International Journal for Modern Trends in Science and Technology
Volume 12, Issue 04, pages 1139-1151
ISSN: 2455-3778 online
Available online at: http://www.ijmtst.com/vol12issue04.html
DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19668202

Authenticity Validator for Academia

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To Cite this Article
M. Shyamili, A. Divya Reddy, A. Harshitha, B. Sowmya & P. Dharani (2026). Authenticity Validator for Academia. International Journal for Modern Trends in Science and Technology, 12(04), 1139-1151. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19668202

Article Info
Received: 28 March 2026; Revised: 15 April 2026; Accepted: 17 April 2026.

KEYWORDS

Academic Document Verification, Authenticity Validation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Blockchain Technology, Fraud Detection, Secure Academic Records

ABSTRACT

The increasing digitization of academic records has led to a rise in certificate forgery, document tampering, and credential misrepresentation. The Authenticity Validator for Academia is an AI-driven system designed to verify the authenticity of academic documents, such as degree certificates, transcripts, and mark sheets. The system integrates Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Machine Learning (ML), secure database cross-verification, and blockchain-based validation to detect alterations and confirm record integrity. Extracted document data is analyzed using intelligent algorithms and compared with authorized institutional repositories to generate real-time authenticity results. The proposed solution ensures fast, accurate, and secure verification while reducing manual workload and preventing academic fraud. Experimental evaluation indicates high accuracy, low response time, and reliable fraud detection, making the system suitable for educational institutions, employers, and regulatory bodies.

1. INTRODUCTION

Academic certificates play a crucial role in admissions, employment, higher education applications, and professional recognition. However, the increasing number of fake certificates and forged documents has created significant challenges for institutions and organizations. Manual verification through phone calls, emails, or physical record checking consumes time and administrative effort.

.If all details match the database record, the certificate is marked as Verified. If no matching record is found, the certificate is marked as Rejected. This simple yet effective mechanism ensures faster verification and reduces the risk of accepting fraudulent credentials.

Another important advantage of this system is 24/7 availability. Unlike manual administrative offices that operate during limited hours, this system can perform verification at any time. This improves accessibility and supports institutions, employers, and students across different regions.

Cost-effectiveness is another major benefit. By automating certificate validation, institutions can

reduce manual workload and administrative expenses while improving efficiency and reliability. utilization and improved efficiency within the healthcare system.

1.1 Objectives

- To design and develop a centralized academic certificate verification system.
- To create a secure database for storing authentic certificate records.
- To enable certificate upload and validation through a user-friendly interface.
- To provide instant verification results as "Verified" or "Rejected."
- To reduce the circulation of fake academic certificates.
- To improve transparency and trust in academic credential management.

1.2 Principles of Authenticity Validator for Academia Centralized Database System

The **Centralized Database System** is a core component of the Authenticity Validator for Academia. It ensures secure storage, structured management, and reliable verification of academic records through a unified institutional repository.

1.2.1 Centralized Record Management

All academic credentials, such as degree certificates, transcripts, and mark sheets, are stored in a single, authorized database managed by the institution or governing body. This eliminates data fragmentation and ensures consistency across records**.**

1.2.2 Data Integrity and Consistency

The system ensures that stored records remain accurate and unaltered. Data validation rules, audit logs, and controlled updates prevent unauthorized modifications.

1.2.3 Secure Access Control

Role-based authentication mechanisms restrict database access to authorized users only (e.g., administrators, verification officers).

- User Authentication
- Role-Based Authorization
- Encrypted Communication (SSL/TLS)

1) ***1.2.4 Real-Time Verification***

2) The validator cross-checks uploaded documents directly with centralized records to provide instant authenticity results.

1.2.5 Data Encryption and Privacy Protection

Sensitive academic records are protected using encryption techniques to ensure confidentiality and compliance with data protection regulations.

- Encryption at Rest
- Encryption in Transit
- Secure Backup Mechanisms

3) ***1.2.6. Scalability and Reliability***

4) The centralized database is designed to handle large volumes of records and concurrent verification requests without performance degradation.

1.2.7 Audit and Traceability

Every verification request and database update is logged to maintain transparency and accountability.

