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Dissemination Program for Ancient Nusantara Manuscripts at the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Background: Ancient Indonesian manuscripts serve as a vital repository of indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage. Despite their significance, empirical research into the collaborative dissemination frameworks required to transition these artifacts from archives to the public sphere remains limited.
Purpose: This study investigates the dissemination programs for ancient manuscripts at the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia (Perpusnas RI), aiming to evaluate how these initiatives support manuscript preservation and active public utilization.
Methods: Adopting a descriptive qualitative approach, the researchers conducted in-depth interviews with nine librarians and philologists, supplemented by direct and digital observations of social media and institutional websites. Data were transcribed using TurboScribe, manually coded, and validated through source and method triangulation. Analysis followed a rigorous process of reduction, presentation, and verification.
Findings: The study identifies nine distinct dissemination channels: social media, the Khastara digital portal, physical exhibitions, webinars/workshops, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), literacy classes, script-writing workshops, competitions, and podcasts. While these programs align with the Information Dissemination Systems (IDS) framework, the findings reveal a critical need for expanded social participation and institutional synergy.
Originality/Value: Although Perpusnas RI has implemented a systematic dissemination infrastructure, the study highlights that cross-institutional collaboration remains the primary bottleneck. The research provides a strategic foundation for recommending a national collaborative model that integrates philologists, researchers, and local communities to ensure the sustainability of Indonesia's manuscript heritage.

Keywords: Manuscript dissemination; Ancient Indonesian manuscripts; Cultural heritage preservation

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia possesses a rich corpus of historical and cultural heritage in the form of Nusantara manuscripts, texts produced by earlier generations within the archipelago and classified as ancient manuscripts. Such manuscripts are generally defined as being at least 50

years old and hold significant value for the nation's cultural, historical, and scientific development. In accordance with Law No. 43 of 2007, Article 1, the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia is mandated to collect, preserve, and manage ancient Indonesian manuscripts as part of its national responsibility (Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 43 Tahun 2007 Tentang Perpustakaan, 2007). By the end of 2024, the National Library had acquired 13,318 manuscripts, with 7,987 digitized and made publicly accessible via the Khastara portal https://khastara.perpusnas.go.id/ (Perpustakaan Nasional RI, 2025). Manuscripts are organized by material such as paper, palm leaf, gebang, bamboo, bark, and wood as well as by language and script, including Javanese, Arabic, Malay, Dutch, and Balinese, with Javanese, Latin, Arabic, and Balinese scripts being most prevalent. Classification also considers subject matter or the name of the previous collector. For instance, the BR (one of the classification abbreviations) manuscript originates from Dr. Brandes' collection, the AW manuscript was donated by Gus Dur, and the CS manuscript is from the Cohen Stuart collection. Manuscripts acquired after the National Museum's collection are categorized as NB (New Manuscripts), with numbering based on the order of arrival at the library.

Effective information dissemination is essential to ensure that ancient Indonesian manuscripts are accessible and recognized by the broader public. This process encompasses the systematic creation, organization, storage, and delivery of information to users, enabling wider engagement with and utilization of these cultural resources (Case & Given, 2016). In keeping with the advancement of digital technology, information is disseminated through print and digital media in the framework of library manuscripts. It is anticipated that the circulation of information in libraries would contribute to a rise in citizen knowledge through dissemination activities (Delponte et al., 2015). Dissemination of Indonesian manuscripts is important for national culture, history, and science since it allows the public, including the foreign community, to learn about the manuscripts in Indonesia (Perpustakaan Nasional RI, 2022). Therefore, libraries preserve and disseminate information about manuscripts; therefore, the public can learn about the art, literature, and culture of the past (Putra, 2017).

The National Library of Indonesia distributes ancient Indonesian texts both in person and online. For example, the social media platforms Facebook "*Naskah Kuno Perpusnas RI*" and Instagram *@naskah_nusantara* host manuscripts from the Nusantara manuscript collection service. Additionally, there is a dissemination project that presents ancient Indonesian literature. Interestingly, children's games from ancient Indonesian writings are also included in the distribution. This means that in addition to disseminating information about manuscripts, the library tries to provide experiences of past activities through games. The exhibition "*200 Years of the Java War #6: The Road to War*" is one example of how outreach, collaborations, and exhibitions are used to disseminate manuscripts. These various dissemination programs reflect the National Library of Indonesia's efforts to disseminate information about ancient Indonesian manuscripts.

