Journal of Language and Literature
Vol. 23 No. 1, April 2023, pp. 224 – 233
DOI: 10.24071/joll.v23i1.5533
Available at https://e-journal.usd.ac.id/index.php/JOLL/index



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UAP Values Reflected in Selected COVID-19 Themed Digital Literature for Children and Young Adults

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Abstract

Digital Literature for Children and Young Adults (LCYA) reveals children and young adults' experiences in the real world from their perspectives. It also portrays that most children and young adults face complex and enormous challenges in this digital world to find their true selves, potentials, and future, particularly during this COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of this LCYA is in line with Jesuit's Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP), which "commit to promoting a healthy and safe environment for children and young people so that they can develop their full potential as human beings." Therefore, this research scrutinizes Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) values reflected in selected COVID-19-themed Digital Literature for Children and Young Adults (LCYA). Importantly, Digital Literature is a Garden of Eden for digital natives, Gen-Z, and digital readers where they can access literary texts from their smartphones, tablet, and laptop. These issues are essential to be discussed because children and young adults are the future generations, the future world, and future humanity. This pandemic should be seen from a different perspective, for this condition has encouraged us to take care of ourselves and others, especially children and young adults. Importantly, those digital works are also reminders that children's and young adults' energy and spirit can bring love and changes to our planet. This research attempts to develop our empathy in understanding the loneliness, misery, and suffering of others during this difficult time. Digital Literature and Literature for Children and Young Adults (LCYA) discourses are suitable for use since this research uses digital short stories highlighting children and young adults' lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Article information

Received: 15 December 2022

Revised: 21 March 2023

Accepted: 24 March 2023

***Keywords**: UAP; COVID-19 pandemic; Digital Literature; LCYA*

Introduction

Literature is the reflection and illustration of our society and all events which exist in real life. It mirrors the interaction between men and culture and the relationship between men and nature. Through the lens of the writer, the reader can see the real problems which happened around them. One of those is the issue of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, we have been forced to stay inside our house and limit our contact with others. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed people's lives in many aspects, and there is no clue for how long this will last. This global situation has forced many children and young adults to discontinue their studies due to economic and health problems. On the other hand, they also must adopt new habits during the quarantine.

Despite these new restrictions, Digital Literature has thrived during this time (Wright, 2022). Digital Literature, also known as Electronic Literature, is a literary genre created digitally and made to be read and accessed digitally. It refers to works that are 'native to the digital environment' (Rettberg, 2019). In this sense, Digital Literature is distinguished from works that are simply digitally disseminated (for example, e-books) in that they require a computer/code to exist, and cannot be represented by traditional print (Wright, 2022).

Hayles (2007) underlines that printed literature that is transformed into a digital version is not an example of Electronic Literature. Many people think that Electronic Literature is the same as E-Book. Fundamentally, E-Book is the electronic form of printed literary work, while Electronic Literature is the form of the creative process through digital media. Thus, Digital Literature is different from various literary works because it can juxtapose digital elements like photos, music, and videos with text. Those aspects will create a new reading experience, which is exciting and interactive for the readers. Snyder (1996) explains that "hypertext works do not have linearity. It means that a digital work does not have a beginning, middle, and end like the printed version". On the other hand, the readers may choose a different path, flow, and plot. Thus, different readers will have different reading experiences though they read the same literary work.

Moreover, Koskimaa (2000) states that digital literature is a "digitally born" literary artifact written for digital media. Wardrip-Fruin (2010) defines digital literature as a literary work that required digital assistance from computers, laptops, cell phones, or tablets. Simanowski (2010) adds that digital work cannot be created easily by using a computer. It needs unique computation ability for coding and building links for web pages.

Concerning the COVID-19 pandemic that has changed all aspects of human life, the influence of technology has transformed us into a modern social group that always gets information and communicates virtually. During this situation, digital and social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram can help people to meet virtually. Notably, the COVID-19 pandemic also brings more opportunities for both digital authors and readers. Those digital platforms mentioned above can be the authors' place to write and publish their works without any limitations. Also, they do not need to worry about paying the printing cost for their books. Due to those benefits, readers can easily access their works from various ages whenever connected to the internet. Moreover, digital readers will not be charged by mostly online sources to read Digital Literature works extensively. Thus, children and young adults may find their favorite reading texts during their free time.

