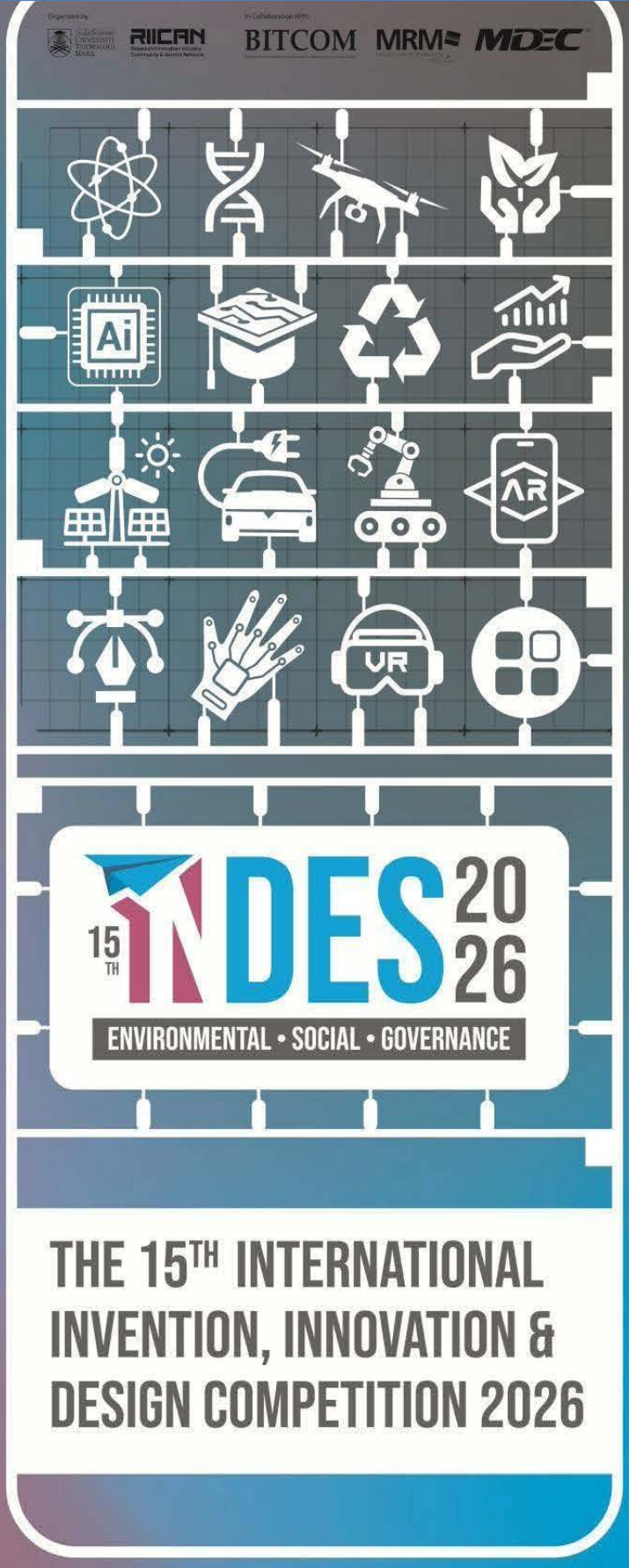


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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

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THE 15th INTERNATIONAL
INVENTION, INNOVATION &
DESIGN COMPETITION 2026

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Office of Research, Industry,
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DPJSS: A MAQASID-BASED DATA-DRIVEN SCREENING SYSTEM FOR PREDATORY JOURNAL GOVERNANCE DETECTION.

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ABSTRACT

Predatory journals have become a growing threat to research integrity by exploiting researchers through misleading indexing claims, weak peer review practices, spam invitations, and unrealistic publication promises. This innovation introduces DPJSS, a Maqasid-based data-driven screening system designed to assist researchers in identifying and avoiding predatory journals through a structured and ethical evaluation mechanism. The system integrates key indicators, including indexing status, peer review transparency, publication ethics, editorial board verification, APC transparency, and behavioural signals. A structured scoring mechanism was developed to classify journals into legitimate, questionable, and suspected predatory categories, together with corresponding risk levels. DPJSS further incorporates Maqasid al-Shariah ethical filtering, particularly Hifz al-'Aql (Protection of Knowledge) and Hifz al-Mal (Protection of Wealth), to strengthen ethical governance in scholarly publishing. The prototype system was developed using Google Forms, Google Sheets, automated scoring structures, and dashboard analytics to demonstrate real-time workflow and functionality. A simulation dataset consisting of 30 journal samples was used to test the screening capability of the system. DPJSS supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 by promoting ethical and quality academic publishing and contributes to SDG 16 through transparency, accountability, and research integrity in scholarly communication.

