

Project Title: Database Design and Development for

Journal of E-commerce Research Knowledge

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1. Critical Evaluation of the Database System

A database is an organized and structured data collection that enables easy information management and retrieval. It is designed to effectively store and retrieve massive amounts of data to support efficient data management.

The three main parts of a typical database system are the database itself, which holds the data, a database management system (DBMS), which is the software used in maintaining the database, and the users who interact with the database to carry out various tasks. The DBMS provides a variety of functions and tools for creating, updating, and retrieving data from the database. Users are given the ability to specify the structure of the database, create connections between data elements, and apply data integrity restrictions. To ensure effective retrieval and processing of data, the DBMS also handles data organization and storage. There are various types of databases, they include;

1.1. Relational Database Management System

Since the 1970s, relational databases have been widely used in the field of computer science. They provide a well-organized and effective way to store and retrieve data. A relational database is made up of linked tables with shared characteristics. Each table has rows that represent individual records and columns that represent record attributes. Relationships between tables are established by defining keys, such as primary keys that uniquely identify rows within a table, and foreign keys used to link tables together (Date and Darwen, 2000). Maintaining data consistency across applications and database instances is a key strength of relational databases. They excel at ensuring that multiple database instances always have consistent data. Achieving this level of timely consistency with large amounts of data is challenging for other types of databases. Some modern databases, like NoSQL, offer "eventual consistency," which requires time for data synchronization (Oracle, 2014).

1.2. Non-Relational Database Management System

A non-relational database, also known as non-SQL or NoSQL, is a type of database that enables the storage and retrieval of data using methods other than the tabular relations used in relational databases (GeeksforGeeks, 2018). These databases emerged in 1998 (Quick Base, 2017).

Designed to handle and store large amounts of unstructured and semi-structured data, NoSQL databases differ from traditional relational databases that utilize tables with predefined schemas. Instead, they employ flexible data models capable of adapting to changing data structures. Additionally, NoSQL databases are horizontally scalable, enabling them to handle increasing data volumes (GeeksforGeeks, 2018).

In most NoSQL databases, there is a concept of eventual consistency, where changes to the database are gradually propagated to all nodes. As a result, queries for data may not

immediately return updated information, and there is a risk of retrieving inaccurate data, a situation known as stale reads (GeeksforGeeks, 2018).

1.3. Object-Oriented Database System

An object-oriented database management system (OODBMS), also known as an ODBMS (object database management system), is a type of database management system that enables the modeling, creation, and storage of data in the form of objects. ODBMS is particularly well-suited for managing complex data relationships, offering advantages over relational database management systems (RDBMS). Accessing data with numerous relationships stored across multiple tables in an RDBMS can be more challenging for applications compared to accessing data as objects in an ODBMS (SearchOracle, n.d.).

Using an ODBMS with object-oriented programming languages like Python, Java, C++, etc., can result in a more lightweight project because the database structure closely aligns with programming objects (MongoDB, n.d.).

1.4. Cloud Database Management System

A cloud database refers to a database that is created, deployed, and accessed within a cloud environment, including private, public, or hybrid clouds. This type of database provides three primary service options:

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS): This service grants users access to cloud-based physical and virtual servers, storage, and networking infrastructure. It serves as the backend IT infrastructure for running applications and workloads in the cloud.

Platform as a Service (PaaS): PaaS offers users a complete, pre-configured cloud-based platform for developing, running, maintaining, and managing applications. It provides a ready-to-use environment for application development and deployment.

Software as a Service (SaaS): SaaS enables users to access and use cloud-hosted application software. It allows users to utilize applications without the need for local installation or infrastructure management.

These three service types are the most popular offerings in cloud computing (IBM, 2023). Cloud databases offer several advantages, including cost savings, as users or organizations only pay for their usage, eliminating the need for infrastructure and minimizing maintenance costs (Oracle.com, 2014).

