

Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture ¹⁾

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Abstract

This research has done to find out how archivist in the future acts as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture. The objective of research is to explain the role of the archivist as an agent of historical preservation of the national cultural heritage in managing inventory, documentation, revitalization, and digitalization. The method used in this research was library research. Data sources of research are consist of primary and secondary data sources, one of the primary data sources is original data sources, while secondary data is available previous research that related with this research. Secondary data used to confirm or to compare with previous theories. The collection of data by literacy was collecting materials in libraries that related with the object of research. The data collected from many literatures are processed by three steps; editing, organizing, and finding of results of research. Data analysis was done to analyze the contents (content analysis) from various literatures that are relevant to the discussion of the research objects. The archivist has an important role in preserving history and national heritage of culture. Archivist must protect the archives and its preservation for benefits of the nation. Hence archivist must allows government regulation No.28/Year 2012/Article 151/Paragraph 2 on the functions and duties of an archivist is to ensure the safety and sustainability of the archives as an evidence of accountability in the social life of the country. Archivist preserves the archive as the national historical and culture heritage by doing documentation, inventory, revitalization, and digitalization. The major principles in archive are origin principle and regulation. Archivists has an important role to preserve historical and cultural heritage of nation that the archives can give clarity on cultural identity of nation.

Keywords: archivist, archive, preservation, history, heritage of culture, nations

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Introduction

Indonesia is one of the countries which has diversity on custom, tribe and culture. Cultural variety in Indonesia is one of the assets of country. Culture has been a basic of behaviour in the social life in Indonesia. Culture has become an identity and people characteristics in Indonesia. Various activities of culture has various meaning for Indonesian people in manner of eating, and drinking etiquette, traditional dress. Traditional art has become unique identity and characteristic for each region in Indonesia. As a rich culture country, Indonesia legate many cultural heritages that should preserve to next generation. So that, they can know the history , the struggle, and the culture of Indonesia. The national culture has saved over the role of historians, heroes, archaeologists, archivists and certainly the people. Archivists have an important role in preserve the culture of the nation, various records / archives which have historical and local wisdom values that would become evidences of struggle in maintaining Indonesia. Archive has been a historical evidence for all occurrences that happened in the past. Archive is also “a spokesman” in cultural variety which became the national identity. Obviously, the nation does not want lost the archive obsolete by age. As of lost the history of some moments and events that should be shared to the next generation. In the other hand, the nation does not want the cultures will be recognized by another nation due to lost of the historical evidence. Sustainability and preserve the archive is done by archivist. Archivist plays an important role as an agent in preserving the history and national heritage. As definition of archivist according to Ellis in her book “*Keeping Archives*”

Archivist is a person, professionally educated, trained, and experienced, responsible for the management or administration of archives and/or records by appraising and identifying records of continuing value, by documenting and preserving archives in their context by enabling and facilitating their continuing use (Ellis, 1993: 464).

Archivists have substantial contributions in maintaining national archives that are history and the national cultural heritage. They also contribute in preserving of the national cultural heritage. According to the role of archivist in maintaining archives of the nation and to share the history to next generation, authors interested in research on “***Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture***”.

Focus of Research

The focus of research is formulating about “How the role of Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture?”

Research Question

The research questions are described as follows:

1. How the role of Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture associated with inventory of the archive?
2. How the role of Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture associated with documentation of the archive?
3. How the role of Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture associated with revitalization of the archive?
4. How the role of Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture associated with digitalization of the archive?

Objective of Research

In general, the objective of research is to know the role of archivist in the future as an agent as the preservation of history and national cultural heritage. Whereas, the special objective of this research is to describe the role of archivist as an agent as the preservation of history and national cultural heritage in managing inventory, documentation, revitalization and digitalization.

Study Literature

Definition of Archive

Archive is a recording an activity or event in various forms and media in accordance with the development of information technology and communication that made and accepted by state institutions, local government, educational institutions, company, a political organization, the social organizations, and individuals in implementing of social life national, and state existence (the legislation No.43/Year 2009/Article 1/Paragraph 2). The archive as activity record of events has been historical evidence of nation and hereditary national identity.

