

Preserving History for the Next Generation: A Study on the History of Trisula in Indonesia

Safira Cornellya¹, Farika Nikmah²

^{1,2} D-IV Study Program in Archives and Information Records Management, Business Administration Department, Politeknik Negeri Malang

Article Info

Article history:

Accepted: 19 May 2025

Publish: 01 August 2025

Keywords:

Documentation

Trisula Operation 1968

Historical archives

Information preservation

Brawijaya Museum

Abstract

This study aims to create a documentation design of the historical event of the 1968 Trisula Operation to preserve the historical information contained in the relics of the event. The Trisula Operation was a military operation conducted by the Indonesian Army in Bakung Village, South Blitar, to suppress the remnants of the PKI rebellion. This event holds significant historical value; however, the relics that serve as sources of historical information are now deteriorating due to environmental factors and a lack of proper preservation. This research uses an action research approach, focusing on documenting the Trisula Operation collections stored at the Brawijaya Museum in Malang. Data collection techniques include observation, interviews, documentation, and questionnaires with the museum management as research subjects. The data obtained are analyzed descriptively to evaluate the effectiveness of documentation as a form of historical preservation. The findings suggest that documentation in the form of archival source manuscripts can serve as a strategic solution to preserve historical information, support the educational function of the museum, and maintain the collective memory of the nation.

This is an open access article under the [Lisensi Creative Commons Atribusi-BerbagiSerupa 4.0 Internasional](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)



Corresponding Author:

Safira Cornellya

Politeknik Negeri Malang

1. INTRODUCTION

Awareness of the limitations of human memory drives the importance of recording various activities in the form of archives, whether written, visual, or audio [1]. This awareness has also been possessed by society in the past, especially during Operation Trisula in 1968 [2]. This is evidenced by the existence of relics from the event. These objects contain valuable historical information and are silent witnesses to the struggle of the Indonesian people against communism in the New Order era.

1968 Trisula Operation was a military operation carried out by the TNI in Bakung Village, South Blitar with the aim of crushing the remnants of the PKI (Indonesian Communist Party) rebellion [3]. Based on the records of Kodam VIII Brawijaya (1969), this operation was considered a success for the New Order in protecting Indonesia from the threat of communism. However, behind this success, this operation also claimed around 2,000 lives, including PKI members, military soldiers, and civilians who were not involved[4]. This event reflects the great sacrifice of citizens in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Therefore, as a form of respect for the struggle and sacrifice, it is important to preserve and pass on the history of Operation Trisula to future generations[3]. One way is through the rescue of historical information contained in relics. However, currently the condition of the Trisula Operation collection objects stored in the Brawijaya Museum is starting to experience damage due to age, humidity, biological attacks, and lack of maintenance.

In the context of archival information rescue, the activity of documenting the 1968 Trisula Operation event is a strategic step to collect and secure important information so that it is not lost. The Documentation is the process of collecting and storing information in various forms (written, visual,

or audio) which is useful for future reference [5]. The Documentation of historical events also functions as evidence based on various types of sources, such as written, oral, visual, and archaeological [6], which ultimately provides an overview of the nation's historical journey, both success, failure, growth, and glory [7]. The importance of historical documentation is also emphasized by Ilhamda [8], who found that many historical relics had been destroyed before they could be archived, so documentation activities become very crucial. One of the events that needs to be documented so that its historical value remains sustainable is the 1968 Trisula Operation which occurred in South Blitar.

The documentation of Operation Trisula 1968 includes data collection activities related to the event, such as event records, documents, and relics. These data sources are stored in two main places, namely the Trisula Monument in South Blitar and the Brawijaya Museum in Malang City. This research focuses on the collection of Operation Trisula objects at the Brawijaya Museum, which are then documented in the form of archival source manuscripts (books). An archival source manuscript is a book or print containing archival treasures that contain a group of certain themes [9]. Based on this background, it is important to study more deeply the practice of designing documentation of historical events as an effort to save information.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The type of research used in this study is action research with a descriptive analysis method to examine the documentation of historical events. This method is used to describing, interpreting, and explaining a social situation as an action to improve quality and solve problems. The focus of this study is on relics and documents (archives) on the 1968 Trisula Operation event that has become a collection of the Brawijaya Museum. Therefore, the data needed is primary data in the form of interviews with parties from the Brawijaya Museum and secondary data from library materials.

The research procedure used in this study refers to the action research procedure with the Kemmis and Mc. Taggart model. According to Ismail & Ilyas [10] this model consists of four stages, namely the planning, action, observation, and reflection stages. The cycle of this model starts from the planning stage which is an activity related to all things that will be done at the action stage which includes designing ideas or concepts, colors, typography, book designs, book outlines, and merchandise.