1.5. Centralized Database

In this type of database information is available through a network and is kept and controlled in a single location. Users can access the centralized computer via the network to retrieve the stored information. This type of database offers advantages such as enhanced security and data integrity, as well as reduced redundancy. Immediate access and updates to data are possible in a centralized database. The simplicity of a single database design makes it easier to manage and reduces the need for labor, power supply, and maintenance. Institutions such as enterprises, government entities, schools, and universities commonly employ centralized databases (Knowledge Base by phoenixNAP, 2021).

1.6. Distributed Database

In this type of database information is kept in distributed databases at several physical locations. The database may be spread out among several CPUs at one location or at several locations. End users perceive the data as existing in a single database because of the linkages between the distributed databases. This database type supports redundancy since other components would continue to function even if one of the servers or components went down, preventing downtime. Distributed database components join into a single conceptual database even when they are not physically connected (Knowledge Base by phoenixNAP, 2021).

1.7. Justification of Database for Case Study

The Journal of E-commerce Research Knowledge system deals with large volumes of structured data such as manuscripts, manuscript submissions, reviewers' details, author information, editor information, and editorial decisions. A relational database provides a structured and efficient way to store this data. A relational database provides data integrity by enforcing data constraints, such as ensuring that only valid data is entered into the system. This ensures that the data stored in the database is accurate and consistent, which is important for a system that relies on accurate information. In the event that reports need to be generated based on a range of metrics such as article submission rates, acceptance rates, and author demographics, which are important for tracking and evaluating the effectiveness of the system, a relational database can help with this.

Lastly, the Journal of E-commerce Research Knowledge system often deals with sensitive information such as author contact details and feedback from reviewers. A relational database provides a secure way to store this data, with features such as access controls, user authentication, and data encryption.

In summary, a relational database is an appropriate choice for the Journal of E-commerce Research Knowledge system due to its structured data storage, data integrity, flexibility, and security features.

