



## EMPOWERMENT OF SCHOLARS: IMPROVING THE COMPETENCE OF WRITING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS OF STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SULTAN SYARIF KASIM RIAU

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### Abstract

This activity aims to improve the ability of students of Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau to publish scientific papers in reputable journals. This activity is the result of collaboration between the service team and the Research, Development, and Community Service Institute. The main problem that is the basis for this service activity is the low Sinta score of Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau. This is caused by the low ability of students to publish scientific papers resulting from their collaboration with lecturers due to limited knowledge about reputable journals and standards for writing scientific articles in reputable journals. To overcome this problem, education was carried out on the use of the Sinta portal to obtain reputable journals that are relevant to the research topic, and education was also carried out on the standards for writing scientific articles in reputable journals. Based on the results of the evaluation carried out, there was an increase in participants' understanding of the use of Sinta as well as an increase in understanding of writing scientific articles in reputable journals. By increasing the two basic skills of publication in reputable journals, it is hoped that it can improve the quality of scientific papers of students at the Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau, so that they can be published in reputable journals and have a positive impact on their Sinta scores.

### Abstrak

Kegiatan ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kemampuan mahasiswa Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau dalam mempublikasikan karya tulis ilmiah pada jurnal bereputasi. Kegiatan ini merupakan hasil kolaborasi antara tim pengabdian dengan Lembaga Pengembangan Riset dan Pengabdian Masyarakat. Masalah utama yang merupakan dasar dilakukannya kegiatan pengabdian ini adalah rendahnya skor Sinta Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau. Ini disebabkan oleh rendahnya kemampuan mahasiswa dalam mempublikasikan karya tulis ilmiah hasil kolaborasinya dengan dosen karena keterbatasan pengetahuan mengenai jurnal bereputasi dan standar penulisan artikel ilmiah pada jurnal bereputasi. Untuk mengatasi permasalahan tersebut maka dilakukan edukasi penggunaan portal Sinta untuk memperoleh jurnal-jurnal bereputasi yang relevan dengan topik penelitian serta dilakukan juga edukasi mengenai standar penulisan artikel ilmiah pada jurnal bereputasi. Berdasarkan hasil evaluasi yang dilakukan, terdapat peningkatan pemahaman peserta mengenai penggunaan Sinta serta peningkatan pemahaman mengenai penulisan artikel ilmiah pada jurnal bereputasi. Dengan meningkatnya kedua kemampuan dasar publikasi pada jurnal bereputasi tersebut diharapkan dapat meningkatkan kualitas karya tulis ilmiah mahasiswa Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau sehingga dapat dipublikasikan pada jurnal bereputasi dan berdampak positif terhadap skor Sinta yang dimiliki.

## INTRODUCTION

Writing is a form of expression and communication that involves the use of words to convey ideas or information from the writer to the reader. Writing activities not only require technical skills such as good grammar and spelling but also involve the ability to compose words creatively, persuasively, or informatively [1]. Writing is an exploratory activity in which the writer discovers and develops thoughts through writing. The writing process is a repetitive activity that involves continuous compilation, revision, and improvement of writing [2].

The writing process and reading comprehension are closely related. The importance of the reading experience as part of the writing process is that writers must consider the potential reader's response to their writing [3]. The writing process includes three main stages, namely exploration, planning, and implementation. Writing is a way to process thoughts and ideas, and writers go through these stages when developing their writing [4]. Writing is the most complex language skill because it involves not only copying words or sentences but also developing ideas expressed in written form [5].

In college, writing is identical to scientific papers. Scientific papers are a form of writing that is systematic, structured, and closely related to scientific research methods. The main purpose of scientific papers is to present the results of scientific research or analysis clearly and accurately by referring to ethical and methodological standards that apply in the scientific world [6]. Some of the main characteristics of scientific papers are objectivity, scientific methodology, clear structure, references to scientific literature, accuracy and certainty, formal writing style, and aims for scientific clarification and contribution [7,8].

Scientific papers play an important role in the dissemination and development of science. The peer review process, namely the assessment of scientific papers by experts in their fields, is also an important step in ensuring the quality and validity of the information presented in scientific papers. Scientific papers are works produced from writing activities by applying scientific principles, prioritizing aspects of rationality, and raising problems that are objective and factual [9, 10]. Scientific papers basically include three complementary sub-competencies, namely the competence of finding library sources, the competence of carrying out research actions, and the competence of writing [11, 12].

Scientific papers contribute greatly to solving government and social problems in society. For this reason, campuses are very much needed. The scientific papers produced must be of high quality; for this reason, Sinta (Science and Technology Index) was formed. This web-based research information system offers fast, easy, and comprehensive access to measure the performance of researchers and institutions in Indonesia. Sinta provides benchmarks and analysis, identification of research and institutional strengths. One of the main challenges faced by the Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University is the low quality and quantity of scientific papers produced. This is reflected in the Sinta score it has.

