

LITERACY CLOUD: AN ALTERNATIVE FOR DIGITAL TEACHING MATERIALS IN THE ENGLISH LEARNING PROCESS FOR STUDENTS

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Abstrak

Pemanfaatan Teknologi Digital merupakan hal yang tidak bisa dihindari di Era Globalisasi saat ini. Pemanfaatan Teknologi digital mempengaruhi berbagai sektor kehidupan kita, termasuk bidang pendidikan. Sektor pendidikan merupakan bidang yang berpotensi mengarahkan pemanfaatan Teknologi Informasi secara baik sehingga dapat tercipta harmonisasi antara pemanfaatan media digital dengan peningkatan literasi digital. Proses pendidikan dapat menjadi media harmonisasi penggunaan media digital dan meningkatkan literasi digital masyarakat dengan pemilihan sumber belajar digital yang dilakukan oleh guru/dosen yang sesuai dengan peserta didiknya. Aplikasi Literacy Cloud merupakan salah satu sumber belajar yang dapat digunakan dalam media digital.

Jenis penelitian kepustakaan ini membahas tentang pentingnya Literacy Cloud sebagai sumber bacaan digital yang diharapkan dapat menjadi alternatif penyedia bahan ajar digital yang berkualitas dan menarik bagi siswa khususnya yang belajar bahasa Inggris. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini adalah ada beberapa keuntungan menggunakan Literacy Cloud seperti; Literacy Cloud Platform bermanfaat dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris, Literacy Cloud mempunyai keunggulan lebih inovatif dibandingkan media pengajaran lainnya, Literacy Cloud memiliki kelebihan antara lain menjadi alternatif bahan ajar pembelajaran abad 21, menyediakan bahan bacaan yang menarik bagi siswa, fleksibel, dan memiliki banyak pilihan materi pembelajaran bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa asing.

Kata Kunci: teknologi digital, bahasa inggris, pembelajaran abad 21, literasi cloud

Abstract

Utilization of Digital Technology is something that cannot be avoided in the present Era of Globalization. The use of digital Technology affects various sectors of our life, including the field of education. The education sector is a field that has the potential to direct the proper use of Information Technology so that harmonization can be created between the use of digital media and increasing digital literacy. The educational process can be a medium for harmonizing digital media usage and improving society's digital literacy by selecting digital learning resources carried out by teachers/lecturers that are appropriate for their students. The Literacy Cloud application is one learning resource that can be used in digital media.

This type of library research discusses the importance of Literacy Cloud as a digital reading source, which is expected to be an alternative provider of quality and attractive digital teaching materials for students, especially those learning English. The Conclusion of the research is that there are some advantages of using Literacy Cloud such as ; The Literacy Cloud Platform is beneficial in English learning, Literacy Cloud has the advantage of being more innovative than other teaching media, Literacy Cloud has advantages, including being an alternative for 21st-century learning teaching materials, providing attractive reading materials for students, being flexible, and having many choices of learning materials for English as a foreign language.

Keywords: digital technology, english, 21st century learning, literacy cloud

Background

A new paradigm has emerged regarding the era of information and technology in the 21st century. In this era, there is no longer such a thing as distance limits because advances in information technology called the Internet have been discovered. Everything can be done quickly via the Internet, accessed anywhere and anytime, as long as we have a good connection. Through the Internet, we can access information from various locations and times equally well, creating flexibility in searching for information, which can save time and costs. The ease of accessing the Internet is because, currently, the Internet can be accessed from urban to rural areas at a cost that the wider community can reach. It is supported by a survey by the Association of Internet Service Providers (APJI), which found that Internet users in 2018 numbered 196.71 million (APJII, 2020). The sophistication of technology and information makes all sources of information, verified and unverified, accessible to all groups. This also applies in the world of education, where you can access teaching material sources from the Internet called e-resources. Education has become a

forum for directing better and more targeted use of information technology. Therefore, valid and reliable information is necessary to support learning. This ability is required as a skill in the wise use of information technology. Information Technology will significantly help the learning process. Technology development is a positive thing in the learning process that can form quality individuals and impact their quality in the world of work. A quality learning process assisted by Information Technology can create a quality learning process. (Putri & Savitri, 2022).

