

Assessing Student Acceptance of Digital Repository as Knowledge Management System to Support Research Activities

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Abstract— Digital repositories play an important role for knowledge management. They propose a useful infrastructure through which to store, manage, and reuse digital materials. Studies in exploring digital repositories have been applied in several higher educations. However, the acceptance of digital repositories in higher education is lack of being explored. This study therefore proposes an appropriate conceptual model for the intention to use digital repositories by adopting technology acceptance model that consists of three dimensions namely perceived usefulness, ease of use, and intention to use. The first stage of this study was analyzing related research to devise a questionnaire and conduct a survey for lecturers and students. Questionnaires are then completed to evaluate users' acceptance of digital repository. The analysis reveals that the proposed factors positively influence users' intention to digital repositories. The managerial implications and suggestion to introduce such system are provided accordingly.

Keywords— *digital repositories, knowledge management system, user acceptance*

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of data and technologies influences the transformation of data to valuable information which is defined as knowledge. The academic societies are more concerned on the importance of knowledge and methods to obtain, identify, encapsulate, retrieve, utilize or measure, manage and share the knowledge in the form of knowledge artifacts. Furthermore, the process involves in managing the knowledge is known as knowledge management [1]. A well-known information system for knowledge management is digital repository.

The development of higher education's digital repository helps improving student's, lecturer's, and manager's productivities since it offers ubiquity, flexibility, and advanced search features better than a traditional repository [2]. This is to say, higher education is no longer just offering knowledge to students and lecturers, but also having to manage and share the existing knowledge for upcoming research reference. The use of digital repository for knowledge management system in higher education have been widely applied [1-5].

The acceptance of digital repository however has not been deeply explored. The effectiveness, efficiency, satisfaction and awareness have positive impact on the usage of digital repository. In addition, students agree that the repository increases their visibility on improving research because they have opportunity to interact with other scholars in worldwide [5]. On the other hand, a recognized model to measure the degree of digital repository acceptance is technology acceptance model (TAM) [6]. TAM consists of perceived ease of use (PEU), perceived usefulness (PU), and intention to use (IU). PU is a degree to which a person considers that utilizing a particular information system will improve job performance. PEU is a degree to which a person is confident in using a particular information system that engages minimal effort. The amount of effort that is required to use an innovation will have an effect on the adopter's sense of self-efficacy with regard to using the innovation which is a definition of IU. Some studies have dealt with TAM to evaluate digital repository [7-11]. TAM that includes perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, and intention to use is used to evaluate the effectivity of information technology for library. The findings revealed that those variables affect the acceptance of information technology for library.

The aim of this study is to examine the determinant factors in the acceptance of digital repository. Furthermore, the contribution is to accomplish the utilization of technology acceptance model to evaluate the digital repository as a knowledge management system in higher education. TAM is explored extensively as a research framework to explore the applicability of the model.

II. METHOD

This study was mainly based on TAM including perceived ease of use (PEU), perceived usefulness (PU), and intention to use (IU) as illustrated in fig 1. H1, H2, and H3 respectively indicated hypothesis 1, hypothesis 2, and hypothesis 3. The detail explanation of H1, H2, and H3 is listed in Table I.

TABLE I. RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

| Hypothesis id | Hypothesis |
|---------------|--|
| H1 | Perceived usefulness is positively related to digital repository user's intention to use |
| H2 | Perceived ease of use is positively related to digital repository intention to use |

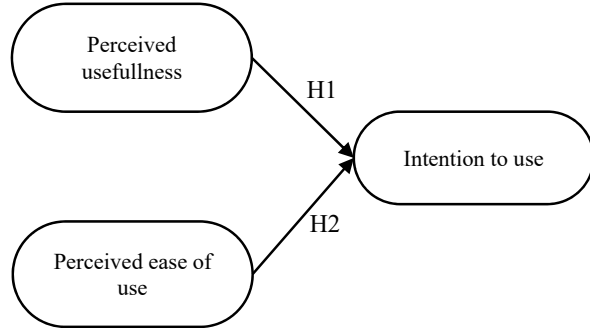


Fig. 1. Research model

The sample of this study was 60 higher education students at Department of Informatics, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia. 70 percent of them were female students and the remaining were male students aged 18-20 years old. The respondents were randomly selected from informatics, information system, information management, and information technology education study programs.

