

## Efforts to Acquire Historical Archives of Betawi Ethnic: A Case Study at National Archives of Indonesia (ANRI)

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### Abstract

The main objective of this research is to identify efforts to acquire historical archives about Betawi ethnic in the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI). The research method used is a type of case study research with a qualitative approach. The techniques used in data collection were obtained from observations, interviews with 3 informants, literature study, and document study. Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that ANRI has acquired historical archives about the Betawi ethnic by withdrawal of archive. This collection of archives is in the form of a picture of the life of the Betawi people in Batavia which is included in the Kit Batavia inventory so that it can be seen by the general public and researchers in the reading room of ANRI's static archive. In addition, ANRI has added historical records about ethnic and culture by using the oral history interview method conducted with cultural figures as an effort to acquire archives at ANRI. In the acquisition of historical archives about the Betawi ethnic, ANRI encountered obstacles in the form of the absence of Betawi cultural figures or individuals who submitted their archives to ANRI. In addition, ANRI has never received an offer to acquire archives of historical value on Betawi Ethnic and Culture, either from cultural institutions or cultural figures themselves.

**Keyword:** *static archives, archive acquisitions, archives of historical value, Betawi ethnic archives, oral history interview.*

### INTRODUCTION

Jakarta is an urban area inhabited by residents of various ethnicities. One of the ethnic groups known as the original inhabitants of Jakarta is the Betawi ethnicity. Even though they are known as indigenous people, Betawi's presence is not dominant in terms of numbers and roles in Jakarta. In terms of numbers, the Betawi ethnicity is the second largest group in Jakarta, with 2.7 million people (28.1%) after the Javanese with 3.4 million people (35.9%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011). This shows that the proportion of Betawi ethnicity is quite large in quantity with distinctive characteristics that deserve further attention.

It is undeniable that the Betawi ethnicity is famous for being a native of the city of Jakarta. The city of Jakarta has long been known as a meeting place for various ethnic groups from various regions in the archipelago and contributed to coloring and influencing the growth of the city, both during the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial times. So it can be said that the city of Jakarta has developed from interactions originating from various types of ethnic cultures throughout the archipelago which contain almost all of the world's high cultures, namely China, India, Europe and Islam (Haris, 2007).

Shahab argues that the Betawi ethnicity is thought to have formed during the 19th century or around 1815-1893. This estimate is based on a study published by Lance Castles, who is an Australian historian, on the demographic history of Jakarta's population. The study stated that during the

Dutch colonial era, population censuses were always carried out by the government and based on ethnic groups or nationalities (Shahab, 1994). In 1615 and 1815, data regarding the Betawi ethnic group was not included in the data records of the Batavian population census. The data regarding the Betawi ethnicity only appeared in 1930 in the population census data as a new category. There were 778,953 ethnic Betawi people recorded in the census and became the majority of the population of Batavia at that time (Castles, 2007).

For events that have occurred in the past, they will leave some important notes, such as archives, artifacts, oral sources, and so on as a series of events that occurred at that time so that they can be easily traced by researchers. The good governance paradigm emphasizes the importance of parallel institutional relations between government organizations and the society/public (Karunia, Budiaji, et al., 2023). The history of the existence of the Betawi ethnicity is also inseparable from the evidence of historical sources, both in the form of photographs and textual. With the emergence of the Betawi ethnicity in Indonesia, it shows that there have been economic, cultural, social and political activities carried out by the Betawi ethnicity itself from the beginning of its emergence until now. This Good governance is needed to support the country's sustainable economic growth and stability (Karunia, Darmawansyah, et al., 2023). Therefore, historical evidence is needed to ascertain the origin of the existence of the Betawi ethnicity in Indonesia. If you do not leave the archive, the researcher will find it difficult to trace the sequence of events that occurred at that time.

The National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI) manages static archives that have historical value that has been given by the archive creator, namely the Ministry/Institution/BUMN/Community Organization/Public Organization. In its management, static archives that are in the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia must go through a series of stages so that public access can be made, including Archive Acquisition, Archive Processing, Archive Preservation, and Archive Utilization Access Services.

