



# VERDAD



University of the Philippines Los Baños  
Institute of Computer Science

CMSC 190-2: Special Problem  
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## Verdad: An Online Peer-Review System for News Articles

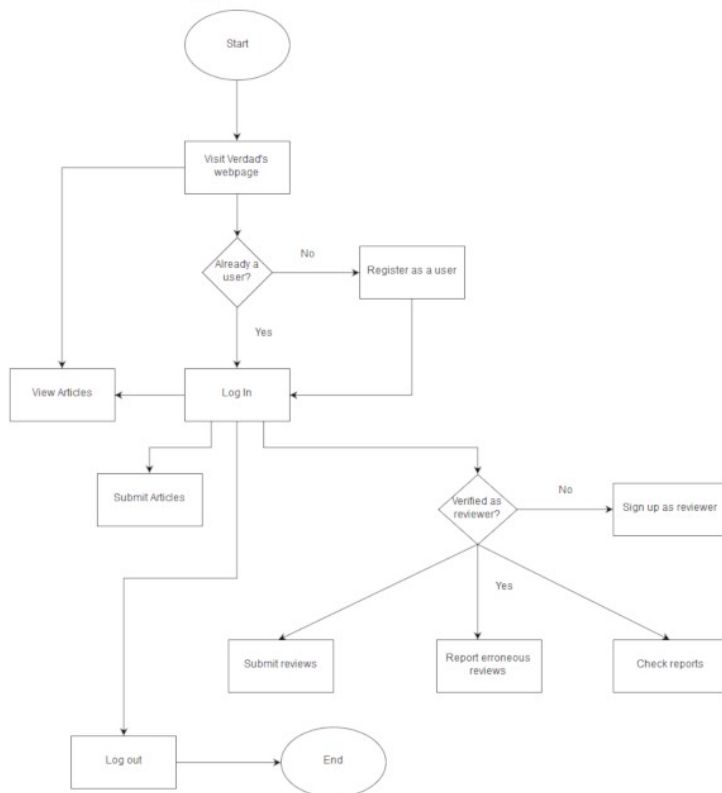
### Abstract

The proliferation of fake news has been a growing problem in Philippine society, online and beyond. There is a growing need for readers to distinguish facts from misinformation, and there is a need for better ways of fact-checking for the media industry. Meanwhile, academic journals already have a reliable system of quality checking: the peer review system. Thus, this study aims to create a similar peer review system for online news articles.

### Objectives

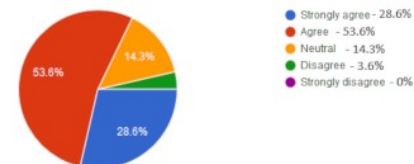
- Design a post-publication peer-review system for online news articles
- Create said system as a web application
- Implement and test the system's efficacy and determine other possible effects

### Methodology

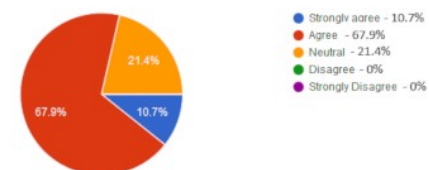


### Results

User Interface/Experience Survey: Do you agree that the system is overall easy to use?



User Trust Survey: Do you agree that Verdad, as a peer review system for news articles, is able to filter out fake news and other kinds of misinformation in media?



### Reviewer Test Results

- Respondent 1:
  - Article reviewed: The Largest Wind Farm in SE Asia Opens in the Philippines (<https://www.choosephilippines.com/go/heritage-sites/2076/burgos-wind-farm-ilocosnorte>)
  - Researcher's expected response: 4 out of 5 (<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/04/08/1908354-not-just-hot-air/locos-norte-does-have-biggest-wind-farm-region>)
  - Respondent's rating: 5 out of 5
- Respondent 2: AB Sociology Student
  - Article reviewed: Sara Duterte: Honesty should not be an election issue (<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/06/19/sara-duterte-honesty-should-not-be-an-election-issue>)
  - Researcher's expected response: 2 or 3 out of 5 (<https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/fact-check/225363-misleading-saraduterte-says-law-does-not-require-senators-honest>)
  - Respondent's rating: 5 out of 5
- Respondent 3: BS Computer Science Student
  - Article reviewed: Is it a sin not to vote for Otso Diretso? No, it's not (<https://www.manilatimes.net/is-it-a-sin-not-to-vote-for-otso-diretso-no-its-not/538468>)
  - Researcher's expected response: Tagged as opinion (explicitly labeled as opinion)
  - Respondent's rating: 1 out of 5
  - Respondent's article tag: Opinion

### Conclusion

This research reinforces manual news content analysis by creating a system that took influence in the peer review system used in academic journals. Although it needs improvement, it already showed potential as a useful tool in the fight against fake news. Users of the system showed trust in the concept, and the test reviewers performed well. Given that the system is scaled properly and public figures are enticed to use the system, the researcher expects Verdad to be effective in fighting fake news.

### About the Author

Justin is a student of UPLB and the youngest son of Cita and Rodel Rombawa.

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