Abstract

The 21st Century is marked with the development society that has close relationships with microelectronics network, network society. According to Manuell Castells, the network society is a society using microelectronic network as the basis of its activity. In this study, researchers sought to formulate a paradigm of network librarianship by building a common ontology which is then reflected by Manuel Castells network society theory. This study used a qualitative approach with philosophical approach. Documents are used for collecting the data and analysis. Researchers used hermeneutics approach by Hans Georg Gadamer. Research results showed that the unique characteristics of the network society found by Manuel Castells. As we known, the evolution chain of society had a serious implication for human being. Librarianship need to evaluate and rethink their based scientific paradigm to seek information phenomena being, especially for 21st century.

Keywords:
Ontology of network librarianship, philosophy of librarianship, reflection of librarianship, digital librarianship.

Introduction

Librarianship is a study that has existed for several millenniums. So far librarianship has been viewed as identical to the study focusing on the documentation efforts on civilization. Conceptually librarianship develops along the lines of the existing development in the society. Based on the continuum of the development that occurs in the society, librarianship as a concept cannot discard any form of symbolic transformations of its conceptual condition compliant with the periodization of the society’s evolution chain.

The chain of evolution has been going on until the present, 21st century. The century is marked by the occurrence of a new society known as Network Society. The birth of Network Society cannot be separated from the development of microelectronic network. The development of microelectronic network also gives birth to new society known as network
society. According to Manuel Castells (2004), network society is a society whose social structure is made up of a network which is empowered using microelectronic information and information technology resources.

The society evolution has an impact on the change in information environment. The reflection of such phenomenon is the demand on reformulating adaptive librarianship paradigm on the development of network society’s information environment. The construction of correlative relationship between the theory of network society and librarianship construction is expected to generate new paradigm that corresponds to the microelectronic network based information environment.

Research Methods

The research used philosophical approach method. Louis O. Kattsof (1989) stated that philosophical approach as the attempt to reveal in-depth radical and systematic thoughts and ideas. The method is used to explore, observe and construct the essential relationship among several texts. Eventually the reflection and conception activities on the relationship will lead to the construction of the essential factors in the textual relationship into alternative paradigm of librarianship.

Philosophical Approach need research paradigm. The paradigm use as guideline for reflective thinking activity. On this research we used this paradigm:

a. Find the meaning of librarianship used literature study
   In data collecting, literature study method is applied in the research. Nasution (2003) stated that literature study carried out by qualitative researchers could be considered as resource persons who had the capability to answer questions. On this phase, researcher will find the meaning of librarianship by seek it on the book or journal.

b. Explore librarianship meaning Used Kneller Thinking Method approach
   On this phase, the meaning as the result of step a, will be a reflection object. In doing the reflection, at least there are several thinking techniques which are used in the reflection activities. According to Kneller (1971) there were three modes or techniques in philosophical activities, namely: speculative, prescriptive, and analytic. The three thinking styles/techniques will be used simultaneously in the research. Speculative thinking technique will be used in constructing network librarianship paradigm. Perspective thinking technique will be applied in carrying out reflection on the long established values in librarianship, whereas analytical thinking technique will be used in understanding the meaning of librarianship texts in order to seek for textual meanings which are the components for the values in librarianships.

c. Construct librarianship ontological meaning using hermeneutic approach.
   The result of meaning possibility will arrange as the timeline comprehensive genealogy to find the substance of librarianship ontology. On this phase, this research will use Hans-Georg Gadamer’s Hermeneutics method. Gadamer’s Hermeneutics moves circularly between the past and the present in an ontological point.

d. Hermeneutics can be defined as an exploration space in understanding the conception process related to the state of human’s existence being. Hermeneutics was a universal process investigation of an act of conception which was also claimed as the basic of human capacity as an “existence” (Mulyono, 2013; McCaffrey, Raffin-Bouchat, & Moules, 2012). In the conception of hermeneutics proposed by Gadamer, hermeneutics
pivoted on subjective hermeneutics. Gadamer believed each objectivistic conception attempt was an ineffective activity in each effort to understand a text. The author and interpreter of a text have spatial restrictions of tradition which differ greatly and can probably unable be reunited. Gadamer believed that without any particular inherent tradition of the individuals there would be no meaningful conception for the individual.

e. Construct a dialectic relation between librarianship ontology and network society theory to create a network librarianship paradigm formula.
The last phase, this research will used Gadamer’s dialectics leads to self-revelation on reality. The network society theory assume as the antithesis of an absence of society evolution and the basic ontology assume as the basic thesis to construct. Network society theory and librarianship ontology on this research assume as text. Edi Mulyono (2013) in the interaction expressed that the interpreter and the text experienced a mutual openness, thus they mutually gave and tool which eventually enabled the emergence of new conception. The dialectical process can we understood as ideal dialectical process on the radical thinking process. The interaction between interpreter and text perspective will always produce new questions, on this case this result is network society paradigm.