Preservation

Preservation and maintenance of local culture in Indonesia, in example Sundanese culture, are activities that need pay attention from various parties including government, society, community, and others. Preservation of Sundanese culture is an activity that must always be done by all parties so that the Sundanese culture is not eroded by a foreign culture, or extinct because nobody preserve it. This preservation carried out in order to extend utilization of information or to maintain existence of information concerning the authenticity of Sundanese culture so that can be exist, be known and be possessed by next generations.

Actually, preservation is an effort to extend utilization of information or to maintain existence of information in order to remain accessible as long as required by a generation and next generations.

Culture

Culture comes from the word "buddhayah" which is plural form of buddhi which means "Budhi" or "eternal". Culture means any attempt or act of human in life which is result of learning (Koentjaraningrat, 1990: 179-182).

Cultures are generally divided into three, namely: local, national, global culture. Yet, UNESCO classified them into two groups, traditional and digital culture. Traditional cultures are then subdivided into cultural heritage and non-heritage. Cultural heritage is very valuable cultural heritage and protected from extinction. Moreover, cultural heritage has divided into tangible and intangible heritage. For instance, tangible heritage are dagger, batik, sculpture, musical instrument (gamelan, angklung, kulintang, and others), the monument of kingdoms, temple, castle Vredeburg fortress in Yogyakarta and Vastenburg fortress in Solo, palace of Kasepuhan in Cirebon, Keraton Yogyakarta, Keraton Surakarta, and so on. Whereas, intangible heritage such as: local wisdom, traditional songs, the mother tongue, traditional stories (folklore), idioms and local proverbs.

The cultural heritage can also be considered as a traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression of Indonesian people, both in technology based on tradition and expression of culture such as music, dance, painting or other art, architecture, weaving, batik, stories, and legends (Prahatmaja, 2011).

Seven culture elements are (1) language, (2) technology system, (3) economic system, (4) social organization, (5) knowledge system, (6) arts, and (7) religious system. (Koentjaraningrat, 1990)

Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Preservation of cultural heritage is to preserve and maintain the value of who we are, it contains an important meaning of national diversity culture in the world. There are many ways how the cultural identity is formed and maintained. Moreover, there are many processes in accordance with the intangible heritage starts from tradition and its usage, poetry, song, dance, ritual. This cultural heritage mostly legated from one generation to generation orally, by word of mouth. The cultural heritage contains elements of human memory, language, belief and legated from one generation to generatiom and a culture has an important role for character building of people, nation and state (Ekwelem et al, 2011).

Preservation of local culture is to mantain values of art and culture, traditional values by developing dynamic manifestation, flexible, selective and adjusting to the situation and conditions which always change and evolve (Ranjabar, 2006 :114).

One of the culture preservation is to revitalize the culture (reinforcement). Cultural revitalization, Prof. A.Chaedar Alwasilah said, there are three steps, namely: (1) understanding to raise awareness, (2) collective planning, and (3) generation creativity of culture. Preservation is an activity that is based upon, inside and outside factors of preserved thing. Hence, a preservation activity uses techniques or strategy based on each needs and conditions (Alwasilah 2006, 18).

Sustainability may not stand alone, but always paired with the development or viability.. Sustainability is an aspect of human life stabilization, whereas the viability is dynamics reflection(Soekanto, 2004: 434). Obviously, culture preservation need to culture existance, eventhough it getting eroded or forgotten. Effective preservation can be held when objects preserved still exist and be used. When the culture is not used, will be extinct. When the tools is not used by people, those will be extinct (Prof. Dr. I Gede Pitana, Bali Post, 2003).

In Regard to the culture processes and strategies, it is necessary to refer to culture definition proposed by Prof. Dr. CA van Peursen (1988 :233), follow: actually, culture is not a noun, but a verb, or in other words, it is the our own creation, and responsibility. Thus the culture described functionally, that is relation to the planning of our lifes. Then, culture looks like a big learning which are run by human. Culture does not happen outside of human lifes, so human must find a cultural strategy themselves, including in preserving the culture. Since preserving the culture will lead to culture behaviour itself, if it is done continuously and within a certain period (Peursen in Fendy, 2015).

Al Mudra (2008) also said, generally, preservation of culture can be defined as any behaviors or activities that aim to maintain the condition and existence of legacy from past generations through inventory process, documentation and revitalization. These are helpful:

1. To know, understand, and appreciate accomplishments or achievements of ancestors
2. As a source of inspiration to build a better future
3. Becoming an asset that can be utilized to improve the welfare of people

(Al Mudra, 2008).

