

## Newspaper clippings, how are you today??

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### Abstract:

*What do you do after finish reading a newspaper? Storing it, cutting out an interesting piece of news for clipping, or using it to wrap a gift? Probably most people will choose to ignore it. However, did they know that newspapers contain many reliable sources of information? Therefore, before the technological era, teachers at schools always give a task to their students to make newspaper clippings. Select the most interesting news, cut, and then stick it on a piece of paper. The benefits are enormous for students, one of which is to foster an interest in reading. Only a few people who have a hobby or who have an interest in the newspaper are willing to make newspaper clippings. If people are aware of how valuable a newspaper is, they will protect it. Researchers have assumed that the other benefit of newspaper clipping is as an effort of preservation. Therefore, this study aims to (1) explore information on how to preserve the newspaper, especially in tropical country such as in Indonesia. The hot and humid tropical climate, the relatively high quality and quantity of dust, as well as the varied types of insects and fungi that are grown, cause more varied and complex library damage. So in the implementation of preservation requires A responsibility and an earnest gesture of goodwill. The second objective is to (2) know how the effect of technology on the development of clipping in Indonesia. This research used qualitative descriptive approach. The data was obtained by interview and document analysis. The researcher's findings are that (1) to keep the newspaper last longer, it needs to be kept in a stable temperature, ideally at 18 degrees Celsius, and avoid significant temperature changes. Then the newspaper was given a layer of Japanese tissue to keep the newspaper durable to 100 years. Preserved coated newspapers are inserted into a storage device called portepel and/or protective box with an acid-free solvent. The second, (2) in the continued effort of preservation, the transfer of media which printed newspaper is converted into microfilm and digital files. In this era, Clippings are more to piece of news that published virtually (e-clippings). Awareness of the importance of preservation means saving our youth from the memory loss of the nation.*

**Keywords:** newspaper clipping, preservation, tropical climate.

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## INTRODUCTION

Clipping is often used by teachers as a task to their students. Lingered in our memory, the moment when our junior high school teacher gave a task to look for some articles about an event in a newspaper. The Olympiad event was chosen at that time to be the theme of news articles we had to collect from several newspapers to be made into clippings. However, the making of clipping is not only done by school students but also college students, researchers and even housewives who collect recipes and then make clippings.

Clipping itself is an activity of collecting materials by cutting out articles, pictures or certain parts of newspapers, magazines, or other sources to be pasted into paper or other books following a certain arrangement, with the aim of documenting. Pieces of articles or images in a clipping usually contain the same theme, for example, recipes, Olympic history, general elections, politics, history, and so on. The purpose and objective of the clipping itself is to collect and combine information related to certain themes that originally came from various sources for personal gain, assignments from teachers, historical memory and so on.

Clipping is an important source of information that can be served to users in the library. In addition, Somnath Das (2009) mentioned clipping is another form of newspaper preservation, *“Press clipping is another form of preservation. It is the most important service in the newspaper library. The process involves cutting and pasting of important articles and their organisation in such a manner that one can easily get access to the desired article”*. Then newspaper clippings can be seen from two sides as preservation of the newspaper as well as information repackaging in it.

Regarding the making process, it is clear that newspaper clipping form of preservation is the cheapest form for newspaper preservation compared with the process of capsulation and lamination. Even though in storage, it takes a very large space since one type of newspaper can produce dozens of clippings of articles. Then added must keep the low-quality newsprint maintained and can be used for decades to come. In addition, the geographical conditions of the tropical climate make the physical care of newspaper and newspaper clipping is not an easy matter. Even according to Hart in Walravens (2008), newspaper clipping is vexing because of its format, fragility, and housing, and raising a question: if the intellectual content of clippings can be found by searching the relevant newspapers, why keep the clippings?

Nevertheless, the method of gathering, compiling, re-managing information from various sources such as what is done when making clipping is still the main and fundamental way that can still be done until now. So, knowing the progress of the current newspaper clippings on various types of information agencies and how the treatment of physical newspapers and newspaper clippings can be interesting to review.