Keyword: Predatory Journal, Research Integrity, Maqasid al-Shariah, Data-Driven System, Academic Publishing

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of predatory journals has created significant challenges for researchers, academic institutions, and scholarly publishing ecosystems. Predatory journals often exploit researchers through misleading indexing claims, weak peer review processes, spam invitations, and unrealistic rapid publication promises. These practices threaten research integrity and reduce the credibility of academic publishing.

Researchers, especially early-career academics and postgraduate students, often face difficulty distinguishing legitimate journals from predatory or high-risk journals. Existing screening approaches are commonly checklist-based and may not fully integrate data-driven evaluation with ethical decision-making.

Therefore, this innovation aims to develop DPJSS, a Maqasid-based data-driven screening system that assists researchers in identifying and avoiding predatory journals through structured indicators, automated scoring, risk classification, and Maqasid al-Shariah ethical filtering.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Indicator Development

DPJSS uses key journal screening indicators to evaluate journal credibility and identify potential predatory publishing risks. The indicators include indexing status, peer review transparency, editorial board verification, APC transparency, publication ethics, spam invitation, rapid publication promise, fake indexing or impact factor claims, and suspicious website information. These indicators represent major risk signals such as fake or unclear indexing, weak peer review, unverifiable editorial members, hidden publication fees, unclear ethics policies, mass invitation emails, unrealistic publication duration, misleading metrics, and incomplete website details. These indicators were used as the basis for the DPJSS scoring mechanism and journal risk classification.

2.2 Prototype Development

The prototype was developed using Google Forms for journal data input, Google Sheets for data storage and scoring, and dashboard visualisation for monitoring journal classification results.

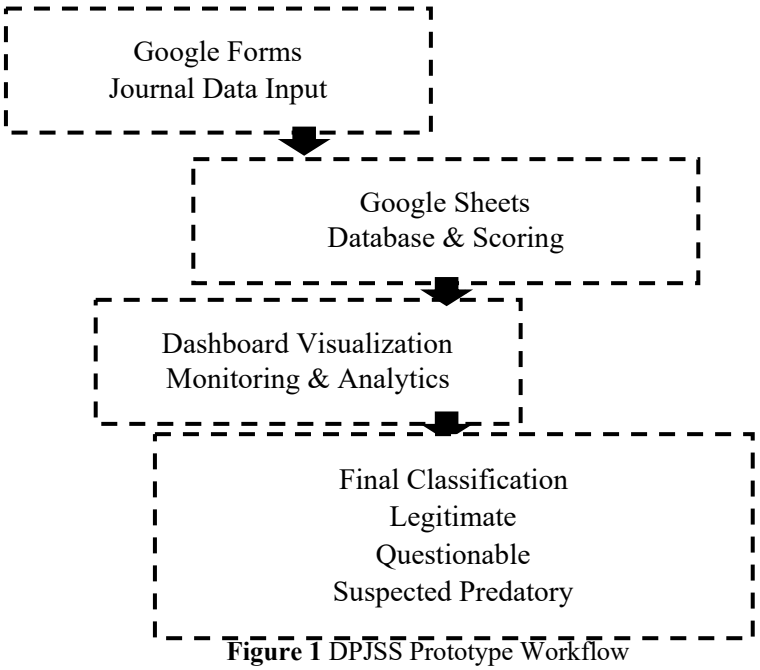


Figure 1 DPJSS Prototype Workflow

2.3 Scoring and Classification

Each journal is assessed using a structured scoring mechanism. The total score is used to classify journals into three categories: Legitimate, Questionable, and Suspected Predatory, together with Low, Medium, or High-Risk levels.