The researchers chose children and young adults as the focus of this research because most of them face complex and enormous challenges in this digital world to find their true selves, potentials, and future. This focus is in line with Jesuit's Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP), which "commit to promoting a healthy and safe environment for children and young people so that they can develop their full potential as human beings." As one of the literary genres, LCYA reveals children's and young adult's experiences in the real world from their perspectives. Guttery (1941) argues that children's literature is one of the literature types that is intentionally designed for and speaks closely to young readers (p. 208). Thus, during the COVID-19

pandemic situation, it is also essential to hear their voices through literary works.

The researchers were also interested in the issues concerning children and young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the outbreak occurs, children and young adults' aspects of life have been shifted. The impact of the government's policy to make physical distancing has created challenging situations for many people. Digital platforms are now expected to help people in conducting their daily activities. All school activities are now transformed into digital meetings, and teaching materials are also given in digital forms. Since technology plays an essential role during the COVID-19 pandemic, the researchers use Digital Literature works to illustrate children's and young adults' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, it is in line with Nikolajeva (2005), who states that children's literature may promote real issues in our society and be "a vehicle to educate its readers."

Based on the issues mentioned above, this research focuses on the attempt to scrutinize UAP values reflected in selected COVID-19-themed short stories, such as "On New Year's Resolution" and "A Personal Reflection of the Pandemic" taken from the Dear Asian Youth platform. These digital short stories are essential because they are relevant to our society's condition. Through these works' lenses, we are asked to look at the real problem and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and how UAP values can be an alternative solution to this condition. The teachings are showing the way to God through discernment during this pandemic, walking with the poor, the outcasts of the world, including those who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, accompanying the young in the creation of a hope-filled future during this challenging time, and also collaborating in the care of our typical home for a better world.

Furthermore, digital literature works will be easily accessed by children and young adults since they are more accustomed to and literate in ICT usage. More importantly, digital sources are mostly free to access, consume low internet data, and be operated efficiently. Importantly, Digital Literature is a Garden of Eden for digital natives, Gen-Z, and digital readers where they can access literary texts from their smartphones, tablet, and laptop. The flexibility of a digital environment made digital literature better able to adapt to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 (Wright, 2022). For that reason, the researchers decided to focus on COVID-19-themed digital short stories for Children and Young Adults.

In the future, this genre is a challenge for researchers, lecturers, and even students because it may change the way they work, teach, and study. Furthermore, we cannot deny that printed text may be replaced by hypertext soon. The same thing is also experienced by printed news, which is slowly being replaced by digital news media. Based on those cases, it is an ample opportunity and challenge for the researchers and lecturers to switch from printed literature to Digital Literature or hypertext. Importantly, digital works can be used as an alternative to reading sources during the study from home. Due to the benefits mentioned above, the researchers employ digital literary works taken from @dearasianyouthliterature.

These issues are essential to be discussed because children and young adults are the future generations, the future world, and future humanity. We need to accompany and nurture them like St. Ignatius and St. Francis Xavier, who was led and cared for by God. This pandemic should be seen from a different perspective, for this condition has encouraged us to take care of ourselves and others, especially children and young adults. Importantly, those digital works are also reminders that children's and young adults' energy and spirit can bring love and changes to our planet. This research attempts to develop our empathy in understanding the loneliness, misery, and suffering of others during this difficult time. Digital Literature and Literature for Children and Young Adults discourses are suitable for use since this research uses digital short stories highlighting children and young adults' lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since digital literary works were recently published, there is no research discussing the same works. Thus, the researchers may fulfill the niche that is still possible to be explored. Even though no previous studies are debating the same works, the researchers will present

some studies that problematized digital literature and children's and young adults' literary works Theories on Digital Literature and LCYA are challenging to be discussed and have invited many scholarly dialogues. The other researchers' perspectives on these selected digital short stories are essential as the instrument to start this research. There are four studies used by the researchers to compare the analysis with this present study and to see the importance of it. Three articles discuss three issues on digital literature, while another article concerns the LCYA. The first article was written by Serge Bouchardon (2017) in "Towards a Tension-Based Definition of Digital Literature." The researcher problematizes the meaning and importance of printed literature and digital literature. This debate is the reason that the term digital literature is not fixed yet. Many researchers and experts have their terms and definition for digital literature. It has caused an oscillation because printed literature and digital literature are close links.

