GO-PUB: Open-Select-Submit

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Abstract

An online ride-hailing app is a must-have app on your mobile devices, because its features have been extended to meet almost modern urban needs. What if we could adopt the same features and functionalities for the academic publishing ecosystem. We proudly introduce the conceptual of **GO-PUB**. **GO-PUB** is an online app that provides a spatial database of scholarly journal publishers and to connect it with potential authors. Potential authors could find the perfect journal near their locations, complete with supporting pieces of information about the journal publishing system. The concept of **GO-PUB** is open source and cross platforms, hosted in public repository to make sure everyone could share their knowledge and contribution to the project.

Keywords

mobile app, academic journal, scientific ecosystem, Indonesia

Background

Every day, in the academic scene, one would receive a marching of call for papers from academic journal publishers. The requests are usually posted on social media and group communication channel (such as Whatsapp/Telegram Group). At the same time, we also receive messages from people asking for information about a journal's next publishing schedule. They would expect their manuscripts could be sent

immediately before publishing schedule so that they wouldn't wait a long time for the peer-review process. The peer-review process which based on projected impact within "western" standards is indeed a big and perhaps **the most significant barrier** in the publishing ecosystem, worldwide (Tennant et al. 2017).

On the other side, there's a dynamic mobile app scene. Online ride-hailing apps (RHA) is the must-have app on your mobile device. People would install more than one RHA on their phone to get the best service they can get. The app which originally built for shared transportation has been quickly extended to meet almost all modern urban needs. From delivering warm Chinese noodle immediately to providing a cleaning staff right in front of your door, from becoming your additional hands to purchase groceries to ensuring your hair looks best in every occasion.

Considering both scenes, we propose an idea to use the same connection between providers and users for scientific publishing ecosystem. We need to make journal selection faster to bring a fresher air to the academic atmosphere in Indonesia. Moreover, our imagination was an application that connects a potential author with an academic journal publisher that suits his/her scope of research (Fig. 1). An app that processes a database of thousands of scientific journals in Indonesia and presents them as spatial data points, in a way like an RHA does. We proudly introduce our concept of **GO-PUB**.

Overview

Metrics have been used to measure the performance of scientists. This common western-based scientific practice is combined with staff productivity and journal prestige. In the last half-century, this combination has been continuously elevated to measure the performance of

academic institutions and eventually directed to determine national ranks. Such a situation has grown into

a self-censoring mechanism

to academics. To their perception, publishing in English has presumably more prestige, readership, acknowledgment, and credits related to staff promotion requirement. However, publishing in English is not easy for most Indonesian academics, since English is not their first nor second language. Hence,

language has become the second barrier in this case

Researchers are usually blended to this practice, leaving their primary objective to increase knowledge to society. The original idea is to apply the same zoning concept to the scholarly publishing system, where Indonesia currently is the home of 1530 academic journals with different scopes in 9 fields of study (DOAJ 2019). **GO-PUB** could be one of the forefronts to make a scholarly revolution.

Objectives

Given the situation of the academic scene, these are the objectives of **GO-PUB** are:

- to generate a geographical distribution of Indonesia's journal publishers,
- to provide a dynamic spatial map of scholarly journal publishers,
- to easily connect potential authors with suitable publishers.

Implementation

GO-PUB uses journal publisher dataset, preferable open dataset, such as DOAJ. The app could also use a dataset provided by [Ministry of Research Technology and Higher Education \(MRTHE\)](#) and/or [Indonesia Journal Volunteer \(RJI\)](#). The major work is to plot each publisher on the correct geo-coordinated location. The rest of the data should be formatted to give more filters for selection. **GO-PUB** should handle the following filters seamlessly: name of the journal, publishers, address, coordinates, scope, field

of study, type of received article, article processing charge (APC), peer review process and how long will the process take, and manuscript language. The final dataset then integrated with a mobile app programming language. Several programming languages commonly used to write mobile apps (Smutný 2012, Holzinger et al. 2012), such as Python, HTML5, Java, and .NET.

The significant insight was to use open-source and cross-platforms tools in developing **GO-PUB** and host all associated materials in an open repository(e.g., [Github](#) or [Gitlab](#)) (Fig. 2). This way we can make sure GO-PUB available for the public to allow contributions from users into the app. Finally, **GO-PUB** must also be distributed under an open license, e.g.: [MIT License](#) or [CC license](#).

Figure 2.
GO-PUB general components and workflow

Author contributions

DEI: ideas, drafting and finalizing the manuscript

APK: ideas and drafting the manuscript

MTM: ideas and drafting the manuscript

EK: ideas and graphics

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