-book device was developed in the 1990s as an alternative to printed books (Godwin-Jones, 2003). According to Gardiner & Musto (2010), ebooks are generated and published digitally and may be read online using computers or electronic devices. A more engaging ebook can be created by combining multimedia such as pictures, videos, interactive exercises, and quizzes (Dick & Romanelli, 2019).

The Religion in Malaysia eBook for the Malaysian Society Values MPU23042 course has been developed as part of the push for a digitalized education transformation. When COVID-19 turned up around the globe at the beginning of 2020, educational institutions were like hot worms because they had to ensure that students' learning and teaching processes took place in any scenario. Once upon a time, the habit of physically attending classes transformed online. The lecturers, students, and barrage needed to adjust to the new standard. One of the challenges that lecturers have is determining how to use technology to make learning materials more creative, productive, and responsive.

As a result, the Polytechnic Education Department and Community College (JPPKK) have implemented the Annual Work Target (SKT) for the Development of Learning and Teaching Materials (eBook) among polytechnic instructors. This ebook SKT is marked for usage and is utilized as reference material by students. This ebook requirement is a priority for online and in-person learning and teaching activities. With the presence of this ebook, it can immediately meet the curriculum's needs while being easily available and accessible to students anywhere.

Religious ebooks in Malaysia have their unique features, such as the ease of use of hypertext and hyperlinks involving important words and letters, "Watch Me" informational videos, simple fact columns, mini-festival information, strengthening activities, digital quizzes, mind exploration "What Do You Say," and aphorisms to encourage and motivate readers. However, the question is the extent to which students perceive and accept the Religion ebook in Malaysia as learning material? To answer this question, the researchers selected to survey students at Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah (PSA) to assess the level of acceptance of the generated Religion ebook in Malaysia.

2.0 Objectives
The objectives of this study are to:

  i. Identifying respondents' perceptions of using Malaysia Religious Ebooks as Learning Resources.

  ii. Examining the acceptability of religious eBooks of Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah (PSA) students in Malaysia.

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3.0 Literature Review

The availability of electronic books that replace physical books is regarded as a significant development in education, and lecturers frequently use them to facilitate the teaching and learning process. Nor Silawati (2012) writes. The eBook can relieve students' burden of bringing textbooks to school every day, and its existence has exposed students to the most recent and advanced technology.

Teachers have been found to play an important role in overseeing the use as well as having the preparation to develop themselves and have the knowledge to handle the material to improve students' excellence and progress as a result of eBooks (Yahya & Noor Al Mahdin, 2010). E-module-based learning approach is seen to be able to transfer information from a static reference book to a new learning pattern that is more interesting, dynamic and interactive with the help of additional media that are sophisticated today (Rashidah Lip, 2018).

In e-learning, the medium offered is digital and can take many different forms, including films, slideshows, e-notes, online tests, etc. One digital instructional tool actively generated today is the eBook (Dumbiri & Nwadiani, 2020). Due to their convenience and accessibility at all times and locations, eBooks are increasingly popular among students (Casselden & Pears, 2020; Enis, 2018).

4.0 Methodology

The respondents involved in the success of this study involved students who took the Malaysian Community Values MPU23042 course at Polytechnic Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, Shah Alam for the 2 2022/2023 session. This study is conducted quantitatively in the form of a survey using the questionnaire as an instrument of study. In this study, the developed instrument is based on the adaptation of Aishah Mahat (2022) and Samsudin (2014). The questionnaire is divided into 3 parts: A, B and C.

Section A contains questions aimed at obtaining the demographic data of the respondent. Part B, on the other hand, contains questions aimed at obtaining the respondent's perception of the use of ebooks while Part C to obtain information on the respondents' acceptance of the use of religious ebooks in Malaysia as learning materials. This set of questionnaires uses five Likert scales ranging from 1 (Very Disagree) to 5 (Very Agree). To ensure that the reliability of structured instruments meets the standards, researchers conducted a study of 68 students.

5.0 Data Analysis

The study involved 68 students who took MPU23042 Malaysian Community Values courses at Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah. The data analysis process for this study was using Statistical *Package for Social Science (SPSS)* software version 25.0. Uma Sekaran (2000) states that descriptive statistics can explain a phenomenon or situation that is happening and is appropriately used for quantitative research methods.

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5.1 Part A: Demographics

A survey question about the demographics of the respondents in the study. The demographic analysis considered gender, semester, department, and religion. The diagram below graphically represents a summary of this information:

Table 1: Demographic respondent

Items	Category	Frequency	%
Gender	Male	35	51.5
	Female	33	48.5
Study of Semester	2	54	79.4
	5	14	20.6
Department	JPG	27	39.7
	JKA	17	25
	JKE	14	20.6
	JKE	10	14.7
Religion	Hinduism	56	82.4
	Buddhism	7	10.3
	Christian	4	5.9
	Others	1	1.4

Based on the analysis in Table 1, it was found that items of gender showed male students of 35 and the rest female by 33. This finding illustrates that men dominated the students who took the MPU skinny. Next semester analysis showed that semester 2 was high, with a percentage of 79.4% compared to semester 5 of 20.6%. This finding is because this course is offered to semester 2 students in 3 academic departments, namely the Department of Commerce (JPG), the Department of Mechanical Engineering (JKM) and the Department of Civil Engineering (JKA). At the same time, at the Department of Electrical Engineering (JKE), students are offered in the 5th semester.