Static archives have secondary value that is useful for research for the development of science and civilization in the future, besides that static archives are also a source of information and the nation's collective memory that stores historical records of the past. Furthermore, users are financially constrained ("The Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of E-Learning for Competence Development of State Civil Apparatus," 2023). With the presence of static archives for the Indonesian people, it becomes an absolute thing because static archives here store a repertoire of historical sheets of the dynamics of the nation's journey which is quite long. Static archives are one of the sources of information that have historical value so they need to be stored permanently in archival institutions through the archive acquisition process. This is necessary because the information that has been used only for the benefit of the archival institution after the acquisition is made, the information can already be known by the public at the archival institution (Widodo, 2014). The archive acquisition itself is the process of adding static archives to archival institutions through grants, transfers, loans, or purchases based on the acquisition policy made (Scwirtlich, 1993). As an archival institution that provides access to archived information of historical value, it is undeniable that this ANRI archival institution has a large collection of the history of the nation's civilization or the archipelago as a source of information and collective memory of the Indonesian nation. The historical collection itself is a collection that contains events which cover all aspects of human life in the past, one of which is the history of ethnic travel in the archipelago in the past. As we know, the existence of the Betawi ethnic community itself plays an

important role in the course of history in Batavia or Jakarta. It is important to select Indonesia as the focus of the study on the reform of apparatus competence development since it will be a fine lesson for other countries struggling with the similar issue ("The Reform of Apparatus Competence Development in Indonesia," 2023). Moreover, the location of the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia is in the capital city of Jakarta, which should raise awareness of the importance of historically valuable collections about the Betawi ethnic journey, both in textual and non-textual forms to make it easier for users who want to find information related to Betawi ethnicity. Digitizing archives can provide easier user access. Digitalization, computing power data analytics has created many breakthroughs in many sectors (Dinya Solihati & Adriwati, 2021). The use of this technology is not yet optimal (2169 Suryanto et al., 2023). Information needs of archive users, efforts are needed to acquire historically valuable archives, one of which is archives about the history of the Betawi ethnic community. Based on the results of initial observations, the researcher found several collections of photo archives about the life of the Betawi people in the past in the Kit Batavia archive inventory. Public services performance strongly influences the quality of people's lives (Karunia et al., n.d., p. 46). In adding to the treasures of historically valuable archives, especially about ethnicity and culture at ANRI, there has been no other archive acquisition effort other than using the oral history interview method with cultural figures in adding to the collection of archival treasures. Alumni also emphasize that their participation in the training has equipped them to better uphold the reputation and integrity of civil servants (Rahayu et al., n.d.). Meanwhile, to obtain archives about the Betawi ethnicity that are currently stored, it is obtained through the withdrawal of archives carried out by ANRI. Research has consistently shown that higher levels of service quality lead to greater user satisfaction (Neneng Sri Rahayu et al., 2022, p. 1342).

## RESEARCH METHODS

### a) Types and Approaches of Research

The research approach used by the researcher is a qualitative research approach. Where this research approach intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by research subjects holistically and the results of this qualitative approach are descriptive data in the form of some data orally or in writing originating from people and actors who are observed (Moleong, 2007).

This type of research includes the type of case study research. The case study will explore the case in detail with a particular setting or context. The researcher will describe the issue based on the selected case while taking into account the context of the case. Case study research will collect data over a certain period of time while still emphasizing deepening information from certain cases (Creswell, 2007). So this research will focus on identifying efforts to acquire historically valuable archives about the Betawi ethnicity in the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI).

### b) Selection of Informants

In a qualitative research, informants become one of the keys in collecting relevant and accountable information and data. Informants are people who are used in providing information about a condition and state of the research setting (Moleong, 2007). This time, the informants were determined by the author using the Purposive Sampling technique

which became a technique for determining the informants by deliberately choosing the appropriate informants based on the criteria because the researcher had certain criteria considered (Herman, et al, 2007).

Thus, for this research, the writer determines the informants according to the writer's criteria, namely:

1. The person who has responsibility for the acquisition of historically valuable archives at the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI);
2. People who have knowledge of archive acquisition.

c) Data Collection Techniques

The evidence used by researchers in data collection came from various sources, including documents in the form of archives, memorandums, or any documents related to the investigation, interview sources focused on situations where participants were interviewed within a certain period of time, direct observations in the field, and artifacts. as other physical evidence collected during data collection in the field.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI) is an archival institution in the form of a non-ministerial government institution that carries out state duties in the field of archives based in Jakarta. So far, ANRI has been running in accordance with the goals and functions of the founding of ANRI itself. One of them is to provide guidance to government agencies or organizations in Indonesia in the field of archiving to save historically valuable archives in each region. It adheres to Article 1 number 12 of Law no. 43 of 2009 concerning Archives which states that archival institutions are institutions that have duties and responsibilities in the field of static archive management and archiving development.

