

The Role of Archives in Managing Public Information in the East Java Province Library and Archives Service

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Abstract

The role of archives in managing public information has become an urgent need, both for the government and society. The East Java Province Library and Archives Service plays a strategic role in utilizing archives to support solving public problems, both in the legal field, preserving historical traces, and providing public information related to state administration. Aims to explain the role of archives in public information using a qualitative descriptive approach through in-depth interviews with relevant employees. The results show that archives play a determining role in resolving public problems, serve as a Collective Memory of the Nation that preserves historical and cultural heritage, and as a provider of transparent information to support the accountability of state administration and legal entities. Optimizing archive management, including through digitization and increasing accessibility, is expected to improve the quality of public information services and strengthen the role of archives in meeting the needs of society as a whole.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archives have a very important role in supporting the management of public information, both for the government and society. As a trusted source of information, archives are the basis for decision making, resolving legal problems, and preserving cultural identity. According to Wahyudi (2018), archives are one of the main tools in maintaining accountability and transparency in government administration, while ensuring that public information can be properly accessed by the public. In the context of East Java Province, effective archive management is a challenge in itself considering the high public need for public information.

The role of archives in society is not only limited to administrative functions, but also as a collective memory of the nation that preserves traces of history and culture. According to Hamidah (2019), archives are an important element in building a nation's identity because they contain historical values that can be a lesson for future generations. In the modern era, archive management requires adaptation to developments in information technology in order to provide optimal services to the community.

Increasing public awareness of the importance of archives is also a major factor in supporting the role of archives as a source of public information. However, there are still many people who consider archives to be documents that are only used in certain situations, so they do not understand their benefits in everyday life. This shows the need for ongoing education and outreach regarding the importance of archives.

In relation to solving public problems, archives have a strategic role. Archive documents

can be used as legal evidence in resolving legal disputes, both in the field of government administration and other legal cases. Archives make a major contribution in supporting transparency and accountability, especially in resolving cases involving government agencies. Therefore, systematic archive management is very necessary to increase the effectiveness of their use.

In addition, developments in digital technology have opened up new opportunities in archive management. Digitization of archives allows faster and more efficient access to needed information. Digitization also helps reduce the risk of damage to physical documents, so that archives can be preserved for a longer period of time. In this case, technology integration is one of the strategic steps taken by the East Java Province Library and Archives Service.

However, there are challenges that must be faced in archival management, such as limited human resources who are competent in the archives sector and inadequate infrastructure. Most government institutions still experience obstacles in implementing appropriate records management standards, so there is a need to increase competency through training and capacity development.

In the East Java Province Library and Archives Service, the role of archives is becoming increasingly relevant as the public's need for transparent and reliable information increases. With a wide administrative area and a high level of problem complexity, archives management requires a comprehensive approach, including collaboration between government, society and other stakeholders.

By optimizing archive management, it is hoped that not only better public services will be created, but also collective awareness will be created about the importance of archives as part of the nation's collective memory. In this way, archives are not only an administrative tool, but also a foundation for building identity and progressing society in the future.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Methods used in this study are descriptive qualitative, which aims to explain the role of archives for public information in the East Java Province Library and Archives Service. This descriptive qualitative method was carried out through interviews with DISPERPUSIP Prov employees. East Java whose daily duty is to take care of archive files.

The aim of using this descriptive qualitative methodology is to describe phenomena observed in the field and collect written and oral data related to the role of archives for public information. Interviews with employees focused on archives which play a determining role in resolving public problems, serve as the Nation's Collective Memory which preserves historical and cultural heritage, and as a provider of transparent information to support the accountability of state administration and legal entities. The data collected will be analyzed using thematic analysis to identify and emphasize the role of archives in solving public problems, improving the quality of public information services and strengthening the role of archives in meeting community needs.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a Determinant in Solving Public Problems

Archives have a central role in resolving various public problems, especially those related to legal and administrative disputes. Well-organized archives provide accurate data and valid documents that can be the basis for decision making. One of the service employees, Mrs. Nurul stated, "When there is a problem no one's eyes look at the archives, when there is a problem, all eyes are focused on the archives. Archives are evidence that

cannot be denied. Archives are the only thing that can explain the facts objectively." In cases of land disputes, archives such as land certificates and other legal documents serve as a valid legal basis for determining ownership rights.