A significant increase in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) use is emerging in Indonesia. In its survey, the independent institution Hootsuite (2021) said that as of January 2021, as many as 202,600,000 (73.7%) Indonesian people aged 16 - 64 years widely used the Internet. Indonesian people use approximately 8 hours and 52 minutes per day. To use the Internet. Despite the rapid increase in Internet use, Indonesian society has not kept pace with a good level of digital literacy. When we look at the results of research and surveys conducted by the Ministry of Communication and Information in 2020, it is stated that Indonesian society has a moderate level of digital literacy with an index of 3.47 out of 5 (Tempo, 2021). Despite the many positive impacts of the Internet, inequality in society's digital literacy must be a severe priority that must be considered.

Digital literacy has a broader meaning than just the use of technology; it also includes the ability to use devices, software, and essential Internet well (Hays & Kammer, 2021). Payton and Hague (2010), as quoted by Savage (2015), stated that there are eight domains in measuring the level of digital literacy, namely the ability of evaluation and critical thinking, creativity, social and cultural understanding, collaboration, electronic security, information search and selection, and effective communication. , and functional skills. The more accessible, cheaper, and more potent the community is in receiving information, the more reasonable the literacy level must be. The public is expected to be able to. The public is expected to be able to filter information rationally to avoid things that are not good in using the Internet. Seeing the importance of good digital literacy skills, efforts need to be made to create this through educational media. Good digital literacy needs to be introduced and promoted by teachers/lecturers to students in the learning process. Teachers/lecturers are expected to be able to integrate the learning process they provide with information technology that continues to develop in order to simultaneously introduce the digital literacy process in using the Internet. Teachers and lecturers must continue trying to innovate and do new things related to the learning process integrated with Information Technology. Even when we measure the level of teachers' digital literacy in Indonesia, it still needs to be in the high

category (Abdullah et al., 2021; Wiguna, 2021); we must continue to voice the campaign to increase digital literacy. This condition also occurs in various countries in many other parts of the world. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has surveyed 37 countries and shown inadequate teachers' digital literacy levels (Nascimbeni & Vosloo, 2019). Many factors cause this, and one of them is the teacher's motivation.

In order to compete in the global world, Indonesian education must improve the quality of its learning by utilizing technology in the learning process while simultaneously directing the digital literacy process (Susanto et al., 2020). One of the efforts to utilize information technology is using the Literacy Cloud platform to teach English. Literacy Cloud is a platform that contains interesting, quality, and varied digital books for students. The English language learning process requires a Literacy Cloud platform because the English language subject requires techniques, media, and methods that are appropriate, up-to-date, and innovative to achieve learning objectives. The cloud literacy platform is flexible because it can be accessed anywhere, anytime, and in any situation if you have media and an internet connection. This platform can be a medium for learning English well because besides containing writings and materials, the Literacy Cloud platform has interesting and varied images. It is hoped that the combination of stories and digital media will create the effect of wanting to continue learning English material for students.

In 21st-century learning, learning media is the component of integrating skills in implementing English language learning. In his theory, Ariyana (2018: 81) states that learning media is vital in supporting the achievement of competence in the learning process. This aligns with research results from Munif (2015) that the choice of learning media must be relevant to the subject being taught to achieve excellent and effective learning results. The media used in integrating skills in 21st-century learning in English language learning include laptops, pictures, LCD Projector, reality, transcripts of transactional interactions, and dictionaries, and stationery. The learning resources teachers use in integrating 21st-century skills in English learning are televisions, books and internet, their environment. Teachers need all these learning resources to integrate 21st-century skills for students. Rusdin (2018) stated in his research that teachers need learning resources and references to support their teaching. According to the findings of this research, English teachers more often use textbooks because they are by the KI-KD. The teacher reads the textbook and then gives a mark to teach it to the students the next day. Based on this research, it is hoped that teachers can use more varied learning resources. One of the latest teaching media relevant to 21st-century learning is the Literacy Cloud digital teaching

media. In this research, we will discuss alternative Literacy Cloud teaching media for English language learning for students.

Method

This research uses a qualitative literature study approach. This type of research contains a collection and in-depth discussion of one or several subjects. This research provides an opportunity for readers to observe, plan, remember, explore, analyze, and create something related to the benefits of Literacy Cloud in learning English for students. This study explains how Literacy Cloud benefits students by making it easier to learn English to become an alternative teaching material.