2.4 Maqasid Ethical Filtering

The system integrates Maqasid al-Shariah principles, particularly Hifz al-‘Aql and Hifz al-Mal, to support ethical decision-making and protect researchers from misleading publishing practices.

3. FINDINGS

The findings show that the DPJSS prototype successfully processed journal data through structured indicator evaluation, automated scoring, and risk classification. As shown in Figure 2, the system classified 30 simulation journal samples into three categories: Legitimate, Questionable, and Suspected Predatory, with corresponding Low, Medium, and High-Risk levels. This demonstrates the potential of DPJSS to support systematic, data-driven, and ethical journal screening through Maqasid al-Shariah ethical filtering.

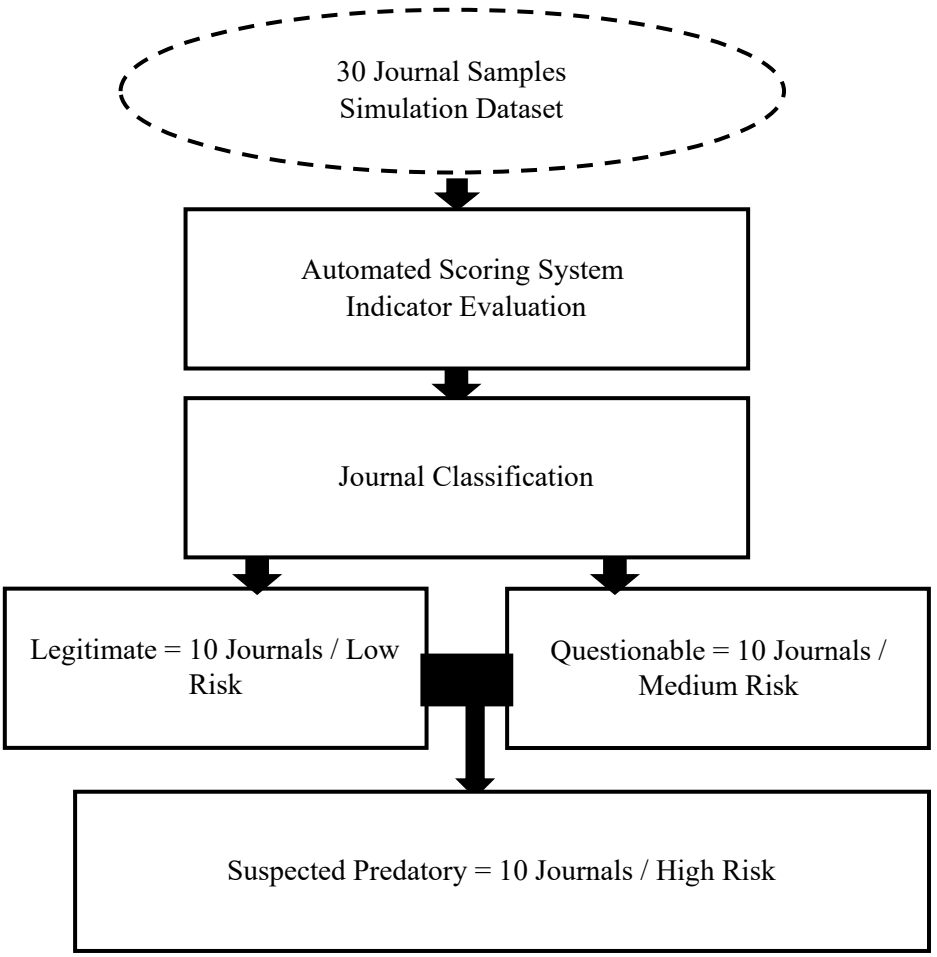


Figure 2 DPJSS Classification Output

Figure 2 shows the DPJSS classification output based on 30 simulation journal samples, where journals were classified into Legitimate, Questionable, and Suspected Predatory categories with corresponding risk levels.

4. CONCLUSION

DPJSS is a practical prototype system that integrates data-driven scoring with Maqasid al-Shariah ethical filtering to support predatory journal screening. The system helps researchers identify journal risk levels more systematically and promotes ethical, transparent, and responsible scholarly publishing.

DPJSS also supports SDG 4 and SDG 16 through its contribution to quality education, research integrity, and accountable academic publishing practices.

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