**Table 1. Sinta score**

No	Institution	Score 3 Yr	Score Overall
1	Universitas Riau	259.324	713.318
2	Universitas Islam Riau	121.124	194.838
3	Universitas Lancang Kuning	54.333	103.959
4	Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau	30.708	78.675

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of Indonesia, 2024

Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau has great potential to improve the quality and quantity of scientific papers produced. This campus has produced scientific papers that are collaborative products between lecturers and students but have not been published in reputable journals. The main problem causing this condition is that students are not familiar with reputable journals. This community service activity focuses on introducing students to reputable journals and educating them on writing scientific articles according to the standards of reputable journals. Scientific publications in reputable journals are a parameter for research that is considered to be of high quality. Scientific publications will contribute to the dissemination and practical application of valuable ideas so that they will provide great benefits to society [13, 14].

## METHOD

The method used in this community service activity is the Participatory Learning Method (PLM). This method emphasizes the learning process where training activities are built on the basis of participant participation in activities so that two-way interactions emerge [5]. This activity was carried out in December 2023 in the Hall of the Rectorate Building of the Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau. This community service activity collaborated with the Research and Community Service Development Institute. The partners played an active role in the implementation process of the activity, while the community service team played the main role as resource persons. Participants in this activity were students of the Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau from various study programs. In general, this activity is an empowerment for students of the Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau so that they have the capability to publish scientific articles in reputable journals. The stages in this activity are: 1) identifying problems; 2) determining solutions; 3) activity planning; and 4) implementation of activities.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The main target of this community service activity is to improve the capability of students of Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau in publishing scientific articles in reputable journals. The main problem solved is the limited access of students to reputable journals and the limited knowledge of writing standards in these journals. These problems are solved through the introduction of Sinta (Science and Technology Index) and improving the competence of writing scientific articles for participants.

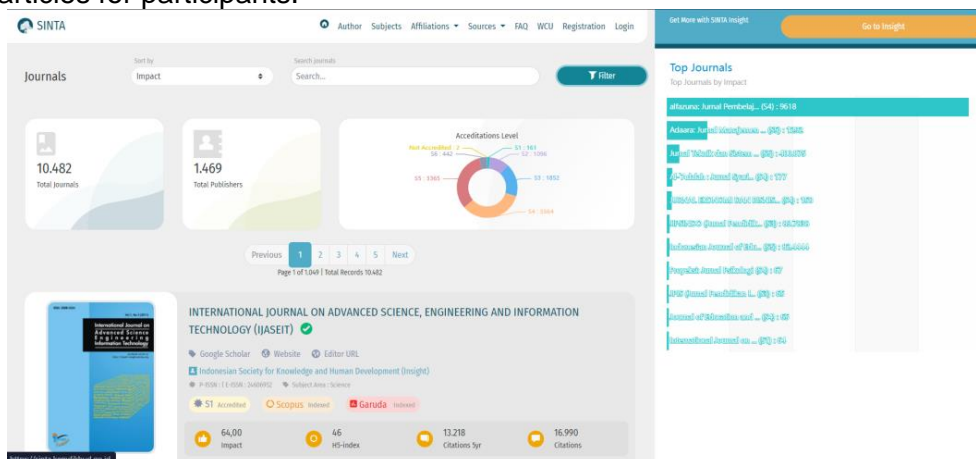


Figure 1. Sinta Platform



Figure 1. Implementation of Activities

This activity was held on December 12, 2023. Participants in this activity were students of the Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau who have the potential to publish scientific papers in reputable journals. This activity began by introducing Sinta to the participants. This was done because not all participants were familiar with this platform. Sinta is a platform managed by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia. Sinta is designed to index and assess scientific journals, articles, and publications from various disciplines in Indonesia. Sinta aims to improve the quality of scientific publications and promote research in Indonesia. Sinta has three main functions, including:

1. Journal ranking: Provides information on the ranking and quality of scientific journals based on various criteria, such as the number of citations and publication impact.
2. Access to information: Facilitates access to Indonesian scientific journals, including article metadata and other related information.
3. Evaluation: assists in the evaluation and ranking of journals for accreditation and academic assessment purposes.

