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Rural Library and Its Benefit on Socio-Economic Development: Bibliometrics and Systematic Literature Review Analysis Based on Scopus Database

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Abstract

Rural library has a very important role in improving rural community literacy so that it will have an impact on social-economic development. This study aims to look at research trends related to rural libraries in Scopus database in the last ten years, and their benefits on socio-economic community development. The research was conducted using a bibliometrics analysis method to see research trend related to rural libraries and using Systematic Literature Review method to analyze the benefits of Rural Library on socio-economic, health and education. The results show that research related to rural libraries in Scopus Database is increasingly in demand, so far there are 83 articles written by 145 researchers with a total of 358 citation. The most dominant discussion theme is related to the purpose and role of the Rural Library. Based on the analysis of the Systematic Literature Review, it can also be concluded that the Rural Library has many roles and benefits for improving socio-economic, health and education of rural communities. Benefits to the community are provided in the form of organizing training and guidance, providing facilities, information and literature related to socio-economic, health and education. as a learning tool for non-formal students, initiating movements related to socio-economic and environmental issues, preventing youth from negative activities, and increasing the social sustainability of rural communities. In addition, several articles empirically prove the benefits of rural libraries on socio-economics, including health and education.

Keyword: *Rural Library, Bibliometrics, Sistematic Literature Review, Social and Economic, Education, Health.*

1. Introduction

Reading is the main activity that has an important role in absorbing knowledge (Akanwa, 2013). An increase in reading culture in an area will have a positive effect on increasing the knowledge gained. Quality knowledge will simultaneously

have an effect on improving social and economic. Several previous studies have shown that the literacy rate of residents in rural areas is lower than those in urban areas. The Rural Library has a very important role in efforts to improve the literacy of the villagers (Suprpto & Ahmad Qosyim, 2022). So that with increasing literacy, the socio-economic including health and education quality of the rural community can also increase (Thomas et al., 2021) .

This study aims to map research trends related to rural library and its benefits to the socio-economic, including health and education of the rural community. As far as the researcher's analysis is concerned, so far there is no previous research that specifically reviewed research trends related to rural libraries and their benefits to socio-economic, including health and education. Research using the literature review method related to library is generally related to libraries in general, such as research conducted by Moyer & Thiele (2012), Suwarno (2022) and Wong (2017). Meanwhile, research related to rural libraries was carried out by Hoq (2015) which examined specific rural libraries related to its success, failure, information services and sustainability of rural libraries. This study is different from Hoq (2015) because it uses a bibliometric approach to see research trends from rural libraries on the Scopus database and uses a Systematic Literature Review to see the effect of rural libraries on social-economic improvement of rural communities.

The writing of this research was carried out in several sub-discussions. After the introduction, the next discussion is related to methods and approaches in conducting research. The third part is the result of research that discusses bibliometric analysis to map research trends, and systematic literature review analysis related to the role of rural libraries in improving social and economic development of rural communities. This section is also equipped with conclusion and recommendations for further research.

2. Research Method

This research uses two approaches for two different purposes, namely bibliometric analysis and Systematic Literature Review methods. Bibliometric analysis method is used to see research trends about rural libraries, and

Systematic Literature Review analysis methods are used to see the impact of rural libraries on social and economic development of the community. Bibliometrics is a quantitative research method for analyzing academic literature, one of which is to map and analyze research trends from a discipline (Biancone et al., 2020; Pritchard, 1969). This method is considered the best in mapping literature studies because it is able to group as well as visualize the network of contributions and research contributors (Boyack & Klavans, 2010). In this study, what we want to analyze is research trends related to rural libraries contained in the scopus database, the selection of scopus as a database for analysis because scopus is one of the databases that provides quality journals with a very broad scope which sometimes also includes data from other databases such as the Web Of Science (WoS) (Biancone et al., 2020; Handoko, 2020).

