

## OPTIMISING THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AS A LEARNING RESOURCE IN INCREASING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' INTEREST IN READING

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### Abstract

School libraries play an important role in supporting the learning process and developing students' literacy, but they are often not optimally utilised. This study uses the literature method. The results show that school library optimisation can be achieved through several key strategies. Firstly, improving the physical quality of the library by creating a child-friendly and visually appealing environment. Secondly, the development of a diverse collection of books in accordance with students' interests and abilities. Third, the integration of library activities with the school curriculum through active collaboration between librarians and teachers. Fourth, the implementation of interactive programmes such as storytelling, book clubs and reading competitions to increase student engagement. Fifth, the utilisation of digital technology to attract digital generation students. Sixth, involving parents and communities in literacy activities to strengthen the reading culture.

**Keywords:** School library, reading interest, learning resources, primary school.

### Introduction

Reading is a fundamental skill that plays a crucial role in children's intellectual and social development. Reading is a complex process that involves cognitive and linguistic abilities to understand and interpret written information. This activity includes recognising letters, words and sentences, and understanding the meaning contained therein (Sitopu et al., 2024); (Guna et al., 2024). Reading is not just about reciting words, but also involves the process of critical thinking, analysing, and connecting the

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