To disseminate ancient manuscripts, the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia implements a range of programs, including exhibitions, social media campaigns, community outreach, workshops, literacy initiatives, and writing classes, delivered through both online and offline modalities. These initiatives are designed to broaden public engagement and facilitate wider access to Nusantara manuscripts. However, preliminary interview findings indicate that, despite these efforts, several challenges persist, including limited public awareness, community-related constraints, financial limitations affecting program implementation, and internal capacity issues within the work team. Additionally, these constraints have hindered the program's reach, particularly in conducting direct outreach to

communities that possess manuscript collections. Accordingly, a systematic evaluation of the Nusantara manuscript dissemination program is necessary to assess its effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

Ancient Manuscript and Information Dissemination Systems (IDS)

Ancient manuscripts are written sources produced by hand and have significant value for national culture, history, and science (Handayani, 2023). These manuscripts are generally composed of sheets of paper and were written before the use of typewriters. The existence of ancient manuscripts is evidence of human civilization (Wibowo & Christiani, 2018; Rahmawati & Wahdah, 2024). These manuscripts generally contain original texts that record the way of life, customs, and mindset of the people of that era. Ancient manuscripts are generally at least 50 years old and have significant value for national culture, history, and science (Perpustakaan Nasional RI, 2024). This means that writings less than 50 years old cannot be considered manuscripts (Nazimah, 2018) .

This study focuses on ancient manuscripts from the Nusantara, a term referring to the entire Indonesian archipelago. Accordingly, Nusantara manuscripts are defined as texts produced by earlier generations within the Indonesian territory. These manuscripts encompass a wide range of original writings that serve as valuable primary sources for research across diverse fields, including religion, philosophy, history, literature, linguistics, culture, law, and related disciplines (Putra & Komara, 2022). Thus, these ancient Nusantara manuscripts are manuscripts of various forms originating from various tribes and languages in Indonesia that are useful for culture and science.

To expand public knowledge about ancient manuscripts, a dissemination program is needed. Lafrenière et al. (2013) define dissemination as "the systematic process of spreading knowledge and information to specific audiences using planned strategies in order to achieve desired changes in awareness, attitudes, or practices." Accordingly, distribution is the deliberate process of sharing information with particular users in order to promote shifts in awareness, attitudes, or behaviour. This process takes place when information is disseminated and accepted by the community in order to promote change (Mu'alifah & Jumino, 2022). Furthermore, the public's attention, reactions, and actions are sought through information transmission (Hanifah & Saraswati, 2020; Mu'alifah & Jumino, 2022). Socialisation, gatherings, and media including books, movies, music, and periodicals can all be used as forms of dissemination (Hidayat, 2020). Forms of dissemination that have developed in various studies include digitization, transliteration, translation, and website-based digital media transfer (Almis & Wijayanti, 2023; Wibowo & Christiani, 2018).

To understand the manuscript dissemination process, a framework that analyzes various aspects is needed. One such framework is the one developed by Chatterjee & Samanta (2021) known as Information Dissemination Systems (IDS) (Figure 1). This framework is designed to organize, manage, and disseminate information from knowledge sources (knowledge depots) to end users. IDS serves as a bridge between stored information and the public who need access to that information, both conventionally and digitally. The framework explains that IDS consists of several main components, namely:

1. Knowledge Depots is the main storage place for information sources which include written records, book collections, journals, archives and digital data.

2. Offline mode (such as circulation services, exhibitions, seminars, and dissemination through printed materials), and online modes (such as websites, social media, electronic databases, and digital library portals) to distribute information to users.
3. Archival functions as long-term storage for published information, both in physical and digital form.
4. Written records includes all forms of documents such as books, magazines, research reports, and other scientific works which are the main sources of information.
5. Digital content of written records archived, refers to the digitization results of written sources that have been archived and then disseminated via offline or online mode.

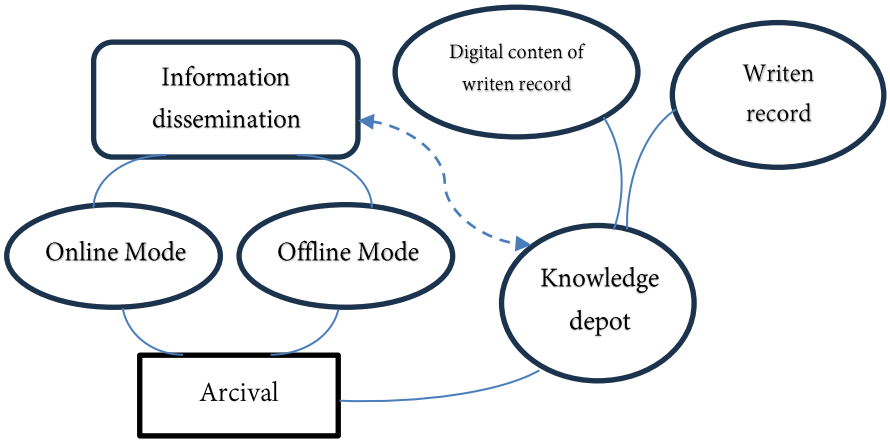


Figure 1. Libraries as Information Dissemination Systems (IDS).
Adapted from Chatterjee & Samanta (2021)

In this study, the Information Dissemination System (IDS) framework was used to identify the field of research on the dissemination of ancient Indonesian manuscripts at the National Library of Indonesia. IDS is understood as a system that includes a knowledge center in the form of a collection of ancient Indonesian manuscripts available in conventional and digital forms. This system also includes information dissemination mechanisms that run through offline and online modes with ancient Indonesian manuscripts as the main object. In addition, digital content acts as a link between information sources and users. Thus, the application of the IDS framework helps researchers understand how archival manuscripts are disseminated through various media and activities.