This study aims to explore information about the current clipping conditions of newspapers through four types of large information institutions in Indonesia and their relation to the preservation process of newspapers in a tropical climate, where maintenance of newsprint as the main source of clipping is not an easy matter, considering the heat conditions and high humidity level in the tropical country. Besides, how the technology impacts on the development of newspaper clipping in Indonesia. The study was conducted through interviews and observations of the National Library of Indonesia, the National Archives of Indonesia, Harian Kompas, and CSIS.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *What is Clipping?*

According to the American Library Association Glossary of Library Terms (1943: 43); "*clippings or clipping file: a collection of clipping from current newspaper and periodicals and other sources, arranged in some definite order in a vertical file. Also called clipping collection.*" Clipping is a collection of pieces of newspaper, magazines and other sources that are / will attract attention, arranged with a particular system in an arrangement. Further, the definition of clipping in Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (1990) is "Cut out news articles from newspapers, magazines and so on and then paste it on other paper for documentation".

From some definitions above, clippings can be defined as anything new, which is and will attract the public published newspapers, magazines and other sources cut and prepared with a particular system (Sutarsyah, 2013). Clipping can be very valuable to a person or an organization because the information contained has gathered a particular event, idea, or knowledge. Clipping is made with a variety of purposes (Lasa, 1990), among others 1) Store and preserve human intellectual property, 2) disseminate ideas, ideas to others, 3) summarize some thoughts in a field, 4) cultivate one's creativity, 5) support certain subject matter, 6). Support intellectual activities such as composing papers, papers, thesis and article writing and others. Therefore the clipping function is very important for those who want to know everything new.

Clipping can be one of the steps of librarians to provide a package of information services (packaging information) in order to facilitate library users in finding a specific subject. Sturges and Chimsen (1996) in Iwhiwhu (2008: 2) mentioned one of the conditions for re-packing of information was that materials must be collected and organized efficiently. Given that the phenomenon of information flood (information explosion) that makes users deal with information "scattered" in the field, newspaper clippings seem very useful for that. As librarians, librarians should have been able to filter out any information that users really need (Sudarsono, Blasius, 2006).

According to Lasa HS (1994), there are at least two types of clippings arrangement:

- a. Ordere system, is a system of preparation of articles or news in a composition or folder consisting of a subject, the material taken from various newspaper titles.
- b. Evixse system, is a system of compilation of clippings taken from one newspaper title published in a certain period in chronological order. The subject can vary because the time sequence becomes the main thing in this system.

The collection of newspaper clippings has many forms. Clipping might be pasted on scrapbook paper or plain paper. According to Yuyun Sutarman, this clipping activity can be said to be a waste recycling activity. Because the paper used is a waste paper. They got papers from various divisions. The head of the clipping division at Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) explained that making good clippings requires creativity. From the start of cutting the news to the attachment of the article, it must not be done carelessly. It must pay attention to each sentence to be able to stay connected properly and neatly.

"Why do you have to be creative?" Because we have to make sure how the newspapers with different characteristics can be neat in the format that we have applied. The right and left margins should fit. "Do not be forced in a bent way," Yuyun said. It is also understood after seeing the condition of rare newspaper clippings in the National Archives of Indonesia

(ANRI) Many parts are bent because newsprint exceeds the format of white paper, consequently the newspaper has been very fragile it's hard to open because we're afraid it will tear, so to open it we have to be very careful not to break and the edges are not eroded.

Pictures and illustrations in newspaper articles need to be included to clarify the information. The thing to remember is to write down the identity of the clipped newspaper, such as the name of the newspaper, the date, month, and year of the newspaper. The glue used for gluing paper should be glue that does not make the paper wrinkle or curl. Make sure the glue have the advantage of not using excessive chemicals that are safe for users and environmentally friendly. If exposed to hands, do not cause harmful effects on the skin because it will peel off by itself.

### ***Overview of the History of Newspapers in Indonesia***

Indonesia has a long history of the nation's struggle against the colonials. Newspaper is one of the tools of publication as well as propaganda used to achieve independence. The contents of the newspaper contain historical information and often used as a clipping material. Thus, the existence of clippings cannot be separated from the presence of the newspaper itself.

