

## **The Trends of Online Reference Choice in Postgraduate Students of FKIP UNIB as a Source of Reference in Writing Scientific Works**

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**Abstract:** This study aims to reveal the tendency of online reference choices used by Postgraduate students of FKIP UNIB in writing scientific papers. The research method used is the descriptive method. The reachable sample in this study totaled 221 people consisting of 38 third-graduate students and 183 second-graduate students. The collection was carried out using an online questionnaire with Google Forms media and interviews. The results of the study show that in general online journals occupy a very dominant position as references in writing scientific papers. The tendency of its use as a reference is more as a theoretical reference than as a fact, supporting or strengthening research results written in scientific papers. From a language standpoint, journals in Indonesian (L1) tend to be the preferred reference source in writing various types of scientific papers. The driving factors for this are limitations in mastering foreign languages and the desire to quickly complete studies.

**Keywords:** Online Reference, Trend, Scientific Works

### **A. Introduction**

Understanding one of the impacts of advances in information technology in the world of education is the use of online electronic information media by students (students) in finding references as a source of reference in completing college assignments and in writing their final project. References in writing scientific papers are a major requirement, as (Hakemy, 2017) pointed out, among others, that references are a very important aspect of the academic world. The online reference itself can be an article available in the form of books, scientific journals, blogs, or others that contain research results, ideas, and opinions from a series of original, in-depth and comprehensive research activities or studies of a branch of knowledge available online. Of course, not all of the contents of the papers presented have met the requirements to be used in the development of science and technology and published online. Therefore, it is imperative to review these sources for the benefit of research and writing scientific papers. Therefore, in essence, an academic cannot be separated from books, journals, or articles and papers, because a scientific work is not ordinary

writing, but writing that has certain characteristics that distinguish it from other written works. An article that is classified as a scientific work will use a certain theoretical basis or research results that have been carried out by previous researchers in describing the results of their thoughts or research.

The use of online technology in tracing references in writing scientific papers, be it in the form of books, electronic journals, or others, has been very popular among students, because the use of online technology is not only easy to access at any time but also sometimes available sources. Online predates those available in print. One illustration of this is presented in the results of (Abubakar & Akor, 2017) which reveals that the level of utilization of electronic journals as reference material is relatively high. The results of (Iqbal & Mangunang, 2021) reveal that Google Scholar is a reference source that is quite widely accessed in obtaining journal references in student thesis writing, namely as much as 78%, followed by e-Resources journals in second place at 16%, DOAJ 4%, IOS 2% and Garuda Dikti 2%. The results of (Weber-Lewerenz, 2021) states that the digitalization of services is considered more efficient and practical for all parties involved. Thus, the availability and access of e-journals have become a necessity for these public libraries, especially those located (Mustati & Nadjib, 2013) stated that the forms of e-journal utilization by the academic community vary because they are influenced by different orientations of goals and benefits. In addition, he also stated that e-journal is a service that is very important and helpful in the educational process. Apart from e-journals, other references are also available in the form of books, journals, or blogs. In that arena, online reference sources tend to be the first choice because they are more convenient than those presented in printed form. This is none other because the media presented online is not only in greater quantity but also very easily accessible, and usually the publication precedes the printed form.

The tendency to choose access that is more practical and easier in finding references online for students is a natural thing. This is based on human nature itself. Psychologically it is revealed that the motive for a person's actions is determined by factors from within and outside the individual (Saleh, 2018). He further revealed that the motive itself is defined as the power contained in a person who encourages to do or is a driving force (driving force) (Sidik, 2019). Motives as drivers generally do not stand alone but are interrelated with other factors. Things that can affect motives are called motivation. Furthermore, he stated that the influence of internal factors is the desire to complete studies quickly. While external factors are the availability of facilities that can be utilized easily. In this study, it is suspected that these two factors will further motivate students in determining the reference they choose.