In dissemination research contests, previous studies have reported on information dissemination in various institutions. For example, there is research that analyzes information dissemination programs within the scope of Islamic university libraries and higher education institutions (Asaniyah & Utomo, 2023; Arianto & Zulaikha, 2018; Supriyatno & Hamidah, 2022; Latifah & Labibah, 2023. In addition, to analyze information dissemination programs at the city and district levels, see (Ilham et al., 2024; (Rodiah et al., 2018) and Az-zahra et al., 2023). In the digital context, there are studies on the dissemination of information through online media such as TV programs and online libraries (Taqiyuddin et al., 2021; Firdaus & Vera, 2023). In addition to national studies, there are also international studies related to information dissemination programs and preservation aspects in various types of libraries. For example, research on dissemination and preservation in public libraries in Nigeria and

Vietnam (Owolabi et al., 2022; Bui et al., 2025; Seifi & Soltanabadi, 2019), and special libraries in Uzbekistan and Spain (Castillo & Cuenca, 2018; Karimov et al., 2025). Although there have been many national and international studies on dissemination programs, research on dissemination programs in Indonesia is still limited. Therefore, this study specifically analyzes the dissemination program at the National Library of Indonesia, particularly ancient manuscripts from the archipelago.

The purpose of this study is to examine the Nusantara manuscript dissemination program of the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia and its implications for the development of dissemination policies in public libraries. Specifically, this study focuses on identifying the characteristics of ancient Nusantara manuscripts held by the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia and analysing the implementation of its manuscript dissemination program. The study is expected to encourage the active participation of academic communities, cultural groups, and manuscript scholars in the preservation and dissemination of ancient manuscripts to broader audiences, while also contributing to the advancement of information dissemination studies, particularly in the context of Nusantara manuscript heritage

2. METHODS

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach to examine the dissemination program of ancient Nusantara manuscripts at the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia. Drawing on the framework of Creswell and Poth (2018), qualitative research was utilized to represent social phenomena accurately through field-based data collection, inductive analysis, and interpretive inquiry. The research was conducted at the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia, located on Medan Merdeka Selatan Street No. 11, Central Jakarta, where ancient Nusantara manuscripts are processed and disseminated. The site was selected following the principal researcher's prior internship, which provided contextual familiarity with manuscript collections and institutional practices.

Data were collected through direct observation and in-depth interviews. Observations were conducted on both offline and online dissemination activities, including exhibitions, services, and digital engagement. Online observations involved systematic monitoring of the library's official website and social media platforms, where postings from 2020 to 2025 were identified and categorized, including manuscript-related content, news, articles, and audiovisual materials. Consistent with Joh W. Creswell (2009), observation was applied as an open and unstructured technique to capture naturally occurring activities within the research setting.

In-depth interviews were conducted using unstructured, open-ended questions to elicit participants' perspectives and experiences. Follow-up questions were developed iteratively based on participants' responses. Each interview lasted approximately 20 to 40 minutes and was conducted at the informants' workplace. Interviews were audio-recorded using a smartphone, following an initial explanation of the study's purpose and the acquisition of informed consent, with assurances that all data would be used solely for research purposes and treated confidentially.

Table 1. Research Informant

No	Informant	Position	Field / Duties
1	P01	Librarian	Batak literature philologist
2	P02	Librarian	Javanese literature manuscript philologist
3	P03	Librarian	Archipelago manuscript philologist
4	P04	Librarian	Javanese literature philologist
5	P05	Librarian	IKON and MoW manuscripts (previous administration)
6	P06	Librarian	Nusantara manuscript registration
7	P07	Librarian	Literacy center and presidential gallery
8	P08	Librarian	Literacy center and presidential gallery
9	P09	Librarian	Literacy center and presidential gallery

The main informants in this study consisted of nine librarians from the mapping, promotion, and services divisions of Nusantara manuscripts at the National Library of Indonesia (Table 1). The informants were selected using purposive sampling, based on the research's specific requirements and relevance to their duties. The informants were librarians/philologists who worked in libraries and in fields related to Nusantara manuscripts and had a strong understanding of Nusantara manuscripts. The informants were either heads or members of their respective divisions/tasks.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ancient Nusantara Manuscripts at the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia

Ancient Indonesian manuscripts at the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia *(Perpusnas RI)* are grouped by type of base/material, language, and script (Table 2). This number is calculated based on the number of copies. Paper manuscripts occupy the largest position with 10,409 manuscripts (83.0%) of the total collection. Manuscripts made from palm leaves are also included in the large number of manuscripts, namely 1,912 manuscripts (15.2%). In contrast, the types of manuscript materials that are few are bamboo (0.86%), wood (0.54%), bark (0.27%), and *gebang* (0.12%). This indicates that paper and palm leaves were the writing media most often used by ancestors in Indonesia.

