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Perceptions of the Accessibility of the Universitas Negeri Padang Library and Publishing Repository among Library and Information Science Students of the 2022 Cohort Using the UTAUT Model

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Abstract

Research on technology acceptance in higher education repository services has continued to expand; however, studies specifically examining repository accessibility through the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) remain limited, particularly among Library and Information Science students. This study aimed to describe students' perceptions of the accessibility of the Repository of the Library and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang (UNP) using the UTAUT framework. A quantitative descriptive approach was employed, involving 48 active students from the 2022 cohort of the Library and Information Science Study Program selected through simple random sampling. Data were collected using a Likert-scale questionnaire developed based on four primary UTAUT indicators: performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, and facilitating conditions. The data were analyzed using descriptive quantitative techniques, including frequency distribution, percentage analysis, and mean score calculation. The findings showed that all indicators were categorized as good, with mean scores of 2.97

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for performance expectancy, 3.02 for effort expectancy, 3.01 for social influence, and 3.01 for facilitating conditions. These results indicate that the UNP repository is perceived as beneficial for supporting academic activities, relatively easy to use, supported by the academic environment, and facilitated by adequate infrastructure and services. The study concludes that the Repository of the Library and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang provides accessible academic information services for students. These findings contribute to the literature on technology acceptance in higher education repository services and imply the need to improve search features, enhance technical support, and strengthen repository socialization programs to optimize digital information services in higher education institutions.

Keywords: Digital Library; Institutional Repository; Repository Accessibility; UTAUT; User Perception

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of information and communication technology has significantly transformed various aspects of human life, including the higher education sector. Digital transformation has encouraged universities to integrate information systems into academic activities such as learning, research, scientific publication, and information dissemination. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for digital information services has increased substantially because most academic activities have shifted to online environments. This condition requires universities to provide information services that are accessible, efficient, flexible, and capable of supporting academic activities without spatial and temporal limitations (Winastwan & Fatwa, 2021). In this context, university libraries are expected to adapt to technological changes by developing digital services that can facilitate academic communities in accessing scientific information effectively.

The advancement of information technology in Indonesia has accelerated the transformation of libraries from conventional service systems into digital-based information services, particularly institutional repositories. Institutional repositories function not only as storage systems for scientific works but also as platforms for knowledge dissemination that can be accessed widely by academic communities. Universities are required to provide repository systems that are user-friendly, easily accessible, and capable of supporting academic information retrieval efficiently (Javier et al., 2022). The existence of repositories has become increasingly important because

academic communities rely heavily on digital information sources to support learning activities, scientific writing, and research development.

Institutional repositories are digital systems designed to manage, preserve, and distribute intellectual outputs produced by academic institutions. Through repositories, students and lecturers can access various forms of scientific works, including theses, dissertations, journal articles, research reports, and conference proceedings more efficiently (Febrianti et al., 2023). The repository system also supports the implementation of open access practices in higher education institutions by enabling broader dissemination of scientific knowledge and increasing institutional visibility in the academic environment (Wardhani, 2025). Therefore, repositories are not merely digital archives but strategic infrastructures that support the continuity of scientific communication within universities.

The role of institutional repositories in universities is closely related to the functions of academic libraries as providers of information services. The Library and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang (UNP) offers repository services to fulfill students' academic information needs. Various scientific works, including undergraduate theses, dissertations, journal articles, and research reports, are available in the repository system managed by the institution. The repository is expected to become one of the primary reference sources used by students in conducting academic assignments and research activities (Ibrahim et al., 2023). Consequently, the effectiveness of repository services greatly depends on users' perceptions regarding accessibility, usability, and convenience in utilizing the system.

In the context of technology acceptance, user perception is considered a crucial factor influencing the successful implementation of information systems. One of the most widely used theories in explaining technology acceptance behavior is the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) developed by Venkatesh et al. The UTAUT model explains that technology acceptance is influenced by several major constructs, namely performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, and facilitating conditions (Permana et al., 2024). Among these constructs, effort expectancy has a particularly important role because it relates directly to users' perceptions of how easy a system is to understand and operate. A system perceived as easy to use tends to encourage positive attitudes and increase the likelihood of continued utilization by users (Damana et al., 2023).

Effort expectancy refers to the extent to which individuals believe that using a particular technology system requires minimal effort and can be learned easily. This concept is closely associated with perceived ease of use, which reflects users' confidence that technology can be understood and operated without significant cognitive burden (Akmal & Nurlaela, 2025). Ease of use also includes perceptions related to system simplicity, ease of learning, navigation clarity, and operational convenience during system interaction (Qomarudin & Fadhilla, 2025). When users perceive a system as simple and intuitive, they are more likely to accept and continuously use the technology for academic purposes.