The bibliometric analysis was carried out in three stages, *first* by determining the keywords in the form of "Rural Library" with a range of years between 2012-2021. *Second*, conducting a search with the findings of 104 documents consisting of 87 articles, 5 Conference Papers, 5 Review articles, 2 books and 5 Book Chapters. Third, the refinement step was to filter documents by category of articles and those written in English so that a total of 83 articles were found. The articles that have been found are then analyzed using Microsoft excel software to see research trends based on affiliation, year of publication, methodology and country (Handoko, 2020). And using VOS Viewer software for analysis and visualization of trends in the development of articles related to rural libraries which includes co-occurrence of keywords and co-authorship analysis.

The second method with Systematic Literature Review is also applies the same filtering category, namely with the keyword "Rural Library", document types is article that written in English, and published in the last 10 years, so that a total of 83 articles were found. However, the articles analyzed are limited to articles that discuss the impact of the rural library on the social and economic improvement of the community including health and education. Based on an in-depth analysis, the researchers found 21 articles discussing the influence of the rural library on socio-economic improvement, health and education as shown in **Table 3**.

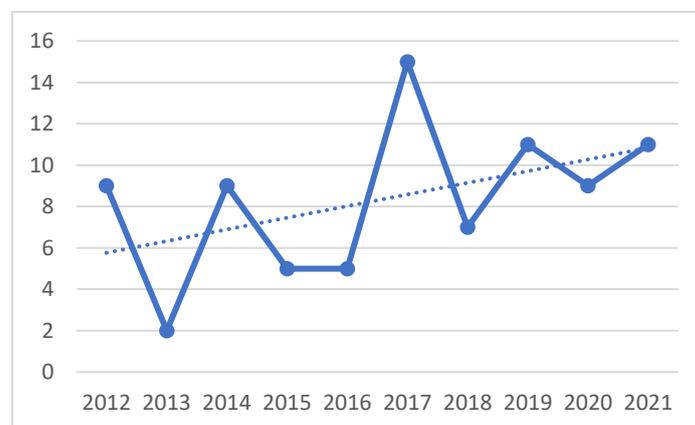
3. Results and Discussion

Result of Bibliometrics Analysis

Research Trend Related Rural Library

In the discussion related to research trends, this research will describe the number of studies and citations, researchers and affiliations, as well as journals where research publications have been published in the last 10 years, so that the overview of the research growth and contributors of the research can be understood. In the last 10 years (2012-2021) there were 83 research articles on rural libraries in the Scopus database with a total of 358 citations. During this period the number of studies seemed to fluctuate, but in general the research trend tends to increase. The highest number of articles was published in 2017 with 15 articles, followed by 2019 and 2021 (11 articles). While the least number of articles was in 2012 as many as 2 articles, followed by 2015 and 2016 as many as 5 articles. The trend of increasing the number of research on rural libraries shows that interest in researching rural libraries is increasing from year to year. A more complete description of research trends can be seen in **Figure 1**:

Figure 1. Research Tren related Rural Library from 2012 to 2021



Source: Scopus (2021)

From a total of 83 articles, the researcher summarizes the 10 most contributing authors and journals. The author with the most articles was Mehra B with 9 articles, followed by Bolong J, Bishop BW, Omar SZ, Partee R.P, Shaffril H.A.M and Singh V, each with 4 articles and Akanwa P.C, Samsuddin, S.F and Sikes, E.S with 3 articles each. While the journals those contributed the most were the

Public Library Quarterly (18 articles), Library Philosophy and Practice (9 articles), Advances in Librarianship (7 articles), Journal of Librarianship and Information Sciences and Library Quarterly (4 articles), Bulletin Des Bibliothèques De France, International Information and Library Review and New Library World (3 articles), and the last are Ifla Journal and Information Development Journal (2 articles).