Results and Discussion

Librarianship is believed to be an umbrella for library and information sciences discourse. As an umbrella, ideally librarianship has genealogy and periodization with its specific characteristics. All this time, the genealogy has been understood as reflection of practical activities. Discussions on methods and epistemology frequently become the domain of major studies for librarianship (Labaree & Scimeca, 2008). There is nothing wrong with these activities; nevertheless the phenomenon will affect the librarianship ontology bias. Therefore a reflective study on the phenomenon is needed. The reflective study has the objective of constructing ontology design for librarianship which in its later progress will have a traceable genealogy to understand and reproduce the meanings of librarianship suitable to the information environment transformation. The librarianship ontology construction development in this research is intended as the basic foundation in carrying out librarianship philosophical reflection in the development of information environment with microelectronic network. The reflection will influence later network librarianship paradigm design.

a. Librarianship Ontological Meaning

Defining librarianship ontology is required as a stepping stone in the attempt to define network librarianship. Ideally librarianship ontology can be approached from two perspectives, theoretical and practical approaches. In theoretical approach, librarianship cannot escape from the influence of S.R. Ranganathan five laws. Ranganathan’s law formulation evolves in accordance with the growth and contiguity of other librarianship values in the society evolution chain.

There are several points of view in the reproduction attempt of Ranganathan laws’ meaning. Michael Gorman (1994) argued that “a free society without any library available for all is an oxymoron in library”. In meaning reproduction Michael Gorman attempted to link Ranganathan laws with more abstract values. It differed greatly with Ranganathan Five Laws
that tend to be technical. Ranganathan’s technical view influenced the reproduction chain and conception of Ranganathan Five Laws’ formulation. Such technical view influenced the formulations of Timo Kurenen, V. Cloonan, Alireza Noruzi, Carol Simpson, and Friday Valentine.

Alireza Noruzi affirmed Ranganathan thought as a basis of thought that is still applicable. In his thoughts, Alireza Noruzi viewed Ranganathan’s Five Laws only needed to replace their elements. Alireza Noruzi (2008) stated that books, readers, and libraries were the elements of Ranganathan laws. Even when an existing keyword was replaced by other keyword, Ranganathan laws would always work well. The element replacement, according to Alireza Noruzi, was intended for the exegesis of Ranganathan Five Laws based on information technology development. Alireza Noruzi’s basic idea was affirmed by Timo Kuronen and Paivi Perkkarinen (1999) by stating “Ranganathan had the opportunity to see the prototype of library automation (Kattsoff, 1992; Lynch, 2000). In Ranganathan Five Laws 1957 edition, Ranganathan applied all as information, regardless their formats – book, serial, journal article.”

Carol Simpson (2008) stated “Who says information needs are only available in printed form?” Carol Simpson proposed media as an attempt in creating a more universal umbrella for information storage containers (Lynch, 2000). In its evolution, Ranganathan Five Laws tended to be filled with debates about containers. In 2014 Friday Valentine attempted to mediate the debates by replacing the keywords in Ranganathan five laws. In general, theoretical approach in attempting to understand librarianship tends to be technical (Knox & Knox, 2011). Theoretically librarianship cannot be separated from its substantial scope proposed by Ranganathan.

Theoretical approach extraction is derived from missions, strategies, and ethics followed by several professional – library and information expert – organizations. Those professional organizations mentioned are IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), ALA (American Library Association), ALIA (Australian Library and Information Association), LRCN (Librarians’ Registration Council of Nigeria), LAS (Library Association of Singapore), CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) and RBA (Rossiiskaya Bibliotechnaya Assotsiatsiya). The texts that contain the organizations’ mission, strategies, and ethics adhered to the values formulated by IFLA. Undeniably there were editorial differences in several aspects among the professional organizations due to the compliance with the culture where the organization associations grew. Nevertheless, the essence of the professional organizations generally talked about ideas with intellectual freedom, information society, freedom of information, and information for community development as their subjects.

At the ethical level every organization strives to instill the ethics bearing the potential of being a catalyst in information development. Among some dominant ethical values are neutrality, cooperation, and support on ideas relating to freedom of information and recognition on intellectual property rights, although several organizations have their unique characteristics by affirming the tendencies toward specific aspects and political views such as democracy. Yet in general, professional associations’ view support the ethical views oriented on the ideal condition of free information environment.