Result and Discussion

The results and discussion section will explain various benefits when teachers use Literacy Cloud to deliver English material in the 21st-century learning era.

Literacy Cloud is an Alternative for 21st-Century Learning Teaching Materials.

The 21st century is the beginning of the emergence of challenges for human development. This is marked by information and digital technology development, which has become a primary human need in this century, where people cannot be separated from the internet. The existence of the internet has become a primary need for them to get information from various corners of the world and to facilitate their performance. Information and digital technology development has penetrated various fields, including education. The development of digital technology has helped the world of education to provide media and learning resources that can supply knowledge needs. Information technology also makes it easier for humans to transfer knowledge by utilizing technology and information to transfer knowledge. Humans only need to use media such as computers, laptops, and smartphones to make their work easier. Learning media is essential for ongoing classroom learning and creative, communicative, and innovative learning that can support improving student learning outcomes. Without learning media, learning usually takes place stiffly and less cheerfully. In modern learning, its nature is information exchange or, in Indonesian terms, information exchange, which prioritizes critical thinking and informed decision-making. So, in modern learning, the priority is for students to think critically and make conclusions (decisions) based on the information or knowledge they obtain in learning. Students are required to understand knowledge, not just memorize it. Then, not only do they understand, but students must also be able to explain a problem in learning that originates from their ideas, which are supported by adequate media and modern learning resources.

21st century learning should be adapted to the wishes and demands of current developments. Learning no longer depends on a teacher or books. In the current era, the learning process has shifted to a student-centered learning process. As we all know the teaching learning process in the old era is teacher-centered learning process. In this era's learning process, students are allowed to develop and channel their talents and activities in a natural way that is not limited to teachers. However, they can explore teaching media independently and actively while the teacher is only a facilitator. Teacher try to make students able to master the 21st-century learning skills. There are many skills include communication skills, collaboration, problem-solving skill, and critical thinking. With the paradigm shift in 21st-century learning compared to past learning, teaching media must also continue to develop. Many teaching media can support the character of 21st-century learning, and Literacy Cloud is one of them. This also applies to English learning; in the language learning process, students must also be able to solve problems, think critically, collaborate with their peers, and communicate.

Literacy Cloud is an alternative media to support literacy movements in digital form. The internet-based learning application is Literacy Cloud, which was developed by Room to Read as an online service that you can use to access quality digital books and various types for children to read. Literacy Cloud enables more children, teachers, and schools to access high-quality storybooks, supporting reading and learning with new methods. The features contained in the application are books, videos, reading lists, and ways to save or distribute them. Literacy Cloud can be a more modern alternative learning media so that teachers, parents, and students do not just use conventional teaching media such as books, student worksheets, whiteboards, etc. Students can access digital books on Literacy Cloud to make learning more enjoyable, effective and efficient.

Students can search for "genre of text" books via Literacy Cloud and search for videos with English sounds, so students do not need to copy conventional books or video CDs. This makes students more helpful and efficient. Literacy Cloud correlates with children's interest in reading and reading ability. Suba's research (2022) shows that Literacy Cloud effectively increases elementary school student's interest in reading. The research results of Ernawati et al. (2022) also found that using Literacy Cloud can improve elementary school students' reading and writing abilities. Apart from that, this program has succeeded in increasing the digital literacy of teachers, where the evaluation results show that teachers can search for digital reading sources and apply reading that is fun for students (Basar, 2022). Literacy Cloud is a platform that provides various kinds of quality books that can help foster children's interest in reading (Lutfi et al, 2020). This platform was developed by Room to Read

in collaboration with Google.org and can be accessed via the internet with the domain literacycloud.org. According to the introduction data, the literacycloud.org platform was introduced by representatives from cycles 1 and 2 in January 2020. At the start of this introduction, the primary target users were teachers (Basar, 2022). On this platform, teachers can access lists of reading sources, videos, and reading books on the main features. This platform increases children's interest in reading at home and school. More than 200 digital storybooks have been developed and hosted on this platform to support children's literacy development. This platform was introduced to coincide with National Education Day (Hardiknas) 2020 for teachers taking online training.