Table 1. Top 10 Author and Journal

Author		Journal	
			1
Mehra, b	9	Public Library Quarterly	8
Bolong, j	4	Library Philosophy and Practice	9
Bishop, b.w	4	Advances in Librarianship	7
Omar, s.z	4	Journal of Librarianship and Information Sciences	4
Partee, r.p	4	Library Quarterly	4
Shaffril, h.a.m	4	Bulletin Des Bibliothèques De France	3
Singh, v	4	International Information and Library Review	3
Akanwa, p.c	3	New Library World	3
Samsuddin, s.f	3	Ifla Journal	2
Sikes, e.s	3	Information Development	2

Sources: Scopus and Vosviewer (2021)

When viewed by country, researchers from the United States dominate with 45 articles, followed by Malaysia (9 articles), Canada (8 articles), India (6 articles), Nigeria (5 articles), Bangladesh and France (3 articles), China and Indonesia (2 articles) and Australia 1 article. The most contributing institutions were The University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Universiti Putra Malaysia with 6 articles each, followed by Simmons University, Oklahoma State University, The University of Western Ontario, Imo State University and University of Dhaka with 3 articles each, and Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, University of Wyoming and The University of North Carolina at Greensboro 2 articles each..

Table 2. Top 10 Countries and Affiliation

Contry		Affiliation	
United States	45	The University of Tennessee, Knoxville	6
Malaysia	9	University Putra Malaysia	6
Canada	8	Simmons University	3
India	6	Oklahoma State University	3

Nigeria	5	The University of Western Ontario	3
Bangladesh	3	Imo State University	3
France	3	University of Dhaka	3
China	2	Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University	2
Indonesia	2	University of Wyoming	2
Australia	1	The University of North Carolina at Greensboro	2

Source: Scoups (2021)

If referring to the top ten rankings from authors, countries and affiliations, it can be concluded that research on rural libraries is still not evenly distributed in all countries and institutions. Research is still dominated by several countries such as the United States, Malaysia and Canada. Meanwhile, in other countries, the number of researches still tends to be small, especially in developing countries.

Results of Bibliometrics Visualization with Vosviewer

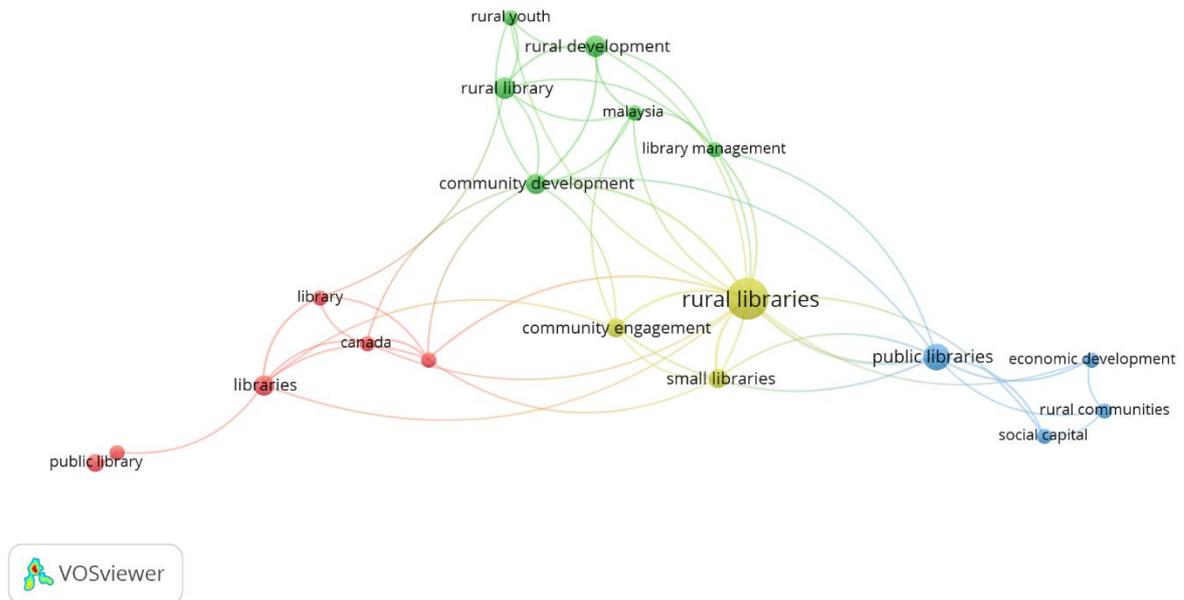
In this part, researchers will visualize Co-occurrence of Keyword and Co-Authorship Analysis. These two discussions are considered sufficient to describe research trends related to rural libraries and the network of contributors involved. Further discussion is as follows:

