

ABSTRACT

This study explores how reading communities interpret the shifting function of libraries through their experiences within literacy community spaces in independent libraries. Traditionally perceived as rigid and monotonous, libraries are now transforming into more inclusive and collaborative social spaces, as seen in The Room 19 and Nakara Space in Bandung. The objective of this research is to understand the because of motive behind the involvement of reading communities in activities at independent libraries, as well as their in order to motive in integrating these spaces into their literacy-driven lifestyles. This research adopts a qualitative approach using the phenomenological method and constructivist paradigm. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation. The findings reveal that reading communities experiences a shift in perception of viewing libraries not merely as formal reading spaces but as safe spaces that foster self-expression, creativity, and social interaction. This shift in meaning is shaped by their collective experiences and the need for alternative spaces that align with the characteristics of today's youth. Therefore, independent libraries are not only reading spaces but also meaningful environments for building social connections and a relevant literacy culture.

Keywords: *independent library, meaning shift, Nakara Space, reading communities, The Room 19.*