The East Java Province Library and Archives Service uses archives as the main reference source when the public needs access to information. Archives function as valid evidence, both for individuals and agencies, thereby helping to resolve disputes quickly and accurately. "People often come to this service to look for lost documents or to resolve legal cases. In situations like this, archives become a lifesaver. Apart from that, we ensure that archives are stored systematically so they are easy to find when needed, especially in urgent cases." said Mr. Antok as the employee who handles the archive filing section.

Various government and private agencies are increasingly realizing the importance of good archive management. Archives not only function as historical documentation, but also as a basis for policy and strategic decisions. Without neatly arranged archives, agencies will experience difficulties in responding to various requests for information from the public and legal institutions. "Many cases can be resolved quickly because there are clear and organized documents," said Mrs. Nurul. Therefore, an effective archiving system is very necessary to support transparency and accountability in various government sectors.

Apart from that, technological developments have brought innovation to archival systems. Archive digitization is a solution to increase efficiency in document storage and retrieval. "Now with a digital system, documents can be found in a matter of minutes, no longer having to search through piles of files," said Mr. Antok who handles the archive filing section. With digital archives, access to important documents becomes faster and more practical. This is very helpful in resolving legal disputes that require authentic evidence in a short time. The East Java Province Library and Archives Service has also adopted this technology to ensure the security and accessibility of archives for the public.

Not only in resolving disputes, archives also play a role in supporting research and scientific development. Various academic research and policy studies depend on valid and reliable archival data. "People often come to this service to look for historical archives as research material or legal studies," said Mr. Antok. Historical archives, for example, are the main source in understanding the social, political and economic development of a region. Therefore, preserving archives is a shared responsibility so that future generations can still access accurate information.

With increasing awareness of the importance of archives, efforts to improve the quality of archive management must continue to be made. The East Java Province Library and Archives Service is committed to increasing employee capacity in terms of storage, digitization and archive maintenance. "We try to ensure that every archive is stored systematically and safely, so that it can be accessed whenever needed," said Mrs. Nurul. Apart from that, the public also needs to be given an understanding of the importance of archives through outreach and education. With collaboration between the government and the community in maintaining archives, these valuable documents will be maintained and can play a role in resolving various administrative and legal problems in the future.

As a Nation's Collective Memory that Preserves Historical and Cultural Heritage

Archives not only record administrative activities but also store historical traces that become the identity of a nation. As the nation's collective memory, archives store historical and cultural heritage which plays a role in maintaining the continuity of values and traditions from generation to generation. This archive is the basis for understanding the journey of a nation and is an important reference in historical studies and cultural preservation.

At the East Java Province Library and Archives Service, archives related to regional

history are one of the main priorities for preservation. Documents about the independence struggle, local traditions and government policies in the past are an important part that reflects the identity of East Java Province. Mr. Irawan said, "These documents are authentic evidence of East Java's historical journey. By preserving them, we not only preserve history but also respect the struggles and culture that shaped our society today."

Preserving this archive also functions as an educational tool for the younger generation, so that they can understand and appreciate the history of their nation. Mr. Irawan added, "The younger generation often ignores the importance of archives. By providing wider access, we hope they can utilize archives as a valuable learning resource." Apart from that, archives play a role in educating the public to understand the history and culture of the nation, thereby creating collective awareness that strengthens shared identity.

The East Java Province Library and Archives Service also restores old documents and digitizes them to maintain the continuity of information in the long term. With this effort, archives will not only become passive collections, but also active assets that can be used for various purposes, including research, education and cultural development. Archives as the nation's collective memory reflect historical values that not only belong to the current generation but also to the future, while supporting the public's need for transparent, educative and empowering public information.

Various efforts continue to be made to ensure that the role of archives is maintained and can be easily accessed by the public. Providing an online catalog system that allows the public to search for archival information more efficiently is used as one method. With this digital catalog, people do not need to come directly to the archives office to get the documents they need. "We want to ensure that anyone can access the archives easily, especially the younger generation who are more familiar with digital technology," said Pak Irawan.