2. Database Design

2.1. Entity Relationship Model (ERD)

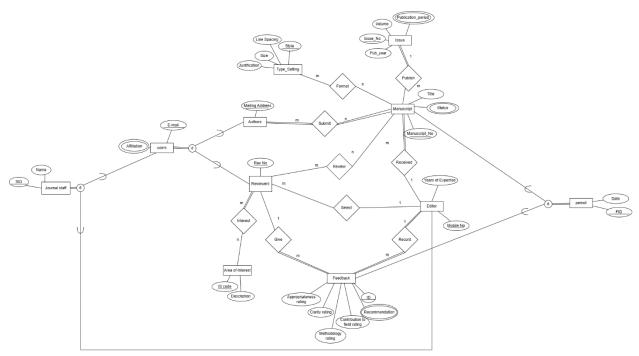


Figure 1: ERD of Journal of E-commerce Research Knowledge system

2.2. Relational Schema Mapping

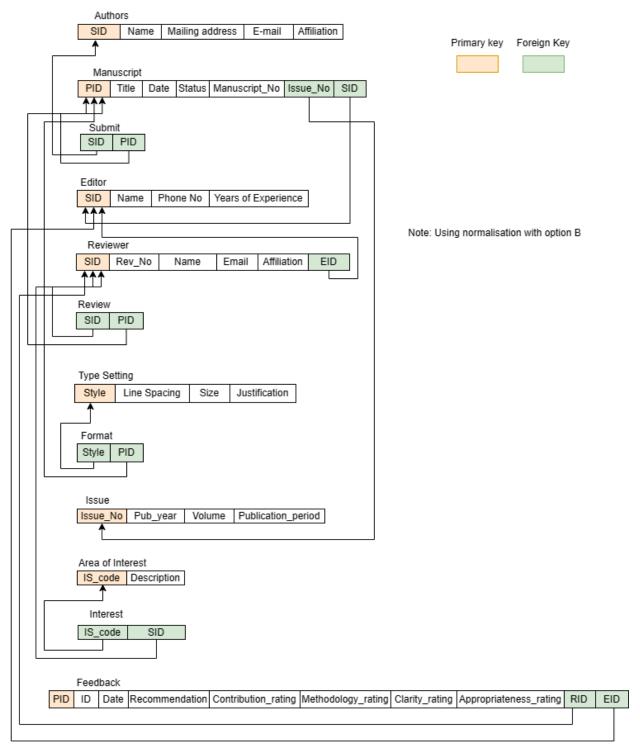


Figure 2: Schema of Journal of E-commerce Research Knowledge System

3. Database Development

3.1. Physical Design of the System

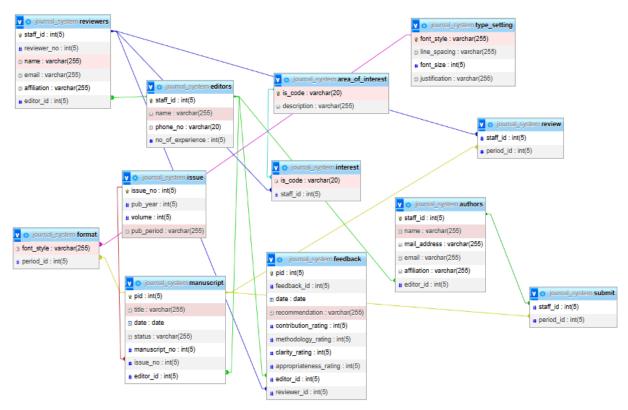


Figure 3: Database Schema and Relationship representation of the Journal System



Figure 4: Design of the Journal system

3.2. Tables and Relations

3.2.1. Author Entity

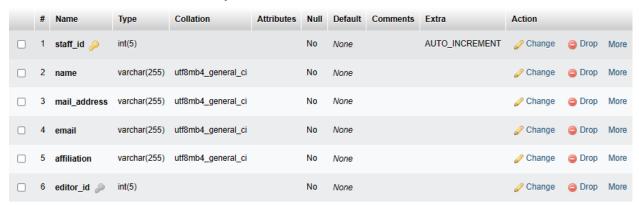


Figure 5: Author Entity Structure

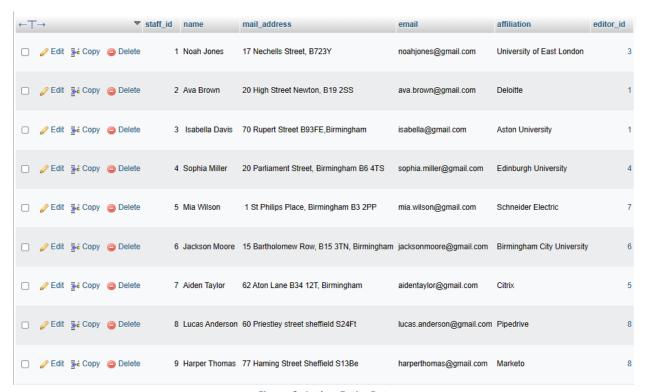


Figure 6: Author Entity Data

3.2.2. Editor Entity



Figure 7: Editor Entity Structure



Figure 8: Editor Entity Data

3.2.3. Reviewer Entity

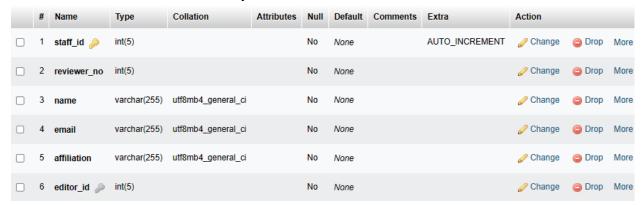


Figure 9: Reviewer Entity Structure

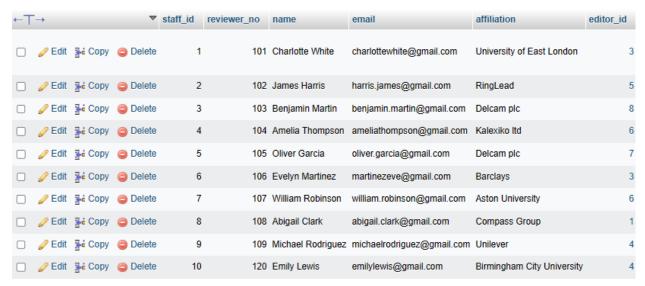


Figure 10: Reviewer Entity Data

3.2.4. Area of Interest Entity



Figure 11: Area of Interest Entity Structure

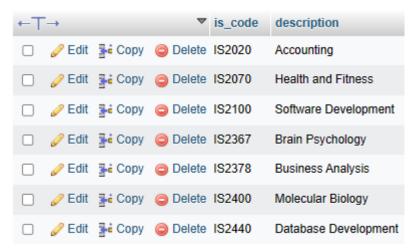


Figure 12: Area of Interest Entity Data

3.2.5. Interest (Relationship Between Reviewer and Area of Interest)



Figure 13: Interest Table Structure

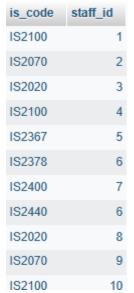


Figure 14: Interest Table Data

3.2.6. Issue Entity

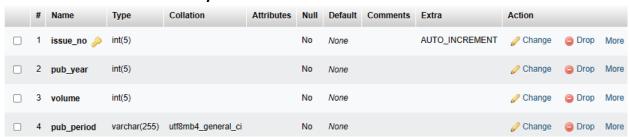