Newspapers in Indonesia were originally published by the Dutch colonial. In the mid-18th century with the name *Bataviasche Nouvelles*, published in 1744, in the days of Governor-General Van Imhoff. The first issue of newspapers only contained news about the VOC merchant ship, official mutations, marriage news, births and deaths. The reader was still limited to Dutch citizens. This newspaper was published once a week as many as four pages, all of which were handwritten. This paper then developed rapidly and turned into a newspaper containing criticism of slavery in Batavia and the behavior of the then VOC ruler (Nurjanah, 2014). Then in 1776, "Vendu Nieuws" was published in Jakarta containing news about the auction of home furnishings, which ceased publication since Governor-General Daendels took over his printing press.

Until 1900, Raden Mas Djokomon Tirto Adhi Soerjo, now known as the Father of Indonesian national journalism, was moved in the year to publish *Soenda Berita*, then in 1907 published the weekly newspaper "Medan Prijaji" which after going 6 years later became a daily. The founder of the Islamic Trade Union is the son of Raden Mas Tumenggung Tirtoredjo. With the publication of these indigenous papers, the Indonesian nation for the first time had its own newspaper capitalized by the Indonesian people and provided for the Indonesian people themselves. The presence of the *Medan Prijaji* newspaper became the driving force for the publication of other newspapers spearheaded by Indonesian struggle figures. However, the newspaper did not last long. One by one that newspaper was falling. Bankruptcy due to lack of capital and banning by colonial, Dutch and Japanese countries is the cause.

Until the independence on 1945, the Indonesian Nation began again to control the printing of newspapers. Even after that the organization of Newspaper Issuers (SPS) and the Indonesian Journalists Association (1946) was formed. With the presence of these organizations Indonesian newspapers have had goals, vision and mission that are sustainable. Although undeniably throughout the Indonesian newspaper, the banning often occurred. In the Soekarno Era, 1950-1965, newspapers did experience significant progress but several newspapers that were not in line with the goals of guided democracy which he applied would be revoked for publication.

Entering the New Order era, 1966-1998, where the era of the press was very restrained by the government. At this time according to the government the freedom of the abusive press could disrupt the political guidance, therefore the press must be controlled and nurtured. This policy ended in the fall of the New Order government, May 1998. Thus, enter the era of freedom of the press. This freedom established large media that still survive today, such as Kompas, Tempo, Jawa Pos, and Media Indonesia. These media spread to all parts of Indonesia. Until the entry of the Internet, is a new world newspaper. Despite being confronted by newspapers in electronic versions massively, printed newspapers still survive until now.

Printed version of rare newspapers (since the Dutch era) in Indonesia can be seen in the National Library of Indonesia. As the institution responsible for protecting the history of the nation, the National Library has made various policies and efforts in preserving the newspapers so that it can be enjoyed by the general public now and future generations. For developing countries such as Indonesia, preservation of library materials still have very little budget with insufficient resources, but the National Library continues to strive for continuous sustainability efforts.

### *Preservation Issues in Tropical Climate*

The main purpose of preservation is to ensure that the value of the recorded source of information is sustainable for access to present and future generations. Preservation covers all aspects of preserving library and archive material. These include management, financial, manpower, methods and techniques, and storage policies (Sudarsono, 2006). One of the key points in taking a preservation-related policy is to look at local environmental conditions. Basically every library material consists of organic substances that will one day be destroyed. However, by proper handling we can slow down this process of destruction, even nearing infinity.

The tropical climate zone is located on the equator with a position between 23.5 degrees north latitude to 23.5 degrees south latitude. Areas in tropical climate zones only have two seasons, rain and drought. Occupying about forty percent of the earth's surface, the tropics are home to almost half the world's population. This area can be considered a hot and humid band around the equator, characterized by slight seasonal changes in temperature. There are variations in climate in the tropics, but ninety percent of the tropical zones create hot and humid climates, both permanent and seasonal. The remaining ten percent is like a desert, and is characterized as hot and dry (Baish, 1987a in Teygeler, 2001). The tropical climate allows getting sunlight throughout the year, even during the rainy season. (Zurnalis, Firzal, and Dharma S, 2017). Areas with a tropical climate in the world can be divided into dry tropical climates and humid tropical climates. Examples of dry tropical climate areas are countries in the Middle East, Mexico and surrounding areas. While some countries in Asia, including Indonesia have a humid tropical climate, although for some regions in Indonesia, for example some parts of the island of Nusa Tenggara lead to dry tropical climatic conditions.