Archivist

Archivist is a person, professionally educated, trained, and experienced, responsible for the management or administration of archives and/or records by appraising and identifying records of continuing value, by documenting and preserving archives in their context by enabling and facilitating their continuing use (Ellis, 1993: 464).

Archivist as a professional officers to manage the archives has a substantial contribution in documenting and preserving the archives as a national cultural heritage .

Conceptual Framework

Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture

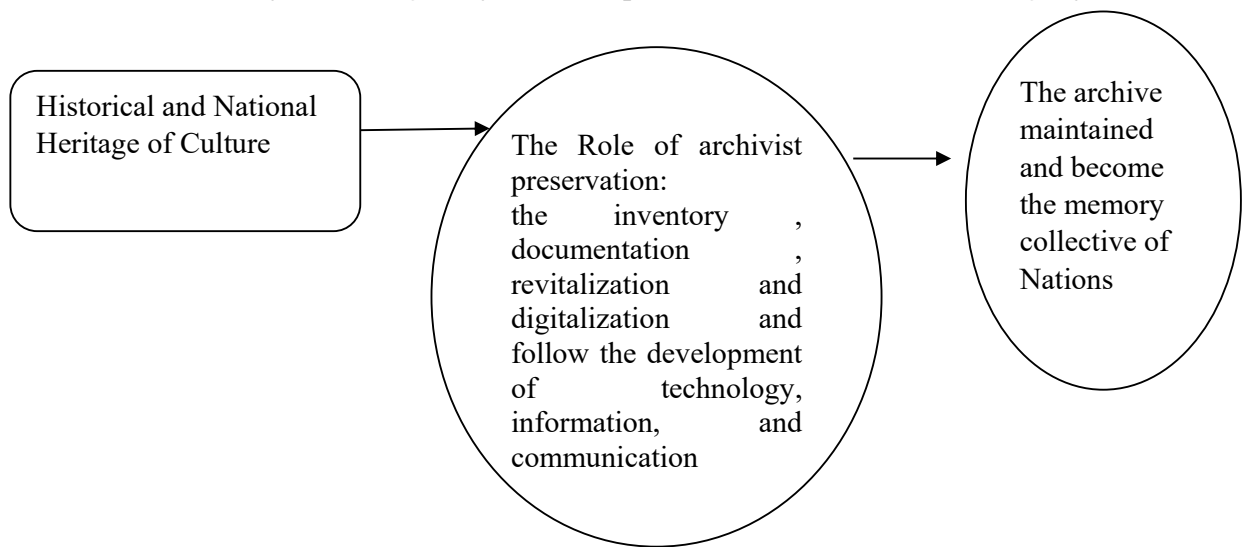


Chart 1 Conceptual Framework be based on Al Mudra, 2008 and Ellis, 1993 and modification of writer

Research Methods

The method used in this research was library research. Data sources of research are based on primary and secondary data sources, one of the primary data sources is original data sources, while secondary data is available previous reserach that related with this research. Secondary data used to confirm or to compare with previous theories. The collection of data by literacy is collecting materials in libraries that are aligned with the object of research. The data collected from many literatures are processed with three steps; editing, organizing, and finding of results of the research. Data analysis that used is to analyze the contents (content analysis) from various literatures that are relevant to the discussion of the research objects

Result and Discussion

The role of Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture associated with inventory and documentation of the archive

Archivist as an agent to preserve history and cultural heritage doing archives inventory. Archivist notice that inventory and documentation are important in preserving. Archives inventory and documentation are regarded of culture and history nations preservation, so next generation can see the legacy and learn them. Archivist from ANRI (Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia), or other archive institutions noticed that archive inventory and documentation are important in preserving the history and cultural heritage. For instnace, ANRI's project as follow:



Figure 1 ANRI's Project "Sejarah Nusantara" (<https://www.sejarah-nusantara.anri.go.id/>)

Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia (ANRI) preserves 2.5 kilometres of archives dating from the early modern period 1600-1800. Researchers can explore a selection of the main series online. Browse over 100,000 entries and discover thousands of references to persons and places, facts and events, and find what you need for your research.