The second research to review is by Engberg and Bolter (2011), who show digital literature's status in contemporary culture. Digital literature works are still unfamiliar to the literature reader even though we live in the digital era. The researchers also highlight how creating digital works is an act of violating the mainstream position. However, its functions remain quite influential recently within the art community and popular culture. Another research on the same topic is conducted by Rowberry (2017) in "The Rise of Electronic Literature." In line with previous studies, Rowberry also scrutinizes the position and continuity of printed literature and digital literature. Moreover, he also illustrates how the lines between published literature and digital literature are now being blurred.

The last research is conducted by Anggraini (2016), who concerns with applying theories to LCYA. In "Literary Theories and Literature for Children and Young Adults (LCYA): How Theories Are Applied to LCYA," she presents how literary theories can be used to analyze children's and young adults' literary works. She finds that the approaches used to analyze LCYA are quite like the methods used to analyze mainstream literature. However, the theories' application should be adjusted since targeted readers, and certain audience groups enjoy LCYA works. It is for this reason that the existing ideas were created to analyze mainstream literature. Along with the high popularity of children's and young adults' literary works, an exclusive theory was designed to examine them.

Departing from the previous studies, the researchers propose a study that employs theories on Digital Literature and LCYA to unveil UAP values in the selected COVID-19-themed digital works. From four discussions, none of them specifically problematized young adults' works which are in the form of digital literature. Besides, none also illustrates the children and young adults' issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, this investigation tries to fulfill the niche that is still possible to be explored. In triggering the discussion, the previous studies will be used as a guideline and stepping stone to perceive this research's goals.

Based on the discussion mentioned above, the researchers will use Digital Literature and Literature for Children and Young Adults to investigate the selected COVID-19-themed digital works. Moreover, Jesuit's UAP teaching will help the researchers find the values of its third focus in those digital literary works.

Literature for Children and Young Adults (LCYA)

The language used in the Literature for Children and Young Adults (LCYA) work is considered simple and easy to understand. However, some authors will choose difficult words to teach the readers (Nikolajeva, 2005). Guttery (1941) adds that LCYA intentionally designs for children and young adults' readers because it has the power to speak like them. In the present time, LCYA works are various and bring specific vital issues around them. Kiefer et al. (2007) mention that nowadays, children and young adults "are more aware of their life experiences than the previous generation." Every day, they are exposed to digital platforms and social media, which are easy to access. This experience can be seen from the selected digital works that recite the main characters' lives in times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The writers of the works are Asian teenagers who try to share their life

experiences as teenagers, which adults commonly ignore.

There are some classifications of young adults' literature according to Tomlinson and Lynch-Brown (2010) in Herz and Gallo (2005). They find that a teenager is usually the main character or the center of the story. The main character's actions will lead to the events and the flow of the story. Moreover, the way young adults tell the story is their view of the world and the adults around them. Thus, LCYA is essential for adults because they can understand children and young adults through various works. Additionally, LCYA works may bridge the relationship between adults and young adults and also open their communication.

Methodology

In this study, the researchers mainly employed the Descriptive Qualitative method to analyze the phenomena and issues that are presented in the selected works. The primary sources of this research are taken from a digital platform. "On New Year's Resolution" written by Amber Ting and "A Personal Reflection of the Pandemic" by Ella were from @dearasianyouthliterature. The short stories were selected because both were written by teenage writers and reflect young adults' experiences during the lockdown to support the primary sources and to enrich the discussion, journals, articles, reviews, and UAP documents will be used as the secondary data. The researchers will conduct four main steps. Firstly, the researchers identified the conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic and tried to find digital short stories that illustrate the issues. Next, the researchers sorted the digital literary work found in @dearasianyouthliterature and analyse the raw data. In this study, the researchers aim to reveal how the COVID-19 pandemic affects the characters' lives in the selected short stories and how UAP values are reflected in the stories. Secondly, the researchers wrote the problem formulations after conducting a close reading of the literary works. Then, we searched for secondary sources and theories. Third, we applied Digital Literature and LCYA discourses, and secondary data to unveil the answer to formulated questions. The secondary data are used to find the connection between the real context and the events illustrated in the novel. Lastly, the analysis will be presented in the discussion part and will be closed with a conclusion. Moreover, some suggestions to future researchers will be put after the conclusion.

Results and Discussion

This section reveals how the COVID-19 pandemic affects children and young adults' life depicted in the selected digital literature works. Secondly, the next section unveils how UAP values, which are "showing the way to God, walking with the excluded, and journeying with youths are reflected in the selected COVID-19-themed stories. Thirdly, it also finds solutions to the problems faced by the characters during the COVID-19 pandemic based on the UAP values reflected in the digital stories.