Figure 15: Issue Entity Structure



Figure 16: Issue Entity Data

3.2.7. Manuscript Entity

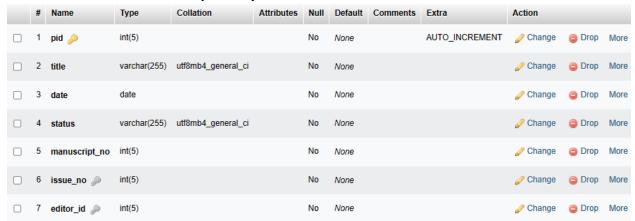


Figure 17: Manuscript Entity Structure

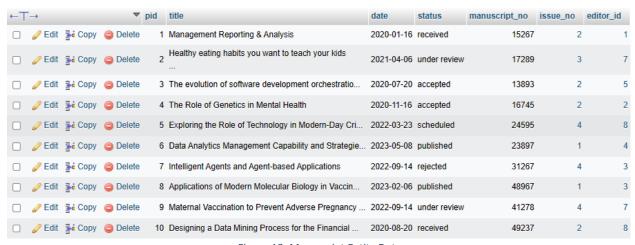


Figure 18: Manuscript Entity Data

3.2.8. Review Table (Relation between Reviewer and Manuscript)

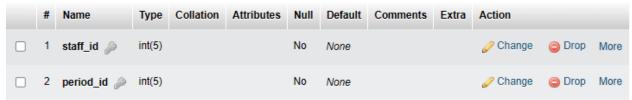


Figure 19: Review Table Structure

staff_id	period_id
3	1
4	2
6	3
7	5
8	6
9	8
10	1
1	2
2	3
3	5

Figure 20: Review Table Data

3.2.9. Feedback Entity

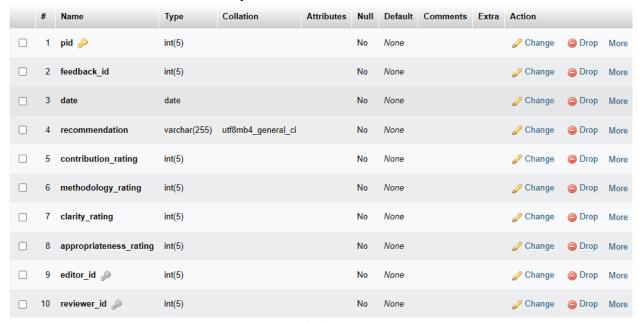


Figure 21: Feedback Entity Structure

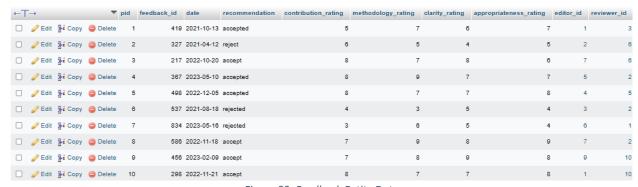


Figure 22: Feedback Entity Data

3.2.10. Type Setting

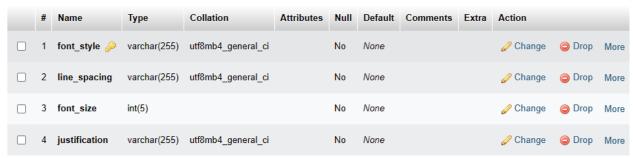


Figure 23: Type Setting Structure

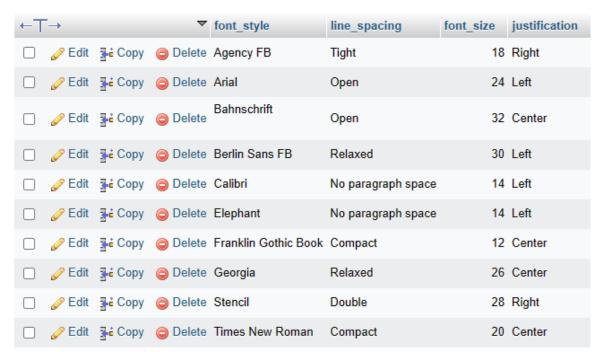


Figure 24: Type Setting Data

3.2.11. Format (Relation between Type Setting and Manuscript)



Figure 25: Format Table Structure

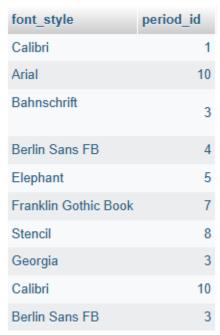


Figure 26: Format Table Data

3.2.12. Submit Table (Relation between Author and Manuscript)

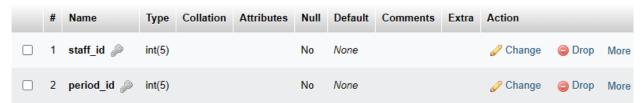


Figure 27: Submit Table Structure

staff_id	period_id
7	1
2	3
7	5
2	4
3	4
4	5
6	7
8	8
1	9
4	2

Figure 28: Submit Table Data

3.3. Queries Examples

Select Reviewers who have more than one Area of Interests



Figure 29: Query to get Reviewer with more than one Area of Interest

2. Select the title of the Manuscripts that have a feedback recommendation of 'reject'