Furthermore, apart from the availability of 200 books by authors from Indonesia and other neighboring countries, which can be accessed in Indonesian to English, teachers can watch supporting films related to reading practice on this platform, which will help students strengthen their literacy. Room to Read has worked in 16 countries to improve reading skills in elementary schools (Lutfi et al., 2020). The Literacy Cloud media requires parents to approach and socialize in order to create enjoyable learning sessions. Literacy Cloud can be given by teachers to students, teachers to students' parents, and parents to children. Reading skills can be improved using the Literacy Cloud media by reading in Indonesian and other languages, namely English, Luganda, Mandarin, and others. This is done using the language options available on the Literacycloud.org website (Fitrianti et al., 2021). According to Husna (2021), the priority that can be developed to use Literacy Cloud media in learning is independent reading. In this activity, school principals are encouraged to coordinate all teachers to work with parents to facilitate reading activities at home. The second priority is to read aloud. In this activity, school principals are encouraged to coordinate all teachers reading aloud with students online and offline. The existence of Literacy Cloud media aims to help children with limited reading books so that they can improve literacy development in children. This learning media is beneficial for increasing children's literacy in a fun, flexible way, helps teachers and parents teach children's literacy and can be easily used on many different platforms. (Suslawati & Dafit, 2021).

Literacy Cloud provides attractive reading material for students.

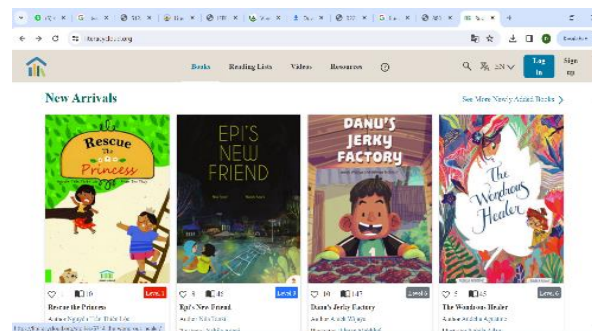
Literacy Cloud can be chosen because it offers attractive, distinctive attributes not yet found on other platforms. Depending on the reader, Literacy Cloud offers different features. This platform helps teachers and parents to get interesting and varied material for their students. Some of the distinctive features of Literacy Cloud are an exciting and varied collection of books arranged by the author based on various themes and languages, a reading list that filters books based on individual needs, reading videos by authors, trained teachers, parents, and other

reading communities, and adequately researched resources. This is a way of raising digital literacy suitable for today's internet era. The following is an example of a selection of images of reading books and reading lists that are very interesting and can be accessed via Literacy Cloud:



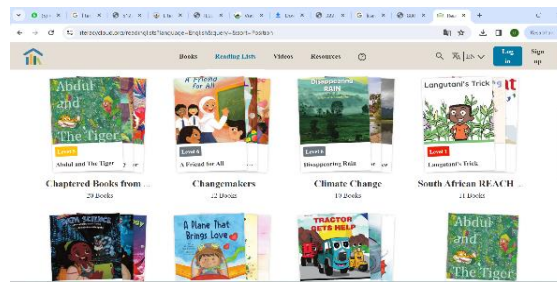
Gambar 1

Source: <https://literacycloud.org> > stories > 324-is-this-the-sea



Gambar 2

Source: <https://literacycloud.org> > stories > 324-is-this-the-sea



Gambar 3.

Source: <https://literacycloud.org/stories/324-is-this-the-sea>

Bringing state-of-the-art technology to learning enables, motivates, and inspires all students, regardless of background, language, or disability, to reach their maximum potential in literacy. The Literacy Cloud platform accommodates readers who search for very varied and interesting reading materials, which are combined into a container called the Literacy Cloud platform. This platform utilizes digital technology that is made attractive and allows it to be used at any time. In Literacy Cloud, readers can find reading books accessed by young children, parents, and teenagers and accessed anywhere and openly, making distance learning possible, where a teacher/lecturer can ask students to access the Literacy Cloud platform from their homes. Each Literacy Cloud aims to motivate students to want to read. Through the Cloud Literacy platform, students are expected to be encouraged to continue learning and reading new vocabulary found in reading books on the Cloud Literacy platform. Teachers can categorize reading books as facilitators as reading books that represent various text genres such as descriptive, narrative, report, recount, etc. When students are learning reading comprehension, we need a deep concentration. Some times students feel bored. So students need a media that can give support to encourage their motivation. The media that can be used is Literacy Cloud Platform. The Literacy Cloud platform is colorful/eye-catching, easy to understand, and accessible, so it is hoped that it will attract students' interest in always wanting to read and learn. It is in line with (Suslawati & Dafit, 2021), This learning media is beneficial for increasing children's literacy in a fun, flexible way, helps teachers and parents teach children's literacy and can be easily used on many different platforms.