The concept of ease of access is equally important in determining users' willingness to utilize digital information systems. Ease of access refers to the extent to which users can obtain services and information without experiencing difficulties related to procedures, technical barriers, time, or location (Hapzi Ali et al., 2022). In digital repository systems, ease of access includes aspects such as interface clarity, navigation simplicity, system responsiveness, and the availability of relevant search features (Ida Yuliana & Wagiyem, 2025). These aspects influence users' satisfaction and determine whether repositories can function effectively as academic information sources.

Despite the strategic role of repositories in supporting academic activities, several challenges remain in their implementation and utilization. Preliminary observations conducted at the Library and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang revealed that students of the Library and Information Science Program (PII) cohort 2022 still encounter various difficulties when accessing the repository system. Some students experience obstacles in finding relevant documents and scientific materials needed for academic assignments. Others lack sufficient understanding of repository features such as search facilities, document filters, and information retrieval mechanisms. Additionally, some students perceive that accessing repositories requires more effort compared to alternative information sources available on the internet. These conditions indicate that students' perceptions regarding repository accessibility and usability remain problematic and require further investigation.

The issue of repository accessibility is particularly significant because current university students belong to a digitally oriented generation that is highly familiar with internet-based technologies and online information systems. Although digital literacy

among students has generally increased, ease of access remains an important determinant influencing the utilization of digital academic services (Wahidi & Prasetio, 2025). Students tend to prefer systems that are practical, fast, and easy to operate. Therefore, if repository systems are perceived as complicated or inefficient, students may shift toward other information sources that are considered more accessible and user-friendly.

Previous studies have extensively examined technology acceptance and repository utilization in higher education environments. Research conducted by Putra (2022) analyzed information system acceptance using the UTAUT model and found that performance expectancy and effort expectancy significantly influence users' acceptance of technology systems. Similarly, Sari (2023) investigated the implementation of UTAUT in e-learning systems and concluded that effort expectancy positively affects students' acceptance of online learning platforms. These studies demonstrate that perceptions of convenience and usability are critical factors influencing technology adoption behavior among students.

Research related specifically to institutional repositories has also shown that accessibility and ease of use are important determinants of repository utilization. Rahman (2024) found that ease of access, search convenience, and full-text availability significantly influence students' willingness to use repositories for academic purposes. Pratiwi (2024) further emphasized that perceived ease of use is one of the major factors affecting repository acceptance among university students. Meanwhile, Utami (2025) examined user perceptions toward institutional repository implementation using the UTAUT model and reported that users generally viewed repositories positively across several UTAUT dimensions.

Although previous studies have contributed significantly to understanding technology acceptance and repository utilization, several research gaps remain evident. First, most previous studies focused on analyzing the influence of multiple UTAUT variables on technology acceptance through explanatory or regression-based approaches. Limited studies specifically examine repository accessibility from a descriptive perspective focusing solely on effort expectancy and ease of access perceptions among students. Second, previous studies generally investigated repository systems in broader university contexts without specifically focusing on Library and Information Science students, who are expected to possess higher familiarity with information systems and digital literacy. Third, few studies have explored repository accessibility within the context of the Library

and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang, despite its strategic role in supporting academic information services for students.

Based on these conditions, this study positions itself as an effort to provide a more specific understanding of students' perceptions regarding repository accessibility by emphasizing the effort expectancy construct within the UTAUT framework. Unlike previous studies that primarily examined causal relationships between variables, this research adopts a descriptive quantitative approach to portray how students perceive the accessibility and usability of the repository system at UNP. Therefore, this study not only contributes to the literature on technology acceptance in libraries but also provides contextual insights regarding repository services in Indonesian higher education institutions.

The novelty of this research lies in several important aspects. First, this study specifically focuses on the perception of repository accessibility using the effort expectancy dimension of the UTAUT model, whereas previous studies tended to examine broader technology acceptance constructs simultaneously. Second, this research targets students of the Library and Information Science Program cohort 2022 as respondents, providing a more contextual analysis involving users who are academically related to information management and library services. Third, the study investigates repository accessibility in the context of the Library and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang, which has not been extensively explored in previous repository-related studies. These aspects demonstrate the distinct contribution of this research to the development of library and information science studies.