The paper archives created by the Dutch East India Company (VOC, 1602-1799) and dealing with its commercial operations in Asian waters are preserved in the national archives of Indonesia, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, South Africa and India. In particular, the archives in Jakarta contain thousands of documents originating from Asian persons, including many local rulers from around the Indonesian archipelago. The most voluminous collections spanning 2,000 metres are in the Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia (ANRI). On 9 March 2004, the archives of the VOC were included in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

The 2.000 metres of archives in ANRI can be roughly divided into two sections:

1) *The archives created in and formerly kept at Batavia Castle, the former headquarters of the VOC in Asia. This is the archive of the Supreme Government (the Governor-General and the ordinary Councillors of Dutch Asia).*

2) *The archives of local private and public institutions in Batavia.*

For this digitalization and public access project, a selection had to be made. The Daily Journals of Batavia Castle which can be found in the archives of the Supreme Government were digitalized and published first. This series reflects the principle concerns of the Supreme Government. Prominent here were internal Company affairs in matters as diverse as the general management of trade, personnel and financial affairs, shipping and logistics. The Supreme Government also dealt with all political and diplomatic affairs, the administration of justice and correspondence with other VOC factories in Asia as well as the VOC Chambers and their Governing Board, these-called Gentlemen Seventeen (Heren XVII) or Directors of the VOC in the Dutch Republic. The Daily Journals were created to maintain an ongoing overview of such activities.

During the course of the eighteenth century, the Resolution Books of the Supreme Government became more and more important and voluminous while the registration of correspondence in the Daily Journals gradually declined. In particular, the handling of all matters to do with the regional establishments of the Company were included in the General Resolution Books. In 1743, such matters were recorded in a separate yearbook, giving birth to a separate series: the General (Foreign) Affairs Books (Net-Generale Besogneboeken).

Another, hitherto unresearched and historically unique series are the Appendices to the General Resolution Books. These total together some 742 volumes numbering some 550,000 folio pages. This series contain a variety of documents which may gradually become accessible via a special database. The first document descriptions for this database were started in 2013 by ANRI's Content Team (see organisation).

Digital Inventory:

The National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI) in Jakarta and the National Archives of the Netherlands (Nationaal Archief) have jointly identified and catalogued large sections of the 2,200 metres of VOC archives in the ANRI repositories during 2001 – 2007. This resulted in a newly published inventory in 2007. The inventory of Hoge Regering is published digitally on this website.

This inventory of the VOC archives replaced the old 1882 inventory compiled by the first Keeper (Landsarchivaris) of the Government Archives in Batavia – J.A. van der Chijs (in office, 1892-1905) - published under the auspices of Het Bataviaasch Genootschap voor Kunsten en Wetenschappen.

One of the sub archives of the VOC archives is about the Hoge Regering, the High Government at the Castle of Batavia.

The inventory, as the Primary Entry, can be used as a direct link to the archival sources, the scanned archive folios, and the Secondary Entries or history search databases to the selected and scanned archival series. The first such databases are the so-called Marginalia and the Realia databases.

The contents of the 2007 inventory is re-entered step-by-step in the open source archival description tool ICA-AtoM. This tool is supported by the International Council of Archives. The multi-level archival descriptions have been exported from this tool into the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) data exchange format, in order to be published on this website.

As a result of scanning and re-assessment of the archive bundles, some recent changes to the physical archives have occurred. This means that the 2007 Brill inventory is no longer up to date. Some archival descriptions are adjusted in the inventory that is published on this website. This means that from November 2013 onwards this website has the latest inventory. This inventory will be maintained online by the team of ANRI.

The inventory of Hoge Regering is available in three languages:

Inventory Hoge Regering Indonesian

Inventory Hoge Regering English

Inventory Hoge Regering in Dutch

The role of Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture in associated with revitalization of the archive

Archivist in the future had a very important role in associated with revitalization in preserving the history and culture of the nation .Archivist in the future must be able to revives and activities archiving to preserve the national so that the next generation can take a lesson wisdom and understand the history and cultural heritage that are possessed by people and become a collective memor of nation. For example, a program conducted by Bone Bolango District:

