

# Development of a Virtual Laboratory for Biochemistry Practicum during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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## Development of a Virtual Laboratory for Biochemistry Practicum during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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**Abstract:** Practical lectures should be held face-to-face. The COVID-19 outbreak that hit Indonesia and the world in general made practicum lectures unable to run; they should. This study aims to develop a Virtual Laboratory in the Practicum course. The purpose of this research is to develop a Virtual Laboratory in Biochemistry Practicum. This research is development research with the ADDIE development model from Dick and Carry, namely a development model consisting of five stages which include analysis, design, development, implementation and evaluation. The results of laboratory development validation show the Aiken coefficient of 0.87 for material experts and 0.23 for media experts. The results of the implementation show the practicality of 94.45%. It can be concluded that the virtual laboratory developed in the Biochemistry practicum is valid and practical.

**Keywords:** Virtual laboratory; Covid 19; Development research

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### Introduction

Practical Lectures should be held face-to-face. Practicum is a lecture activity where there is a face-to-face meeting between lecturers and students that emphasizes psychomotor, cognitive and affective aspects. In the Biochemistry practicum course, students are expected to be able to do practical work so that their psychomotor abilities can be seen, of course, supported by the cognitive and affective aspects that exist within them. The Biochemistry Practicum has been designed on a project-based basis that utilizes local materials (PjBLLM) (Sari, et.al, 2018).

Preliminary studies on Biochemistry practicum on the topic of quantitative analysis of PjBLLM proteins can improve creative thinking skills (Sari, et.al, 2017). Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, any lectures, including Biochemistry practicum lectures, must be carried out online.

PjBLLM Biochemistry practicum lectures can be done online, one of which is by developing a virtual laboratory. Virtual laboratory is a series of laboratory learning innovations in the form of software (Setiono,

2019; Orgaz, et al, 2018; Almeida & Simoes, 2019; Aljuhani, et al, 2018). Virtual laboratory or virtual laboratory is a practicum learning development that is currently being researched in integration efforts use of information technology (Dwiningsih, et al, 2018; Herga, & Dinevski, 2012). It is based on the premise that information technology provides an alternative learning environment that can facilitate meaningful learning (Gambari, et.al, 2018; Vasiliadou, 2020; Fadly, et al, 2021; Liu, et al, 2015). The development of virtual laboratories is important to develop because the use of virtual laboratories has been proven to improve students' understanding (Darby-White, et.al, 2019), improve students' thinking skills (Hess, 2014; Widowati, et.al, 2017), improve scientific literacy (Putri, et al., 2021), enhance students' thinking abilities, skills, and scientific attitudes (Ramadhan & Irwanto, 2017) and critical thinking (Elisa, et al, 2020). Beside that virtual experimental platform in chemistry laboratory education can impact on experimental self-efficacy (Kolil, et al., 2020).

The development of virtual laboratories can still convey important concepts to students (Quesada, 2020).

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Furthermore, the virtual laboratory has been combined with certain learning models such as Discovery Learning to improve the Physics Competence of High School Students (Masril, et.al, 2018) and virtual laboratory has been equipped LKM (Hidayati & Masril, 2019).

From the description of the background above, there have been many studies on virtual laboratories, but there has been no research that has developed a project-based virtual laboratory using local materials. Project-Based Virtual Laboratory with Local Materials in Biochemistry Practicum by utilizing local materials around students can be a solution when face-to-face learning cannot be carried out. The novelty of this research is that online learning is obtained using a Project-Based Virtual Laboratory with Local Materials in the Biochemistry Practicum.

**Method**

This research is development research. This study aims to develop a virtual laboratory in practical lectures that will meet the valid, practical and effective criteria. This research procedure adapts the ADDIE development model from Dick and Carry, which is a development model consisting of five stages which include analysis, design, development, implementation and evaluation.

This research procedure adapts the ADDIE development model from Dick and Carry, which is a development model consisting of five stages which include analysis, design, development, implementation and evaluation. The research procedure can be seen in Figure 1.

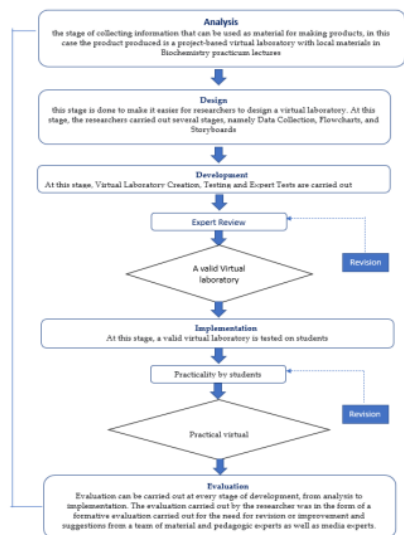


Figure 1. Virtual laboratory development research procedure with ADDIE model

This research step is limited to the pilot stage so that this study does not examine the effect of the product on student abilities, this is in accordance with the research objective, namely to produce a valid and practical virtual laboratory. Data collection techniques that will be used by researchers are as follows:

1. Interview

This interview was conducted with students of the Biochemistry Practicum to complete the data regarding the needs analysis needed to determine the state of learning and the need for the development of a virtual laboratory. In terms of implementation, the interviews conducted by researchers were semi-structured interviews.