1.3 Processes Involved

1.3.1 User Registration and Authentication

Before accessing the system, users (students, institutions, or employers) must log in through secure authentication.

Purpose:

- Prevent unauthorized access
- Ensure secure document submission

1.3.2 Document Upload

The user uploads the academic document (certificate, transcript, mark sheet, etc.) in digital format (PDF/Image).

Purpose:

- Collect documents for validationInitiate verification workflow

5) 1.3.3 Document Preprocessing

6) *The system prepares the uploaded document for analysis by:*

- *Image enhancement*
- *Noise removal*
- *Format normalization*

1.3.4 Text Extraction (OCR Processing)

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) extracts textual data from the document.

Extracted Information May Include:

- Student Name
- Registration Number
- Institution Name
- Course Details
- Date of Issue

7) 1.3.5 Data Structuring and Feature Analysis

8) *The extracted data is converted into a structured format and analyzed by AI models.*

- *Template comparison*
- *Seal and signature detection*
- *Font and alignment verification*
- *Metadata analysis*

1.3.6 Database Cross-Verification

The system compares extracted data with records stored in the centralized academic database or blockchain ledger.

1.3.7 Fraud Detection and Authenticity Scoring

The AI system calculates an authenticity score based on:

- Data consistency
- Template matching accuracy
- Tampering detection
- Record verification results

1.3.8 Report Generation

The system generates a final validation report indicating:

- Authentic
- Suspicious
- Invalid

The report may include a verification ID and timestamp.

1.3.9 Logging and Audit Trail

All verification activities are recorded for transparency and traceability.

9) 1.4 Block Diagram of Authenticity Validator for Academia

The block diagram represents the overall architecture and workflow of the Authenticity Validator for Academia system. It shows how academic documents are processed, analyzed, verified, and validated through different modules.

User

The user can be a student, employer, university official, or verification authority. They initiate the verification process by submitting an academic document. The system provides them with a final authenticity result after processing**.**

User Interface (Web/Mobile Portal)

The user interface provides a platform for uploading academic documents and viewing results. It is designed to be simple, responsive, and accessible across devices. The interface ensures smooth interaction between the user and the system.

Authentication & Access Control

This module verifies the identity of users before granting system access. It uses secure login credentials and role-based authorization mechanisms. This ensures that only authorized individuals can upload or verify documents.

Document Upload & Preprocessing

In this stage, the uploaded document is stored temporarily for analysis. Image enhancement techniques such as noise removal and format normalization are applied. This improves the accuracy of text extraction and fraud detection

OCR Module (Text Extraction)

The Optical Character Recognition module extracts textual information from scanned documents or images. It converts unstructured document content into structured digital data. This extracted data is then passed to the AI analysis module.

AI Analysis & Fraud Detection

The AI module analyzes document patterns, templates, seals, signatures, and formatting. It detects inconsistencies, tampering, or mismatched structures

using machine learning algorithms. The system then determines whether the document appears genuine or suspicious.

Centralized Academic Database / Blockchain Ledger

This block stores official academic records issued by authorized institutions. The system cross-verifies extracted document data with stored records. Blockchain integration ensures data immutability and prevents unauthorized alterations.

Authenticity Score & Verification

After verification, the system calculates an authenticity score based on matching accuracy and fraud detection results. The score determines whether the document is authentic, suspicious, or invalid. This ensures a clear and reliable validation outcome.

Report Generation & Audit Logging

The system generates a detailed verification report with status and timestamp. All verification activities are recorded in audit logs for transparency and traceability. This helps maintain accountability and future reference.

III. 2. Existing Certificate Verification Systems

A.*Many institutions currently rely on manual verification processes such as email confirmations, telephone verification, or physical record checking. These methods are slow and inefficient.*

B.*Some digital platforms provide QR code-based certificate verification. However, not all institutions have adopted centralized verification systems. The lack of standardized digital authentication leads to inconsistency and verification delays.*

C.*The Authenticity Validator for Academia improves upon existing methods by providing a structured, database-driven verification mechanism that produces clear and immediate results.*

D. 2.1 Types of Academic Verification Methods

E. Manual Record Verification
QR Code-Based Certificate Validation
Email or Phone-Based Confirmation
Institution Portal Verification Systems
Centralized Digital Database Systems

Among these, centralized database systems offer the most reliable and scalable solution.:

2.1.1 Manual Verification System

In this traditional approach, verification is done by contacting the issuing institution directly via email, phone, or letter. University officials or administrative staff manually check records and respond to verification requests. While simple and widely used, it is time-consuming and prone to human error.