Theoretically, this study is grounded in the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT), particularly the effort expectancy construct proposed by Venkatesh et al. The theory explains that individuals are more likely to adopt technology systems when they perceive them as easy to learn, understand, and operate (Permana et al., 2024). In addition, the study incorporates concepts related to perceived ease of use, ease of learning, system simplicity, and accessibility as supporting theoretical foundations. Ease of use is defined as users' belief that a system can be utilized without requiring substantial effort or technical complexity (Chen et al., 2025). Ease of learning refers to users' perceptions regarding how quickly and easily they can understand and master the operation of a system (Shuhaimi et al., 2025). Furthermore, system clarity and simplicity are

considered essential usability components that influence users' interaction experiences and satisfaction levels (Adam & Pernando, 2024).

This study also recognizes that repository utilization is influenced by broader academic and institutional factors. Repository systems are expected to function as effective academic infrastructures supporting learning, research, scientific publication, and information retrieval activities (Rizkyantha et al., 2022). The effectiveness of repositories depends not only on technological quality but also on users' willingness and ability to access and utilize available resources. Consequently, understanding users' perceptions becomes essential for improving repository services and ensuring their sustainable utilization within higher education environments.

The focus of this study is to analyze the perceptions of Library and Information Science students cohort 2022 regarding the accessibility of the repository system managed by the Library and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang using the UTAUT model. Specifically, this study aims to describe students' perceptions concerning repository accessibility, perceived ease of use, and understanding of repository features that support information retrieval activities. Through this research, the study seeks to provide empirical insights regarding the strengths and limitations of repository services from users' perspectives.

The findings of this study are expected to contribute theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the research is expected to enrich discussions regarding technology acceptance and repository accessibility within library and information science studies, particularly in the context of higher education institutions. Practically, the findings can serve as evaluation material for the Library and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang in improving repository service quality, enhancing usability aspects, and developing user-oriented digital information systems. Furthermore, the study may provide references for future researchers interested in investigating repository utilization, digital library systems, and technology acceptance models in academic environments.

METHODS

This study employed a quantitative approach with a descriptive method to examine students' perceptions regarding the accessibility of the Library and Publishing repository at

Universitas Negeri Padang (UNP) using the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) model. The research was conducted among active students of the Library and Information Science Study Program, cohort 2022, during the 2024/2025 academic year. A survey method was applied to collect data directly through questionnaire distribution. The research design was developed based on the UTAUT framework proposed by Venkatesh et al. (2003). Four main indicators were employed in this study, namely performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, and facilitating conditions. These indicators were used to measure students' perceptions of repository accessibility. Performance expectancy referred to the benefits of the repository in supporting academic activities, effort expectancy referred to the ease of using the repository system, social influence referred to encouragement from the academic environment, while facilitating conditions referred to the availability of supporting facilities and infrastructure for repository access. The population consisted of all active students of the Library and Information Science Study Program, cohort 2022, at Universitas Negeri Padang. The sampling technique used was simple random sampling because it provided equal opportunities for all population members to participate as respondents. The sample size was determined using the Slovin formula, resulting in 48 respondents. This technique was chosen to ensure that the sample adequately represented the population and strengthened the external validity of the study.

The research instrument was a structured questionnaire developed based on the UTAUT indicators. The questionnaire consisted of 20 items measured using a four-point Likert scale ranging from strongly agree to disagree. Primary data were obtained through questionnaire distribution, while secondary data were collected from documents, books, journals, and other supporting references. Prior to data collection, the instrument was tested for validity using Product Moment correlation and reliability using Cronbach's Alpha. The results indicated that all questionnaire items were valid because the calculated correlation values exceeded the r-table value of 0.202 and reliable because Cronbach's Alpha values were greater than 0.70. Data collection was carried out through questionnaire distribution to the respondents. The collected data were subsequently checked, tabulated, and analyzed using descriptive quantitative analysis. The analysis involved frequency distribution, percentages, mean, median, mode, variance, and standard deviation to describe students' perceptions regarding repository accessibility at UNP. The final stage involved drawing conclusions based on the analyzed data to address the objectives of the study.