Figure 30: SQL query showing Manuscripts with feedback of reject

3. Select the Authors who wrote more than one Manuscript



Figure 31: SQL, query showing Authors who wrote more than one manuscript

4. Select the most used Format style

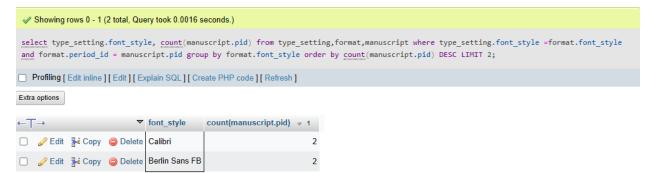


Figure 32: SQL query showing the most used font style

5. Select the Manuscript that was written by more than one Author

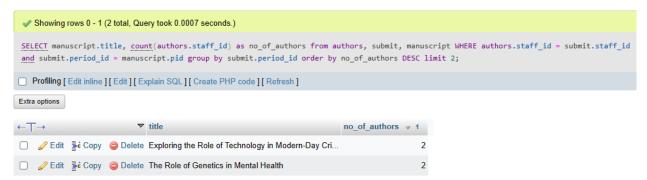


Figure 33: SQL query showing Manuscripts with more than one Author

6. Select Reviewers that are yet to give feedback



Figure 34: SQL query showing Reviewers without Feedback

7. Select Manuscripts that don't have reviewers

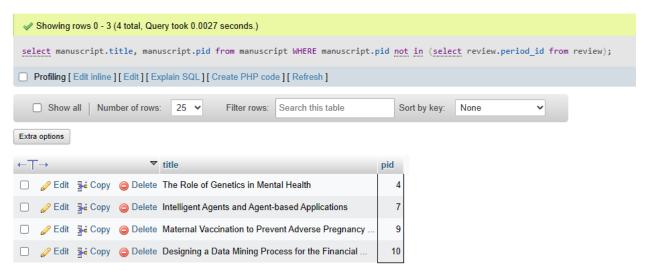


Figure 35: SQL query showing Manuscripts without Reviewers

8. Select the Editors that are yet to select Reviewers

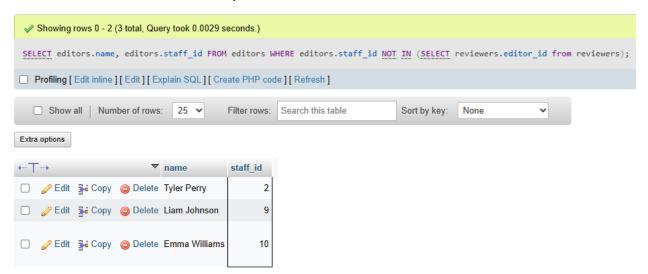


Figure 36: SQL query showing Editors without Reviewers

9. Select a Reviewer that has 'James' in his/her name

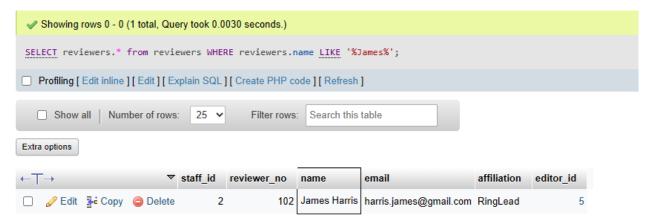


Figure 37: SQL Query showing a Reviewer with the name James

10. Select all the Manuscripts with a published status



Figure 38: SQL query showing all Manuscripts with 'published' status

4. Security Scenario

To guarantee the security of the system, several users with a variety of privilege and access to the database are created.

4.1. Creating Users