Both theoretically and practically, librarianship is an umbrella for discourses that concentrate on the interaction between human and information. The essence of correlational relationship between librarianship’s theoretical and practical approach is the foundation for
the construction of librarianship ontology. Definitively, librarianship ontology can be articulated as “human activity in understanding, manipulating, and providing better opportunities for the interaction between human and information.” Librarianship is an umbrella for information professionals, academicians, and practitioners with discussion’s subject scopes relating to the form, method, nature, values, and characteristics resulting from the interaction patterns existing between human and information. Such ontology will be used as the foundation in formulating network librarianship paradigm.

b. Network Librarianship Paradigm

In 1985 Thomas T. Surprenant and Claudia Perry-Holes made an effort to identify the future changes and development in reference services in the library by their article “The Reference Librarian of the Future: A Scenario.” Surprenant separated Information Services phases into three. One of the phases, which is also the uppermost phase of the division, is the eclectic phase. Eclectic phase is marked by information service having the capability to provide services based on different sources, systems or styles. Based on the frame proposed by Thomas T. Surprenant and Claudia Perry-Holes, now is the eclectic phase which is indicated by the emergence of network society with characteristics close to eclectic phase. According to Manuel Castells (2004) network society is a society whose social structure is developed based on a network empowered by utilizing microelectronic information and information technology resources.

Referring to Heidegger’s conception on technology, Francis Lim (2008) stated that in order to understand the essence of technology people had to develop freedom in their relationship with technology. The referred freedom in relationship is an activity to comprehend by minimizing assumptions about the conception of technology which is closed to individual prejudices or myths growing in the social space. When people have understood the correct essence of technology, people can experience technology within its own limitations and even beyond the limitations (Fichman & Rosenbaum, 2014). Librarianship ontology makes interaction between man and information as its basic substance. Based on it hence construction of human and information in network society based librarianship needs to be redefined.

At least the substance of information network and environment in network society needs to be understood before one can redefine it. According to Manuel Castells (2004), the basic aspect in the network is node which has varying relevance within a network. In his analysis, he viewed the decentralized group of nodes as the basic essence of a network. Each node is assessed based on its relevance and efficiency in information processing. Manuel Castells viewed a network as a group of nodes. Each node which is interrelated with other nodes has the potential to construct a network. Information flow is defined by Castells as a stream of information between nodes that are circulated through the connection channel between the nodes. The three components proposed by Castells are the basic foundation of network librarianship.

In network librarianship, human and information experience a shift of meaning. Network librarianship views nodes as existential representatives of human existence within network. Jean Paul Sartre in Konrad Kebung (2008) described the basic difference between human beings and other being in the following statement: “What is the fundamental difference of human and other beings? In other beings, the “essence” precedes their
“existence.” In network, human existence is built from the intentionally chosen essence to be made as the foundation of their basic existence. In network librarianship it is known by the term “Derivative existential modular.”

“Derivative existential modular” is an existence built based on natural existence awareness using information modules that are intentionally chosen by the individual. Eventually, the modules are conceived as existential image that build the individual’s essence in the network. “Derivative existential modular” is built from information modules engineering which is believed as the entity of a person in the network. The existence of Derivative existential modular affects the class of librarians in the network society.

Manuel Castell categorized labor into two classes namely: Self-Programmable Labor and Generic labor. Self-Programmable Labor, according to Manuel Castells (2004), is workers having the autonomy capacity to focus on setting the goals on the production process finding relevant information and integrating them into knowledge, using the knowledge collection and applying them in work plans that are oriented on the objectives of the process. Generic labor, according to Manuel Castells (2004), is workers that are easily replaceable unless they ensure their rights as human beings and citizen through collective actions.

In network librarianship, human existence is defined as information in the network. Hence Self-Programmable Labor librarians have the potential to create a labor class based on artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence based labor class in network librarianship is known as autonomous librarians. Autonomous librarian is an information module as human representation. The representative information has complex logic and pattern of consideration and grows organically and also gradually attempts to approach human beings’ way of thinking. In more straightforward way, autonomous librarian is a representation of librarian mindset within logical framework recognized by the machine.

Based on such conception, interaction occurs between information and information; information and information processing ability; and information as a product. Information and information processing ability refer to nodes and representation of human existence. Information as a product refers to the general concept of information in librarianship. However there is a shift of point of view on information in network librarianship point of view.

Information is believed to influence every human action. Jenifer Rowley believed that the basic level of various types of information and perception affect human attitude, emotion and behavior (Thellefsen, Thellefsen, & Sorensen, 2013). Therefore, a shift in the meaning of information as a product will affect human point of view and interaction mode with information. Network librarianship relies on the value of information that is not neutral. Timo Kurenen and Paivi Perkkarinen (1999) stated that “we are coming into postmodern era, where everything is no longer neutral and comprehensive.” Such view tends to be contradictory with the established values in librarianship where many of its values are neutral.