Several main menus or features are available for users to facilitate the search for information about journals, articles, and other related data. Here are some common menus available on the Sinta platform:

1. Home: The main page that provides an overview of the latest features and information in Sinta.
2. Journals: This menu allows users to search and browse journals registered in Sinta. Here you can find information such as rankings, accreditation, and details about the journals.
3. Books: This menu allows users to search and browse books registered in Sinta.
4. IPR: This menu allows users to search and browse IPRs registered in Sinta.
5. Researches: This menu allows users to search and browse researches registered in Sinta.
6. Community service: This menu allows users to search and browse community services registered in Sinta.
7. Scopus documents: This menu allows users to search and browse Scopus documents registered in Sinta.
8. GS documents: This menu allows users to search and browse GS documents registered in Sinta.
9. Articles: Provides access to scientific articles published in journals registered in Sinta. Users can search for articles by keyword, author, or journal.
10. Author: This menu provides information about authors who have publications in journals registered in Sinta. Users can view author profiles and a list of their publications.
11. Subject: This menu provides information about the scientific fields of researchers.
12. Institution: Provides information about institutions or agencies involved in research and scientific publications. Users can search for institutions and view publications related to them.
13. Ranking: Displays the ranking of journals or publications based on various criteria, such as citation impact or quality.
14. Statistics: Provides data and statistics related to scientific publications, journals, and authors registered in Sinta.
15. Accreditation: Displays the accreditation status of registered journals, providing information about the credibility and quality of the journal.
16. Search: A search feature that allows users to search for journals, articles, authors, or institutions based on certain keywords.
17. About us: Provides information about Sinta's background, goals, and how the platform works.
18. WCU analysis: Integration of the Ministry of Education and Culture's SINTA3 System with the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings (WUR) ranking indicators developed by the Directorate of Institutions, Directorate General of Higher Education. This system was created to support the World Class University (WCU) Development Program in Indonesian universities. By referring to this WCU analysis,

Indonesian universities are expected to be able to develop strategies to transform into universities with a reputation that are recognized by the world.

After introducing Sinta to the participants, this activity continued with improving the competence of writing scientific articles. This activity was carried out in the form of education on writing scientific articles to participants. Reputable journal articles have certain structures and components that ensure their quality and credibility. The following are the main components commonly found in reputable journal articles:

1. Title: Short, clear, and accurately reflects the content of the article. The title often includes the main variables or phenomena discussed.
2. Abstract: A brief summary of the article that includes the purpose of the study, methods, main results, and conclusions. The abstract provides an overview of the article and helps readers determine the relevance of the study.
3. Keywords: A list of key terms that describe the main topics of the article. This helps in searching and indexing the article in academic databases.
4. Introduction: Presents the background of the study, purpose, and relevance of the study. The introduction usually includes a brief literature review to indicate the context and need for the study.
5. Methods: describes the research design, data collection techniques, analytical procedures, and methodology used. This section should be detailed enough to allow replication of the study by other researchers.
6. Results: Presents the main findings of the study without interpretation. Usually involves data in the form of tables, graphs, or statistics.
7. Discussion: Interprets the results, discusses implications, compares with previous research, and explains the relevance and contributions of the study. This section also often includes limitations of the study and suggestions for further research.
8. Conclusion: Summarizes the main findings and implications of the study. Sometimes the conclusion includes practical or theoretical recommendations.
9. References or Bibliography: Provides a complete list of all sources referred to in the article. References are formatted according to accepted writing styles (such as APA, MLA, or Chicago).
10. Acknowledgements: When relevant, this section acknowledges the contributions of individuals, institutions, or research grants that supported the work.
11. Authors and Affiliations: Includes the authors' names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses. This provides context about who conducted the research and where they worked.
12. Additional Support: Some articles may include appendices or supplementary materials, such as raw data, measurement tools, or additional methodological information.
13. Conflicts of Interest: State whether there are any potential conflicts of interest that might have influenced the research or interpretation of the results.
14. Follow-up and Revision: The peer review or revision process conducted by experts in the field before the article is published ensures quality and accuracy.

These components are essential to ensuring that reputable journal articles adhere to academic and scientific standards and provide valid and useful contributions to knowledge in their fields. Both activities (Sinta usage education and scientific article writing) were enthusiastically followed by participants. This activity ended with a Q&A and discussion session. Some of the main questions/discussions in this session included: main keywords in searching for relevant journals and creating a theoretical framework in reputable journals.

## CONCLUSION

This activity is based on the phenomenon of the low Sinta score of Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau compared to major universities in Riau Province. The main cause of this condition is the low understanding of students regarding reputable journals, including searching for journals and writing scientific articles according to reputable journal standards. This has caused scientific papers from students in collaboration with lecturers not to be published in journals or only published in non-reputable journals. Alternative solutions offered in this

community service activity include education on the use of Sinta and education on writing scientific articles according to reputable journal standards. Based on the results of the evaluation carried out, this community service activity succeeded in increasing participants' understanding of the use of Sinta, especially searching for relevant journals according to participants' needs. This activity also succeeded in increasing participants' understanding of writing scientific articles according to reputable journal standards. By increasing these two basic publication skills in reputable journals, it is hoped that it will improve the quality of scientific papers of students at Sultan Syarif Kasim State Islamic University, Riau, so that they can be published in reputable journals and have a positive impact on their Sinta scores.

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