Respondents were requested to complete TAM questionnaire which was adapted from [12]. 5-point Likert scale was used to measure the questionnaire scale. The reason of using 5-point Likert scale was in most cases, a 5-point Likert Scale was the most reliable measuring model. The responses rated as follows: 1 as strongly disagree, 2 as disagree, 3 as somewhat agree, 4 as agree, and 5 as strongly agree.

The architecture of digital library which was evaluated in this study was depicted in Fig 2. The architecture had three layers including server, middleware, and client application. Server served for maintaining collections of metadata labelling the collection's properties. In addition, it was for executing query and retrieval mechanisms for metadata. The collection was defined as catalog. Middleware applied standard services for collections. Client application presented the services to digital repository users [13].

The five standards of digital library architecture for client interfaces were as follows.

- **Session** is to create or terminate a logical "session" between client and middleware
- **Catalog** is the list of library collections maintained by the middleware
- **Search** identifies library properties that satisfy specific Boolean constraints on standard high-level search-oriented metadata

- **Metadata** is to retrieve metadata for specified library properties.
- **Properties** is to demand the library property, or information on how to retrieve the property.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Respondents were requested to complete TAM questionnaire which was adapted from [12]. 5-point Likert scale was used to measure the questionnaire scale. The reason of using 5-point Likert scale was in most cases, a 5-point Likert Scale was the most reliable measuring model. The responses rated as follows: 1 as strongly disagree, 2 as disagree, 3 as somewhat agree, 4 as agree, and 5 as strongly agree. The TAM questionnaire are listed in Table II.

The reliability of questionnaire was measured by Cronbach's alpha of each construct. The Cronbach's alpha results for PEU, PU, and IE respectively were 0.88, 0.90, and 0.92 while the critical value was 0.6. Since the Cronbach's alpha values were greater than the critical value, the questionnaire was reliable. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) analysis results for PU, PEU, and IU respectively were 0.65, 0.74, and 0.70. KMO value of each construct was greater than 0.5 which meant that questionnaire satisfy construct validity threshold. The results of Cronbach's alpha and KMO analysis were itemized in Table III. Furthermore, the average questionnaire value of PU was 4.49, PEU was 4.50, and IU was 4.51. The average value and standard deviation of questionnaire were listed in Table IV.

TABLE II. QUESTIONNAIRE

| Constructs | Statements |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Perceived usefulness (PU) | 1. Using the digital repository would improve my performance in conducting my research 2. Using the digital repository at work would improve my productivity in research 3. Using the digital repository would enhance my effectiveness in conducting my research 4. I would find the digital repository useful in conducting my research |
| Perceived ease of use (PEU) | 1. Learning to operate the digital repository would be easy for me 2. I would find it easy to get the digital repository to do what I want it to do 3. It would be easy for me to become skillful in the use of the digital repository 4. I would find the digital repository easy to use |
| Intention to use (IU) | 1. I am willing to use the digital repository |

TABLE III. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY SCORES

| Constructs | Cronbach's alpha | KMO |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------|
| Perceived usefulness (PU) | 0.90 | 0.65 |
| Perceived ease of use (PEU) | 0.88 | 0.74 |
| Intention to use (IU) | 0.92 | 0.70 |