Researchers take action and observe the problems that occur. After taking action and observation, research data is obtained which is analyzed to measure the achievement of research objectives. This data analysis activity is called reflection which is used as a basis for carrying out the second cycle or round if the research objectives have not been fully achieved. In addition, reflection activities are also used to validate research results. The implementation of this second cycle starts from planning to reflection again. This cycle or round is carried out until the researcher assesses that the problem being studied has been completed and there is an increase in the research process or objectives.

3. RESULTS

1) Idea or concept

The writing of this design is entitled "Historical Record of Operation Trisula: The Crushing of PKI Remnants in South Blitar 1968 as a Dissemination of Collective Historical Memory at the Brawijaya Museum". The description of "Historical Record" is a form of documentation of the Trisula Operation event that occurred in South Blitar. While "Dissemination of collective historical memory" emphasizes that the role of archives in this documentation activity is very important. In this design, displays the role of archives as a collective historical memory, where each archive has value, namely informational value and evidential value. The two main values contained in the archive can support the needs of research and writing history.

2) Color

The use of colors in this design is adjusted to the identity of the Brawijaya Museum. For this reason, colors with a green palette are used which are in accordance with the identity of the Brawijaya Museum which is in the military scope of Kodam IV/Brawijaya. Overall, there are around 6 palettes used, namely, black #000000, #203723, dark gray #272727, #658469, #cbddd, #fff.4f4.

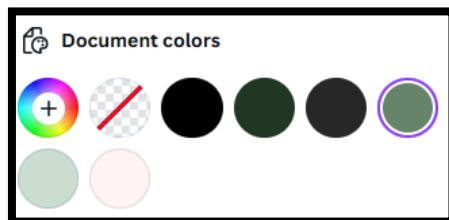


Figure 1. Book color palette
Source: Data processing results, 2025

3) Book Design

This design uses a medium book size of 182mm x 257mm or the size of B5 paper. This is done with the consideration that this size will facilitate the arrangement of information presented in the book. Another consideration is that by using this size the book will be easy to carry as a guidebook at the Brawijaya Museum.



Figure 2. Book Cover (Front and back view)
Source: Data processing results, 2025

The chosen cover contains the title of the book and the icon of the book, namely the Indonesian Army troops who were carrying out Trisula Operation in South Blitar. The colors used on the cover are in accordance with the concept, namely dark green and light green. While the back cover contains the logo of the collaboration between the Brawijaya Museum and Politeknik Negeri Malang.

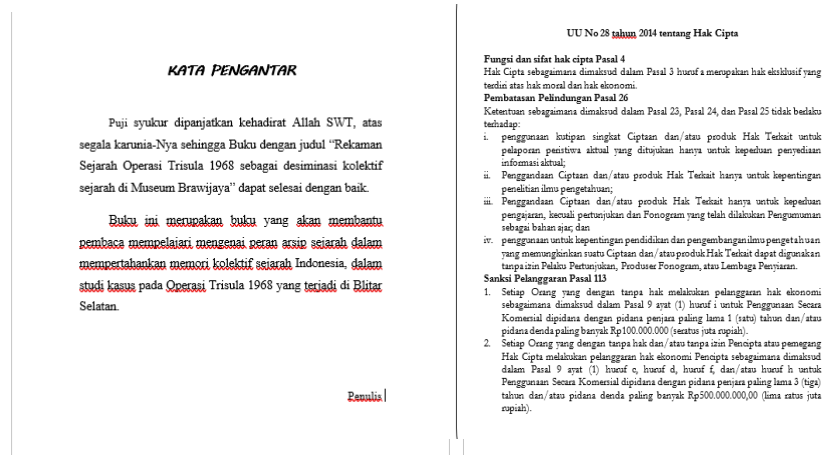


Figure 3. Layout of foreword and Copyright
Source: Data processing results, 2025

The Copyright page contains an explanation of the copyright for the creation of this book. It also contains an appeal regarding the prohibition of reproducing the contents of the book without permission from the author. On the foreword page, there is an expression of gratitude to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala and gratitude to all parties who helped and supported the compilation of this book. While the table of contents page contains the scope of chapters and sub-chapters discussed in this book.