As for the department category, there are 4 academic departments, namely JKM, JKA, JKE and JPG. JPG is a department with many students at 39.7%, followed by JKA at 25%, JKE at 20.6% and JKM at 14.7%. The analysis for religion shows the 4 categories involved: Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and others. Hindus were 82.4%, Buddhists 10.3%, and the rest were Christians and others.

Table 2: Classification of respondent feedback based on mean score

Group	Range	Phase
1	1.00 – 2.33	Low
2	2.34 – 3.67	Medium
3	3.68 – 5.00	High

Source: Adaptation of Wiersma, 2000

This section explains the analysis of the study's findings, which is the level of students' perception of using ebooks. Therefore, the findings of this study are based on three groups to measure student respondents, whether they are at low, medium or high levels based on the mean score as per Table 2.

5.2   Part B: Respondents' Perceptions of Ebook Use

Part B formulates an analysis of the study's findings, namely respondents' perceptions of ebook usage. A five-point Likert scale of 1 – strongly disagree, 2 – disagree, 3 – disagree, 4 – agree, and 5 – strongly agree is used to see the minimum score based on students' perceptions of the 10 items that have been developed.

Table 3: My perception of Religious ebooks in Malaysia

No.	Items	Min Score	Phase
1.	Easy to use	4.46	High
2.	Easy to carry and store	4.53	High
3.	Interactive elements	4.49	High
4.	Following the curriculum syllabus	4.53	High
5.	Environmentally friendly	4.56	High
6.	Increase motivation	4.41	High
7.	Increase understanding	4.50	High
8.	Recommendations to others	4.47	High
9.	Organized and packed	4.59	High
10.	Satisfaction of use	4.50	High
	Overall average	4.50	High

Part B is an analysis of the study's findings, which is the respondent's perception of using ebooks. Based on Table 3, it was found that the percentage of frequency with which students agreed was greater than those who disagreed with each questionnaire item. Overall, for Part B, the mean is 4.50 is high. Thus, this analysis proves that religious ebooks in Malaysia positively impact PSA students.

5.3   Part C: Respondent's acceptance of the use of ebooks

Table 4: My acceptance of Religious ebooks in Malaysia

No.	Items	Min Score	Phase
1.	I like it with a clear screen display, easy to carry and save	4.46	High
2.	I have access to every software content in an ebook	4.37	High
3.	The navigation menu helps me use the software easily	4.50	High
4.	The size of the inscription used in interesting ebooks	4.47	High
5.	The background of the ebook is very interesting	4.41	High
6.	The graphics used intrigued me	4.62	High

7.	I love creating the exercises contained in the ebook	4.35	High
8.	eBooks help me in lessons	4.49	High
9.	Other software available in ebooks helped me a lot	4.53	High
10.	I can access the ebook using the internet	4.49	High
11.	The content of the ebook meets the course Learning Outcomes (CLO)	4.54	High
	Overall average	4.47	High

Based on Table 4 analysis of the respondents' acceptance of the use of ebooks, it was found that respondents responded that they strongly agreed to use the Religious ebook in Malaysia as a learning material in PSA. Overall, for Part C, the mean is 4.47 is high. This result can prove that students in MPU23042 session 2:2022/2023 take advantage of the ebook in the learning process at PSA.

5.4   Improvement Recommendations

This section presents open questions to respondents where respondents are required to suggest improvements to the ebook to the author. There were some good suggestions from respondents. Among the suggestions/comments developed are:

Table 5: Suggestions/comments from respondents

Respond	Suggestions/comments
Respond 1	Multiply videos in an ebook.
Respond 2	Make prints in the form of textbooks.
Respond 3	Establish a PSA e-book application that does not need to use the internet or student data.
Respond 4	Ebooks can interest students in completing assignments.
Respond 5	In short, I am very familiar with my learning with the use of ebooks and utilizing daily activities.

6.0   Conclusion

Based on the studies conducted, it can be concluded that the published ebook Agama di Malaysia can be an alternative to replace physical books and is suitable for students who take courses MPU23042 Malaysian Community Values as learning materials at polytechnics. The results of this ebook prove that students are more likely to be positive and give a clear understanding after reading the ebook. Indirectly, it gives high motivation and enthusiasm to students to skip lessons. In line with Khozam (2013) found that the delivery of multimedia-based teaching and learning attracts more interest and attention from students because it is fun and easy to practice.

The results of this study have helped the authors strengthen the education system of teaching and learning delivery. In conclusion, most respondents were satisfied with using Religious eBooks in Malaysia as learning materials at Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah. However, there is still room to improve on this research. Among them is expanding the scope of study to higher education institutions that also offer courses MPU23042. The value of Malaysian society and the scope of the study can be expanded by looking at the significant relationship between the use of this ebook and student achievement.

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Siti Noryanie Y.: Data Curation, Validation, Supervision;
Ainoor Mahfuzah A.: Software, Validation and Editing.

Conflicts Of Interest
The manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by other journals. All authors have approved the review, agree with its submission and declare no conflict of interest in the manuscript.

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