2.1.2 QR Code / Barcode Verification Systems

Many academic institutions now print QR codes or barcodes on certificates. Scanning the code redirects the verifier to a secure portal or a database to confirm details. This method automates
part of the process, but may still be vulnerable to fake certificates with copied or manipulated codes if not backed by secure backend validation.

2.1.3 Centralized Digital Portals

Some governments and education boards maintain central repositories that store authenticated academic records. Verifiers can check documents by entering unique certificate IDs into these portals. Although more reliable than manual methods, these portals require extensive cooperation from institutions and may face scalability or access challenges.

2.1.4 Blockchain-Based Verification

Blockchain solutions issue credentials on an immutable ledger where records cannot be altered once published. Verifiers query the blockchain to confirm authenticity using cryptographic proofs. This provides high security and tamper resistance, but implementing blockchain infrastructure across all institutions can be complex and costly.

2.1.5 Third-Party Credential Verification Services

Private platforms offer certificate validation services by aggregating institution data and performing automated checks. These services may use APIs, integration with educational systems, or send verification requests on behalf of clients. While convenient, they often depend on data access permissions and may not cover all institutions.

2.1.6 Digital Signatures and PKI (Public Key Infrastructure)

Institutions digitally sign academic documents using cryptographic keys. Verifiers authenticate signatures using public key certificates to ensure documents were issued by the authorized authority. This method is secure and efficient, but requires widespread adoption of digital signing standards and key management.

a)

2.2 Examples:

While existing systems provide varying levels of authentication, none offer complete automation, tamper detection, real-time verification, and integration with secure institutional records simultaneously. This gap motivates the development of an **Authenticity Validator for Academia** that combines OCR, machine learning, secure validation, and fraud detection to deliver faster, more reliable verification results.

b)

Benefits of Authenticity Validator

The Authenticity Validator for Academia provides multiple advantages to educational institutions, employers, students, and regulatory bodies by ensuring secure and reliable verification of academic credentials.

c)

1. Prevention of Academic Fraud
2. Real-Time Verification
3. Reduced Manual Workload
4. High Accuracy and Reliability
5. Enhanced Data Security
6. Centralized Record Management
7. Scalability
8. Improved Institutional Reputation
9. Audit and Traceability
10. Support for Digital Transformation

d)

Fig 2: Certificate Verification System

1)

2) 2.3 Software Requirements

The software requirements define the tools, technologies, frameworks, and platforms necessary for developing, deploying, and maintaining the Authenticity Validator for Academia system.:

l. The system should support development and deployment environments such as:

- *Windows 10 / 11 – For development and testing*
- *Linux (Ubuntu preferred) – Recommended for deployment*
- *macOS – For development purposes*

Linux is preferred for server deployment due to its stability, security, and performance efficiency.

The system requires programming languages capable of handling AI processing and web integration:

- *Python – For AI, OCR, backend development*
- *JavaScript – For frontend development*
- *HTML5 & CSS3 – For user interface design*

Python is the primary language due to strong AI and machine learning library support.

These frameworks enable intelligent document analysis and fraud detection:

- TensorFlow / PyTorch
- Scikit-learn
- OpenCV (for image processing)

These libraries support pattern recognition, template matching, and tamper detection.

Secure API access controls

IV. OCR TOOLS EXTRACT TEXT FROM SCANNED CERTIFICATES:

- Tesseract OCR
- Google Vision API (optional)

V. THESE TOOLS CONVERT DOCUMENT IMAGES INTO STRUCTURED DIGITAL TEXT.

- Unit Testing (PyTest / unittest)

- Integration Testing Tools
- Load Testing (JMeter)

Testing ensures system reliability and performance.

3. Performance Evaluation Metrics

Performance evaluation metrics are used to measure the accuracy, efficiency, reliability, and security of the Authenticity Validator for Academia. These metrics help determine how effectively the system detects forged documents and verifies genuine academic credentials.