RESULTS

1. Validity Test

Table 1. Validity Test Result

Item	Pearson Correlation	R table	Description
1	0,331	0,202	Valid
2	0,593	0,202	Valid
3	0,553	0,202	Valid
4	0,489	0,202	Valid
5	0,574	0,202	Valid
6	0,557	0,202	Valid
7	0,448	0,202	Valid
8	0,545	0,202	Valid
9	0,513	0,202	Valid
10	0,549	0,202	Valid
11	0,522	0,202	Valid
12	0,504	0,202	Valid
13	0,469	0,202	Valid
14	0,324	0,202	Valid
15	0,501	0,202	Valid
16	0,503	0,202	Valid
17	0,301	0,202	Valid
18	0,514	0,202	Valid
19	0,296	0,202	Valid
20	0,389	0,202	Valid

source: Compiled by the researcher (2026)

Table 1. Validity Test Result shows that all statement items have an *r-count* value greater than the *r-table* value of 0.202. Therefore, all 20 items are declared valid and suitable for use as research instruments.

2. Reliability Test

Table 2. Reliability Test Result

Item	Cronbach's Alpha	Description
1	0,813	Reliable
2	0,803	Reliable
3	0,803	Reliable
4	0,807	Reliable
5	0,802	Reliable
6	0,803	Reliable
7	0,809	Reliable
8	0,803	Reliable
9	0,806	Reliable
10	0,803	Reliable
11	0,805	Reliable
12	0,807	Reliable
13	0,808	Reliable
14	0,815	Reliable
15	0,806	Reliable
16	0,806	Reliable
17	0,818	Reliable
18	0,805	Reliable
19	0,819	Reliable
20	0,812	Reliable

source: Compiled by the researcher (2026)

Table 2. Reliability Test Result shows that all statement items have Cronbach's Alpha values above 0.70, ranging from 0.802 to 0.819. Therefore, all questionnaire items are declared reliable, indicating that the research instrument has good consistency and can be used for data collection.

3. Recapitulation Results of Respondents' Answers

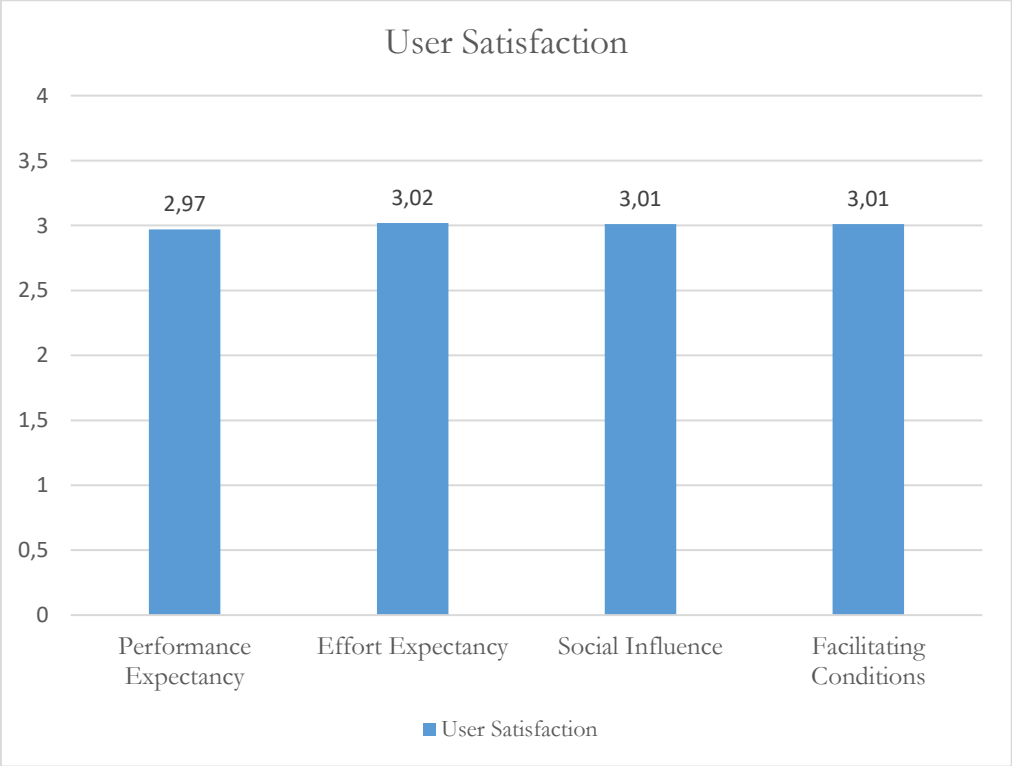


Figure 1. Summary of Respondents' Responses

Figure 1. Summary of Respondents' Responses shows that the average score for Performance Expectancy is 2.97, Effort Expectancy is 3.02, Social Influence is 3.01, and Facilitating Conditions is 3.01. These results indicate that respondents have relatively similar and moderately positive perceptions across all indicators of user satisfaction.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate that students of the Library and Information Science Program, Class of 2022, at Universitas Negeri Padang generally demonstrated positive perceptions regarding the accessibility of the university repository. Using the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) framework, this study examined four principal dimensions, namely performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, and facilitating conditions. All dimensions were categorized as good, suggesting that the repository system has been successfully recognized as a valuable academic information platform capable of supporting students' learning and research activities. The analysis of performance expectancy revealed that students perceived the