DAFTAR ISI		ARSIP SEJARAH SEBAGAI KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER... 17	
KATA PENGANTAR	V	ARSIP SEJARAH SEBAGAI APREIASI PERJUANGAN	17
DAFTAR ISI	VII	ARSIP SEJARAH SEBAGAI MEMORI KOLEKTIF	17
BAB I MUSEUM BRAWIJAYA	1	BAB V PENUTUP	18
SEJARAH	1		
STRUKTUR ORGANISASI	7		
BAB II REKAMAN/ARSIP SEJARAH	11		
PENGOERTIAN REKAMAN/ARSIP SEJARAH	11		
JENIS-JENIS REKAMAN/ARSIP SEJARAH	12		
BAB III OPERASI TRISULA: PENUMPASAN SISA-SISA PKI DI BLITAR SELATAN 1968	16		
PEMBENTUKAN SATUAN TUGAS TRISULA	16		
PELAKSANAAN OPERASI TRISULA	16		
PEROSESAN PASUKAN	16		
TAHAP PENYAJAAN	16		
TAHAP PENOHANCURAN	16		
TAHAP PEMADATAN DAN PEMBERSIHAN	16		
TAHAP KONSOLIDASI DAN REHABILITASI	16		
OPERASI TERITORIAL SIPIL	16		
TOKOH PKI	16		
KOLEKSI ARSIP SEJARAH OPERASI TRISULA 1968	16		
DAFTAR KLASIFIKASI ARSIP SEJARAH OPERASI TRISULA 1968	16		
BAB IV KHAZANAH ARSIP SEJARAH	17		

Figure 4. Layout of Contents Page
Source: Data processing results, 2025

For the contents page, the design of this book is arranged in 4 Chapters, including Chapter 1 about the Brawijaya Museum starting from the definition, history, and organizational structure. In Chapter 2, historical Records or Archives are presented. This chapter explains the definition of historical archives, types, and benefits of historical archives.

<p style="text-align: center;">BAB I MUSEUM BRAWIJAYA</p> <p>SEJARAH Museum Brawijaya berdiri atas gagasan dari Pangdam VIII/Brawijaya Brigjen TNI (Purn) Soerachman tahun 1962. Namun, pendiriannya dapat terealisasi pada tahun 1967 di atas tanah 11.500 Meter yang merupakan tanah milik pemerintah yang terletak di Jl. Besar Ijen, No. 25 A, Gading Kasri, Kec. Klojen, Kota Malang, Jawa Timur. Pada masa pengembangan Kota Malang Tahun 1917-1929, Museum Brawijaya ini awalnya merupakan ruang terbuka hijau yang sering disebut dengan Beatrixpark. Hal ini dapat dilihat dari site plan Museum Brawijaya yang menampilkan lokasi Museum Brawijaya</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BAB II REKAMAN/ARSIP SEJARAH</p> <p>PENGERTIAN REKAMAN/ARSIP SEJARAH Pengertian arsip sebagaimana dirumuskan dalam Undang-undang Nomor 7 Tahun 1971 Tentang Ketentuan-ketentuan Pokok Kearsipan, disebutkan bahwa arsip adalah naskah-naskah yang dibuat dan diterima oleh lembaga-lembaga negara dan badan-badan pemerintahan/swasta ataupun perseorangan dalam bentuk corak apapun baik dalam keadaan tunggal maupun berkelompok, dalam rangka pelaksanaan kehidupan kebangsaan. Pada dasarnya, kata arsip diambil dari bahasa arsip, yaitu "archive" yang memiliki arti kumpulan dokumen atau</p>
---	--

Figure 5. Layout of Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

Source: Data processing results, 2025

Chapter 3 explains how Trisula Operation was carried out. The eradication of the remnants of the PKI in South Blitar in 1968 occurred systematically. This chapter contains 9 sub-chapters, namely, the formation of the Trisula task force, the implementation of Trisula Operation, troop shifts, the exploration stage, the destruction stage, the compaction and cleaning stage, the consolidation and rehabilitation stage, civil territorial operations, and PKI figures. In addition, this chapter also explains the collection of historical archives of the event and a list of their archive classifications. The last chapter, namely chapter 4, discusses the treasury of historical archives, the role of historical archives and the reasons of historical recordings can be used as a dissemination of collective historical memory at the Brawijaya Museum.