Table 1. Ancient Manuscripts of the Archipelago at the Perpusnas RI
Source: Perpustakaan Nasional RI (2024)

No	Language Category	Quantity	Script Category	Quantity	Material Type Category	Quantity
1	Javanese	4,097	Javanese	3,165	Paper	10,409
2	Arabic	1,853	Latin	2,784	Palm leaf (Lontar)	1,912
3	Malay	1,417	Arabic	2,341	Gebang palm	15
4	Unidentified	1,051	Balinese	1,201	Bamboo	108
5	Dutch	982	Jawi	892	Bark paper	34
6	Balinese	623	Pegon	458	Wood	68
7	Old Javanese	491	Mixed	395	–	–
8	Sundanese	403	Unidentified	387	–	–
9	Kawi–Balinese	371	Buda	345	–	–
10	Batak	208	Batak	122	–	–
11	Sasak	151	Jejawen	113	–	–
12	Javanese & Dutch	140	Lontarak	107	–	–
13	Madurese	118	Ulu	60	–	–

14	Buginese	104	Lombok	54	–	–
15	Acehnese	102	Kaganga	29	–	–
16	Totemboan	74	Old Sundanese	28	–	–
17	Javanese & Arabic	60	Old Javanese	12	–	–
18	Pictorial	54	Rencong	11	–	–
19	Minahasan	51	Carakan	10	–	–
20	Ternate	44	Buginese	9	–	–
21	Lampung	40	–	–	–	–
22	Old Sundanese	39	–	–	–	–
23	Nias	30	–	–	–	–

Furthermore, ancient Nusantara manuscripts are also categorized by language. Javanese manuscripts are the most widely used, with 4,097 manuscripts (29.0%). Next, Arabic manuscripts account for 13.1% and Malay manuscripts for 10.0%. Furthermore, there are manuscripts in unidentified languages amounting to 7.4%. These manuscripts require more in-depth philological study. Furthermore, Dutch manuscripts account for 7.0%. On the other hand, manuscripts outside Java are generally below 2%. Viewed from the script category, the use of Javanese script remains the most extensive collection with 3,165 manuscripts (25.3%). Latin script (22.3%) is next in order, followed by Arabic script (18.7%). Meanwhile, Buddhist, Batak, Lontarak, Ulu Kaganga, Old Sundanese, Rencong, and Bugis scripts have a small percentage. This condition requires encouragement to the public to register so that these manuscripts are maintained.

One type of ancient manuscript from the archipelago is the National Collective Memory Manuscript (IKON). The IKON manuscript (National Collective Memory) is a selected ancient manuscript that has been designated as having high value for the life of the Indonesian nation, for example the Negarakertagama Manuscript (2008), Cerita Panji (2008), Sang Hyang Siksa Kandang Karesian (2022), Tambo Tuanku Imam Bonjol (2023), and Primbon Tengger (2024). These manuscripts were chosen as "regional representatives" with their own unique characteristics. The designation of manuscripts as ICONS was carried out by the National Library of Indonesia through a process of selection, verification, and assessment by a cross-disciplinary panel of experts.

Dissemination Program for Ancient Indonesian Manuscripts

Interview data obtained from research informants were analyzed to identify programs and obstacles to the dissemination of ancient Indonesian manuscripts (Table 3). The interview data provided an overview of the informants' views and experiences related to the research focus under study. The interview results were organized based on themes that were relevant to the research problem. Based on the interview results, the findings show that the dissemination program for ancient Nusantara manuscripts is carried out in various ways. Dissemination is carried out through social media, official websites, manuscript exhibitions, socialization and workshops, focus group discussions, and manuscript literacy and script writing classes. In addition, the National Library also utilizes competitions and contests for script conversion, language conversion, studies, and the conversion of manuscripts to popular media, such as comics.

Dissemination through Social Media

The dissemination program carried out by the National Library of Indonesia is through social media such as Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook. "*On Instagram... they upload content about manuscripts, including video reels.*" P01, P02, P03, P07. "In addition, there are also on

YouTube and Facebook" P 06 They share different things on Facebook and Instagram. A variety of posts, including the contents of Nusantara manuscripts, were discovered through observation and investigation. Dissemination, for instance, is accomplished by publishing ancient people's lifestyles based on the information found in extant ancient documents. Socialisation, webinars, workshops, exhibitions, manuscript discussions, book translation and studies, competitions, and other dissemination activities are all displayed in postings in addition to the dissemination of manuscript contents via social media.

Dissemination on Facebook and Instagram is similar to that on YouTube profiles. Facebook and Instagram dissemination is comparable to YouTube profile dissemination. The National Library of Indonesia uses YouTube to disseminate information through outreach programs and live-streamed discussions; the dates are previously announced on its Facebook and Instagram pages. The social media accounts used for distribution are the National Library of Indonesia's Nusantara Manuscript Service on Instagram through https://www.instagram.com/naskah_nusantara, Ancient Manuscripts of the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pameran.tematik), and WBS Radio Perpusnas on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/@wbsradioperpusnas).