The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic Towards Young Adults' Life

The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the way our world works. Years prior, we did not imagine there would be a large-scale pandemic that can disturb the normal lives which humans were used to. Meanwhile, at the present, no one gets exempted from the impacts of the pandemic. Through the two digital short stories, "On New Year's Resolution", as well as "A Personal Reflection of the Pandemic - From A Wuhan Girl", it is highlighted that young adults experience particular effects of the pandemic, namely: mental health issues as well as xenophobia and racism. Importantly, these effects urge them to further adapt and integrate themselves.

Mental health issues

The first effect of the COVID-19 pandemic that changes the lives of young adults is facing mental health issues. This unfortunate situation happens because young adults have to join online school while they are trapped inside their bedrooms. Initially, due to the unfamiliarity and uncontrollable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments and authorities across the globe have reinforced the prevention measures. They include the

practice of social distancing, travel-control measures (mobility limitation), and quarantine (self-isolation) for those who are infected with the virus. Nevertheless, the purpose is to lower the transmission rate of COVID-19 on a significant scale.

The implementation of these regulations makes most people to be detached from their daily social surroundings as they are forced to remain at home. Young adults who were used to being active in daily activities—which predominantly involve groups of people (e.g. classroom activities, workplace)—have unfortunately shifted their activities to be held at home, for the sake of health safety. They also experience discomfort due to the closure of schools and universities which results in academic hindrance as well as the loss of income due to the closing of many businesses. This drastic change in condition might be too overwhelming for some young people and lead to psychological-related issues.

In the selected digital short story, both authors illustrate their view of the world and the factual condition during the lockdowns. Moreover, by using digital platforms, both teenage writers try to share their voices that are mostly ignored by adults because they think that they are unimportant. In "On New Year's Resolution", for instance, it is implied that the writer is "still recovering from the extremely difficult 2020". She writes in her notebook that "2020 was awful" (line 13). It is further mentioned that the "quarantine was and still is an awfully isolating experience that exacerbated many people's mental health issues" (lines 39 - 40). She faces a drastic change during the quarantine that makes her feel isolated and pessimistic. On the other hand, the main character also feels unmotivated and desperate because she has achieved nothing during 2020. On New Year's Eve, she chooses to stand on her tiny apartment balcony to watch the fireworks (Ting, 2020, lines 1-9).

The condition explained by the writer is according to the reality of the pandemic as well as scientific data. It approximates that 56.2% of young adults (18-24 years old) are reporting symptoms of anxiety and/or depressive disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic (KFF, 2020). These psychological conditions might be rooted in the sudden significant life change experienced by many young people during the period of the pandemic. Most of them were not ready to face the reality that shifts quickly (school shut-down, job loss, family loss), thus, leading to the disruption in their mental or psychological state. The writer is fully aware of this situation, hence, she says

> *"It's okay if you need to use up a considerable portion of 2021 to recover from 2020. If you need a permission slip, this is it: you are allowed to do whatever you want wherever you want" (Ting, 2020, lines 41 - 42).*

The quotation above verifies how the main character tries to accept and make peace with the condition around her. Ting, moreover, uses her story as a medium to share her feelings and even other people's feelings during the pandemic. It is for this reason that sharing and expressing our feelings may help us to prevent the issue of mental health. More importantly, sharing some positivity towards others may eliminate their burdens and show our empathy.

Xenophobia and Racism

Xenophobia is understood as the fear and prejudice towards foreigners or immigrant subjects and/or their attributes. Meanwhile, racism is defined as prejudice and discrimination towards a person or people according to their membership in a certain race or ethnic group. During the initial emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, xenophobia and racism became prominent issues across the globe. This issue is reflected in the speech of American 45th president, Donald Trump, who referred to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus" as he attempted to shift the blame for the outbreak spread towards the Chinese government. This reckless behavior by a person in power has led to further racist, anti-Chinese attitudes in both real life and through social media such as Twitter (ABC, 2021). Further, according to Zatira and Prakoso (2020), this certain negative phenomenon does not only happen in the United States, but also in Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Europe which are directed mainly to the Chinese (pp. 253-257).