Motives shown by someone will help other people to predict someone's behavior. This is by several motivational theories put forward by experts, namely the drive theory; this theory is based on biological determinants; Attribution theory which bases its thinking not on biological determinants but psychological and environmental ones. According to (Gereda, 2020), a leading expert, behavior depends

on a combination of effective forces within the individual and the effective forces of the environment. (Abushama et al., 2021) People who tend to think that their behavior is driven by factors outside themselves are called having an external locus of control, whereas people who think that their behavior is driven by factors within themselves are called an internal locus of control, they are the latter who are seen as more independent and responsible. Take responsibility for his behavior, of hope which assumes that motivation is the product of a combination of the magnitude of a person's desire to get a certain reward (valence), the magnitude of the possibility of completing the required tasks (expectations) and the belief that the achievement will produce the reward he wants (instrumentality) (Douglas et al., 2019). Thus, it can be stated that the choice of online references as a reference in writing scientific papers allegedly tends to be motivated by the need and desire to complete study assignments more easily and quickly.

The use of references in writing scientific papers includes: (1.) showing the basis of research; (2) supporting the novelty and value of research; (3) linking one study to another create a web of knowledge that carries meaning; (4) allows researchers to identify work as relevant in general and relevant to them; (5) creating values that are internal to science (eg relevance, respect); and (6) creating values that are outside science (for example, providing a way to determine the accountability and performance of researchers or funding (Assingkily, 2021). A similar opinion was also expressed by (Subakti et al., 2021) that references are needed to: (1) provide support for factual statements/claims made in academic documents, (2) allow readers to verify citations and/or information, (3) allow readers to follow up and read more complete the author's arguments cited, and (4) avoid plagiarism. This explanation shows that the existence of references in scientific writing is quite important because its function is as a basis for argumentation or strengthening the statement of ideas put forward in the scientific work that is compiled.

The matters stated above indicate that each type of reference has its function and use. References that contain theory and expert opinion can generally be found in reference books. Meanwhile, scientific articles usually only contain summaries of theory, methodology, and research results. Because of that, the function of an article is not the same as a reference book, as well as proceedings and blogs. In this regard, writing in scientific articles, proceedings and blogs cannot be used as a basis for theoretical reference in writing scientific papers but can be used as a support for research discussions, comparisons, or strengthening the discussion of research results. Therefore, a literature review of references (literature review) is very necessary for writing scientific papers (Gereda, 2020). The following explanation describes the tendency of reference choices and their use in the scientific work of Postgraduate students at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Bengkulu University.

## B. Methods

This study used a descriptive method with a quantitative approach with a sample of undergraduate and graduate students of FKIP UNIB who were actively enrolled in the even semester of the 2021-2022 academic year and were writing their final assignment to complete their studies. There were 221 students enrolled in this study consisting of 38 undergraduate students and 183 undergraduate students from several fields of study at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Bengkulu University. Research data collection uses questionnaires in person and online which will be followed up with confirmation through informal interviews. Aspects of the tendency are observed as in the following table:

**Table 1. Focus on observed reference types**

No	Reference SourceType	Observed sourcecategories
1	Book	National Foreign
2	Journal Article	National International
3	proceeding	International and National
4	Blogs	Foreign and National
5	Language	English Indonesian other foreigners

## C. Results and Discussion

### Description of Research Results

The results obtained in this research data collection as a whole which includes online reference choices, reference choices based on the language used, reference categories, especially Online Journals, differences in types of reference sources between Masters and Doctoral students, and the obstacles encountered can be described as follows:

#### Choice of Reference Sources

In general, data on the use of online references when writing papers, theses, and dissertations for each stratum were obtained as shown in the following tables.

**Table 2. Online References in Writing Scientific Papers**

Source	S2-Total	%	S3-Total	%	Total	%
Book	57	31,1	7	18,42	64	28,96
Journal	97	53,0	24	63,16	121	54,75
Proceeding	2	1,1	2	5,26	4	1,81
Blog	5	2,7	1	2,63	6	2,71
All Source	22	12,0	4	10,53	26	11,76
Amount	183	100,0	38	100	221	100

While in detail for each stratum as shown in the tables presented below. About online references used in writing theses and dissertations, they are presented below.

