Optimizing Digital Library for National Heritage As a National Culture Managing Device

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ABSTRACT

Accessibility and connectivity is a significant issue in a recent networked world. This accessibility and connectivity are taken as benefit to gain and deploy information and knowledge as much as people need. Both information and knowledge have a broad spectrum in which cultural issues are also considered. Cultural issues are significant for countries and/or communities to promote their cultural potentials and, of course, cultural identity. When technology and culture issue are met, a proper national culture management could eventually be achieved.

Introduction

Culture is ensemble of social processes by which meanings are produced, circulated and exchanged (Thwaites et al. 1994). People live with their culture and they will always be. Since culture played an important role in civilization development, people and its culture are inseparable. Managing the culture means also managing people, a community, and even a nation for better future sustainability. Therefore, each attempt towards better national culture management and promotion should be at the top level of consideration.

Potencies of Indonesian Culture

Indonesia has approximately 13,000 islands, which occupied by various tribes. As aforementioned above that, most people whether they lived individually or in a group have and produce their own culture. Tribes in Indonesia are widespread on islands. Some places are hard to access because of their geographical condition.

Within the tribe's community, culture is manifested into some mediums, visualized in various forms. For example, the faith on transcendence between life and death is expressed on either temple (candi) architectural design or dancing. As should be understood here that culture provides more than artistry and/or aesthetical values. Wisdom of life, faith is some inserted sense by which culture become a precious legacy for the next generations, as well as the root of their national identity.

Indonesia has both tangible and intangible culture. Tangible culture is manifested on several traditions in Indonesia, which would generally be, not limited to, as:

1. Oral, Performance Tradition,
2. Writing, Drawing Tradition

Other tangible culture could also be found as Temples or Candi, Manuscripts (on bamboos, stone carvings, barks, palm-leafs), Ornamental Designs, Stone Carvings, and/or Musical Instruments.

Meanwhile, manifestation of intangible culture would generally be, not limited to, as:

1. Folklore,
2. Mores, and/or
3. Community System

Nowadays, some institutions attempt to develop some culture manifestations. As an example, PADI ARTGROUND develops a number of manuscripts in which the ideas are taken from the origin Indonesian culture manifestation.

Examples shown above prove that existing culture manifestation could be developed. Because art has played such an important role in the development of culture and human civilization, artistic development can, therefore, be equated with cultural development (Darmawan and McGlynn 2003). The result of such research and development may contribute a new insight for local people and may enrich the trove of national culture.

Accessibility to Indonesian Culture Resources

The lack of accessibility to any cultural material resources is the common obstacle of the most Indonesian scholars who interested on their own national culture development. Furthermore, most Indonesian scholars are also facing a problem of limited fund while they wish to travel in order to research and gather cultural material directly from the origin place. This might also experienced by the foreign scholars when they intended to do the same thing about Indonesian culture.

Culture is like an unfinished story, which should be continued (Peursen 1988). In order to keep national cultural potencies sustainable, accessibility to the some, if not all, Indonesian cultural potencies should be provided and developed.

Digital Library for National Heritage: Development and Optimization

As a product of Information Technology and Communication (ICT) development, digital library provides opportunity to unlock the access to any knowledge resources anywhere in the world. Though most regions in the world, in particular developing countries, are experiencing digital divide, there are still plenty of alternatives, which might be helpful for them to gather and disseminate knowledge.

Indonesian Digital Library for National Heritage tends to be developed on interactive multimedia version. Because of the inappropriate bandwidth capacity, this interactive multimedia remains a better solution to bridge the digital divides, which are the most obstacles for Indonesian. Nevertheless, the on-line version remains a primary consideration regarding to convenience accessibility to all resources of Indonesian cultural potencies.

This project was planned to be publish on series. These series based either on institutions or on type of traditions. Whatever its form, this national culture management demands a serious effort that in turn could affect on national cultural identity retrieval. As a standard, information is categorized in collections and research-and-development, and it might be deepen and modifiable if necessary. It is quiet simple, but might be able to cover all essential of Indonesian cultural potencies and its developmental efforts.

One of outstanding cultural potencies of Indonesia is about its drawing and writing tradition. As a part of Indonesian institutions in which cultural potencies are collected and developed, PADI ARTGROUND begins to promote Indonesian cultural potencies on drawing and writing tradition.

The following picture below is an example, which shows visualization and content management of PADI ARTGROUND's collections within digital library interactive multimedia format. Activity in PADI ART-GROUND, an art institution, is now focused on the research and development of Indonesian drawing and writing tradition in which external influences such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Chinese are penetrated. All these activities and collections may contribute something significance as a best practice to any national culture development effort in Indonesia. Moreover, another institution who would like to do the similar thing might like to see and review this project as a developmental reference.

Collections and situations in PADI ART-GROUND, which presented on this digital library interactive multimedia format reflects some effort of the national culture management in Indonesia. Moreover, this media could be an evidence for a developing country who wish to achieve better national development and sustainability based on its cultural contents.

CONCLUSION

Developing a medium for national culture management, for instance, is an excellent effort towards civilization sustainability. Even some obstacles occurred on the way of national development such as social gaps and low human resource capacity, there would always a way out. New technology development, in particular Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development, might provide a solution, such as information management system, software engineering for information and communication device, and multimedia technology. Those technologies offered a plenty of opportunities to be taken as benefit for purposes such as national culture management. However, both local content and local potential should be consider as main priority rather than the technology itself. This is an idea which will enable people to promote and preserve their own culture for their own next generation, and, eventually, for their own next civilization.

Figure 1 Visualization and Content Management of PADI ARTGROUND's Collections within Digital Library for National Heritage Interactive Multimedia Format

References

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