

Penyampai : DATO SERI DR SITI HASMAH BT HJ MOHD ALI
Tajuk : MAJLIS PELANCARAN PERPUSTAKAAN DIGITAL UNIVERSITI MULTIMEDIA
Lokasi : UNIVERSITI MULTIMEDIA, CYBERJAYA
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Alhamdulillah segala puji bagi Allah S.W.T. yang Maha Pemurah lagi Maha Mengasihani. Pada hari ini kita telah dipersatukan dalam upacara yang sangat bererti bagi kita semua untuk merasmikan Perpustakaan Digital Universiti Multimedia.

2. Seperti yang kita semua sedia maklum, institusi perpustakaan sebenarnya perlu diwujudkan dengan tujuan untuk menjadi wadah ilmu pengetahuan kepada setiap ahli masyarakat, terutamanya mereka yang terlibat dalam dunia pendidikan. Masyarakat yang berilmu sudah tentu akan membudayakan perpustakaan kerana sentiasa dahagakan ilmu dan perkembangannya.

3. Di Malaysia, institusi perpustakaan telah berkembang pesat sejak negara kita mencapai kemerdekaan. Selaras dengan pembangunan teknologi komputer dan perhubungan, keupayaan perpustakaan juga turut meningkat dengan pesatnya hasil daripada kerja keras para profesional maklumat yang sentiasa mencari ide-ide baru bagi mengumpul dan menyebarkan ilmu pengetahuan. Pada masa ini perpustakaan konvensional tetap akan wujud selagi bahan seperti buku kertas diterbitkan, namun lama-kelamaan bahan buku dalam bentuk kertas akan luput diganti dengan bentuk digital.

4. Pembangunan teknologi masa kini dan akan datang sudah pasti akan merubah rupa bentuk fizikal perpustakaan di mana bangunan perpustakaan akan menjadi semakin kecil dan bahan sumber perpustakaan tidak terhad kepada sesuatu kelompok atau wilayah tetapi terbuka luas kepada dunia tanpa sempadan itu sendiri. Pengguna perlu bersedia untuk menyesuaikan diri terhadap perubahan pesat yang berlaku di mana ruang untuk membaca buku perpustakaan bukan lagi di atas meja dalam sesebuah perpustakaan tetapi di atas kerusi perhentian bas, di taman-taman, dalam kenderaan semasa perjalanan ke tempat kerja, bilik asrama pelajar, di tepi pantai semasa bercuti dan sebagainya. Perubahan ini akan memaksa bangunan-bangunan perpustakaan lama yang besar ditutup atau diubahsuai untuk kegunaan lain kerana tidak dapat ditanggung secara ekonomi lagi.

5. Throughout history, libraries have been the repositories of knowledge of all kinds and without it everyone of us would have to grapple with the impossible task of recalling past information and knowledge and spend our lives reinventing the wheel. In the age of computers and the internet, a new concept has arrived in the form of the digital or virtual library causing the disappearance of physical books and journals. Hence technology may have advanced, but the idea of a library as a large source of information and knowledge still survives. Increasingly, it appears that an educated person now becomes identified as someone who knows how to find, evaluate, and apply correct information amidst the wealth of information itself. An interesting development from this too is that business people and information professionals are already looking at information from the business point of view where information is treated as a commodity, product or service that is part of the economy. The economics of information revolves around information products, information services, information transfer systems and a number of processes and activities, which enable information to contribute economically and hence the emergence of the term 'k-economy'.

6. The "information power" vision is now becoming a new vision accepted by managers who have realised that information is a weapon to succeed in today's world. Libraries and other information agencies stand in an important position in the political social-economic and technological context of a country, region or the world at large. As such the provision of information at the right time, at the right place and to the right person will enhance the quality of information transmitted.

7. I am deeply pleased to be here today to officiate the launching of the Multimedia University (MMU) digital library which carries many significant advanced features incorporating the latest computer and I.T. technology applied to a library. I am made to understand that the only remaining traditional feature of this library is the paper book which is still maintained mainly because most textbooks are still in paper print. Except for this, the MMU digital library is powered by the latest IBM digital library server which employs

an advanced image search technique, the first to be used in this country. The periodical section of this library has been made small but instead the IBM server stores a few hundred thousands of the latest journals and periodicals in digital form. The server is further linked via the internet to several well-known resource websites further enhancing the resources available to MMU library users. At the same time, the MMU library is building rapidly its own collection of digital resources whereby thousands of books, theses and other important reading materials are now being digitised hopefully to be completed before the end of the year.

8. It is clear that the way of life in the MMU campus is being radically changed by the emergence of this powerful library. For now, staff and students need not appear in person to access the digital books and journals where access could be done in the comfort of the office or hostels. The renewal, borrowing or booking of books can be done anywhere, anytime away from the library and the use of the smartcard adds further convenience allowing easy entrance to users and enable fast checkout of paper books while maintaining security.

9. I am indeed impressed by the capability of this facility available in the MMU campus, which undoubtedly will be of immense benefit to the whole university community. I am also made to understand that this library will eventually be linked to other major libraries in the country opening its wealth to a larger community of users. On this I wish to applaud the library staff and management of MMU for this splendid achievement in building a vital facility of the university. I am indeed deeply honoured that this excellent facility has been named after me.

10. Dengan lafaz Bismillahir rahmannir rahim, saya dengan sukacitanya merasmikan Perpustakaan Digital ini.

Sekian, terima kasih.