Co-occurrence of Keyword

Co-occurrence of Keyword is an analysis that aims to see the frequency of occurrence of keywords used by researchers in each article and the relationship between one article and another. This analysis is useful for analyzing research theme trends from the rural library. The total number of keywords that emerged from the 83 documents was 325. Of the total keywords, the researcher limited the analysis to keywords that appeared at least 3 times so that a total of 19 keywords were found which were divided into 4 networks cluster. Cluster one is in red colour, which consists of 6 keywords, namely “Canada”, “India”, “libraries”, “public libraries” and “volunteers”. Cluster two is in green which also consists of 6 keywords, namely “community development”, “library management”, “Malaysia”, “rural development”, “rural library” and “rural youth”. The third cluster is in blue which consists of 4 keywords, namely “economic development”, “public libraries”, “rural communities” and “social capital”. The fourth cluster is yellow which consists of 3 keywords, namely “community engagement”, “rural libraries” and

“small libraries”. The distribution map of the keyword network and its clusters can be seen as follow:

Figure 2. Co-occurrence of Keyword Visualization



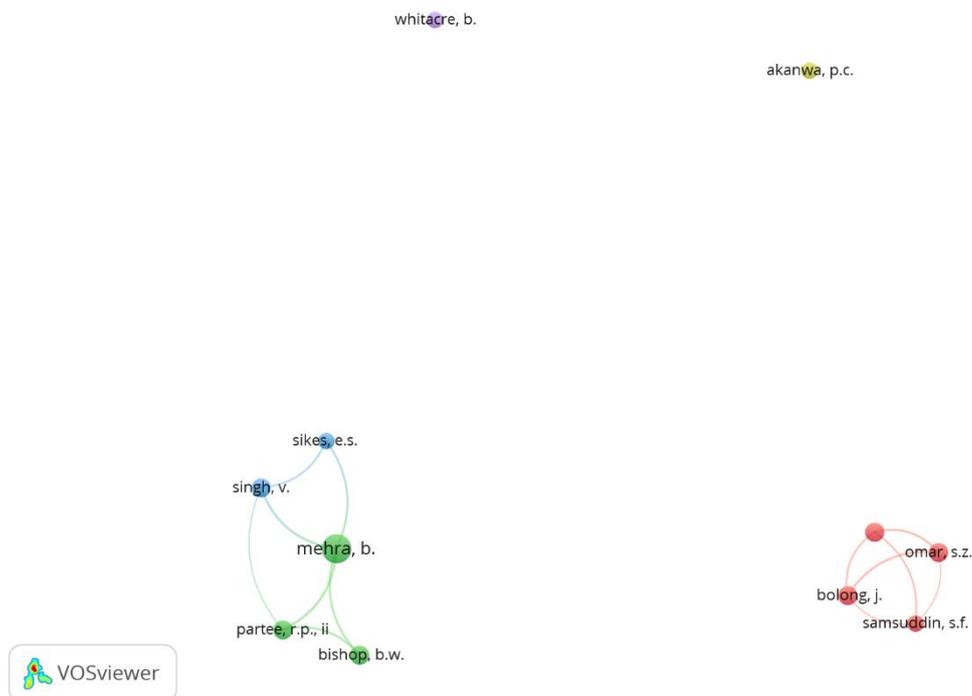
based on the keywords that appear along with the network map of all keywords in general, it can be concluded that research trends from rural libraries in all clusters generally discuss the roles and functions of rural libraries towards rural communities which are represented by the keywords "rural development", "community. development" "Community Engagement", "economic development", "social capital", "volunteers", "public library", and "rural youth". In addition, it also discusses the management of rural libraries which are represented by the keywords "library management", and "small libraries". Some keywords also represent research locations such as the keyword "canada". Research trends tend to be difficult to distinguish based on clusters because the keywords used are very general except for keywords related to the role and function of the rural library, research place and rural library management.