This analysis discovered that Instagram had the most productive accounts based on social media observations. Thus, since 2020, diffusion productivity published on Instagram has been gathered for this study. Publications encouraging people to participate in diffusion efforts, publications about dissemination activities, and the distribution of ancient texts were among the posts. Table 4 below illustrates the productivity of sharing old manuscripts via Instagram posts.

Table 3. Dissemination activities on social media
Source: Author's data processing from the Instagram account of Naskah Nusantara. https://www.instagram.com/naskah_nusantara

No	Content type	Amount of content					
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	Contents of ancient manuscripts	11	17	32	26	22	18
2	Exhibitions	-	-	1	1	2	12
3	Classes on writing scripts	-	-	-	-	-	40
4	Classes on manuscript literacy	-	-	-	-	-	7
5	Socialization, webinars, seminars, and workshops	-	5	3	1	1	6
6	Dissemination/series of discussions on archipelago manuscripts/FGD	-	4	6	6	33	16
7	Transliteration books	2	7	7	-	-	1
8	Competitions	-	1	2	-	-	1
	Total	13	34	51	34	58	101
		291 post					

Based on the data above, it is known that the number of posts on social media increases each year, with increasing productivity. The dissemination of ancient Nusantara manuscripts through Instagram accounts has shown an increase since 2020. The highest increase occurred in 2021 (161.54%) compared to the previous year. In the last six years, from 2020 to 2025, the number of uploads increased by a total of 676.92%, with an average growth rate of around 50.69% per year. However, the dissemination of manuscripts through Instagram is not evenly distributed. In 2022, accounts only uploaded content related to the contents of manuscripts and books or translations of manuscripts. Furthermore, several new programs were seen in 2025, such as script-writing classes and manuscript literacy classes.

Dissemination Through the Khastara Website

Ancient Indonesian manuscripts are distributed by the National Library of the Republic of Indonesia via the Khastara website, Kahazan Pustaka Nusantara through https://khastara.perpusnas.go.id/. Additionally, manuscripts are distributed "*on the website.*" P06. Among the features of the website is the ability for users to view the complete collection without physically visiting the library. Additionally, the website can be used to register publicly owned ancient manuscripts. The goal of manuscript registration on this website is to preserve manuscripts for cultural preservation. The website will distribute 11,474 collections of old manuscripts with 23,767 copies in Khastara by 2025. In addition to collections of old Indonesian manuscripts, this website offers rare books, audio, images, drawings, paintings, maps, rare periodicals, and newspapers.

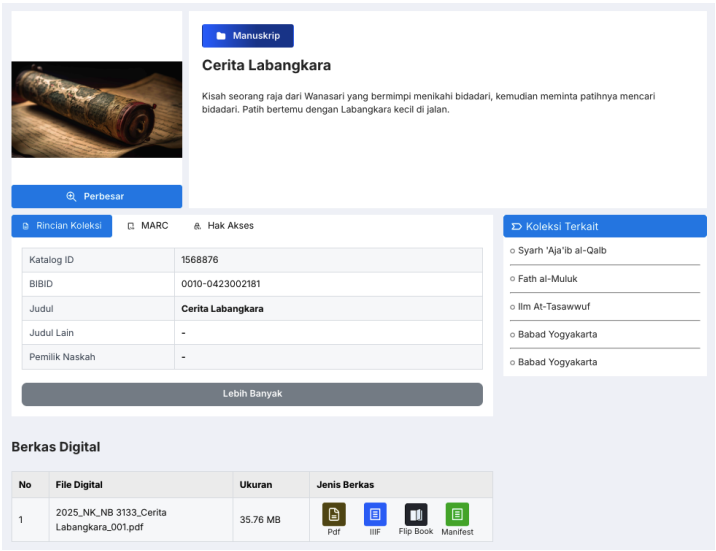


Figure 2. Dissemination Features Through the Khastara Website

The Khastara website offers a search function for the goal of disseminating manuscripts. Ancient Indonesian manuscripts can be found by year, collection type, language type, and script type. Each manuscript's metadata consists of the title, other titles, catalogue ID, BIBID (item-specific), and a description of the document (Figure 2). For common bibliographic information, each manuscript provides MARC metadata. Additionally, each manuscript offers a link to a digital version that anyone can view directly.

Ancient Manuscript Exhibition

Dissemination of ancient Indonesian manuscripts is also carried out through exhibitions. The exhibitions themselves consist of thematic exhibitions and regular exhibitions (manuscript exhibitions at the Indonesian National Library's Nusantara Manuscript Service). The dissemination program includes "... *exhibition activities [such as] temporary thematic manuscript exhibitions and manuscript exhibitions on the 9th floor*" in P01, P03, P04, and P06. Based on interviews, there have been 12 manuscript exhibitions held in the last five years (2021-2025). At the exhibitions, the manuscripts displayed are diverse, such as *daluang* (a type of traditional Javanese manuscript), bark, and palm leaves, including *keris* (a type of Javanese manuscript), and spears. In addition, the National Library of Indonesia also exhibits

Javanese, Bugis, Makassar, Batak, and other scripts. During the exhibitions, a literacy and gallery team is tasked with educating visitors. Furthermore, the exhibitions collaborate with philologists, manuscript experts, museums, and cultural experts. The forms of collaboration that occur are varied, such as helping to select scripts that suit the theme, providing guides or educators, or lending scripts, *keris* and spears.

