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Beyond Collection: Measuring Library Impact Using Indeks Relevan Perpustakaan (IRP)

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GOMBAK, 29 June 2026 – As academic libraries continue to evolve, their relevance is no longer measured by the size of their collections, but by the value and impact they bring to their universities.

Recognising the importance of this paradigm shift, Dar al-Hikmah Library, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), through its Strategic and Quality Section, took the initiative to organise a collaborative knowledge-sharing session with the Library Relevance Index (*Indeks Relevan Perpustakaan, IRP*) team from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

The hybrid sharing session was held at the Multipurpose Room, Mohd. Kamal Hassan Library (MKHL), Gombak Campus, and via the Zoom platform on 29 June 2026 (Monday), from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The session was made compulsory for all librarians in recognition of its significance to the Library's strategic development and the advancement of professional librarianship.

The session featured Puan Azleen Hasan, Mr. Dasuki Sahak, and Ts. Mohd. Afiq Rusly, who shared UPM's experience in developing and implementing the IRP. As a data-driven approach, the IRP helps measure how library services contribute to the university's goals and demonstrates the library's value beyond its collections.



(<https://beritappm.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/irp-1.png>)

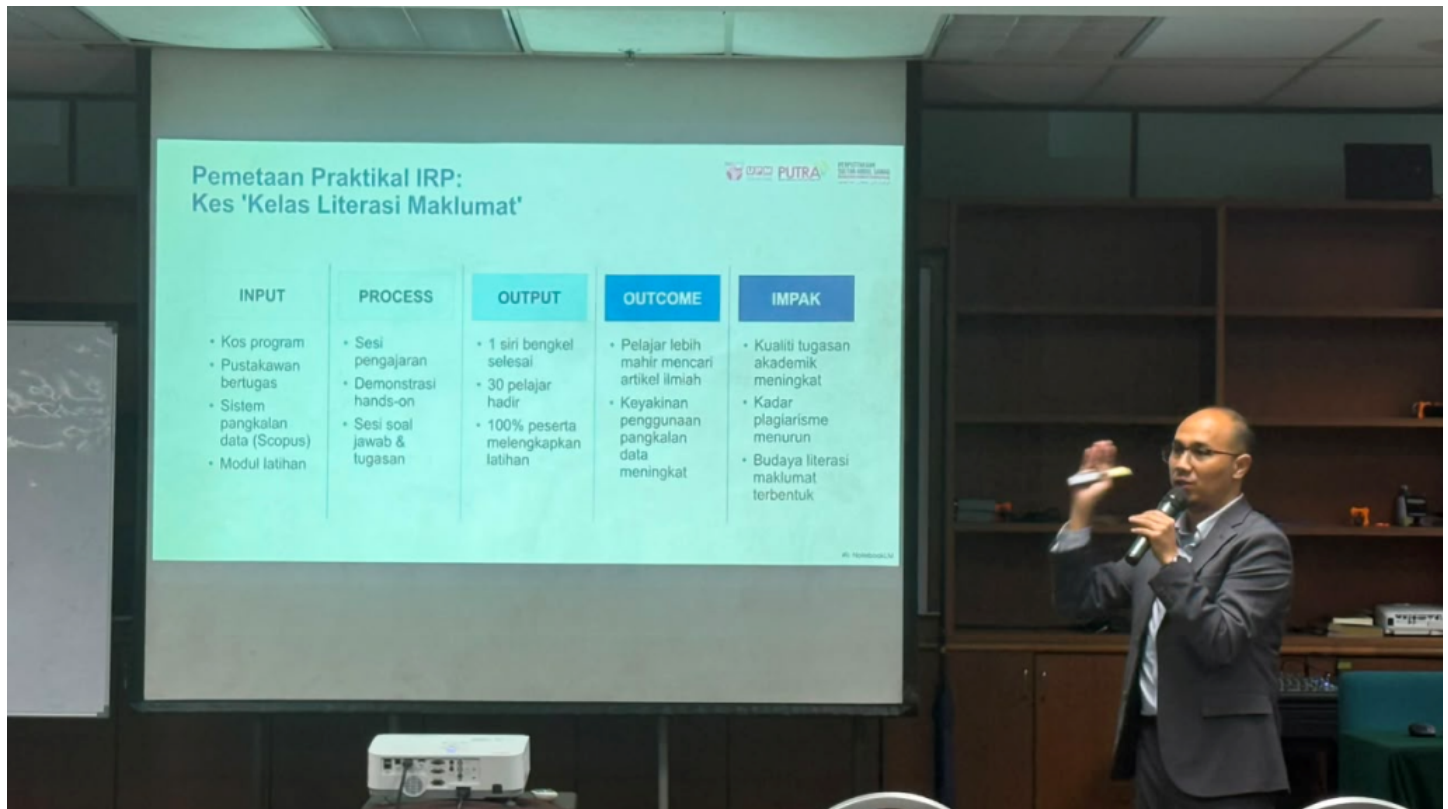
The IRP
Team from
Sultan
Abdul
Samad
Library,
UPM,
preparing
for the
presentation

The Library Relevance Index or *Indeks Relevan Perpustakaan (IRP)* was developed by University Putra Malaysia (UPM) as a strategic approach that connects library performance with the university's success through systematic, data-driven, and impact-focused measurement.

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They developed the IRP based on the idea that the relevance of academic libraries in the future will no longer be determined by the resources they own, but by their ability to demonstrate their value and measurable impact they bring on the university.

The session provided an opportunity for Dar al-Hikmah Library (DaHL) to gain a better understanding of the concept, implementation approach, and best practices adopted by UPM. It also allowed participants to exchange ideas, discuss practical challenges, and explore how similar approaches could be applied to support the DaHL's strategic planning, performance measurement, and continuous improvement.



(<https://beritappm.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/irp-2.png>).

Mr. Dasuki explaining UPM's approach to measuring the impact of information literacy classes

The session was also an eye-opener for DaHL's librarians. It showed how other academic libraries are moving forward with new ideas and innovative practices to stay relevant in a rapidly changing environment. The sharing inspired participants to continue learning, improve their skills, and explore new ways of adding value to the University and its community.

Some of the key takeaways from the session:

1. Library can use data to show impact by shifting focus from what the library has to how it benefits and impact the university.
2. Library can learn best practices and innovative initiative by understanding how UPM measures the impact of their services such Information Literacy classes, information resources, etc.



(<https://beritappm.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/irp-3.png>).

DaHL
librarians
engaging
with the
presentation

Moving forward, DaHL hoped that similar sessions can be organised with other academic libraries as part of a collaborative effort to share knowledge, innovation, and best practices in librarianship.

Such initiatives help libraries learn from one another, strengthen professional skills, and improve services for users. Any effort that can elevate the image and dignity of libraries and librarianship should be encouraged and celebrated. This is important to ensure that library remain relevant and continue to play an important role as the heart of the university, supporting teaching, learning, and research in meaningful ways.



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