**Table 3. Online References in Thesis Writing (S2)**

Source	Amount	%
Book	42	23.0
Journal	96	52.5
proceeding	7	3,8
Blogs	6	3,3
All Sources	32	17.5
Amount	183	100.0

**Table 4. Online References in Dissertation Writing (S3)**

Source	Amount	%
Book	7	18,42
Journal	24	63,16
proceeding	2	5,26
Blogs	1	2.63
All Sources	4	10.53
Amount	38	100

#### Online Reference Language

In terms of the language used in reference sources used or chosen by students when writing scientific papers as presented in the following tables

**Table 5. Choice of Online Reference Languages in Writing Papers**

Language	S2-Total	%	S3-Total	%
Indonesia	156	85.25	31	81.58
Foreign	16	8,74	4	10.53
Foreign-Indonesian	11	6.01	3	7.89
Amount	183	100.0	38	100

The detailed thesis writing for each stratum is presented in Tables 6 and 7 below.

**Table 6. Online Reference Languages in Thesis Writing (S2)**

Language	Amount	%
Indonesia	152	83.06
Foreign	24	13,11
Foreign and Indonesian	7	3.83
Amount	183	100.0

In writing journal theses, the Indonesian language tends to be chosen more than foreign languages. This is linear with the tendency to choose indexed national journals that students choose in writing their theses (Table 7).

**Table 7. Online Reference Languages in Dissertation Writing (S3)**

Language	Amount	%
Indonesia	21	55,26
Foreign	11	28.95
Foreign- Indonesian	6	15.79
Amount	38	100.0

Category of Choice of Online Journals

In general, the categories of journals selected as references in writing scientific papers for each stratum are as follows:

**Table 8 Selected Online Journal Categories in Writing Papers**

Journal Category	S2-Total	%	S3-Total	%
Reputable International	32	17,49	22	57,89
Indexed International	11	6.01	3	7.89
Indexed national	115	62,84	10	26,32
proceeding	5	2.73	0	0
Doesn't pay attention to Category	20	10.93	3	7.89
Amount	183	100.0	38	100

**Table 9. Categories of Online Journals Selected in Thesis Writing (S2)**

Journal Category	Amount	%
Reputable International	64	34.97
Indexed International	13	7,10
Indexed national	91	49,73
proceeding	3	1.64
Doesn't pay attention to Category	11	6.01
Amount	183	100.0

**Table 10. Selected Online Journal Categories in Dissertation Writing (S3)**

Journal Category	Amount	%
Reputable International	22	57,89
Indexed International	3	7.89
Indexed National	10	26,32
proceeding	0	0
Doesn't pay attention to Category	3	7.89
Amount	38	100.0

The data in the table above shows that undergraduate students in writing scientific papers (thesis) as a requirement for obtaining a degree, quite a lot of them use reputable international scientific journals. However, it is still more prominent which refers to indexed national journals (Table 9). The results of interviews with researchers obtained information that this was motivated by the use of language in the journal and the relevance of the problems discussed to those faced at the national and local scope. Whereas for undergraduate students, the use of reputable international journals is more prominent than indexed national journals. The information related to the reasons for the selection was due to the demands in writing scientific papers (dissertations) that prefer to obtain novelty (elements of novelty), so it is considered important to obtain more complete and extensive information.

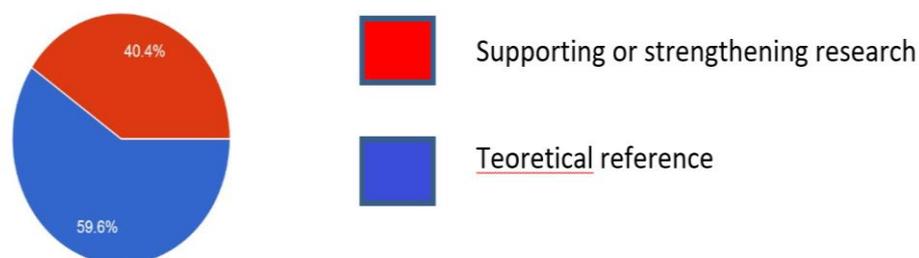
#### Allotment of Online References in Writing Scientific Papers

In writing scientific papers, most of the online reference sources by students are intended as theoretical references to the problems they study. A small number of students use it as a supporting source in writing research backgrounds and discussions. This is as shown in Table 11 below.