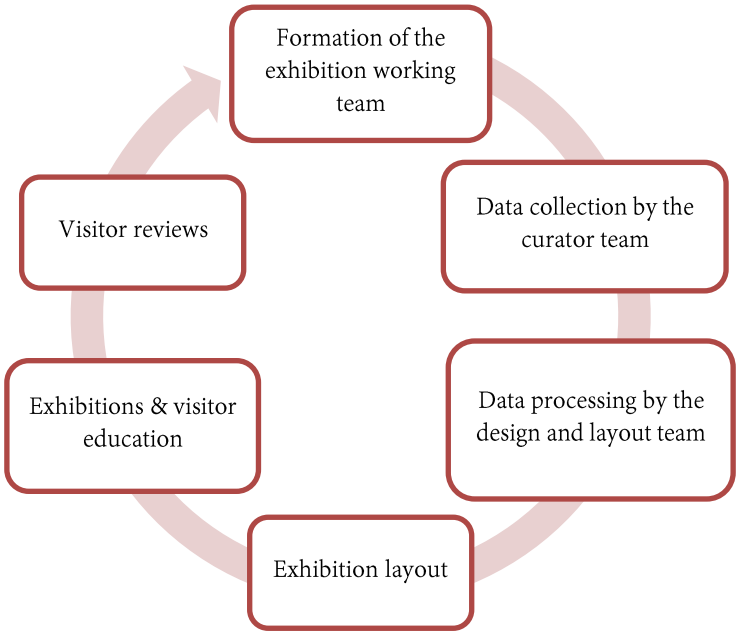


Figure 3. Dissemination Process through Exhibitions

The National Library of Indonesia's exhibition-based dissemination strategy was investigated in this study through interviews. The process of dissemination through exhibitions begins with the formation of a work team. The data is then collected and processed by a team of curators and designers. Once the display is set up, the exhibition activities serve as a teaching and distribution tool. At the end of the process, visitors provide reviews, which the exhibition committee considers. Comments and suggestions are used by visitors to share their thoughts about the performance. One type of evaluation used by the exhibition committee is suggestions for the theme of the next display. The exhibition will consider the exhibition theme suggestions resulting from user recommendations, but this is still being negotiated because the theme of the next exhibition is again directed towards the National Library of Indonesia calendar and the theme itself is the result of negotiations by the National Library of Indonesia team. This exhibition activity is the responsibility of the Graha Literacy and Gallery work team. This work team is also responsible for repackaging information to produce products that can be shared or exhibited to visitors.

Socialization through Webinars and Workshops

In order to spread knowledge about Nusantara manuscripts, webinars and seminars are crucial. "*There was also a workshop,*" P03. "*Then we also held socialization activities, such as registration activities and manuscript preservation awards*" P01, P04, P06. These efforts included webinars and workshops, Nusantara script workshops, socialization of the registration of ancient Nusantara manuscripts, and socialization of Nusantara manuscript awards. Zoom was used for online socialization, which was broadcast on the National Library of Indonesia's YouTube channel and the National Library's WBS. Among the programs put in

place were Memory of the World (MoW), National Collective Memory (IKON), and the socialization of the archipelago's historic manuscript-based publication program. This publishing effort aims to support transliteration, translation, adaption, study, and the creation of manuscript-based children's reading materials. Ancient manuscript registration was also socialised in an effort to protect historical manuscripts. Manuscript awards as a way to show gratitude to the community and preserve old manuscripts across Indonesia are also connected to other forms of socialization.

In order to raise public awareness of scripts and manuscripts, the National Library of Indonesia also conducted in-person seminars based on observations. For instance, attempts to enhance the calibre of human resources for the preservation of historical manuscripts were socialized by professionals in language and literature. Additionally, community builders, dance instructors, and script advocates were among the presenters at offline workshops. A nationwide seminar with university speakers and manuscript observers that was conducted virtually via Zoom was another activity.

Forum Group Discussion (FGD): Nusantara Manuscript Discussion Series

In order to investigate the potential and promote the use of ancient Indonesian manuscripts, the National Library of Indonesia conducted a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) exercise. Additionally, manuscripts were disseminated through "*...FGD or KDT activities*" P01, P05. The National Library of Indonesia selected a number of routine FGD themes on ancient Indonesian manuscripts with cultural and historical significance based on observations (Table 5). For instance, a number of conversations on the Bo' Sangaji Kai document, the Lampung manuscript, and how manuscripts relate to Islamic culture in the Indonesian archipelago or specific regional customs. Online focus group discussions also covered the topic of using old Indonesian manuscripts into comic books and movies. There was also a theme on the treasures of Chinese-Javanese manuscripts in Indonesia that revealed the richness and uniqueness of Chinese-Javanese manuscripts. Another theme discussed Nyepi in ancient manuscripts and religion, featuring lecturers from two different universities.