Literacy Cloud is flexible.

Literacy Cloud is available Room to Read's online learning platform powered by Google. Literacy cloud provide personalized learning and enable continuous and lifelong learning. This platform is one of many products of technology. In Literacy Cloud, you can find digitally leveled books for early readers in multiple languages, which are open for

everyone (teacher, students, parents) to access at everywhere while engaged in distance learning. Literacy Cloud has aims to build an environment that motivates children to read. Many studies show that it is essential to cultivate reading using digital platforms. Reading habits must follow and adapt to current advances in ICT, where technology has made it easier to access reading materials using devices such as computers. It is in line with (Susanto et al., 2020) In order to compete in the global world, Indonesian education must improve the quality of its learning by utilizing technology in the learning process while simultaneously directing the digital literacy process. From the above explanation, it is evident that technology must be used wisely in future reading instruction. Various studies have revealed the relationship between technology, reading, and achievement. At the same time, as the power and flexibility of new technologies increase, they are now more economically affordable. Apart from that, the use of technology is also increasingly penetrating classrooms and schools in various remote areas. So, Literacy Cloud is dynamic, flexible, and easy to access anywhere, anytime, and by anyone to make it easier to get diverse and high-quality teaching materials.

Literacy Cloud has a large selection of English as a Foreign Language learning materials

Some 21st-century skills are (1) life and career skills, (2) learning and innovation skills, and (3) Information media and technology skills (Trilling & Fadel, 2009). Life and career skills include (a) flexibility and adaptability, (b) initiative and self-organization, (c) social and cultural interaction, (d) productivity and accountability/ and (e) leadership and responsibility. Learning and innovation skills include (a) critical thinking and problem solving, (b) communication and collaboration, (c) creativity and innovation. Meanwhile, information technology and media skills include (a) information literacy, (b) media literacy, and (c) ICT literacy (I Made Sujana & Ida Ayu WP, 2020). Literacy Cloud, an online platform that provides quality, accessible books, brings cutting-edge technology to learning to enable, inspire, and motivate all students, regardless of background, language, or disability, to achieve. Literacy Cloud is an alternative for the 21st-century learning process, especially for learning English. In the Literacy Cloud media, there are many choices of textbooks, videos, or pictures that can be used as references for students learning English. Especially for English language learning, using ICT (in this case, the Literacy Cloud) as a 21st-century learning tool can provide native English speakers in the learning process so that students are given contextual English that is applicable and natural. Based on theory and the advantages and need for using Literacy Cloud in the classroom, the competencies of 21st-century teachers can gradually be fulfilled. This happens because students now interact a lot using ICT, so ICT should also be part of classroom learning (Kivinen et al., 2016). By accessing Literacy

Cloud, students can search for all English books that can provide material on all English language skills. Writing, grammar, reading, and even videos where native speakers can provide examples. Students can freely access, study, and imitate what native speakers say anytime and anywhere. This is very beneficial for students whose material is already on one central website and can access it in multiple places. Students can access and use Literacy Cloud according to their needs by accessing the various options provided in the Literacy Cloud application. This is proof of the extraordinary benefits of using technology in learning, especially learning English. Literacy Cloud is like a data bank containing teaching materials that users can access quickly and cheaply.

Conclusion

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that there some advantages of using Literacy Cloud such as; Literacy Cloud is beneficial in English learning, Literacy Cloud has the advantage of being more innovative than other teaching media, Literacy Cloud has advantages, including being an alternative for 21st-century learning teaching materials, providing attractive reading materials for students, being flexible, and having many choices of learning materials for English as a foreign language.

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