**Table 11. Online Journals in Writing Scientific Papers**

JOL designation	S2-Total	%	S3-Total	%
Theoretical reference to the problem under study	73	39,89	23	60,53
As a source of background support and discussion	110	60,11	15	39,47
Amount	183	100.0	38	100

When viewed as a whole (Strata-2 and Strata-3) it can be seen in the following diagram



Of course, the conditions described earlier did not happen by themselves, but were caused by many things behind them. The following are the results of the analysis related to the revealed data which are supported by direct interviews with several

students. Scientific journals available online are the most widely accessed references for Master and Doctoral students, both for writing papers, theses, and dissertations due to the ease of accessing these sources in addition to the availability of information that can be used, methods of data collection, and data analysis. Another thing that is factor driving the high utilization of online scientific journals is due to the mandatory requirement to use journals as a reference source in writing scientific papers. Motivational and comfort factors, both from outside and within a person will encourage and determine the actions he takes (Du Plessis et al., 2015; Kumar, 2021; Simmons, 2019) are individual factors that describe instant desires. That is, it is psychological factors inside and outside him that produce choices for these actions, such as wanting to get a reward, in this case, a degree, quickly and easily (Aprilia et al., 2020; Izzatunnisa et al., 2021; Ningrum, 2019) . This is also indicated by the choice of language in the journal. Indonesian language journals (Table 4, 5, 6) tend to be the choice. This fact also shows the low ability of foreign languages (English) among students and they want things that are more practical and easier.

This trend on the one hand may have a positive impact on students, which means that the level of student literacy is getting better. However, on the other hand, it has weaknesses that need to be looked at, especially those related to copy-pasting and attempts to paraphrase other people's work in writing scientific papers. If this happens, of course, it can reduce the academic quality of the writing produced and can also lead to plagiarism, while honesty is one of the conditions that need to be considered in writing scientific papers. Checker application programs and the like that are now widely used cannot guarantee this one hundred percent, because these applications only see "similarity/similarity ". With certain techniques that went viral some time ago, this application program can be tricked, including the author's paraphrasing.

Furthermore, the results of this study show the high utilization of indexed national journals in writing papers for undergraduate students, namely 62.84%. Likewise in writing a thesis (49.73%). Conditions are somewhat different from undergraduate students who tend to prefer reputable international journals (57.89%). However, the use of online references, especially scientific journals, tends to be wrong in their use, namely many students use scientific journals as theoretical references (Table 10). Even though references in the form of scientific journals basically cannot be used as theoretical references, their use is limited as support for comparison or reinforcement of the results of research conducted. The fact that found regarding this matter was found in undergraduate students, namely 60.53%. Supposedly, theories referred to in a scientific paper are sourced from related reference books because the theory is a set of scientifically acceptable principles that are offered to explain a phenomenon and which provide a framework for interpreting observations of the object of research (Bateson & Martin, 2021; Bhopal, 2016; Van Tubergen, 2020).

Writing in scientific journals is strengthening theory testing when the hypothesis is supported by data (Ary et al., 2018; Candra et al., 2021; Mohajan, 2018; Rassel et al., 2020; Siregar & Harahap, 2019). This condition shows that the seriousness of studying

theories that are relevant to the problem under study has not been carried out so intensely. This is where references sourced from journals should function as support for the study of the problem under study.

#### **D. Conclusion**

The conclusion that can be drawn from the results of the discussion of this study is that the tendency of students' main preference for online reference sources in writing scientific work is online journals, both in writing papers, theses, and dissertations. The basis for this choice is that the journal contains a summary of theories, methods, and discussion techniques, so it is easy to follow. This is what sparked his motivation because he was driven by a fast and easy desire. Apart from that, in terms of language, Indonesian-language journals tend to be the choice in writing scientific papers in the form of papers. Meanwhile, there are quite several scientific works that refer to reputable international journals. However, regarding its designation in writing scientific papers, there is still a placement error. The designation of journals as a theoretical reference is still quite a lot done by students. This shows the ignorance of students related to the functions and benefits of scientific journals in writing scientific papers.

Another thing related to the language used in the journal, for paper assignments they tend to choose Indonesian. While the writing of scientific papers for the final project has utilized scientific journals in foreign languages. Furthermore, the conditions raised in the previous section illustrate the obstacles found in exploring online references apart from limitations in skills in using online media, as well as constraints on online references which cannot be downloaded or read due to subscription or paid status. Therefore, what is widely used are online references that are open access and open content.

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