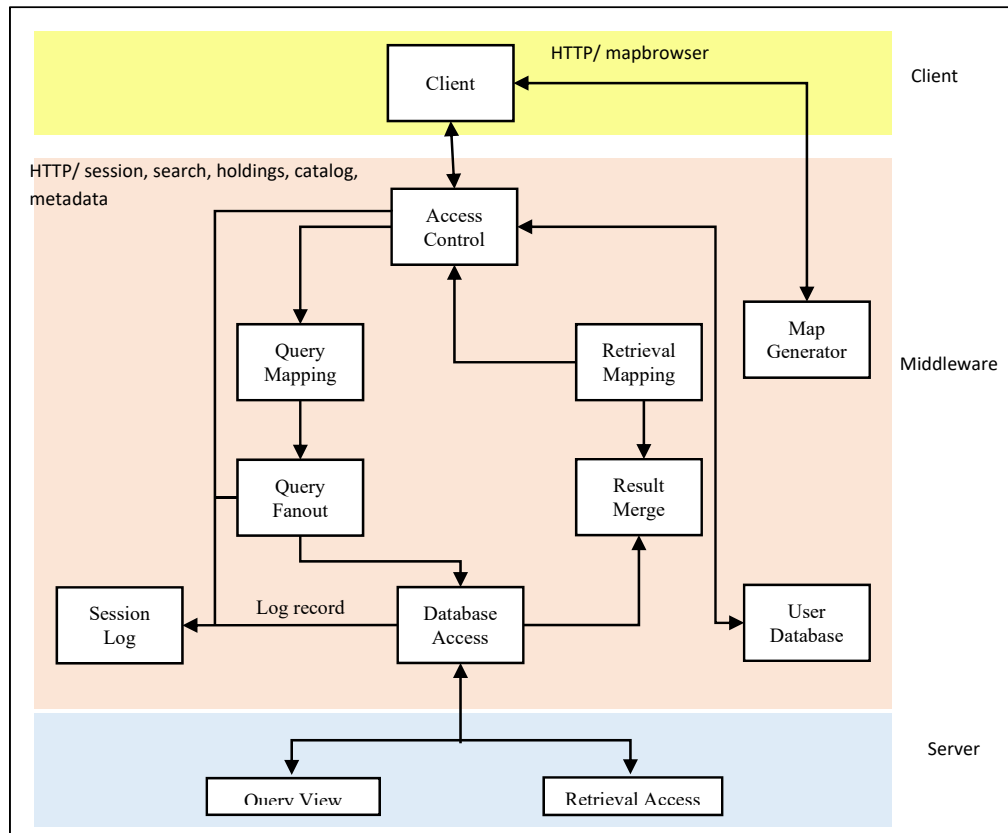


Fig. 2. Digital Repository Architecture

TABLE IV. AVERAGE VALUE AND STANDARD DEVIATION

| Items | Mean | Standard Deviation |
|-------|--------|--------------------|
| PU1 | 4.5167 | 0.50394 |
| PU2 | 4.4667 | 0.50310 |
| PU3 | 4.4333 | 0.49972 |
| PU4 | 4.5667 | 0.49972 |
| PEU1 | 4.4000 | 0.49403 |
| PEU2 | 4.4000 | 0.49403 |
| PEU3 | 4.5833 | 0.49717 |
| PEU4 | 4.5833 | 0.49717 |
| IU1 | 4.5500 | 0.50169 |

The relations between variables were analyzed using Pearson product moment correlation coefficient. Each construct was tested and the Pearson product moment correlation coefficients were ranging from 0.37 to 0.47 as stated in Table V. The results revealed that factors of technology acceptance model were positively correlated with each other.

Statistical analysis was then conducted to test the hypotheses. Additionally, the results were organized in Table

VI. According to B value, linier regression was formulated as follow:

$$Y = 2.186 + 0.72 X_1 + 0.77 X_2 \quad (1)$$

where X_1 is PU and X_2 is PEU. The equation meant that if PU and PEU were 0, IU was 2.186. Regression coefficient of PU was 0.72 which indicated PU and IU were positively related. This is to say, the greater perceived usefulness, the greater intention to use digital repository.

TABLE V. CORRELATION ANALYSIS

| | PU | PEU | IU |
|-----------------------------|------|------|----|
| Perceived usefulness (PU) | 1 | | |
| Perceived ease of use (PEU) | 0.37 | 1 | |
| Intention to use (IU) | 0.46 | 0.47 | 1 |

TABLE VI. PU AND PEU COEFFICIENTS TO IU

| | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| 1 (Constant) | 2.186 | 1.313 | | 1.949 | 0.000 |
| PU | 0.72 | 0.198 | 0.048 | 3.63 | 0.008 |
| PEU | 0.77 | 0.207 | 0.049 | 3.73 | 0.007 |

Furthermore, according to Table IV, the significance value of PU was 0.008, which was less than 0.05, this was to say that perceived usefulness significantly affected user's intention to use. The significance value of perceived ease of use was 0.007, which was less than 0.05. It indicated that perceived ease of use had a significant effect to user's intention to use.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study adapts technology acceptance model (TAM) questionnaire to evaluate students' acceptance of digital repository to improve research activity. The statistical analysis results reveal that perceived of use has significantly affect user's intention to use as well as perceived ease of use does. This study however has limitation which is path analysis to evaluate each item of constructs and will accomplish for further study.

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