Regent Bone Bolango District, which represented by an expert staff of the legal division Bone Bolango district, Drs. Lili Supriadi Kadir commands to Satuan Kerja Perangkat Daerah (SKPD) in Bone Bolango district on 2013 doing revitalization of archive. This is expressed on Jakarta on the event of the socialization of the legislation No.43/Years 2009 about archive and the government regulation No.28/ Years 2012 on the implementation of the legislation No.43/Years 2009 about archive in Maqna hotel , jl sultan botutihe number 88 , Gorontalo , on august 27, 2013 .The socialization which initiated by the directorate of regional archive of National Archive Of The Republic Of Indonesia (ANRI) followed by 60 participants from Bolango district. In his speech, Lili said, the revitalization of archive means the arrangement of archive each SKPD especially managing active archive taht frequently and directly used

thei activities. “Don’t forget to prepare resources good supporting resources in humans resources, infrastructure, and budget,” said Lily. Event that conducted in two sessions invide two presenters: director of regional archive ANRI, Widarno, SH. , who presented on “the role of the archive in governance and development”and director of archive processing ANRI, Drs.Azmi, M.SI. presented on “the archive in perspective the legislation No.43/Years 2009 about archive”. Through this socialization is expected to understanding and getting same perception of constitution and government regulation pertaining to archive.(<http://www.anri.go.id/detail/238-Bupati-Bone-Bolango-Serukan-Revitalisasi-Kearsipan-di-SKPD>)

How important archive institutions show that sustainability valuable information need to preserve to be utilize by people. These informations whereupon become a static archive are track record and documented collective memory will be an heritage of culture (Azmi, 2014).

The major task of the Archivist is to preserve authentic and reliable information source. Some people look that profession of archivist are boring, tired, scared, with low level earning. Other people assume taht archivist are complex and divided into some levels. In other hand, there are people happy and challenged to be an archivist. In the legislation No.43/Years 2009 about archive , it is also mentioned that archivist was a divine being competence in the field of archive offered for its shares through education to be formal and / or education and training on how to archive and she has a function , superior such duties, and responsibilities of experience in the implementation archive.

Profession archivist in Indonesia it can be said unique compared to countries, as Dutch, Canada and Australia. Archivist in Indonesia is a combination of records manager and archivist, but in practice more perform the functions of archivist, while profession records manager is actually not is. The merger of two the professions, records manager and archivist is impressed is quite difficult for them for individuals which bears profession as archivist. Understand this, is very important by archivist because archive is one of a used leaders in decision-making made. Gerald harm (1993) said that “archival selection is an act of writing history”. Find archive is an act of wrote histories . For that awareness of the importance of the need to keep , if we look at what happened in the past , review important archives, the archive is historical evidence will show us the archive negligence and poor state. (Mahmudah and Rahmi, 2016).

The role of Archivist in the future as agent of historical preservation and national heritage of culture associated with digitalization of archive

Archivist take an important role in the digitalization of archiving, and to preserve the historical and cultural heritages. In the process of digitalizing, they are not only have to achieving but also take a role in the management, for example as the coordinator they should be able to lead the team, overcome the problems that have emerged from both internal and external. Before digitalitazion archiving activities happen, an achieve can only be accessed in short period of time because it has expired time. but after digitalizatio. archieving activities happen, it can be accessed even by the next generation and it can be used as an information and treasure (information which is abundant) by people. Archivist in the future must have the ability to follow the development of technology, information and communication in effort to preserving the history and cultural heritage.

Digital Preservation:

Original paper archives from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries have been decaying for a long time and continue to suffer heavily from ink corrosion, acidification, browning and fading. In 2012, after a preparatory year, ANRI and the Corts Foundation built a high-tech scanning street to start digitising ANRI's large collections of oldest handwritings. This conservation part of the project is called DASA: Digital Archive System at ANRI. Digitising is not like regular document scanning. It is a way of conservation as the digital image will in time replace the original paper manuscript.

Archivist in the future as an agent of preserving the history and the national cultural heritage must be able to increase theirselves and exploring their ability in case to improving competence and to compete in positive way with other achivist. In addition, an archivist must be able to look and read the documents that created in each institution and decided which one is worth to achieve and they have always to improving in accordance with competence, technology, information and communication. In addition, archivist in the future must have a managerial capabilities in the field of archive, researching and be able to understand the communication technology and information.

Conclusion

Archivist in the future as an agent on preserving of history and cultural heritage nation has substantial role in inventory, documentation, revitalization, digitalization of archive by having managerial skill in the archive field and understanding technology development, information and communication so that the archive maintained and would be nation collective memory and legate to the next generation to knowing and understanding the nation history and cultural heritage and taking many lessons to build nation better in the future.

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