Different users are created for the system.

```
1 CREATE user 'admin_Paul'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'abc';
2 CREATE user 'user01_Ken'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'abc';
3 CREATE user 'user02_Jane'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'abc';
4 CREATE user 'user03_Tom'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'abc';
```

Figure 39: SQL query to create different users for the Journal System

4.2. Assigning Privileges

The different users are granted several accesses to the system based on their activities in the system.

```
GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON journal_system TO 'admin_Paul'@'localhost' WITH GRANT OPTION;

GRANT SELECT ON journal_system.editors TO 'user01_Ken'@'localhost';

GRANT SELECT ON journal_system.feedback TO 'user01_Ken'@'localhost';

GRANT SELECT, UPDATE, INSERT ON journal_system.reviewers TO 'user01_Ken'@'localhost';

GRANT SELECT, UPDATE, INSERT ON journal_system.manuscript TO 'user01_Ken'@'localhost';

GRANT SELECT ON journal_system.reviewers TO 'user02_Jane'@'localhost';

GRANT SELECT ON journal_system.manuscript TO 'user02_Jane'@'localhost';

GRANT SELECT ON journal_system.interest TO 'user02_Jane'@'localhost';

GRANT SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE ON journal_system.interest TO 'user02_Jane'@'localhost';

GRANT SELECT, INSERT ON journal_system.authors TO 'user03_Tom'@'localhost';
```

