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Review of the Feasibility of Jember Regency Library Space Against Regulatory Standards

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ABSTRACT

Reviewing the suitability of library space is a crucial step in assessing the capacity of public service institutions to fulfill educational, comfort and accessibility functions according to the National Library Standards (SNP). This research aims to evaluate the physical and functional conditions of the Jember Regency Library Room based on national regulations such as Law no. 43 of 2007 and SNP 003:2011. The method used is descriptive qualitative through field observation and literature study. The focus of the evaluation includes aspects of space zoning, availability of supporting facilities, accessibility for people with disabilities, and security systems. The results of the study show that although the Jember Library has carried out its basic functions, there is a need for improvement in the aspects of inclusive accessibility and efficiency of multimedia layout to answer the dynamic needs of modern society. Fulfilling regulatory standards is the foundation for creating a functional and competitive library.

Keywords: *Library; Space Feasibility, National Library Standards, Jember Regency*

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INTRODUCTION

Regional public libraries are strategic institutions that serve as centers for information, education, research, preservation, and recreation services for all levels of society. Amidst the massive digitalization, the physical role of libraries has undergone a significant redefinition. Libraries are no longer simply book repositories, but have transformed into inclusive public spaces, often known as "The Third Place." This concept, popularized by sociologist Ray Oldenburg, positions libraries as the third place after the home (the first place) and the office/school (the second place), where informal and productive social interaction and exchange of ideas can occur.

The Indonesian government has provided a strong legal framework through Law Number 43 of 2007 concerning Libraries, which mandates that every library must be managed in accordance with the National Library Standards (SNP). This standardization is not merely an administrative formality, but rather an instrument to ensure that the public's right to access information and adequate educational facilities is fulfilled equitably. At the district or city level, the primary reference standard is SNP 003:2011, which details the

minimum requirements for collections, infrastructure, services, personnel, and organization and management.

Jember Regency, as one of the educational centers in East Java with a significant number of higher education institutions, has a highly diverse user base. The Jember Regency Library serves as a focal point for pupils, students, and the general public seeking supporting literature. However, population growth and changing learning styles require continuous evaluation of the adequacy of existing physical spaces. Space adequacy is measured not only by the structural strength of the building but also by aspects of functionality, circulation efficiency, thermal comfort, lighting, and security.

Visual comfort, for example, is significantly influenced by illumination levels. Based on the Indonesian National Standard (SNI) 03-6197-2000, library reading rooms require a minimum lighting level of 300 lux to prevent eye fatigue and support concentration.

Furthermore, thermal comfort, with an effective temperature between 24°C and 26°C, is a crucial standard to ensure that users can remain indoors for extended periods of time for research or independent learning.

Furthermore, libraries, as public facilities, are required to implement the Universal Design principles stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Public Works and Public Housing Number 14/PRT/M/2017 concerning Building Accessibility Requirements. This standard mandates accessibility facilities for people with disabilities, such as ramps with appropriate slopes, dedicated restrooms, and easy-to-read signage. Without meeting these accessibility standards, libraries fail to fulfill their function as inclusive public spaces and are non-discriminatory against vulnerable groups.

In the context of the Jember Regency Library, there are indications that the existing spatial arrangement still requires further review to align the available floor space with the minimum standard of 0.008 m² per capita as per national regulations. Overcrowding of collection space or a lack of collaborative spaces can reduce the library's effectiveness as a literacy center. Therefore, this study aims to conduct a physical audit and feasibility review based on applicable regulatory parameters.

The urgency of this review is based on the urgent need to create a conducive learning environment that can accommodate both digital and conventional literacy needs simultaneously. The results of this review are expected to provide strategic recommendations for the Jember Regency Government in optimizing literacy infrastructure to improve the reading habit index and the quality of human resources in the region.

METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design. The subject of the study was the physical infrastructure of the Jember Regency Library.

- Data Collection Procedure: Conducted through direct participant observation at the location to document existing conditions through photographs and field notes.
- Literature Review: Reviewed SNP 003:2011 concerning Regency/City Public Libraries and Minister of Public Works and Public Housing Regulation No. 14 of 2017 concerning Building Easement Requirements.

- Data Analysis: Used comparative analysis techniques, where field findings were contrasted with standard parameters set out in regulations to determine the level of feasibility (Agustiani & Dayar, 2025).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

RESEARCH RESULT

OBSERVATION RESULTS

Table 1: analysis table

Parameters	Data / Standards	Description
Population (Estimated)	> 2,500,000 people	Population data of Jember Regency
Standard Area Ratio (SNP 003:2011)	0.008 m ² per capita	Ideal standard library building area
Ideal Building Area Requirement	± 20,000 m ²	Calculation results (Population × Ratio)
Optimization Strategy	Vertical & Digital	Solutions to address physical land limitations

Source: UU No. 43 Tahun 2007 dan SNP 003:2011

The Jember Regency Library occupies a strategic location in the city center. The existing space is divided into a children's reading area, a youth/adult area, and a multimedia area. Documentation indicates that the children's area is designed with contrasting colors to stimulate reading interest, but its size is still limited compared to the potential number of visitors on weekends.

Overall, the observed spatial arrangement shows that the library has already applied a basic functional zoning pattern by separating children's, youth/adult, and multimedia areas. This separation helps users identify service functions more easily, but the limited capacity of several zones may reduce comfort during busy hours and create congestion around reading tables and circulation paths. For this reason, a more efficient layout, better furniture placement, and a stronger balance between printed and digital collections are needed to support daily use.



Figure 1: (reference space, reading room, children's reading room)

DISCUSSION

Based on a review of SNP 003:2011, the ideal ratio for district public libraries is 0.008 m² per capita. Given Jember's population of over 2.5 million, vertical space optimization or expansion of digital service areas is necessary to reduce physical density. Regarding accessibility, findings indicate the need for improvements to ramps to meet the maximum slope of 7 degrees, as required by inclusiveness standards (Wahyuningtyas et al., 2022). The implication of this research is the need for local governments to prioritize budgeting for building security systems, including smoke detectors and barrier-free evacuation routes.

These findings indicate that the main concern is not only the total building area, but also the effectiveness of how the available space is organized and used. When circulation routes are narrow or activity zones are not optimally connected, user comfort and reading concentration may decrease, especially during peak visits. Therefore, improvement efforts should focus on spatial reconfiguration, accessibility enhancement, and service flexibility so that the library can function more inclusively and efficiently

CONCLUSION

The Jember Regency Library's space suitability is categorized as "Quite Adequate," with several significant improvements noted in terms of inclusivity and multimedia capacity. The primary recommendation is rezoning to create more efficient circulation and providing supporting facilities for people with disabilities to fully meet national regulatory standards.

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