Co-Authorship Analysis

This discussion aims to review authors who contribute significantly to research on rural libraries, including identifying the most productive researchers and their networks. Of the 83 documents, there were 145 authors who contributed, of which

the researchers limited the analysis to authors who had at least 3 articles so that only 11 researchers were eligible to be divided into 5 clusters. The first cluster is in red colour consisting of five authors namely Bolong J, Omar S.Z, Samsuddin, SF, and Shaffril, the second is in green colour consisting of 3 researchers namely Bishop BW, Mehra B, and Partee RP, the third cluster is in green colour consisting of 2 researchers, namely Sikes E.S, and Singh V. The fourth cluster is in yellow consisting of 1 researcher, namely Akanwa P.C, and the fifth cluster is in purple with 1 author, namely Whitacree B.

Figure 3. Co-authorship Visualization



Based on the description above, it can be understood that there are 3 clusters that are interconnected and the most influential in research on rural libraries, namely the cluster led by Bolong J that followed by Samsuddin S.F, Omar, S.Z and Shaffril and the cluster led by Mehra B that interconnected with 4 other researcher. While Akanwa PC and Whitacree B were not connected or connected to other researchers.

Result of Sistematic Literature Review related to Roles and Benefits of Rural Library to Socio-Economic, Health and Education Development.

In this part researchers filtered several articles that discussed the role of the rural library in improving socio-economic, education and health. The article was then analyzed deeply to obtain information related to the role of the rural library in improving socio-economic, education and health. The articles to be analyzed are as follows:

Table 3. Selected Articles for Sistematic Literature Review

No	Title	Researcher	Journal
1	The Role Of Rural Library In Community Empowerment (Leshutama Library Case Study)	Titi Cahyani and Muhammad Fikriansyah Wicaksono	Library Philosophy and Practice
2	Supporting Social Connectedness of Older Adults during the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Role of Small and Rural Public Libraries	Noah Lenstra, Fatih Oguz, Joseph Winberry and Lindsey S Wilson	Public Library Quarterly
3	Agriculture-based community engagement in rural libraries	Vandana Singh, Bharat Mehra, Everet Scott Sikes	Journal of Librarianship and Information Science
4	How Rural Public Libraries Support Local Economic Development in the Mountain Plains	Cynthia Hughes and Stephen Boss	Public Library Quarterly
5	A story of transformation of an iranian rural library in nonformal education of children and the life of people	Oranus Tajedini, Morad Yari Dehnavi, Ali Sadatmoosavi, Hamid Khaje and Ali Akbar Khasseh,	The Library Quarterly
6	Evaluation of the Role of Society-Based Library in Empowering Surabaya City People	Nove Eka Variant Anna, Endang Fitriah Mannan and Dyah Puspitasari Sri Rahayu	Public Library Quarterly

7	Provision of consumer health information in Alberta's Rural Public Libraries	Georges Danhoundou, Doug Wistance-Smith, Daniele Lemoine and Jill Konkin	Health Information and Library Journal
8	Poverty and Public Library Usage in Iowa	Jefrey Meyer	Public Library Quarterly
9	Youth development in rural library: ICT gratification as mediating effect Open Access	Samsul Farid Samsuddin, Siti Zobidah Omar and Hayrol Azril Mohamed Shaffril	Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science
10	Rural libraries and the human right to internet access	Claire Petri	Advances in Librarianship
11	Movement-based programs in U.S. and Canadian public libraries: Evidence of impacts from an exploratory survey	Noah Lenstra	Evidence Based Library and Information Practice
12	Small business perspectives on the role of rural libraries in economic development	Bharat Mehra, Bradley Wade Bishop, and Robert P. Partee II	Library Quarterly: Information, Community, Policy
13	Connecting with Community: The Importance of Community Engagement in Rural Public Library Systems	Heather Reid and Vivian Howard	Public Library Quarterly
14	The Role of Rural Public Libraries in Small Business Development	Bradley Wade Bishop, Bharat Mehra and Robert P. Partee II	Public Library Quarterly
15	The rural library's role in Ugandan secondary students' reading habits	Valeda F Dent and Geoff Goodman	IFLA Journal
16	The Rural Library Project: Building Libraries, Building Community	Dan White	Public Library Quarterly
17	Collaboration between rural school and public youth services librarians	Daniella Smith	New Library World
18	Rural Public Libraries' Role in Community Economic Developmen	Jefrey W. Hancks	Public Library Quarterly