3.1.1 Accuracy

Accuracy measures the overall correctness of the system in classifying documents as authentic or fake. It is calculated as the ratio of correctly classified documents to the total number of documents tested. High accuracy indicates reliable document verification performance.

Formula:

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

3.1.2. Precision

Precision measures how many documents are identified as fake

It reflects the system's ability to avoid false alarms. High precision ensures minimal incorrect fraud detection.

Formula:

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

3.1.3 Recall (Sensitivity)

Recall measures how effectively the system detects all actual fake documents.

It shows the system's ability to minimize missed fraud cases.

High recall means fewer forged certificates go undetected.

Formula:

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

Flow of Performance Evaluation Metrics

Below is a conceptual diagram of the existing methodology of public health AI chatbots:

Fig: Performance Evaluation Metrics

3.1.4. F1-Score

The F1-Score is the harmonic mean of precision and recall.

It provides a balanced evaluation when dealing with imbalanced

A higher F1-score indicates better fraud detection reliability.

Formula:

$$F1 = 2 \times \frac{Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$

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3.1.5 Response Time

Response time measures how quickly the system verifies a document

It reflects the system's real-time performance capability. Lower response time improves user satisfaction and system efficiency.

3.1.6 False Positive Rate (FPR)

This metric measures how many genuine certificates are incorrect. A low FPR is critical to maintain trust in the system.

It prevents unnecessary rejection of valid credentials.

3.1.7 False Negative Rate (FNR)

This measures how many fake certificates are incorrectly classified.

Lower FNR indicates stronger fraud detection capability.

It ensures the security and credibility of academic institutions.

User satisfaction measures ease of use, clarity of results, and overall Scalability evaluates the system's ability to handle multiple verification requests simultaneously. It measures performance under high user load conditions

Feedback surveys and usability testing are used for evaluation.

High user satisfaction indicates successful system adoption..

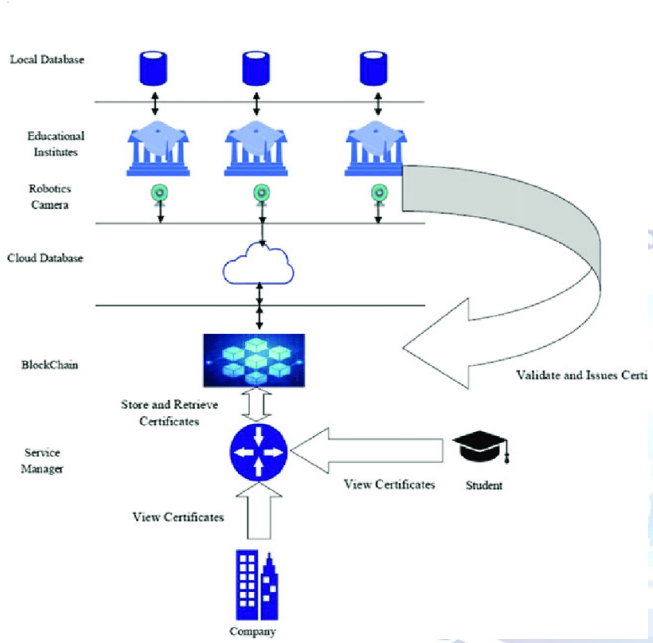

Fig.: Existing Systems

4. Feasibility Study

4.1 Technical Feasibility

Technical feasibility assesses whether the required technologies and tools are available to build the system.

The proposed system uses established technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), cloud computing, and secure databases. These technologies are widely supported through frameworks like TensorFlow, PyTorch, OpenCV, and Tesseract OCR. Modern cloud platforms enable scalable deployment, making the system technically achievable and reliable.

1) 4.2 Economic Feasibility

Economic feasibility evaluates whether the benefits of the system justify its development and operational costs.

The system can be developed using open-source tools and frameworks, reducing initial investment costs. Automation significantly reduces manual verification workload and administrative expenses over time. The long-term benefits, such as fraud prevention and improved efficiency, outweigh the development and maintenance costs.

4.3 Operational Feasibility

Operational feasibility determines whether the system will function effectively in real-world academic environments.