Some of the characteristics of a humid tropical climate (Lippsmeier, 1994), that affect the preservation of library materials, include daily and annual temperature differences fluctuations, absolute humidity is quite high, up to 15 mm during the dry season and in the rain season reaches 20 mm, relative humidity ranges from 20-85% depending on the season. High humidity accelerates the growth of algae and moss, organic building materials decompose rapidly and many insects. The average storm is 120-140 times in one year.

Because of the geographical conditions mentioned above, the humid tropical climate has several problems (Lippsmeier, 1994) including unpleasant heat, the need for protection against the sun, rain, insects, and strong winds.

The problem or process of deterioration in the tropics is very complex and difficult to determine the cause whether it is only caused by one cause or whether there are several causes at once. Destructive forces in tropical climates can be classified into three groups namely first physical, which includes heat, sunlight, dust and sand; second, chemicals include moisture gases, pollutants and thirdly biologicals namely fungi, bacteria, insects, animals, rodents. In addition, ultraviolet radiation and other light energy elements, combined with high temperatures, produce acceleration of oxidation and hydrolysis.

The greatest chemical contamination effect occurs at the saturation point and condensation occurs. By itself, high moisture content has a large corrosive effect on organic matter (Teygeler, 2001). When constant high relative humidity joins high temperatures and is left uncontrolled, its deterioration is very rapid. The same deadly combination of heat and moisture creates an environment suitable for biological agents. The fungus remains inactive in low relative humidity, but when it reaches seventy percent they multiply. Pseudo insects can often do irreplaceable damage quickly and secretly.

Based on Indonesia's climate conditions, Indonesia has preservation homework that is not easy. According to Indah Purwani (2012), to deal with large-scale preservation is not possible to be successful and can be developed without a priority scale that leads to collection and user interests. According to him, so far the National Library of Indonesia adopted what has become the standard set by the International Federation Library Association (IFLA), Principle for the Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials.

Newspaper is one type of library collection included in the priority scale of preservation. Because in general, the quality of the paper is low and quickly damaged, however, the information is needed as an important reference material that is often sought by the public and researchers. Parry in Feather: 77 in Indah Purwani (2012) says that "The preservation of the present two related physical problem newspapers: there are huge numbers of them, and they are generally printed on very poor paper"

## **METHODOLOGY**

This article is designed using a qualitative approach with descriptive method. The data was obtained through interviews and observations. The interviews were conducted with the preservation division of the National Library of Indonesia, staff on Research and Development Center of Harian Kompas, Head Library and Clipping Divisions of CSIS. The observation was conducted to clippings on Archive Services on National Archives of Indonesia. To enrich the contents of the paper, we also conducted literature studies and document analysis.

## **DISCUSSION**

### ***News of Newspaper Clipping In Indonesia***

The author reviews newspaper clippings on four places in Indonesia, the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia, Harian Kompas, the National Archives of the Republic of

Indonesia (ANRI) and a research institutions Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Although these places cannot represent the entire type of institution in Indonesia, they are expected to provide an overview of the current newspaper clipping activities in Indonesia.

National Library of the Republic of Indonesia performs the task of government in the field of library in accordance with the provisions of applicable legislation. National Library also serves as a center for preserving the nation's cultural. The Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 43 of 2007 regarding the Library has strengthened the function of National Library of Indonesia as a conservation library that has a national policy on the preservation of library collections. The National Library does not make national-scale newspaper clippings but only take a few pieces of articles or historic photos that are then incorporated into the picture frame or web and the preservation of the newspaper.

In accordance with the function of the national library as a deposit center, according to Atikah, the Librarian in the Republic of Indonesia Rare Newspaper Service Group, the policy taken was not to make newspaper clippings, but to preserve clippings that were given to the institution, such as the clippings donated from CSIS institutions. This policy was taken because the physical whole of the newspaper is historical evidence that must be preserved by the National Library. There are parts of the newspaper that seem less important like ads and condolences but can be used as research studies. Condolences can be used as geneology studies. Advertisements can be reviewed semiotics. So that this makes the whole printed form of the newspaper must be preserved. Preservation of printed forms of newspapers in the form of clipping helps authenticate a historical source. If a document is genuine, the paper and ink must come from its time.