In network librarianship, information is selected based on the interest of the institution or the benefit gained from nodes of related information. Such condition cannot be separated from the multi-dimensional characteristic of information. Referring to Aaron Swartz (2008), “Information refers to power, but unlike other kinds of power, each party wants to dominate it for personal interests.” Information cannot be seen as something free and neutral as it was in previous centuries. Selection is the basic substance of information management in network librarianship. With the existence of selection, a library is required to have specific
characteristic that distinguishes it with other libraries. Universal values are no longer the benchmark of information management’s methods and activities.

In the network society, ideally the world does not need a lot of libraries because the concept of distance is close to zero in a microelectronic network environment. Within the framework of his theory, Manuel Castells (2004) argued that the distance between networks is close to zero, as a network concept follows the logic of small world. With local characteristics based library concept, then the library has characteristics specific information it presents. Therefore, each library has the opportunity to cooperate with each other. This characteristic is constructed from local values embraced by each library in particular regional environment which is interpreted as an information management node with specific characteristic.

Manuel Castells (2004) said that social structure has global nature. Nevertheless most of human experiences have local nature based on territory and cultural aspects. Hence in the formation of values, network society takes global values as well as local ones. Both of them go simultaneously. Libraries in their position as a node in a network form selection and conversion process from local values to be consumed globally and reversely the global values are adjusted to local values. Thus in determining the basic values of library, each library builds its own characteristics with local wisdom based approach which is based on the beliefs embraced by the node as a segment of its natural existential factor as the background of Derivative existential modular formation.

Ermine (1995) stated that local wisdom epistemology is a narration that refers to the beliefs embraced by a community. They are natural communities which are indicated by complex kinship system between human beings, animal, earth, cosmos, etc. Local wisdom values are assumed as the values that are closest and easiest to be accepted by people. Hence it can be assumed that information and information system that are in accordance with these values will be easier to be understood.

Within its portion as a node in a network of network librarianship, the library will be regulated by values determined by dominant node within the network. Manuel Castells (2004) stated that nothing is changed in the formation of values in network society; the values in the network society are determined by dominant institution in the society. Therefore each library as a node has relative values within its interaction with other nodes and other networks. There is no ideal network librarianship’s objective because everything depends on the information environment and domination in the network managed by nodes.

Network librarianship affirmed the conception of ‘open society’. Open society concept was used for the first time by French philosopher Henri Bergson, whereas its modern concept was mostly originated from the work of Sir Karl Popper. Such society concept was proposed in Popper’s work which was published in 1945 entitled “The Open Society and Its Enemies.” According to Popper, a form of social organization was based on the recognition of the lack of access to the ultimate truth; human conception on the world was and perfect society was impossible to be achieved (Labaree & Scimeca, 2008).

Conclusion

As the result of, librarianship ontological never being evolve. As we known, 5 law of Ranganathan, it is still being as a base philosophical approach on library and information sciences. The neutrality and integrality value to seek the information phenomena still being a
dominant perspective on library and information science, not only on the theoretical but also on practical approach. Thus far, librarianship paradigm evolution focused on the instrumental perspective. Librarianship seen their existence as the gateway between human and information.

Based in the conceptual foundation, Network librarianship paradigm defined librarianship as human being’s activity to understanding, manipulating, and giving the best opportunity for human and information interaction. Its, not only as passive position on the information framework, librarianship must gain an active position on information framework, especially on network society environment. Hence network librarianship is a manipulation in microelectronic network management in attempting to seek for the best interaction pattern between human, microelectronic network, and information. Network librarianship complies to the phenomenon occurring in the microelectronic network in continuum construction as the result of the development and dynamics occurring in the network society.

Based on the above paradigm, network librarianship can be defined as specific discourse with interdisciplinary nature within the context of microelectronic network study. Network librarianship sees the activities in node or activities that it involves in its transaction as information. The foundation of network librarianship philosophy is based on the view where each subject in the network is a representation of natural universe instead of natural existence. There are two basic substances of information in network librarianship, namely information with information management ability and information as a product of information.

The relevance of node in information management and node endurance in each competition determine the strength of node as determiner of values in the network. The conception of value characteristics will affect the identity of library as a node in the network. To operate both nodes, a balanced composition is required amidst autonomous, self-programmable, and generic librarians.

Until currently, stable values in librarianship tend to contain universal values. In global level, local values will compete to achieve domination and the rights over the formation of global network values. In addition, local values become the spearhead for the selection of global information to be converted in accordance with the local logic. Dominant library’s node will have the potential for greater flow of information, which will immediately strengthen its potential dominance.

References