<p style="text-align: center;">BAB III OPERASI TRISULA: PENUMPASAN SISIA- SISA PKI DI BLITAR SELATAN 1968</p> <p>PEMBENTUKAN SATUAN TUGAS TRISULA</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Gambar 7. Kolonel Witamin, Komando Operasi Trisula</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BAB IV KHAZANAH ARSIP SEJARAH</p> <p>ARSIP SEJARAH SEBAGAI KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER Arsip <u>merekam informasi masa lalu dan menyediakan informasi untuk masa yang akan datang</u>. Oleh <u>karena itu arsip dapat digunakan sebagai alat untuk mengetahui perkembangan sejarah</u>. <u>Arsip merupakan komponen utama dan sumber primer dalam penelitian dan penulisan sejarah</u>. <u>Kebaradaan arsip menjadi bagian tidak terpisahkan dari penulisan serta kajian sejarah karena tanpa adanya arsip kajian atau bahasan apapun akan mengalami sindrom</u></p>
--	---

Figure 6. Layout of Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

Source: Data processing results, 2025

4) Book Outline

A book outline is a basic framework or writing plan that contains the outline of a book to be written[11]. The outline serves as a guide for the writer to maintain the suitability of his writing with the goals of the book that he wants to achieve.

Table 1. Book Outline

BOOK CONTENT DESIGN	
Book Title	Rekaman Sejarah Operasi Trisula: Penumpasan Sias-Sisa PKI di Blitar Selatan 1968 Sebagai Desiminasi Memori Kolektif Sejarah Di Museum Brawijaya
CHAPTER I	Museum Brawijaya
	1.1 Sejarah 1.2 Struktur Organisasi
Purpose	So that readers can know that the Brawijaya Museum is a museum that stores military history archives in Indonesia, one of which is Trisula Operation in South Blitar 1968.
CHAPTER II	Rekaman Atau Arsip Sejarah
	2.1 Pengertian Rekaman Atau Arsip Sejarah 2.2 Jenis-jenis Rekaman Atau Arsip Sejarah 2.3 Manajemen Arsip
Purpose	So that readers can understand the basis and reasons why the archive collection at the Brawijaya Museum is said to be a historical record or archive.
CHAPTER III	Operasi Trisula: Penumpasan sisa-sisa PKI di Blitar Selatan 1968
	3.1 Pembentukan satuan Tugas Trisula 3.2 Pelaksanaan Operasi Trisula 3.3 Pergeseran Pasukan 3.4 Tahap Penjajagan 3.5 Tahap Penghancuran 3.6 Tahap Pemadatan dan Pembersihan 3.7 Tahap Konsolidasi dan Rehabilitasi 3.8 Operasi Teritorial Sipil 3.9 Tokoh PKI 3.10 Koleksi Arsip Sejarah Operasi Trisula 1968 3.11 Daftar Klasifikasi Arsip Sejarah Operasi Trisula
Purpose	So that readers can find out how Operation Trisula occurred, which the author explains through identification of the historical archives of 1968 Trisula Operation.
CHAPTER IV	Khazanah Arsip Sejarah
	4.1 Arsip Sejarah sebagai <i>Knowledge Transfer</i> 4.2 Arsip Sejarah sebagai Apresiasi Perjuangan 4.3 Arsip Sejarah sebagai Memori Kolektif Sejarah 4.3.1 Peran arsip sejarah dalam Rekonstruksi sejarah 4.3.2 Peran arsip sejarah sebagai sumber primer 4.3.3 Peran arsip sejarah dalam penulisan sejarah

Purpose	So that readers can discover the treasures of historical archives and the reasons why it is important to maintain the integrity of historical archives.
CHAPTER V	Penutup

Source: Data processing results (2025)

5) Merchandise

Merchandise is a media used to attract readers' attention to this book. The type of merchandise used is a bookmark. This can be used as a book support to make it easier for readers to mark the page that has been read. Merchandise is made with a design that is in harmony with the contents of the book which is expected to attract readers.



Figure 9. Bookmark Design
Source: Data processing results, 2025

6) Typography

Based on its visualization, this book uses typography that matches the character and concept of the book's contents[12]. The typography used is bold but does not look stiff by using the MV Boli and Cambria fonts (Headings). The MV Boli font is used in the Headline of each chapter. The Cambria font (Headings) is used for sub-chapters in each chapter. While for the body of the book, the Times New Roman font is used.