Preservation relates to the library's material storage facilities. For this reason, port building activities are carried out as part of library material storage facilities including *portepel* for newspapers. *Portepel* is also useful to reduce the risk of further damage to library materials. The newspaper *portepel* is a type of container or place made of cardboard material of a certain size used as a means of storing newspapers that have not been bound so that they are not scattered and safe from damage due to continuous storage and use. Materials of newspaper *portepel* include cardboard board made of acid-free, lignin, and glue. Before being stored in the *portepel*, each newspaper sheet is covered with Japanese tissue to maintain the durability of the newspaper and do encapsulations use Mylar-D and double sided tape. The use of this *portepel* is also intended to reduce newspaper direct contact with human hands which can cause damage more quickly. *Portepel* size can be adjusted to the shape and size of library material so that *portepel* are not only for newspapers but can also be used to store other types of library materials such as ancient manuscripts, albums, photos, pictures, or clippings.



Figure 1. Example of a *Portepel* of Newspapers

(Source: Guidelines for Making Portepel, National Library of Indonesia, 2014)

Different from the National Library of Indonesia, a major newspaper media in Indonesia, such as Harian Kompas, makes clippings directly from the original files of published articles. The form of clippings presented by the current media office is more directed to electronic forms and fed into the database. Interrelated news article files are grouped into one with a specific theme. In addition to displaying web-based file format, can also be viewed electronic display of the newspaper. Electronic clipping is served with a subscription first. In addition, Kompas keeps the physical storage of newspapers published into rooms with air conditioning and is not allowed to be accessed freely. This is to maintain the durability of newspapers by reducing physical contact directly between the newspapers and the touch of a human hand.

In the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI), newspaper clippings are inserted into acid-free paper cartons that help the process of preserving newspapers. Visitors are given instructions that newspapers should not be removed from their containers so as not to be exposed to dust causing damage to the newspaper clippings.

One of the research institutions in Indonesia that still consistently makes newspaper clippings is CSIS (Center for Strategic and International Studies). Newspaper clippings have been carried out by CSIS since around 1974 and still survive today. The reason for maintaining newspaper clipping activities is to meet research needs by researchers at CSIS. At first CSIS made clippings from 12 newspapers including Kompas, Kompas Minggu, Suara Pembaruan, Suara Pembaruan Minggu, Suara Karya, Tempo, Media Indonesia, Bisnis Indonesia, The Jakarta Post, Business News, Kontan, and Republika. Each article is made in clippings except art and sports. However, since 2009, CSIS has only made clippings from four major newspapers namely Kompas, Republika, Bisnis Indonesia and The Jakarta Post in the economic and political fields.

