

The province has a special status due to its history of the province. In 1945 the sultanate of Yogyakarta merged itself to Republic of Indonesia which was proclaimed on August 17, 1945.

Yogyakarta's size is about 3,186km² and 3,280,200 people live in this special province. Yogyakarta has entitled several names 'City of Students', 'Tourism City' and 'City of Culture.'

There are many universities, hundreds of high schools and around 1,800 elementary schools in Yogyakarta. Most of the elementary schools do not have adequate or comfortable libraries. Some of them do not even have libraries. Another problem facing the elementary schools is that every student is required to buy a package of books every semester and teachers use only those packages of books for teaching and learning. Thus, school libraries malfunction and the limited time for students to go to the school library has caused the library to remain idle. School children only have time to visit the libraries right after they finish their classes but most libraries are closed. That is why alternative libraries are the place for them to visit.

The lack of reading Habit and literacy in Yogyakarta is still a concern to deal with. While there are about 37,000 people who are illiterate, the habit of reading is not very high either. And this has caused libraries to have a limited number of users.

Libraries in Indonesia

Libraries in Indonesia may be categorized as National Library, Provincial Libraries, regency/city libraries, academic libraries, special libraries and school libraries. However, there is another one type which is usually run by an NGO. This type of library is usually called an alternative library. Alternative libraries are varied but they usually specialize their collections and/or users.

Condition of Provincial and Regency Libraries in Yogyakarta

In Yogyakarta, there are one provincial library and four regency libraries. Those libraries are managed by the local authority of Yogyakarta since the reformation era. While formerly, the National Library supported the provincial library; at present the library has to manage itself with the support from the local authority.

The Provincial Library was formerly planned to be the National Library of Indonesia as at the time of establishment, 17 October 1949, Yogyakarta was still the capital of Indonesia. However, in 1950 the capital was moved to Jakarta and the library's status was changed into Provincial library.

In the beginning the library was located in a small building in Jalan Mangkubumi and it was moved to Jalan Malioboro (the main road of Yogyakarta). The library got another building in 1984 to accommodate its collection. And nowadays, it has four separate buildings which functions as children's library unit, library services unit, digital library and electronic services unit, and training unit.

The provincial library has various services such as book loan service, reference service, deposit collection service, rare collection, audiovisual collection, user education, children's library, mobile library and photocopy service

