ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF MALAYSIAN RURAL LIBRARIES

By

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ABSTRACT

Rural libraries have been comparatively understudied compared to other public libraries. Data have shown that rural libraries lack several essential things including budget, service offerings, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities. As such, the objective of this study is to identify the challenges and issues faced by rural libraries in Malaysia. The authors combined the data from six (6) selected rural libraries in Malaysia that are managed by the National Library of Malaysia (NLM). This study also employed a qualitative approach using interviews and observation to collect data, and the data were analyzed using ATLAS.ti version 7. Financial constraints and intellectual capital issues were identified as the major issues; thus, the authors suggest possible solutions to the issues addressed by the respondents while discussing the barriers that must be solved before implementing the solutions.

Keywords: rural libraries, issues, financial, intellectual capital

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