repository as beneficial for improving academic effectiveness. The cumulative mean score of 2.97 with a percentage of 74.25% demonstrates that the repository contributes positively to students' ability to obtain academic information efficiently. This finding indicates that students perceive the repository not merely as a digital storage platform, but as an academic information resource that directly supports scholarly productivity. In higher education contexts, rapid access to scientific references is essential for assignments, research projects, and thesis preparation. Therefore, the positive perception identified in this study reflects the repository's relevance in meeting students' academic information needs.

The highest-rated statement within this dimension concerned the repository's ability to help students obtain academic information more quickly. This result implies that the repository has improved the efficiency of information retrieval compared to conventional library services that require physical access to collections. The availability of online access enables students to retrieve scholarly materials regardless of time and location constraints. These findings are consistent with the UTAUT theory proposed by Venkatesh et al. (2003), which emphasizes that perceived usefulness is one of the strongest determinants of technology acceptance and usage behavior. The greater the perceived benefits of a system, the stronger the likelihood that users will adopt and continuously utilize the technology. Nevertheless, several statements within this dimension received relatively lower scores, particularly regarding the repository's effectiveness in improving task productivity and facilitating access to previous students' scientific works. This finding suggests that some students have not yet fully experienced the repository's benefits. Such limitations may stem from incomplete digital collections, insufficient indexing quality, or search results that are not fully aligned with users' information needs. Consequently, this study extends the findings of Putra (2022) and Pratiwi (2024), who argued that the effectiveness of digital information systems depends not only on accessibility but also on the relevance and quality of information provided. In this context, the repository has successfully demonstrated its academic value, although further system optimization remains necessary.

The effort expectancy dimension obtained a mean score of 3.02 with a percentage of 75.5%, indicating that students perceived the repository as relatively easy to use. Ease of use is a crucial factor in determining the success of information systems because overly complex systems tend to discourage user engagement. The findings demonstrate that students were generally able to understand the repository interface and use its search

features without major difficulties. This indicates that the repository has fulfilled essential usability principles in digital library services. The highest-rated statement within this dimension referred to the comprehensibility of the repository interface, which achieved a mean score of 3.33 and was categorized as very high. This result suggests that the system interface is perceived as clear, simple, and user-friendly. In information system studies, intuitive interfaces significantly shape user experience because they determine how effectively users interact with technology. The findings therefore indicate that the UNP repository has implemented a relatively user-centered design capable of enhancing students' comfort in searching academic information.

However, the lowest score within this dimension was associated with the ease of finding specific information through the repository. This suggests that although students considered the interface understandable, they still encountered challenges in retrieving relevant documents efficiently. Such limitations may result from inadequate search algorithms, limited metadata organization, or ineffective keyword indexing. This finding highlights that usability extends beyond visual appearance and also includes the effectiveness of information retrieval mechanisms. The results support the perceived ease of use theory proposed by Fred Davis (1989), which states that users are more likely to adopt technologies that require minimal effort to learn and operate. This study also reinforces the findings of Sari (2023) and Utami (2025), who concluded that ease of use significantly influences institutional repository acceptance among students. However, this research contributes additional insight by demonstrating that interface simplicity alone is insufficient to ensure optimal information retrieval experiences. Consequently, repository development should focus not only on interface aesthetics but also on improving search precision and retrieval relevance.

The social influence dimension obtained a mean score of 3.01, indicating that academic environments significantly encourage repository usage among students. Social influence plays an essential role in technology adoption because individuals are likely to follow behaviors endorsed or practiced within their social communities. In this study, students reported receiving encouragement from lecturers, peers, and academic culture to utilize the repository as a source of scholarly references. The highest-rated statement within this dimension indicated that repository usage has become common practice among university students, with a mean score of 3.27. This finding suggests that repository utilization has evolved into an institutionalized academic habit among students of the

Library and Information Science Program. The repository is no longer perceived as an optional resource but rather as an integral component of academic activities such as assignment preparation and research development.