In the short story "A Personal Reflection - From A Wuhan Girl", the writer further justifies that COVID-19 leads to the emergence of xenophobia and racism which are directed toward the Chinese, especially the ones from Wuhan. These peculiar phenomena are showcased through online comments on the internet. She writes that "when she reads the threads of ridiculous comments on this absolutely stunning city in English, the words seemed outrageously unfamiliar and stupid" (lines 7-9). This certain attitude and response, according to the writer, comes from "the foreigners that have no idea about a single truth about Wuhan" (line 9) as "without knowing the truths, people started guessing, bursting out hate and misconceptions (lines 14-15). Though Asian racism already existed before the quarantine, Asian people and Asian communities across the globe experience more racist incidents as well as anti-Asian hate crimes (Cabral, 2021).

Growing up, she has been very familiar with the city she was born and raised in. She only has good memories and attachment to the city as she says "it (Wuhan) is one of the most beautiful places she knows. Her perception of her hometown is composed of precious moments like eating a bowl of noodles, laughing with long lost friends, and walking in the ocean of cherry blossoms" (lines 5-7). For the writer, the xenophobic and racist behavior of the outsiders has hurt her, and further made her vulnerable as a Wuhan youth. The short story, furthermore, narrates the struggle of Asian people and the Asian community amidst the pandemic. Nevertheless, the description made by the writer of the beauty of Wuhan and her good memories in Wuhan are ways to stand up and celebrate her culture. It was the way she helps the other to understand and know the "beauty" of Wuhan.

UAP Values in the Selected COVID-19 Themed Stories

The COVID-19 Pandemic has shifted young people's lives in many aspects. According to Racine, et. al (2021, cited in CNN, 2021), during the pandemic, youth's depression and anxiety are doubled compared to the pre-pandemic; One in 4 adolescents globally is "experiencing clinically elevated depression symptoms, while 1 in 5 youth are experiencing clinically elevated anxiety symptoms. This peculiar situation is rooted in the social isolation as well as school disruption". Thus, in this section, the researchers present three UAP values that are illustrated in the two selected short stories. They are showing the way to God, walking with the excluded, and journeying with youths.

Showing the Way to God

Following the state of hopelessness and anxiety, youth's fundamental survival through the discovery of each own self is needed. One of the prominent ways could be done by finding (a relationship with) God during the state of the pandemic. The Bible has elaborated thoroughly on this matter. Hebrews 4:16 let us "come boldly to the throne of our gracious God, as there we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.", Isaiah 26:3-4 mentions that each one of us "will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal." Thus, it is indicated that seeking a relationship with God is crucial, especially in this current state.

There are some ways in finding God during the pandemic situation. Finding God could be done by getting in touch with "our deepest self, the space where God speaks to us, through discernment. Discernment is not only necessary when serious problems have to be solved, but also an instrument of struggle to follow the Lord better day by day and hour by hour" (Jesuits UAP, 2021). Through praying and being spiritually conscious, one has employed an effort in the act of discernment to reach God.

The main character fully experiences the presence of God when she watches the fireworks from her balcony. It can be seen when she "stands on her tiny 5F apartment balcony, closing her eyes for exactly 59 seconds to savor the glow" (line 8). It can be indicated that the main character—who has not connected and associated with anyone during the pandemic—may feel the existence of God from her personal experience during New Year's Eve. In many literature and old tales, God is often represented through the

symbolism of "lights". He specifically appears to the main character in the form of glowing colorful fireworks which she savors that night. Here, the main character is perceived to be spiritually conscious by experiencing God's presence. In corollary, this encounter leads to the emergence of her new spirit to continue her living—after she enjoys the fireworks—when she "opens her laptop to study" (line 9).

Walking with the Excluded

The next UAP value that can be found in "A Personal Reflection - From A Wuhan Girl" is walking with the excluded. It is God's dream to take the hand off the poor and to embrace those who are seen he excluded. In the story, the main character and the people in Wuhan are seen as excluded because they are viewed as the cause of the outbreak. On the other hand, "the whole world has turned its back on the innocent inhabitants of this city, without rationality nor justice" (lines 22-23). The main character describes the condition of the homeless people in China that are living in misery.

> *Whether it be the disproportionate numbers of deaths of coronavirus in the US or the unavailability of living space for homeless workers in China, issues like these reflect some serious problems present in our society and draw surprising similarities between countries. Similar to other wars in history, minorities, again, are suffering (lines 37-40).*

The quotation above shows how disturbing the situation is. It is known that those who are weak, poor, and sick suffer more than others from the effect of the spread of the virus. In many places, lockdowns have put people in economic difficulties and homeless people are less prepared to fight the outbreak of the "unavailability for living space and thus the coronavirus became a sword that forced them to walk in darkness and valleys of life" (line 38, 47).