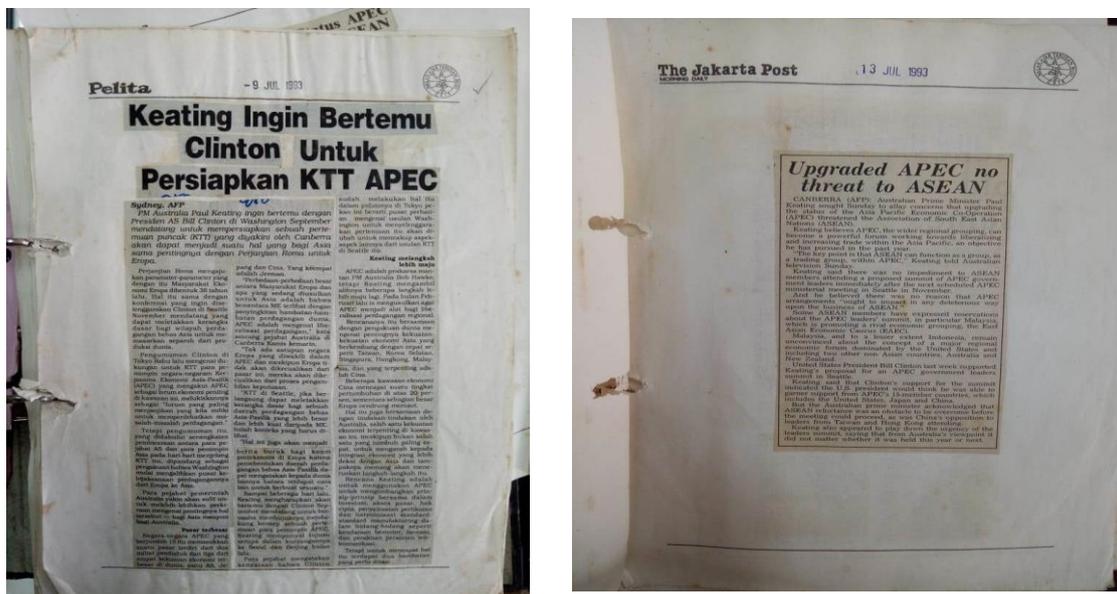


Figure 2. Newspaper Clipping from CSIS on 1993

Clipping is still done conventionally by preparing two copies of each newspaper title, then selecting articles related to the major themes of economics and politics. After that, the article was cut out taking into account the size and aesthetics of the piece of the article before being cut. Next, the piece of the article is pasted on scrapbook paper that has been given a newspaper title header that matches the origin of the article. Then, the date stamp of the newspaper is given to the clipping paper.

Newspaper clippings are then grouped, compiled, and stored in accordance with the topics. The preparation of newspaper clippings in CSIS uses the Ordner system, which collects articles or news in a single map arrangement of subjects derived from various newspapers. The newspaper clippings that have been compiled and grouped are subsequently made in the Clipping Index per year. Clipping index is created for a purpose to help simplify and speed up the user in tracing a required data. The index is arranged in a simple way using a general classification number or an outline of the Dewey Decimal Classification System (DDC). To know the contents of clippings that have been prepared, each part is made a table of contents / index in full accordance with the field or topic. Clippings that have been inserted into the ordner are then placed in open metal cabinets in an air-conditioned room to prevent damage due to the influence of air temperature and humidity.

### *E-Clippings, Why Not?*

The more advanced information technology will clearly change the pattern and process of sharing or transferring information (Sudarsono, Blasius 2006). This change transformed the perception of the public in obtaining information. As perceived by CSIS, in an interview conducted with Yudhi Akhdiyanie, the head of the CSIS library, revealed that public interest in newspaper clippings was decreased by the development of an active digital media. "Before 2012, we could have quite a lot of visitors, but since the online media grew rapidly, currently only a few people came," he said (24/7).

This is seen as a challenge for CSIS to continue developing the best services for researchers. In the future, Yudhi said that his side will take over the media clippings into electronic clippings (e-clipping), where people can access them easily online. "For now, only special requests are made available," he said. And the problem that is no less important is the resources that manage it. CSIS still launches training on human resources managing clippings in order to get in touch with the media transfer machine.

Das (2009) said, *"Now time has changed and press clippings are being digitised in different database management systems so that one can search these databases even from remote location"*. In this case, the Research and Development Section of Kompas Gramedia which forms a database that allows a wider community to find pieces of articles such as clippings in digital form newspapers that have been printed by Kompas. This is felt to help the community, especially students and researchers in finding the necessary data in Kompas newspaper effectively. *"I found the archive is very useful and I appreciate the fact that Kompas has made it available to the public. The archive is very helpful and very easy to access and the staff is very friendly,"* a comment from Scott Merrillees, writer and historian, on the existence of the compass data center.

## **CONCLUSION**

The existence of newspaper clipping activities in research institutions in Indonesia shows that newspaper clippings are carried out as a form of repackaging information and physical preservation of newspapers. Information institutions still keep the newspaper clippings in an organized way for future reference. Then, by storing physical clippings of newspapers it is the same as keeping authenticate historical sources.

Technological developments greatly influence the future of newspaper clipping: (1) Electronic clipping, (2) Clipping preservation. With technology, mass media such as Kompas, which have original news article file can form an electronic clipping process with more practical because newspaper clipping electronics are included in a database management system so that everyone who has access rights can access databases from various location. While clipping which is still conventional, can be converted or digitized into electronic clipping forms which is also can be accessed more easily. This digitalization also a form of preservation of newspaper clippings it shelves.

However, preservation is part of a librarian's commitment. If aware of the high value of library materials, then not only the obligation for librarians to conserve deposits, but every library or institution of information and documentation also come to realize the cause of the unsustainability of library materials. Therefore, the willingness is needed to keep the collection from threats to sustainability. In addition to the environmental factors described above, humans also can be a threat to library materials, if they use and handle collections incorrectly.

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