The system is designed with a user-friendly interface for students, employers, and administrators. Minimal training is required for users to upload documents and access verification results. The automated workflow ensures smooth integration into existing academic and recruitment processes.

Fig : Image of Feasibility Study

5. System Architecture

The system architecture defines the structural design and interaction between different modules of the Authenticity Validator for Academia. It follows a

layered architecture to ensure scalability, security, and efficient document verification.

5.1 Presentation Layer (User Interface)

This layer provides the interface for students, employers, and administrators.
Users can upload certificates, enter verification IDs, and view validation results.
It is developed using web technologies such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript frameworks.

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5.2 Application Layer (Processing Layer)

This layer handles business logic and system operations.
It manages user authentication, document processing, validation workflows, and result generation.
Backend frameworks like Flask or Django process requests and communicate with AI modules and databases.

5.3 Data Management Layer

This layer manages the storage and organization of academic records in the centralized database.
It securely stores certificate details, student information, and institutional data.
The system retrieves stored records when a verification request is initiated.
Extracted document data is compared with the stored academic records.

5.4 OCR & Document Processing Module

This module extracts text and relevant information from uploaded certificates.
OCR tools convert scanned images into machine-readable text.
Image preprocessing techniques improve accuracy before verification.

5.5 AI-Based Fraud Detection Module

This module analyzes extracted data to detect tampering or inconsistencies.
Machine learning algorithms compare document patterns with authentic templates.
It identifies forged signatures, altered marks, or mismatched details.

5.6 Database Layer (Centralized Academic Repository)

This layer stores verified academic records and institutional data.
The system cross-checks extracted document data with stored records.
It maintains logs of verification history and user activity.relevance.

5.7 Security & Authentication Module

This module ensures secure login and access control.
Encryption protocols protect sensitive academic data during transmission.
Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) restricts unauthorized system access.

5.8 Cloud & Deployment Infrastructure

The system can be deployed on cloud platforms for scalability.
Cloud hosting ensures high availability and load balancing.

5.9 Verification & Authenticity Scoring Module

This module determines whether the uploaded certificate is authentic or fraudulent.
It compares the extracted certificate data with the records stored in the centralized academic database.
Based on the comparison results, the system calculates an authenticity score.
Certificates with high scores are classified as genuine, while low scores indicate possible forgery.
The final verification result is then forwarded to the reporting system.

5.10 Report Generation & Notification Module

This module generates a verification report after the authenticity check is completed. The report includes certificate details, verification status, and timestamp.
Users can view the result through the system interface or download it as a report.
The system also stores verification logs for future reference and auditing. Notifications may be sent to users informing them about the verification outcome.

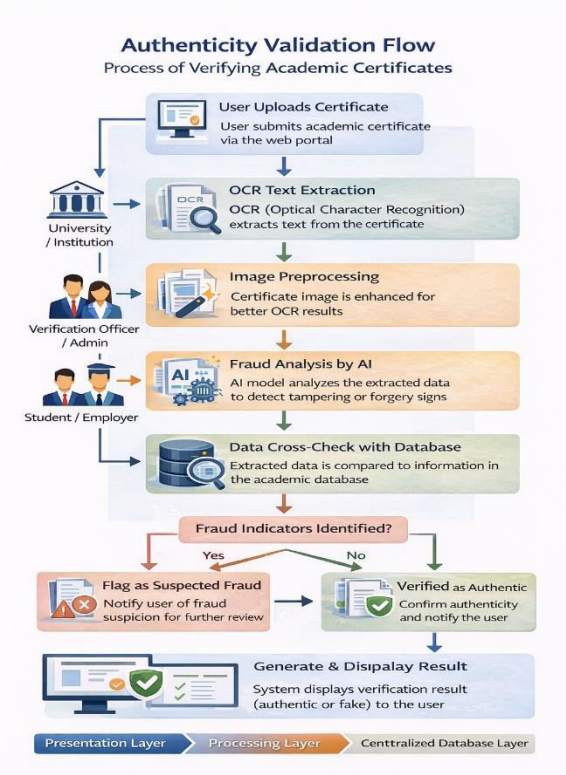

Fig 5 Diagram: Architectural Overview

6. System Implementation

The system implementation describes how the Authenticity Validator for Academia is developed, integrated, and deployed using software tools, AI techniques, and database systems. It explains the practical execution of the designed architecture.