These findings support the UTAUT framework developed by Venkatesh et al. (2003), which emphasizes that social influence significantly affects users' intentions to adopt technology. Similarly, Rahman (2024) and Utami (2025) found that recommendations from academic communities positively shape students' acceptance of institutional repositories. In this study, social influence contributed substantially to forming positive perceptions regarding repository utilization. Despite these positive findings, several students reported that recommendations from lecturers or university authorities did not strongly influence their repository usage behavior. This indicates that repository socialization and academic promotion remain insufficient for certain student groups. Therefore, universities and libraries should implement more systematic and sustainable promotional strategies. Academic libraries are not merely information providers; they also function as educational institutions responsible for improving students' digital information literacy. Thus, this study emphasizes that repository success depends not only on technical infrastructure but also on institutional communication and academic culture.

The facilitating conditions dimension achieved a mean score of 3.01, indicating that students generally perceived the supporting infrastructure as adequate. Internet connectivity, access devices, and continuous online availability were identified as important supporting factors for repository utilization. In digital library environments, technological infrastructure represents a fundamental requirement for successful information system implementation. The highest-rated statement within this dimension concerned the adequacy of internet connectivity for accessing the repository. This demonstrates that students perceived the available technological infrastructure as sufficiently supportive of digital library services. Students also agreed that the repository could be accessed whenever needed, highlighting the flexibility and accessibility advantages of digital repositories compared to conventional library systems. Nevertheless, some aspects still require improvement, particularly regarding user guidance and technical assistance when students encounter difficulties. These findings indicate that user support services have not yet been fully optimized. From a digital library perspective, effective support systems are essential to ensure that all users can utilize information systems efficiently. The findings therefore support the facilitating conditions construct within the UTAUT framework, which

emphasizes the importance of technical infrastructure and organizational support in technology adoption.

Theoretically, this study contributes to the broader discourse on technology acceptance in higher education repositories within Indonesian academic contexts. The findings demonstrate that all dimensions within the UTAUT framework collectively shape students' perceptions regarding repository accessibility and usage. Practically, the results provide important recommendations for the Library and Publishing Unit of UNP, particularly regarding improvements in search features, technical support services, and repository promotion programs. Methodologically, this study confirms the relevance of the UTAUT model as an analytical framework for evaluating digital library and repository systems in higher education institutions. Despite the positive findings, this study has several limitations. First, the respondents were limited to students of the Library and Information Science Program, Class of 2022, which restricts the generalizability of the findings to the broader university population. Second, the quantitative descriptive approach was unable to capture deeper user experiences and behavioral motivations. Third, the study focused exclusively on the four primary UTAUT dimensions without incorporating additional variables such as digital literacy, system quality, or overall user satisfaction. Therefore, future studies are encouraged to employ mixed-method approaches and involve broader populations to provide more comprehensive insights into institutional repository usage in higher education contexts.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study concerning students' perceptions of the accessibility of the Repository of the Library and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang using the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) model, it can be concluded that the repository has been positively perceived and categorized as good by students of the Library and Information Science Study Program, Class of 2022. The study revealed that all four UTAUT indicators, namely performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social influence, and facilitating conditions, achieved average scores within the good category. These findings indicate that the repository is considered effective in supporting students' academic information needs, relatively easy to use, socially supported within the academic environment, and adequately facilitated by supporting infrastructure

and services. This study successfully addressed its primary objective of describing students' perceptions regarding the accessibility of the UNP repository through the UTAUT framework. The findings demonstrate that the repository plays an important role in supporting academic activities, particularly in accessing scientific references, previous research works, and learning resources required for coursework and research activities. Furthermore, the repository reflects the growing importance of digital information technology in strengthening academic library services within higher education institutions.

Theoretically, this research contributes to the development of studies related to technology acceptance in the field of library and information science through the application of the UTAUT model in institutional repository services. Practically, the results may serve as an evaluation reference for the Library and Publishing Center of Universitas Negeri Padang in improving repository service quality, especially regarding search features, user guidance, and technical support services. The study also highlights that ease of access and academic environmental support are essential factors influencing students' willingness to utilize digital repositories. The implications of this research suggest that optimizing institutional repository services can improve the effectiveness of academic information access and strengthen students' scientific literacy culture. Therefore, the university library is encouraged to continuously enhance repository systems to become more user-friendly, responsive, and aligned with users' academic needs. In addition, more intensive socialization programs and user training are necessary to maximize repository utilization among students. Future researchers are recommended to expand the scope of respondents, employ different research approaches, or examine additional variables related to the acceptance and use of digital repository systems in higher education institutions.

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