



**THE MUSEUM COLLECTION AND LIBRARY UNITS  
SYNERGY  
IN CONSTRUCTING CULTURAL HERITAGE  
INFORMATION:  
CASE STUDY AT MUSEUM NASIONAL AND  
MUSEUM SEJARAH JAKARTA**

**by  
Y. Sumaryanto, MHum  
Dr. Laksmi  
(University of Indonesia)**





# I. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

- Museum
  - centre of study, research and recreation
- information about its collection
  - conditio sine qua non
  - limited
- working procedure:
  - Standard → routines trap
- Both museums
  - fail in achieving it
  - lack of background information of their collection



## ○ Research urgency:

- need → research to describe what really happens in the interactions among agents working in the two museums and
- need → something to inspire synergy potentials to construct information



## II. OBJECTIVE AND BENEFIT OF RESEARCH

### ○ Objective :

- To describe the social interaction and role of agents in the synergy to construct cultural heritage information

### ○ Benefit:

- to provide advice in the form of guidelines and strategies to be used by Museum Nasional and Museum Sejarah Jakarta.
- to produce literary publications in an international reputation journal



### III. LITERATURE REVIEWS

#### ○ Synergy?

- Interaction between two or more agents so as to produce a greater effect than that produced by each
- The interaction involves role, knowledge, expertise, commitment of all agents, as well as structure and regulation. Synergy within an organization is known as cooperation or coordination (Stueart, 2002: 169).

#### ○ Unintegrated

- Synergies in library and museum management or in information construction is not integrated. Each manages i.e. planning, organizing, directing, monitoring, and maintaining physically its own collection (Clayton and Gorman, 2001).



- Acquisition principle
  - accept only collections in the specified theme
  - collection may derive from research result, gift or loan
- Processing stage
  - inventory and cataloging is considered the most important aspects
- Information construction
  - Maintenance and preservation is also considered important



- represent Indonesian intact cultural heritage
- Structuration theory of Anthony Giddens
  - Giddens' structuration theory is about the form of relationship between agents and structure in the form of duality relation in social practices which is repeated and patterned over space and time.
  - e.g. museum exhibition at Museum Nasional and Museum Sejarah Jakarta.



- What is duality?
  - The duality lies in the facts that a "guide like structure " which is the practice principle in various places and times are the result of repetitions of human action.
  - But the “rule like schemata" is also a vehicle (medium) for the ongoing social practices.
  - Giddens called the schemata as structures.
- Structure is not seen as something that curbs but empowers (enables): allow social practices.



- Giddens sees it as a means (medium) and resource.
- According to Giddens there are three major groups of structures.
  1. Sign or significance structures which relate to symbolic schemata, meaning, articulation, and discourse.
  2. Control or dominance structure which includes mastery on man (politics) and goods / things (economy).
  3. legitimacy structure which relates to normative regulations schemata in the rule of law.



- The centrality of space - time, and agents
  - Time and space are usually understood as an arena or action stage (stages) where we go, where we go out.
  - Without time and space, there will be no action.
  - Therefore, time and space should be an integral element in the theory of the social sciences.
  - Globalization can be seen as stretching as well as compression of time and space (time space distanciation) or distance action



- Agents and agencies is one important element in the concept of structuration.
- Reflexive monitoring of the actions of a single fixed element of everyday actions involves not only the individual, but also the behavior of other individuals.
- Rationalization of action is that the actors constantly maintain a theoretical understanding of their activities foundation
- In their actions there are practical as well as discursive consciousness



## IV. RESEARCH METHODS

- Qualitative approach with case study method
  - The research design enables us to understand the synergy practices in information construction done in both units
  - Focus on data identification on cultural heritage
  - And then processing
- Data collection
  - Interviews
  - Observation
  - Document analysis



## ○ Research Location:

- Museum Nasional (Jl Medan Merdeka Barat No 12, Jakarta Pusat)
- Museum sejarah Jakarta (Jl Taman Fatahillah No 2, Jakarta Barat)

## ○ Potentials

- First research on the topic

## ○ Research procedure

- Proposal ; Permission ; Approach to informants ; Observation and interviews ; Analysis ; Report



## V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- V1.1 Profile
- Museum Nasional (MN)
  - It used to be intellectual gathering (*Baataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen*) meant to promote researches on arts and science especially biology, physics, archaeology, literature, ethnology and history
  - Established in 1862
  - to be the centre of cultural and tourism information (vision); Its mission among others are to promote security and comfort, information services, preservation, people appreciation, documentation



- 140.000 museum objects (2006) consisted of ancient statues, inscription, ceramics, textiles, numismatics, historical relics, other valuable objects
- Collections are arranged according to
  - (1) Religion system (2) Social system and organization (3) Knowledge system (4) Language (5) Arts (6) livelihood systems (7) Technology and equipment system
- 5 fields of organization structure



## ○ Museum Sejarah Jakarta

- 17 century classical European architecture building; Kota tua Jakarta tourism spot
- Meant to record and inform the history of Jakarta city
- Established in 1937
- It aims to be excellent tourism spot (vision); Its mission among others are promoting research, preservation, exhibition,; information services on the history of jakarta city, assets use
- The principal is supported by administration and technical sections; the museum hires 10 full time employees and 4 freelances
- 30.476 museum objects (2008)



- V.2.1 Organization of cultural heritage information
  - Position of organization personnels in MN is more clearly stated than that of MSJ
  - MN has a more clear work procedure
  - Acquisition and selection for exhibition (collection unit); museum collection physical data (registration unit); inventory (inventory unit); documentation (documentation unit) collection list of objects exhibited (cataloging unit); information services (library unit; volunteers)



- V.2.2 Information organization flow
- Information: end product to be used by public
- Physical logging → label, catalog and narration draft → information searching, librarians and volunteers help → curator check and recheck → text writing
- Research on collection . MSJ seldom does
- IHV helps a lot



- V.2.3 Information presentation
  - Adjusted to theme chosen
  - Physical form and its content:
    - Label (name of the artefact; materials; place and year found)
    - Brochure (address, location map, opening hours, picture, information concerning collection)
    - Catalog (history, provenance)
    - Books (article on ancient map, benefit, Indonesian existence in the map since 15 century)
    - Research reports
    - clipping



- V.3.1 Synergy between collection unit and museum library unit
  - Synergy practices are dynamic
  - MN and MSJ have the same work climate
  - Competition interaction
  - Significance structure spread to dominance and legitimacy structure
  - Collection unit dominates
  - Library unit is dominated



## ○ V.3.2 Agent and structure

- Awareness (agents) that knowledge or information mastery of museum objects considered important. In MSJ it is significantly seen
- Agents in the library unit do not have that knowledge; what they have are library technical knowledge
- Agents of MSJ are more productive
- Steven: interaction among language experts, volunteers, museum head and her staffs are not harmonious
- Among agents they have strong feeling about the use of terms



- **V3.3 Dialectics between agents and structure in constructing information**
- Knowledge capital and control on museum objects make curators in the collection unit dominate roles in information construction
- As a consequence agents work on their own interest
- Implication on the regulation or structures that unsupport agents from the library units (small budget; unbalanced facilities; bad images, supporting role)



## VI. CONCLUSIONS

- Synergy can not be established fully yet due to
  - Domination structure
  - Library unit →to be the last resource
  - Limited facilities owned by library unit →Poor library service
  - Structural implication on regulation : limited fund for library materials acquisition, images



## ○ Suggestion

- Improve librarian knowledge quality/ master qualification
- Change information organization working procedure