6.1 Development Environment Setup

The system is developed using Python as the primary programming language. Frameworks such as Flask or Django are used for backend development, while HTML, CSS, and JavaScript are used for frontend design. Version control tools like Git are used to manage source code and track changes.

6.2 Database Implementation

A relational database, such as MySQL or PostgreSQL, is used to store academic records. Tables are designed to store student details, certificate information, verification logs, and user credentials. Secure database connections are established using encrypted communication protocols.

6.3 User Interface Implementation

The web-based interface is designed to allow users to upload certificates and view results. Forms are created for document submission and verification ID entry. The interface communicates with the backend server through REST APIs.

6.4 OCR Module Implementation

Tesseract OCR or similar tools are integrated to extract text from uploaded certificates. Image preprocessing techniques such as grayscale conversion, noise reduction, and resizing are applied before OCR processing. Extracted text is structured into predefined fields like name, registration number, and institution.

6.5 AI-Based Fraud Detection Implementation

Machine learning models are trained using datasets of genuine and fake certificates. Features such as formatting patterns, font consistency, signature placement, and seal detection are analyzed. The trained model classifies the document as authentic or suspicious based on learned patterns.

6.6 Data Cross-Verification Module

The extracted certificate data is compared with official records stored in the centralized database. Matching algorithms verify the student's name, roll number, course, and issue date. If discrepancies are found, the document is flagged for further review.

6.7 Security Implementation

User authentication is implemented using secure login credentials and JWT-based session handling. SSL encryption is applied to protect data transmission. Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) restricts system functionality based on user roles (admin, verifier, student).

6.8 Report Generation Module

After verification, the system generates a detailed report indicating the authenticity status. The report includes a timestamp, verification ID, and

authenticity score. Results are displayed on the dashboard and are optionally downloadable in PDF format.

6.9 Deployment

The system is deployed on cloud platforms such as AWS or Azure. Docker containers may be used for scalable deployment. Regular monitoring ensures performance stability and system uptime.

6.10 Testing and Validation

Unit testing is conducted for each module. Integration testing ensures smooth interaction between OCR, AI, and database modules. Performance testing evaluates response time and system accuracy under load.

7. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The Results and Discussion section presents the performance evaluation, experimental outcomes, and interpretation of the Authenticity Validator for Academia system after implementation and testing.

7.1. Experimental Setup

The system was tested using a dataset consisting of:

- Genuine academic certificates issued by institutions
- Digitally modified certificates
- Completely forged certificate templates

The evaluation was conducted to measure fraud detection capability, verification accuracy, and response time under different conditions.

7.2.2 Precision and Recall

The system demonstrated high precision, meaning most certificates marked as fraudulent were indeed fake. Recall values showed that the majority of forged certificates were successfully detected.This confirms effective fraud identification with minimal missed cases.

7.2.3 Response Time

The average verification response time was within a few seconds per document. OCR processing and AI analysis were optimized to ensure quickresults. This supports real-time verification capability for practical use.

7.2.4 False Positive and False Negative Analysis

The system maintained a low false positive rate, minimizing incorrect rejection of genuine certificates. The false negative rate was also kept low, reducing the risk of approving forged documents. Balancing these metrics improves reliability and institutional trust.

7.2.5 Scalability Testing

The system was tested with multiple simultaneous verification requests. Cloud deployment allowed efficient handling of concurrent users without significant delay. This confirms suitability for large-scale academic or recruitment environments.

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Fig 7 Diagram: Results and Discussion

Discussion: The results demonstrate that integrating OCR, AI-based fraud detection, and centralized database verification significantly improves certificate validation accuracy compared to traditional manual methods.

The system effectively identifies document tampering through pattern analysis, template comparison, and cross-verification with official records. Automated

processing reduces human intervention and verification delays.

However, system performance may depend on:

- Quality of uploaded document images
- Availability of updated institutional database records
- Size and diversity of training dataset for AI model

Continuous model training and database updates can further enhance performance.

Compared to manual and QR-based verification systems:

- The proposed system provides faster results.
- It offers intelligent tamper detection rather than simple code validation.
- It ensures secure, centralized, and automated verification.

