

## Unity in Diversity: Harmony, Religion, and Dialog

**Dwi Fitriana Cahyaningtyas**

Student of Post Graduate Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
[fitrinacahya@gmail.com](mailto:fitrinacahya@gmail.com)

**Lasenta Adriyana**

Student of Post Graduate Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
[lasenta16@gmail.com](mailto:lasenta16@gmail.com)



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### Abstract:

*Indonesia has an estimated 17,508 islands from Sabang to Merauke, 16,056 islands have been renamed at UN 201. It comprises five main islands, which are Sumatra, Kalimantan (“Borneo”), Sulawesi (“Celebes”), Jawa (“Java”), and Papua (the western half of Papua New Guinea). It has 300 ethnic groups; 750 languages and dialects and officially recognizes six religions Muslims, Christian, Protestants, Roman Catholics, Hindus, Buddhists and Confucians.*

*The diversity of religions, ethnicity and languages is embedded in the nation’s motto: Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (“Unity in diversity”). as a place to be able to unite these diversity requires a neutral place. The library is a place that can accommodate all diversity without seeing any background. Whereas not all libraries in Indonesia can accommodate. This is a challenge for The National Library of Indonesia to of Indonesia to facilitate multiculturalism.*

*The research data is based on the observation from the National Library of Indonesia to social media, Instagram. This paper examines the role of public libraries related to multicultural services. It explores the services provided by National Library of Indonesia to of Indonesia to of Indonesia to facilitate the multiculturalism in Indonesia. This paper contributes to better understanding of how National Library of Indonesia to of Indonesia or in other developing countries.*

**Keywords:** diversity, library, Indonesia, religion, languages

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### Introduction

Not in every country that multiculturalism does exist, language, religion, and culture are some of differences that made multiculturalism had lots of meaning. Indonesia is one of the countries with various cultures, religions, languages, ethnics, and tradition which can be easily found in every region. The importance of maintaining the preservation of local culture and

wisdom becomes multicultural values cannot be separated from society. Although the country is predominantly Muslim, the government officially recognizes six religions. Islam is the country's dominant religion, and most Muslims practice Sunni Islam of the Shafi'i school. Muslims make up about 88% of the Indonesian population; Christian Protestants and Roman Catholics make up roughly 10%, and Hindus, Buddhists, and Confucians make up 2%. It's reflects that Indonesia is a multicultural (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2010).

Not only religion, but also the diversity of ethnicity and language that exist. There are 31 ethnics groups and 35 languages in Indonesia. (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2010). Bahasa Indonesia is the official language of Indonesia. The diversity of cultures, ethnicities, and religions that exist in Indonesia is a gift. The most important thing to keep those is preserved, to preserve the local cultures and languages, the Indonesian government, through its Ministry of Education, established policies for the local government to teach subjects relevant to the local cultures to maintain the values of multicultural is provide a neutral open space for the community to enjoy, named library. As a public space, library should be a neutral place, to be used for everyone regardless of any background.

Each city in Indonesia consists of a public library and province library, and also The National Library of Indonesia as a role model for other libraries. The National Library of Indonesia to of Indonesia is expected to be a neutral place for all. (1) Christmas celebration was held on January 16, 2019.(2) Before Ramadhan, there is the tradition called "*Munggaran*" for Welcoming the holy month of Ramadhan 1440 Hijriah, the librarian and staff of library got lots of spiritual led by Ustadz. Which was held on May, 5, 2019. It was seen on social media, celebrates without distinguishing the group or religion.

The library as a neutral place believes that the value of multiculturalism needs to be instilled early on in the nation's next generation, thus the society will not be easily separated just because of social, political, especially religious issues. Currently the library is also developing towards the era of 4.0 where technology is an important part of its implementation.

## **Problem Statement**

The importance of maintaining the value of multiculturalism nowadays, when all can be mastered by technology, and how become humanist despite using technological tools as part of his life. By promoting a culture of tolerance and upholding human values, understanding religious is the most essential meaning for the realization of a conducive society.