Table 4. Themes of the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on Ancient Manuscripts of the Archipelago

No	Discussion Theme	Example of Activity / Discussion Series
1	Manuscripts designated as National Collective Memory (IKON)	Discussion of the *Bo' Sangaji Kai* document as an IKON manuscript.
2	Social rules and customary law in manuscripts	Study of the *Simbur Cahaya* law manuscript in the IKON series. Examining rules governing courtship, marriage, social classes, and taxation in the manuscript.
3	Manuscripts from specific regions	In-depth discussion of Lampung manuscripts as a form of local identity.
4	The relationship between manuscripts and religious traditions	Discussion of Nyepi in ancient manuscripts. Religious practices recorded and interpreted in manuscripts.
5	Cultural acculturation in manuscripts	A study of Chinese–Javanese manuscripts in Indonesia. Discussion of the unique content, language, and cultural background resulting from the meeting of two traditions.
6	Manuscripts of Islamic Culture in the Archipelago	Discussion of manuscripts that record the values and practices of Islam in the Archipelago and local culture.
7	Cultural objects as manuscripts	Discussion series *Surat, Hata, Poda: Preserving Culture, Rejecting Extinction*. Discussion of *ulos* as manuscripts rich in symbolic meaning.
8	Transformation of ancient manuscripts into popular media	Discussion of the adaptation of Nusantara manuscripts into comics and films.

Manuscript Literacy Class

The National Library of the Republic of Indonesia provides literacy classes for the dissemination of manuscript information. Manuscript dissemination is carried out "*...by holding monthly manuscript literacy class webinars*" P01, P04. This manuscript literacy class aims to increase public understanding of ancient Indonesian manuscripts. The manuscript literacy class is conducted by inviting experienced resource persons. Through observation, the manuscript literacy class has been held 7 times. Various themes are raised in the manuscript literacy class activities. For example, the manuscript literacy class examines historical figures and thoughts in Indonesian manuscripts, such as the discussion of the figure of Prince Diponegoro through his *babad* manuscript. Another theme discusses the role and representation of women in ancient manuscripts. Educational and moral values in classical texts are also a major concern. In addition, there is also the theme of repatriation of ancient manuscripts as part of the restoration of the nation's historical memory. This literacy class also examines the development of Indonesian literacy from the past to the digital era. Themes regarding the origins and distribution of palace manuscripts and regional writing traditions are also discussed.

Nusantara Script Writing Class

The National Library of Indonesia provides learning activities for librarians who want to learn how to write scripts for each manuscript. Dissemination is also carried out through "script writing classes" P03, P06. Through observations, the script writing class itself has currently been conducted in 11 sessions. The themes and scripts raised in this class include the writing class for the Javanese script, Merapi-Merbabu script, Batak script, Javanese script, Lontara (Bugis) script, Balinese script, etc. In one session, this writing activity is carried out up to four meetings. This script-writing class will invite participants to learn scripts from the basics. This class will be taught by philologists from the National Library of Indonesia in each script field offline. Through this class, information dissemination aims to enable the public to learn and gain knowledge directly.

Saimbara/Competition

The National Library of Indonesia held a competition for transliteration, translation, adaptation, and study of ancient Indonesian manuscripts. This was done through "*...a competition regarding transliteration and translation of manuscripts. Then, for the translation competition, an ancient manuscript is made into a comic.*" P01, P03. "*There is also a translation competition for adaptations, studies*" P04. The main objective of this competition is to facilitate public access to information from ancient manuscripts. The competition is aimed at researchers, students, writers, and the general public. The final result of the competition is a translation, translation, adaptation, or study of ancient manuscripts. The competition resulted in 160 e-books related to the competition content. In addition, in 2024, it is planned to publish around 100 manuscript-based comic titles to reach a wider audience, especially the younger generation and child readers. In order to publish works, books, and research findings on Indonesian manuscripts, this competition works with communities that are interested in ancient manuscripts. The National Library's website and Instagram account will provide announcements on this activity. Prospective competitors can browse the National Library's website to view the competition's steps, prerequisites, and technical instructions.

Ancient Manuscript Podcast

The National Library of Indonesia utilizes *podcasts* and WBS Radio Perpusnas broadcasts as a medium for disseminating information about ancient manuscripts from the archipelago. Dissemination is carried out by *"...inviting speakers to our podcast, which can be heard on radio wahana"* P01, P06. Programs such as thematic webinars are used to introduce Indonesian manuscripts that are recognized in the *Memory of the World UNESCO* program. Through these activities, the National Library of Indonesia seeks to increase the interest of the younger generation in manuscript preservation. In addition, through podcasts, the National Library of Indonesia also socializes ancient manuscript-based publishing programs. This activity opens up space for public involvement in transcription, translation, and the writing of scientific and popular studies. Other thematic discussions address the tradition and potential of ancient manuscripts as the National Collective Memory. In these activities, the National Library of Indonesia collaborates with academics, cultural communities, and local governments.