In carrying out the acquisition of static archives, ANRI has made an Archive Search List (DPA) for static archives that have not been submitted by the archive creator as stated in Article 94 of the Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 28 of 2012 concerning the Implementation of Law no. 43 of 2009 concerning Archives. The Archive Search List (DPA) was announced by ANRI to the public through ANRI's social media. ANRI has acquired archives obtained from government agencies both from state institutions, Political Organizations, Community Organizations, and Individual Organizations in Indonesia by withdrawing archives and direct monitoring activities to places that are expected to submit historically valuable archives to the public. ANRI. Monitoring activities are carried out by tracing archives within the archive creator and archive owner. In searching this static archive, ANRI has referred to the Regulation of the Head of the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia No. 29 of 2011. This acquisition was carried out to increase the collection of historically valuable static archives at ANRI. In this case, ANRI has implemented the procedures for the acquisition of static archives in accordance with the Regulation of the Head of the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia No. 31 of 2011 where in a series of implementations starting from the monitoring, assessment and verification stages, and the handover of static archives in order to obtain historically valuable archives. Thus, ANRI as the recipient of archive donors has played an active role in adding to its

archives, as stated by Widodo (2014), that in acquiring archives, the archival institution as the recipient of archive donors must play an active role in adding to its archive collection.

In acquiring archives about the Betawi ethnicity, ANRI has never made the Archive Search List (DPA) for the Betawi Cultural Institute, but ANRI has obtained a collection of photo archives in the form of images of the Betawi ethnic community in Batavia by way of withdrawal. In accordance with the theory put forward by Widodo (2014), that one of the methods or ways of acquiring archives itself is through the withdrawal of archives from archive creator institutions. In this case, ANRI has attempted to acquire historically valuable archives about the Betawi ethnicity. The archives that are stored are then entered into the Kit Batavia inventory which can then be viewed by the general public and researchers in the ANRI static archive reading room. User satisfaction increases when the quality of information meets the user's needs and needs, when the information provided by the system is reliable, and when the information provided is always up-to-date (Adi Suryanto et al., 2023).

Widodo (2014) mentions that there are several aspects of the reason why archive acquisition activities are needed by archival institutions in order to obtain static archives, one of which is social reasons, in this case ANRI as an archival institution has given social responsibility in providing information that the general public wants to know. One of them is a researcher or historian. In addition, there are also practical reasons in which the acquisition of historically valuable archives by ANRI has added to its archives and is permanently stored and treated as a national heritage asset.

Meanwhile, there are obstacles encountered in acquiring archives, especially regarding the Betawi ethnicity, namely not many people or Betawi cultural figures who have submitted their archives to ANRI. In addition, ANRI has never received an offer to acquire historically valuable archives about ethnicity and culture from either cultural institutions or cultural figures themselves. If you get the acquisition offer, ANRI needs to verify the file and see if the file is already in ANRI's treasury or not.

Therefore, to overcome the obstacles to the acquisition of historically valuable archives, ANRI uses the oral history interview method to fill in the gaps in the archives in order to save archives in the community. In conducting oral history interviews, ANRI employees were conducted to informants, namely community or political leaders to cultural figures. So to overcome the shortage of cultural archive collections, ANRI collaborated with cultural figures in conducting oral history interviews to enrich the treasures of historical archives, especially about Indonesian ethnicity and culture. To get a relationship or contact person for a cultural figure, ANRI looks for it themselves by way of linking word of mouth through insiders who come from the ANRI environment itself.

The result of the oral history interview conducted by ANRI is in the form of a transcription where the information obtained from the narrator can be read directly in the ANRI's static archive reading service room. So that it can add to the archives of historical value through the transcription. In this case, it can support ANRI's mission in which archives of historical and national value can be in ANRI as archive empowerment that can be used as legal evidence. However, it is unfortunate that not everyone can reach the results of the oral history interviews because the online version of the

transcription results is not yet available. To reach the transcription information, researchers and the general public must go directly to the ANRI building.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the description of the discussion on the acquisition of historically valuable archives about the Betawi ethnicity in the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia (ANRI), the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. ANRI has acquired historically valuable archives about the Betawi ethnicity by withdrawing archives. This collection of archives is in the form of photo archives about the description of the life of the Betawi people in Batavia which is included in the Batavia Kit inventory so that it can be seen by the general public and researchers in the reading room of the ANRI static archive. In addition, ANRI added to the archives of historical value about ethnicity and culture by using the oral history interview method with cultural figures as one of the archive acquisition activities at ANRI. This oral history interview was conducted by ANRI with cultural figures to fill in the gaps in the archives in order to save historically valuable archives in the community. The results of this interview are in the form of a transcription that can be accessed in the reading room of the ANRI static archive. However, it is unfortunate that not everyone can reach the transcription because it is not yet available online;
2. In acquiring historically valuable archives about the Betawi ethnicity, ANRI encountered problems in the form of the absence of Betawi cultural figures or people who submitted their archives to ANRI. In addition, ANRI has never received an offer to acquire historically valuable archives about Betawi ethnicity and culture, either from cultural institutions or cultural figures themselves.

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