Not all libraries in Indonesia apply the multicultural concept directly. Through this paper, we would like to convey that the National Library of Indonesia has a concept to foster multicultural values for its users in a humanistic way and reach out to all circles, both the digital native generation and the millennial generation. This is what the other libraries and the world especially want to say, that Indonesia can also be an example of growing multicultural attitudes in an interesting way through libraries. The National Library of Indonesia to touches users through social media with concrete actions taken in the library. Provision of space in the library can be used by all levels of society regardless of ethnicity, language, or religion, becoming a form of multiculturalism values for Indonesian National Library of Indonesia to users.

## **Library as Social Capital**

Social networks consist of social capital and human capital (individual skills) to finally form values for individuals and society in general (Putnam and Goss, 2002). According to Khoir, Du, Davidson and Koronios (2017) it is this social capital that bridges the emergence of bonds between communities that have similarities (ethnicity, ethnicity, language and religion) to the potential for the formation of exclusivity. Social capital grows gradually to create greater opportunities for public trust to create community development into high-quality resources (Johnson, 2015).

Among public institutions in Indonesia, libraries in particular contribute to increasing public trust, this is a core component of social capital (Värheim, 2014, p. 63). Social capital itself can be interpreted as a tangible asset that can be taken into account in everyday life, namely intention, sympathy and good relations between individuals and other individuals (Keeley, 2007). In other words, libraries can form user networks to cooperate with one another in the values contained therein.

## **National Library of Indonesia to at a Glance**

The National Library of Indonesia to is directly funded by the state, responsible for publications relating to the country. The National Library of Indonesia to is a deposit library, which is the library that is responsible for the acquisition of preservation of published copies in a country regardless of the name of the library (Basuki, 2008).

The development of national libraries is an effort to consolidate national science and culture as part of the country's social capital. The National Library of Indonesia to was established to collect and preserve publications as part of the intellectual success of the Indonesian republic. The process of establishing a National Library of Indonesia to began in 1795, at the time the French National Convention announced that the library, which had previously belonged to the king, belonged to the national and gave the National Convention the right to obtain copies of all printed publications published in France. After that various national libraries emerged as a form of democracy in a country (Basuki, 2008).

Likewise Indonesia has established a National Library of Indonesia to from a government decree. The National Library of Indonesia to, located in the national capital, was inaugurated in 1989 (Presidential Decree number 11, 1989). Until now the National Library of Indonesia to continues to evolve in line with the development of the era, providing plenty of space for the public and becoming the main reference for all circles. The National Library of Indonesia to has a space that can be utilized by all users, with various kinds of events that want to be held. Until now the National Library of Indonesia to is still another barometer of the library as a public space that is neutral for all groups, tribes, and religions.

## **Data Collection Methods**

The research data is based on the observation from the National Library of Indonesia to social media, Instagram. The data collection technique is carried out from November 2018 to June 2019, by analyzing the Instagram account posts in the form of photos and videos related to culture, ethnicity and religion conducted at the Indonesian National Library of Indonesia to. The data analysis technique used by the author is content analysis (Holsti, 1969), then clarified with the theme, the theme used is related to multiculturalism in the Indonesian National Library

of Indonesia to. The quotes described in this paper are from National Library of Indonesia to users who commented on randomly selected by themes.

## **Discussion**

### **National Library of Indonesia to as a Public Space And Social Capital**

The concept of the public sphere from Habermas is prioritizes dialogical conception with the assumption. Stepen Carr (1992) describes public space should be responsive, democratic and meaningful. Responsive public space means that it can be used for a variety of activities and broad interests. It's mean that public space should be utilized by the general public without having to be compartmentalized due to social, economic and cultural differences. In fact, the democratic element is attached as one of the characteristics of the public space because it must be accessible to citizens with various physical conditions, including people with disabilities and the elderly. Or something like of each individual who visits the same location and dialogues occur between one to others, commonly referred to as conversation.

As a public space, the library provides collections for all, there is no boundaries ethnicity, race, religion, or social degree. The users can use it to learn, and to find out the history and condition of the current nation. Khoir, Du, Davidson and Koronios (2017) describe that community libraries and religious places were their two most important public places. Newcomers often view public libraries as safe, socially acceptable public places to meet people. It just the same with the main functions of the library as a function of education, Greenhalgh and Worpole (1995) mentioned that the library is an entry point to the wider culture. Where libraries must be "free of stains or neutral" (libraries is non-stigmatizing).