Apart from that, collaboration with various educational institutions is also an important part of archive preservation efforts. Schools and universities often use archives as teaching materials in history and culture subjects. Researchers and academics also use archives as the main source in their scientific studies. Archives are not only stored documents of the past, but also part of a learning process that is dynamic and relevant to current developments.

The East Java Province Library and Archives Service is also committed to increasing public awareness of the importance of archives. "Archives do not only belong to the government, but also to the community. Personal documents, old photos and family history records also have important values that need to be protected." Mr. Irawan said firmly. With community involvement in archival preservation, it is hoped that awareness of the importance of preserving historical heritage will increase.

As a Transparent Information Provider to Support the Accountability of State Administration and Legal Entities

Archives function as a bridge of transparency between the government and society. In state administration, archives are a tool to ensure that every policy, decision and program implementation is carried out in accordance with the principle of accountability. The information provided by archives serves as evidence of actions taken by government agencies, thereby increasing public trust in the government. "The documents we manage are often used by the government to answer requests for information from the public. This is proof that all processes carried out by the state are clearly recorded," said Mr. Irawan while conducting an interview.

The East Java Province Library and Archives Service provides archival services that enable the public to access information related to state administration, such as financial reports, government decisions or public policies. Transparent archives give the public the ability to monitor and evaluate government performance, thereby encouraging good governance. Mrs. Nurul emphasized, "When there is a legal case that requires documentary evidence, archives are the main reference. In this case, we work together with legal agencies to ensure the validity of the documents."

This information transparency requires a structured and secure records management system to protect sensitive information. Mr. Irawan said, "Archives must be managed well so that information can be easily accessed by the public. In this way, the public can monitor and evaluate government performance based on valid data. Mr. Antok also emphasized that Archive storage is carried out in two ways, namely digital and non-digital. Archive digitization is carried out by scanning the files and then storing them on a flash disk, while non-digitization of archives is carried out by storing the files in the archive location provided. These two processes not only make it easier to access, but also provides security in addition to the continuity of the archive itself.

The application of digital systems in archive management also brings benefits in increasing the efficiency of public services. With digital archives, the document search process becomes faster and more accurate, thereby reducing the potential for loss or damage to important files. The East Java Province Library and Archives Service continues to develop technology-based systems to facilitate public access to the information they need. "We always try to keep up with technological developments so that archive management is more effective and can provide the best service for the community," said Mrs. Nurul.

Apart from that, the role of archives in preventing corruption cannot be ignored. By having complete and transparent document records, the potential for abuse of authority can be minimized. Every transaction and government policy can be easily audited through available archival records. Mr. Antok emphasized, "Well-managed archives help create a cleaner government system. Every decision and action of government officials can be traced clearly." This shows that archives are not just a collection of documents, but also an important instrument in creating better governance.

In the future, archive management will continue to develop along with the increasing need for fast and accurate access to information. "We want to ensure that the archives can be accessed at any time easily and safely, without reducing the validity of the original documents," said Pak Antok. The East Java Province Library and Archives Service continues to appeal to the public about the importance of archives. With collaboration between the government and the community, it is hoped that archives can continue to be a reliable source of information and contribute to creating better governance.

4. CONCLUSION

Archives have a very strategic role in supporting various aspects of community and government life. As a determinant in resolving public problems, archives provide authentic documents that function as legal evidence to resolve legal and administrative disputes quickly and precisely. Apart from that, archives act as a collective memory of the nation that preserves historical and cultural heritage, so that it becomes an important educational source for the younger generation in understanding the history and identity of their nation. Archives also function as providers of transparent information to support the accountability of state administration and legal entities, enabling the public to monitor and evaluate government performance objectively. With good management, including digitization and

document restoration, archives become not only passive collections but also active assets that can be accessed for various public purposes, including research, education and cultural development, while strengthening good governance.

In addition, modern and systematic archive management will further increase efficiency in public services and prevent potential abuse of authority in government. By utilizing digital technology, archives can be accessed more quickly and accurately, making it easier for the public and related agencies to obtain the information they need. The role of archives in creating transparency and accountability also has a positive impact on increasing public trust in the government. Therefore, commitment to maintaining, preserving and developing the archives system must continue to be increased so that the role of archives can continue to function as an instrument that supports effective, efficient and trustworthy government governance in the future.

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