Figure 40: SQL query granting privileges to the created users

4.3. To check Account Privileges

1. Privilege check for 'admin Paul'

```
MariaDB [(none)]> show grants for 'admin_Paul'@'localhost';

| Grants for admin_Paul@localhost | |
| GRANT USAGE ON *.* TO `admin_Paul`@`localhost` IDENTIFIED BY PASSWORD '*0D3CED9BEC10A777AEC23CCC353A8C08A633045E' |
| GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON `journal_system`.* TO `admin_Paul`@`localhost` WITH GRANT OPTION |
| 2 rows in set (0.000 sec)
```

Figure 41: Check showing access granted to 'admin Paul'

2. Privilege check for 'user01 Ken'

```
MariaDB [(none)]> show grants for 'user01_Ken'@'localhost';

| Grants for user01_Ken@localhost
| GRANT USAGE ON *.* TO `user01_Ken`@`localhost` IDENTIFIED BY PASSWORD '*0D3CED9BEC10A777AEC23CCC353A8C08A633045E' |
| GRANT SELECT ON `journal_system`.`editors` TO `user01_Ken`@`localhost` |
| GRANT SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE ON `journal_system`.`manuscript` TO `user01_Ken`@`localhost` |
| GRANT SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE ON `journal_system`.`reviewers` TO `user01_Ken`@`localhost` |
| GRANT SELECT ON `journal_system`.`feedback` TO `user01_Ken`@`localhost` |
| Forws in set (0.001 sec)
```

Figure 42: Check showing access granted to 'user01 Ken'

3. Privilege check for 'user02_Jane'

Figure 43: Check showing access granted to 'user02_Jane'

4. Privilege check for 'user03 Tom'

Figure 44: Check showing access granted to 'user03_Tom'

5. Result when 'user02_Jane' performs an operation she does not have privilege to and when she performs operation, she has access to.

```
lariaDB [(none)]> select * from journal_system.authors
ERROR 1142 (42000): SELECT command denied to user 'user02_Jane'@'localhost' for table `journal_system`.`authors`
lariaDB [(none)]> select * from journal_system.reviewers limit 3;
                                                                                                             | editor_id |
 staff id | reviewer no | name
                                                    email
                                                                                affiliation
        1
                     101
harlotte White
  charlottewhite@gmail.com | University of East London |
                     102 | James Harris
       | harris.james@gmail.com | RingLead
3 | 103 | Benjamin Martin
    | benjamin.martin@gmail.com | Delcam plc
                                                                         8 |
 rows in set (0.001 sec)
ariaDB [(none)]>
```

Figure 45: Showing operation performance by 'user02_Jane'

6. Result when 'user03_Tom' performs an operation he has privilege to and when he performs operation, he does not have access to.

```
ariaDB [(none)]> select * from journal_system.authors limit 3;
 staff id | name
                                       | mail address
                                                                                                            | affiliation
                                                                                  | email
                                                                                                                                             editor id
        1 |
      | 17 Nechells Street, B723Y
                                               | noahjones@gmail.com | University of East London |
     | 20 High Street Newton, B19 2SS
                                                                       1 |
  ava.brown@gmail.com | Deloitte
Isabella Davis
 70 Rupert Street B93FE, Birmingham | isabella@gmail.com | Aston University
 rows in set (0.000 sec)
lariaDB [(none)]> update journal_system.authors set email='Noah1' where staff_id=17;
:RROR 1142 (42000): UPDATE command denied to user 'user03_Tom'@'localhost' for table `journal_system`.`authors`
 ariaDB [(none)]> Bye
```

Figure 46: Showing operation performance by 'user03 Tom'

5. Conclusion

For the Journal system we used the relational database due to its structured data storage, data integrity, flexibility, security features, and also its ability for linking tables through foreign and primary keys. An Entity Relational Diagram (ERD) and a Relational Schema Mapping to better visualize the relationships and the entities created. Sample SQL queries were created to check the structures and relationship between several tables in the database. Lastly various users were created and privileges assigned so as to demonstrate how the system can be secured.

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