The concepts of public sphere revealed that it can be implemented in the library. Public libraries are one of the best examples of the scope of the information society. This is a global space that gives people the opportunity to express sharing opinions, news, and information. The concept of the public sphere carried by Habermas emphasizes the importance of public space that can be used by each level of society to express their opinions and access public information freely without distinguishing between groups and without domination or monopoly.

Indonesia has public libraries throughout the cities / regencies in its territory, with one National Library of Indonesia to located in Jakarta. The library becomes a place that can be used by anyone without knowing the tribe, social degree, language, or religion. multiculturalism of Indonesia, and the multiculturalism makes all public sectors should be suitable for use by every level of society, especially libraries, therefore the National Library of Indonesia to currently provides a variety of spaces to be used by users regardless of ethnicity, class, language or religion. Multicultural education that is important is applied especially in developing countries like Indonesia.

### **National Library of Indonesia to and Multiculturalism**

Some other countries also have multicultural values in the library for users. As applied in public libraries in America, librarians together with instructors emphasize cultural values on their users, especially library users who are still children. This is applied with the provision of literature on children related to diverse cultures to provide insights related to various kinds of culture that exist in their country (Barter, 1996). The same thing was done in several other countries, Canada also put more emphasis on its collection to support the value of

multiculturalism. Library users in Canada require libraries to provide collections in various languages, because users also come from various countries (Barter, 1996).

In Swedish, It is important to underline here that multiculturalism is a new challenge for society, and public libraries have chosen to face this challenge and to play an active part in the development of the multicultural society (Lanevska, 2005).Immigrants are representatives of different cultures, persuasions and languages. And it is also one of the library organisers of the International Culture Day. While the South African library and information workplace does not seem to discuss diversity related issues and problems widely, as compared to counterparts in multicultural communities such as the USA and the UK, and although South Africa has enshrined diversity in the country's Constitution and passed policies and enacted legislation aimed at affirmative action and managing diversity in the society, multiculturalism or diversity in library and information science (LIS) work place warrants attention.

The diversity of collections covering various subjects and their aspects shows that there is a library openness to the issue of pluralism and multiculturalism. The more accommodating a library's policy towards information sources from various cultures shows that the library has been concerned with the issue of multiculturalism, and vice versa.

Activities carried out in libraries such as book fairs, watch movie which are the regular agenda of the Indonesian National Library of Indonesia to, talk shows and other activities are ways to introduce cultural diversity. Both in national and international events that are social, cultural and religious can be a point to bring users closer to diversity. The other event organized by the Indonesian National Library of Indonesia to, are; The Christmas celebration takes the theme of "Jesus Christ Wisdom For Us", the "Maulid Prophet Muhammad" event by holding an exhibition of books relating to the character and personality of the Prophet Muhammad, and other religious events. "Sumpah Pemuda", discussion of Indonesian history, and storytelling are activities that are expected to be able to introduce cultural diversity while at the same time increasing nationalism, and appreciation of the diversity of cultures that are part of multicultural education activities.

## **Conclusion**

The importance of understanding multiculturalism in nation building, it requires concrete efforts to make it happen. The existence of the library as a public space is considered important, libraries have the potential to be able to foster a spirit of pluralism and multiculturalism. Especially Indonesia is a unitary state that has the religion of the majority of Islam in addition to other religions.

The library is a social capital built by the government for the community. The specific goal is to provide a self-development community to become a quality community. The implied purpose of the library in era 4.0 also provides space for free expression by anyone without knowing the tribe, class, language, and religion.

## **Contribution**

This paper contributes to all libraries in Indonesia in particular, to give an idea that multicultural can be started early even from the library. And in the world in general, that Indonesia has a national library that not only provides literature for various layers of society, but also space that can be enjoyed by all levels of society.

## Further Research

For further research can be done by examining how the library is part of multicultural education applied in other developing countries

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