2. Expert Validation

Expert validation is carried out at the development stage after the designed product has been completed. Validation sheets are given to validators consisting of a team of experts. The expert team consists of material experts and media experts. This stage aims to determine the feasibility of the virtual laboratory that has been develop

3. Questionnaire

Data collection in the form of filling out questionnaires by lecturers and students is carried out at the implementation stage. Questionnaires are used to see the practicality of the virtual laboratory that has been developed by researchers by looking at the responses from students and lecturers.

**Result and Discussion**

The following presents the data obtained in accordance with the development research procedures that have been carried out.

*Analysis*

At the analysis stage, the researchers obtained the following results: (1) Overall, students have difficulty doing Biochemistry practicum during the COVID-19 pandemic; (2) There is no virtual laboratory for Biochemistry Practicum in the Unsri Chemistry Education study program; (3) Students are accustomed to using technology such as Android phones and others.

*Design*

At this stage, the researcher obtained a design for a virtual laboratory that would be developed in the form of practicum procedures and storyboards.

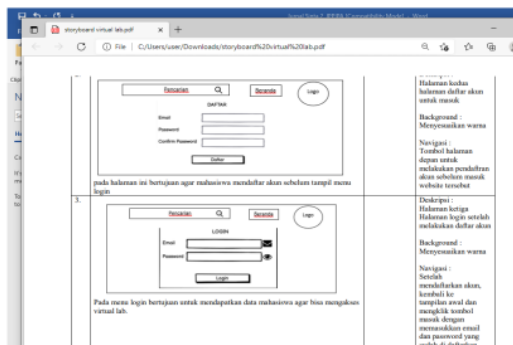


Figure 2. Storyboard Virtual laboratory

Development

1. Virtual Laboratory Creation

At this stage, a virtual laboratory is generated that is in accordance with the researcher's design.

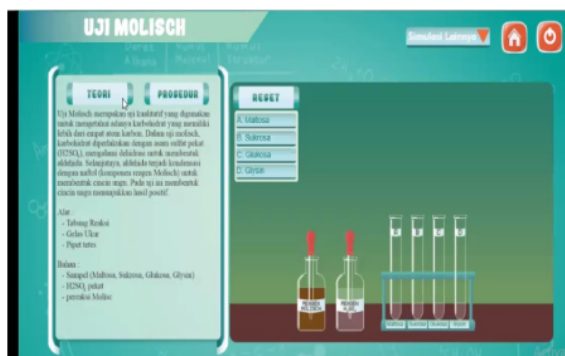


Figure 3. Virtual laboratory

2. Testing

The results of the testing can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. The result of Testing

Before revision	After revision
Explanatory material is too short and not sourced	Has been added
There is no reaction mechanism every practicum	Has been added

3. Expert test

1) Material validation

The results obtained from material validation can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Comments and Suggestions from Material validators

Before revision	After revision
There is no explanation that supports the results of the practicum in the virtual laboratory	Has been added
The color change is not clear yet	tried to fix

The results of material validation using the V Aiken formula can be seen in the Table 3.

Table 3. The Results of Material Validation

Validator	Score	average	Category
Expert 1	0.82	0.87	high
Expert 2	0.92		

Improvements to the material contained in the virtual laboratory application have been improved according to comments and suggestions from material experts. The virtual laboratory application validity assessment questionnaire that has been filled out by a material expert consisting of two aspects assessed with 13 descriptors is then analyzed using the V Aiken formula to determine whether the material contained in the virtual laboratory application is valid and the final score is 0.87 with a high category so that it can be said that the material in the developed virtual laboratory application is valid and in accordance with the introduction of chemical laboratory equipment, and the virtual laboratory is feasible to proceed to the next stage, namely testing.

2) Media Validation

The results obtained from media validation can be seen in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Comments and Suggestions from Media validators

Before revision	After revision
The Background is not attractive, because it's just plain colors.	Tried to fix

The results of media validation using the V Aiken formula can be seen in the Table 5.