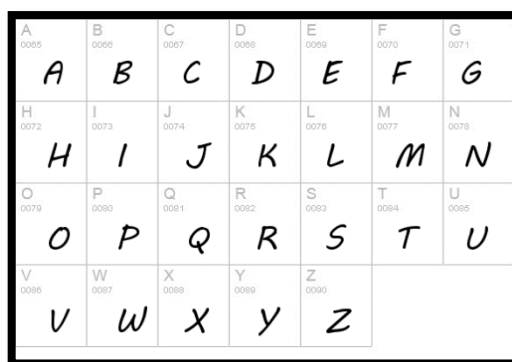


Figure 10. font MV Boli
Source: Data processing results, 2025

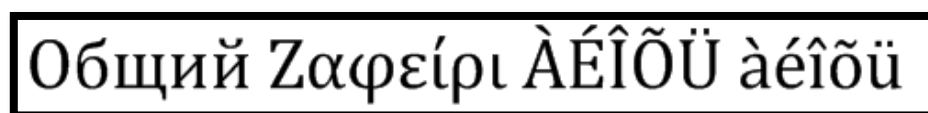


Figure 11. font Cambria (Headings)
Source: Data processing results, 2025

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion obtained from this study is that documentation of the 1968 Trisula Operation event plays an important role as a form of historical archive preservation. This documentation not only functions to save historical information, but also supports education, scientific development, and preservation of the values of the nation's struggle. In addition, the results of this documentation are expected to be useful for students, academic institutions, and partners such as the Brawijaya Museum as a source of knowledge and strengthening of national historical identity.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the Museum Brawijaya for providing data support for this research activity.

6. DECLARATIONS

Author Contribution: **Safira Cornellya**: Conceptualization, Writing-Original Draft, Methodology, Editing, and Visualization; **Farika Nikmah**: Review, Formal analysis, Validation, and Supervision.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1] L. Mulya and A. R. Bramantya, "Program Sejarah Lisan dan Budaya *Recordkeeping* Dalam Perspektif Kearsipan," *Dipl. J. Kearsipan Terap.*, vol. 4, no. 2, p. 99, 2022, doi: 10.22146/diplomatika.68195.
- [2] A. K. Risdianti and E. S. Hermawan, "Museum Brawijaya Malang Tahun 1968-2018," *Arch. Visit. to Brawijaya Museum Libr.*, vol. 2016, p. 5, 2018.
- [3] D. F. Febrianto, "Pemanfaatan Monumen Trisula Di Bakung Kabupaten Blitar Sebagai Sumber Belajar Sejarah Siswa Kelas X TKJ 2 SMK Negeri 1 Bakung." Universitas Negeri Malang, 2021.
- [4] A. Tamara, "Penumpasan Pki Blitar Selatan Melalui Operasi Trisula Tahun 1968," 2022.
- [5] N. Fajri, A. ; Amanah, and R. Syahida, "Strategi Public Relation Dalam Membentuk Village Branding Wisata Kungkuk Kota Batu," *J. Ilmu Sos. dan Ilmu Polit.*, vol. 8, no. 4, pp. 249–254, 2019, [Online]. Available: <https://publikasi.unitri.ac.id/index.php/fisip/article/view/1955>.
- [6] A. A. Sujatmiko, A. Miranda, N. Firdahernita, N. Ariani, and M. Maruf, "Praktek Pendokumentasian Dalam Prespektif Suska TV," *Stud. Komunika J. Ilmu Komun.*, vol. 6, no. 2, pp. 108–118, 2023, doi: 10.47995/jik.v6i2.134.
- [7] A. R. Mahmudah and L. Rahmi, "Urgensi Dan Integritas Arsip Dalam Konteks Kebangsaan Dan Kesadaran Sejarah," *Lentera Pustaka J. Kaji. Ilmu Perpustakaan, Inf. dan Kearsipan*, vol. 2, no. 1, p. 1, 2016, doi: 10.14710/lenpust.v2i1.12353.
- [8] D. Ilhamda, "Dokumentasi Bangunan Bersejarah Rumah Gadang (Studi kasus: Rumah Tuo Kampai Nan Panjang, Nagari Balimbiang, Kecamatan Rambatan, Kabupaten Tanah Datar)," no. 1981, pp. 1–9, 2024.
- [9] R. A. Saputro and M. Fitri, "Pemanfaatan Foto Dan Arsip Sebagai Sumber Pembelajaran Sejarah," *Kalpataru J. Sej. dan Pembelajaran Sej.*, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 126–134, 2022, doi: 10.31851/kalpataru.v7i2.7160.
- [10] M. I. Ismail and N. I. Ilyas, *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif dan Kuantitatif*. Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2023.
- [11] C. Ramos and B. G. Peters, "Introduction: Focus and Book Outline," in *The Emerald Handbook of Public Administration in Latin America*, Emerald Publishing Limited, 2021, pp. 1–7.
- [12] F. X. Widyatmoko, "Prinsip Internal dan Eksternal Tipografi Desain Buku Cetak," *Gestalt J. Desain Komun. Vis.*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 27–42, 2022.