This makes the Authenticity Validator for Academia more reliable and scalable for modern digital education ecosystems.

Results

The experimental findings confirm that the Authenticity Validator for Academia achieves high verification accuracy, low error rates, and fast response time. The system demonstrates strong potential for practical deployment in educational institutions, recruitment agencies, and regulatory bodies.

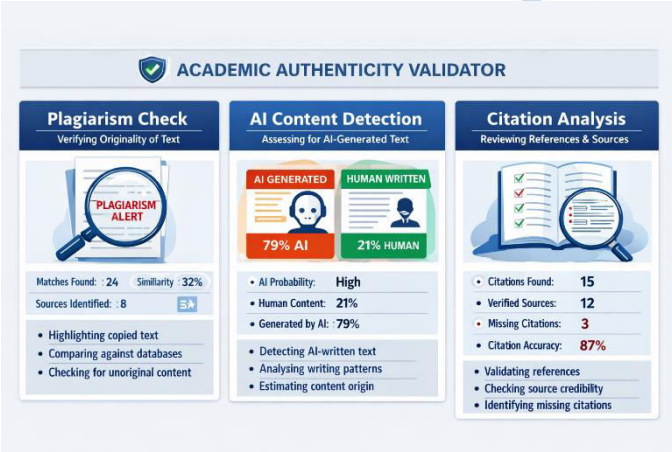

Fig. 7 .1 Analysis for Academic authenticity validator

This graph image represents the response accuracy of the **Authenticity Validator for Academia** by showing the percentage of certificates correctly verified and rejected. It visually highlights the system's performance in detecting whether an uploaded certificate is available in the database or not.

2)7.2.6 Response Accuracy

The accuracy of the **Authenticity Validator for Academia** was evaluated using a test dataset containing genuine, modified, and forged certificates. Even during multiple query executions, the system maintained consistent speed, ensuring a smooth user experience. Faster response time increases user engagement and improves.

Fig. 7 .2 Response Accuracy

8. CONCLUSION

The Authenticity Validator for Academia presents an intelligent and secure solution for verifying academic certificates in the digital era. By integrating Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based fraud detection, and centralized database cross-verification, the system effectively detects forged, modified, and genuine academic documents with high accuracy.

The implementation results demonstrate strong performance in terms of accuracy, precision, recall, and response time. Automated verification significantly reduces manual workload, minimizes human error, and enhances institutional credibility. The system's ability to provide real-time authentication ensures

faster decision-making for employers, universities, and regulatory authorities.

Furthermore, secure authentication mechanisms, encrypted data transmission, and audit logging ensure confidentiality and transparency. The scalable cloud-based deployment model makes the system suitable for large-scale institutional or national-level implementation.

In conclusion, the Authenticity Validator for Academia offers a reliable, efficient, and scalable approach to academic credential verification, strengthening trust and integrity within the educational ecosystem

9. FUTURE SCOPE

The Authenticity Validator for Academia can be further enhanced with advanced technologies and expanded functionalities to improve efficiency, security, and global adoption.

9.1 Blockchain-Based Credential Storage

Future versions can fully integrate blockchain technology for decentralized certificate storage. This would ensure immutable, tamper-proof academic records.

It enhances transparency and eliminates dependency on centralized databases.

9.2 Integration with National Education Portals

The system can be integrated with national academic repositories and government education databases. This enables automatic cross-verification with official records.

It ensures broader institutional participation and large-scale implementation.

9.3 Biometric-Based Verification

Adding biometric authentication (fingerprint or facial recognition) can strengthen identity validation. This ensures that certificates are linked directly to the rightful owner.

It reduces impersonation risks during verification.

9.4 AI Model Enhancement

Future improvements can include deep learning models trained on larger and more diverse datasets. Advanced image forensics techniques can improve detection of subtle tampering. Continuous learning mechanisms can enhance fraud detection accuracy over time.

9.5 Multilingual Document Support

The system can be enhanced to verify certificates in multiple regional and international languages. Advanced NLP models can interpret diverse document formats.

This supports global academic and recruitment systems.

Conflict of interest statement

Authors declare that they do not have any conflict of interest.

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