Table 5. The Results of Media Validation

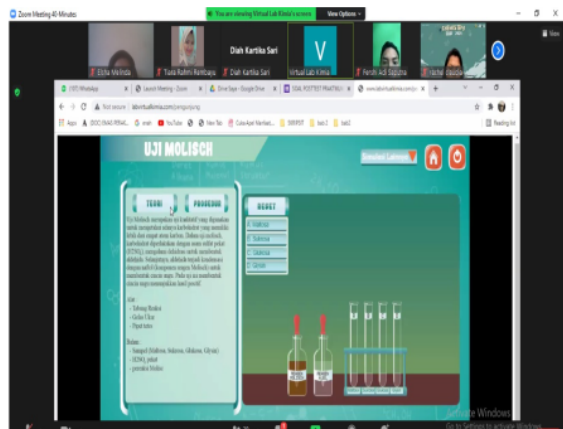
Validator	score	Average	Category
Expert 1	0.95	0.92	High
Expert 2	0.89		

Media assessment in virtual laboratory applications for the introduction of chemical laboratory tools in terms of learning media programming, text on learning media, visual display of learning media, presentation of images or videos on learning media, navigation buttons and development of science and technology. The results of the assessment with media experts contained suggestions and comments, namely the appearance of the background or the background looks less attractive because it only displays plain colors and it would be better if all laboratory equipment was equipped with a video on how to use it. Improvements to the media contained in the virtual laboratory application have been improved according to suggestions and comments from media experts. The

virtual laboratory application validity assessment questionnaire which consists of two aspects with 12 descriptors to be assessed has been filled in by media experts, the results of the assessment are then analyzed by researchers using the Vaiken formula to determine whether or not the virtual laboratory application is valid and the final score obtained which is 0.92 with a high category so that it can be said that the virtual laboratory application developed is valid and feasible to proceed to the next stage, namely testing.

**Implementation**

Activities at the implementation stage can be seen in Figure 4 below.



**Figure 4.** Activities at the implementation Stage

The implementation stage is carried out to determine the level of practicality of the virtual laboratory application which has previously been validated by material experts and media experts. The results of expert validation obtained prototype II which will be tested in small groups involving nine students. The nine students consisted of two high-ability

students, five medium-ability students, and low-ability students. The ability of the selected students is seen from the GPA. The nine students were then given a virtual laboratory application. The results of the implementation using the Guttman scale can be seen in Table 6.

**Table 6.** Results of the Percentage of Practicality Using the Guttman Scale

Questionnaire Statement	Amount		Percentage	
	Yes	No	Yes (%)	No (%)
1	9	0	100	0
2	8	1	88.90	11.10
3	9	0	100	0
4	9	0	100	0
5	9	0	100	0
6	9	0	100	0
7	8	1	88.90	11.10
8	9	0	100	0
9	8	1	88.90	11.10
10	6	3	66.70	33.30
11	9	0	100	0
12	9	0	100	0
Average			94.45	

Based on the results of the assessment obtained from the implementation stage, the percentage results obtained with an average score of 94.45% with a very practical category which means the Virtual Laboratory is significantly practical. It can be concluded that this Virtual Laboratory of Biochemistry Practicum is very practical and can be used in learning Biochemistry Practicum. With comments and suggestions that the Virtual Laboratory is very interesting in delivering material so that it stimulates students to increase their enthusiasm for learning and add insight into the Biochemistry Practicum. Comments and suggestions at the implementation stage can be seen in Table 7.

**Table 7.** Comments and Suggestions from Students at the Implementation Stage

Student	Comments and Suggestions
Student 1	Virtual Lab is good and very interesting. The suggestion is to change or add two or more background sounds to make it even more interesting
Student 2	The use of the Virtual Laboratory is good, both in delivering material and understandable. Suggestions in the future in the delivery of material please be slowed down.
Student 3	The use of the Virtual Laboratory is good, but there are some things that often occur when virtual, such as the sound is too big, the signal is constrained so that it reduces understanding when learning.
Student 4	Virtual Laboratory is interesting enough to add a sense of desire to do practical work. However, the appearance/sound of the Virtual Laboratory is too monotonous so that it can be varied again.
Student 5	The Virtual Laboratory is good, it can be used as learning media during this pandemic.
Student 6	Virtual Laboratories can help with practical activities that are difficult to carry out online. Suggestion material can be reproduced even more.
Student 7	The Virtual Laboratory is good to use but the music is too big.
Student 8	The Virtual Laboratory is good and can help in understanding the material for the Biochemistry Practicum.
Student 9	With the Virtual Laboratory, you can directly see the Biochemistry Practicum. The suggestion is to be further improved and the material to be reproduced even more.

### Evaluation

Evaluation is carried out by researchers at each stage of research development to improve the resulting product development. The development of a virtual laboratory in the Biochemistry practicum can help practicum activities that are not possible to do directly during covid 19 pandemic. In line with previous research, the Biochemistry virtual laboratory can build students' understanding, thinking skills and convey important concepts (Darby-White, et al, 2019; Widowati, et al, 2017; Quesada, 2020). This virtual laboratory will be more effective if it is associated with the environment (Dwiningsih, et al, 2018) and learning model (Masril, et al, 2018).

### Conclusion

A study has been conducted to develop a virtual laboratory. Based on the findings and discussion, it can be concluded that the virtual laboratory was proven by Aiken value obtained was material expert and media expert of +0.87 and +0.92 which means that it can be considered as valid for all validated components. The results of the implementation show that the practicality reaches 94.45%. This means that the virtual laboratory is very practical and can be used in learning Biochemistry Practicum.

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