Through the short story, the main character shows her action to walk with the excluded, homeless people in China, but helping with the construction of the new hospitals. The main character also reflects and spreads positivity towards the problem faced by many people in Wuhan. She illustrates how the volunteers helping around the city became their only source of food and aid and how they also become the listeners to the homeless stories and hopes (lines 42-44).

Journeying with Youths

Youth is a specific period for fundamental decisions and the beginning of dream fulfillment. Yet, young people today, still face complex challenges: the uncertainty of relationships in a digital era, diminishing opportunities for work, the rage of political violence, discrimination, as well as the degradation of the environment. These situations make it difficult for them to find support from family and surroundings under the spiritual and financial foundation. This research emphasizes helping the youth to find their true self by emphasizing the elaboration on the youth's experiences, particularly, during the time of the pandemic. Furthermore, UAP (2019) elaborates that "it is the young who, from their perspective, can help us to better understand the epochal change that we are living and its hope-filled newness" (p. 4). It is believed that youth's optimism and their spirits are the ones that drive a better future. They play significant roles in shaping the perspective toward the future.

In the short story, the main character wrote optimistically as well as enthusiastically that "2021 will be her year. (as) 2021 was awful. In 2021, She'll put it behind her once and for all. She will study. She'll even write at least once or twice a week. She'll become a better, the best, most productive version of myself possible—starting today. She is pulling an all-nighter" (lines 12-15). It signifies that even though the situation was rather hard in 2020 as "quarantine was and still is an awfully isolating experience that exacerbated many people's mental health issues" (lines 39-40), youths remain optimistic for a better upcoming period. Here, there is also a bold critique of the modern enigma regarding the urgent state of humans (specifically, youth) in its correlation with an urge for productivity for it is stated that "In her notebook entry, she'd equated her "best self" with the "most productive version of herself, but our best selves aren't our most productive selves. They're our most brave or kind selves. They're

our most responsible or honest or fun-loving selves. They're whatever-adjectives-you-want-them-to-be. If that adjective is only productive? Well, you can't be productive if you're burnt out anyway" (lines 32-36). It signifies that there is this peculiar hope for future productivity.

The Solutions to the Young Adult's Problems

During this difficult time, young people need a space that can accompany and embrace them to communicate their experiences and strengthen each other. The selected works, in addition, have become the tool to reflect the events that happen during the outbreak and to promote solidarity among children and young adults. By reading and sharing digital literature works, children and young adults can interact to heal their wounds. As digital natives, children, and young adults can also directly communicate their thoughts and feelings in the comment section for the works uploaded on Instagram.

The digital short stories have brought hope to our world, help children and young adults to imagine new roads, and accompanied them to walk the roads till the end. Moreover, both writers and readers may have a direct interaction by using the comment section on the Instagram account. During the COVID-19 pandemic, direct interaction is limited. Thus, this new way of communication may "create new ways of understanding digital literature during the pandemic situation and the possibility to use the digital work as a media of communication in the future" (Brameswari, 2021)

Conclusion

Children and young adults face complex situations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The selected digital Literature for Children and Young Adults (LCYA) short stories illustrate how teenagers experience mental health issues, xenophobia, and racism. As alternative reading sources, digital literature has reflected the main characters' condition during lockdowns. Moreover, digital texts are not only used to help young people to communicate their problems but also to promote solidarity among young adults.

The selected digital short stories may also guide young people to find God, give hope to the excluded, and accompany the youths during their winding journey. In line with Jesuit's Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP), the values from selected digital stories can also be used to remind young adult, readers, that their spirit and existence are important to build the world. In addition, the researchers underline that those stories are also the remedy for anyone who feels lonely, anxious, depressed, and sad.

Digital literature is still gaining popularity in Indonesia, Thus, future researchers may use digital stories in conducting their research for there are rooms to be explored. Furthermore, the message contained in the digital stories may help the readers to understand global values and appreciate another form of literature field but canon.

Acknowledgment

The researchers would like to express our gratitude to the Institute for Research and Community Service Universitas Sanata Dharma for funding this research through the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) special scheme in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This research would not have been possible without exceptional support.

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