DISCUSSION

Based on the findings, this study is generally in line with the Information Dissemination Systems (IDS) framework proposed by Chatterjee and Samanta (2021). This means that the dissemination program for ancient Nusantara manuscripts at the National Library of Indonesia has been running systematically to disseminate knowledge to the public. The National Library of Indonesia functions as a knowledge depot storing ancient Nusantara manuscripts in various categories. The complete ancient manuscripts, with their managed categories of materials, languages, and scripts, demonstrate the role of the National Library of Indonesia as a center for managing written records. Conformity with IDS is also evident in the implementation of offline and online dissemination modes. Dissemination is carried out through offline modes (such as exhibitions, workshops, FGDs, and manuscript literacy classes representing conventional channels) and online modes (such as the Khastara website, social media, podcasts, and webinars). In the context of digital content of archived written records, ancient Nusantara manuscripts have been digitized, processed, and disseminated through the Khastara website.

Interestingly, this study reports a collaborative dissemination program with public participation. This finding is limited to the IDS framework. The involvement of researchers, philologists, communities, and the public demonstrates that the dissemination process is participatory. This means that the translation and translation competitions demonstrate that the dissemination program is not one-way. In the context of this research, the National Library of Indonesia (Perpusnas RI) seeks to encourage public feedback and direct involvement in dissemination. In fact, the community itself is a source of knowledge for dissemination.

The results of this analysis show that the National Library of Indonesia's ancient manuscript distribution pattern is comparable to those of several other studies. According to research by Owolabi et al. (2022), local knowledge is disseminated through audio and video recordings. Similar trends were observed at the National Library of Indonesia, which uses podcasts and social media to distribute visual and audiovisual content. These results are also consistent with Bui and Dinh's (2025) study on the distribution of cultural heritage via books, websites, seminars, exhibitions, and social media. This study supports Asaniyah & Utomo's (2023) findings that training, exhibitions, and lectures are ways to spread information in the

Indonesian environment. This research is also in line with other studies, which show that the use of social media (e.g., Instagram) is also a means of dissemination (Firdaus & Vera, 2023; Latifah & Labibah, 2023). From the explanation with supporting interviews, similarities were found in the dissemination program at the National Library of Indonesia with previous research, namely the dissemination program carried out in the form of social media and podcasts, exhibitions, social media, seminars, publications, websites and training.

Even though media consumption and research initiatives are comparable, this study shows a number of significant distinctions from earlier studies. The majority of earlier research was on general library collections or the transmission of scientific knowledge. On the other hand, ancient Nusantara manuscripts, which have a variety of languages and scripts, are the particular subject of this study. The research by Owolabi et al. (2022) and Bui and Dinh (2025) does not go into great detail on this issue. Taqiyuddin et al.'s research (2021). Through a translation, language translation, and platform competition that produced hundreds of e-books, this study broadens the scope of previous research that focused on the digitization and translation of Islamic manuscripts. Furthermore, the acceleration of dissemination through social media from 2020 to 2025 demonstrates a temporal dynamic that has not been explored in depth in previous domestic research.

Based on the findings and discussions above, Despite similarities in the use of media and programs, this study shows a number of important differences compared to previous studies. Most previous studies focused on the dissemination of scientific knowledge or general library collections. In contrast, this study specifically highlights ancient Nusantara manuscripts, which have a diversity of languages and scripts. This aspect has not been widely discussed in the studies by Owolabi et al. (2022) and Bui and Dinh (2025). The research by Taqiyuddin et al. (2021) does emphasize the digitization and translation of Islamic manuscripts. However, this research expands on that approach through a competition involving transcription, translation, and conversion, which has resulted in hundreds of electronic books. In addition, the acceleration of dissemination through social media from 2020 to 2025 shows a temporal dynamic that has not been discussed in depth in previous domestic research.

4. CONCLUSION

The findings demonstrate that the institution has adopted a diverse and integrated approach, combining digital and offline strategies through platforms and activities such as social media, podcasts, the Khastara portal, webinars, workshops, focus group discussions, literacy and script-writing classes, translation initiatives, and the transformation of manuscripts into popular media formats. These efforts are supported by the richness of the manuscript collection, encompassing diverse materials, languages, and scripts, including those designated as National Collective Memory. The dissemination model reflects both one-way and participatory patterns, engaging the public, cultural communities, researchers, and philologists. Theoretically, these findings align with the Information Dissemination Systems (IDS) framework while extending it by emphasizing the role of collaboration and social dimensions in manuscript dissemination. The study highlights the need to strengthen integrated dissemination policies that effectively combine physical and digital approaches. It further recommends future research to assess user engagement and utilization, explore institutional collaboration models, and enhance human resource capacity to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of dissemination initiatives.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Sarmianta Lumbantobing: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing – original draft
Fransiska Timoria Samosir: Supervision, Methodology, Validation, Writing – review & editing
Araf Aliwijaya: Conceptualization, Methodology, Supervision, Validation, Writing – review & editing

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

We state that there are no known conflicts of interest linked with this publication, and that there has been no significant financial assistance for this work that could have influenced its outcome.

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