19	Seeking perfect motherhood: Women, medicine, and libraries	Rima D. Apple	Library Trends
20	Rural library services: A qualitative assessment of information provision in selected rural	Md Shariful Islam and S. M.Zabed Ahmed	New Library World
21	Public Library Service to Children In Rural Area	Pearl C. Akanwa	Library Philosophy and Practice

Based on the analysis of several selected articles as listed in **Table 3**, it can be concluded that the Rural Library provides many benefits to the community, including improving socio-economic that including education and health. In the socio-economic aspect, the Rural Library contributes in several forms, namely by providing training to improve the community's ability to produce goods and services (Cahyani & Wicaksono, 2021; Hartanto et al., 2019), providing seed libraries for farmers (Singh et al., 2021), providing human resources, internet facilities, literature and information technology that are useful in economic and business growth especially for MSMEs (Cahyani & Wicaksono, 2021; Hancks, 2012; Hughes & Boss, 2021; Mehra et al., 2017), Improving business networks and social connectivity (Lenstra et al., 2021; Reid & Howard, 2016; White, 2014), facilitating social movements that are socially and economically beneficial (Lenstra, 2017), preventing youth in rural areas from negative activities (Samsuddin et al., 2018), fulfilling human rights to obtain information and knowledge (Petri, 2017), contribute in protecting the environment (Cahyani & Wicaksono, 2021). In addition Meyer (2018) empirically states that there is a negative relationship between the use of rural libraries and the level of poverty. and a positive relationship between library use and household income, meaning that if the level of library use increases, the poverty rate will decrease and household income will increase, especially poor households in rural areas.

In terms of education, rural libraries have a positive impact by providing a variety of literature, audiovisual, learning materials and information technology facilities to school-age students (Akanwa, 2013; Islam & Ahmed, 2012), providing useful training to school students (Smith, 2014) increasing literacy culture of the villagers

(Tajedini et al., 2020), preventing students and youth from negative activities (Samsuddin et al., 2018), as a means of transformation for those who attend informal schools (Tajedini et al., 2020). Dent & Goodman (2015) stated that school students interaction to the literature provided by the rural library will have a positive effect on increasing students' academic grades and achievements. In terms of health, the Rural Library provides benefits to villagers by increasing social connectivity for the elderly during the Covid-19 pandemic (Lenstra et al., 2021), and providing literature and information related to health, especially maternal and child health (Apple, 2012; Danhoundo et al., 2019).

Conclusions and Suggestions

This study intends to present a review of research related to rural libraries in the Scopus database in the last ten years. Research related to rural libraries seems to tend to increase from year to year, generally the research themes are dominated by the functions and roles of rural libraries in rural communities. Based on the systematic literature review conducted by the researchers, it can be concluded that the rural library has many benefits for the socio-economic growth, health and education of rural communities. So that the government of each country should pay more attention to the existence of the rural library as an instrument to improve socio-economic, health and education of rural community.

If viewed based on bibliometric analysis, it can be seen that research related to rural libraries is still dominated by a few countries such as the United States. for further its recommended to other researchers to develop further research related to rural libraries in their respective countries. There are still not many discussions related to rural libraries that link the discussion to contemporary problems such as Covid-19. According to the author's analysis so far there is only 1 study with the Covid-19 keyword. For further research, it is recommended to conduct research regarding the Rural Library and its relationship with Covid-19 in rural area.

Declaration

Author Contribution Statement

All authors listed have significantly contributed to the development and the writing of this article.

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Competing interest statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Additional Information

No additional information is available for this paper.

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