

1 TRACKING UTILITY FOR KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION  
2 AND BENCHMARKING (TUKIB): AN INTEGRATED  
3 AUTOMATION SYSTEM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE  
4 PHILIPPINES VISAYAS REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTER

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## Abstract

21 From 150 to 200 words of short, direct and complete sentences, the abstract should  
22 be informative enough to serve as a substitute for reading the entire SP document  
23 itself. It states the rationale and the objectives of the research. In the final Special  
24 Problem document (i.e., the document you'll submit for your final defense), the  
25 abstract should also contain a description of your research results, findings, and  
26 contribution(s).

27 Suggested keywords based on ACM Computing Classification system can be  
28 found at [https://dl.acm.org/ccs/ccs\\_flat.cfm](https://dl.acm.org/ccs/ccs_flat.cfm)

29 **Keywords:** Keyword 1, keyword 2, keyword 3, keyword 4, etc.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Overview of the Current State of Technology

In the era of digital transformation, efficient data management and streamlined service workflows are critical for the success of any business or institution. Perhaps one of the remarkable and known products of technology is converting paper-based or manually-operated systems to automated systems. It is irrefutable that automation greatly impacts people’s lives, providing increased efficiency and productivity.

The University of the Philippines Visayas - Regional Research Center (UPV RRC) is a centralized facility that strengthens UP Visayas’ research and innovation capabilities by providing researchers access to and training on advanced analytical equipment and method development. It provides several services catering to different fields of natural and physical sciences. Current practices on the service flow of the institution rely heavily on manual processes, using tools such as Google Forms and Google Sheets for service request handling, tracking, and data management. While these methods provide a foundational level of functionality, they fall short in addressing the specific needs of service flow requirements of the RRC, posing challenges not only for the staff but also for the clients.

Automation, defined as “the application of technology, programs, robotics or processes to achieve outcomes with minimal human input” (IBM, 2024), has been effectively adopted across various industries to enhance quality, productivity, efficiency, timeliness, effectiveness, and operational safety. Additionally, it helps lower costs and provides greater value to customers (Zayas-Cabán, Haque, & Kemper, 2021). Over the years various technologies have been developed in

87 order to address the pressing needs for automation.

88 The proliferation of advanced software solutions presents an opportunity to  
89 enhance operational efficiency by automating service flow tasks. However, exist-  
90 ing systems fail to provide the specific necessities of some institutions hence, a  
91 more sophisticated software is often needed. By developing a specialized software  
92 solution tailored to the unique needs of RRC, it is possible to significantly im-  
93 prove productivity, data accuracy, and overall effectiveness. This project explores  
94 the design and implementation of such a software solution, aiming to replace the  
95 existing reliance on Google Apps with a more robust, integrated system.

96 The proposed software seeks to address several key challenges faced by the  
97 institution, including the automation of repetitive tasks and the facilitation of  
98 seamless communication among team members. By making use of modern tech-  
99 nologies and best practices in software development, this research aims to provide  
100 a practical, scalable solution that can be adapted to various research environments.

## 101 1.2 Problem Statement

102 The UPV Regional Research Center (RRC) currently relies on a manual service  
103 workflow for handling client requests, managing laboratory services, and tracking  
104 research-related activities. This process, which depends on Google Forms and  
105 Sheets, lacks automation, leading to inefficiencies such as delays in service re-  
106 quests, difficulty in tracking progress, and limited scalability as the demand for  
107 RRC services grows. Furthermore, the absence of a centralized system makes it  
108 challenging for staff to manage and monitor multiple services and for clients to  
109 access real-time information about their requests.

110 To address these issues, a comprehensive and integrated workflow automation  
111 system, named TUKIB, is necessary. The system aims to automate service re-  
112 quests, improve data management, enhance communication between RRC staff  
113 and clients, and streamline overall operations. With automation, the center can  
114 improve the efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility of its services, supporting both  
115 the internal management and external user experience.



## 116 1.3 Research Objectives

### 117 1.3.1 General Objective

118 The general objective of this paper is to develop a system to automate and op-  
119 timize the service flow and data management at UPV Regional Research Center  
120 and evaluate its effectiveness. The system will be called TUKIB, an acronym for  
121 Tracking Utility for Knowledge Integration and Benchmarking.

### 122 1.3.2 Specific Objectives

123 Specifically this study aims to:

- 124 1. Automate the management of service requests and tracking, enabling real-  
125 time monitoring of ongoing tasks and requests for both RRC staff and clients  
126 by developing an integrated workflow automation system that streamlines  
127 the UPV Regional Research Center's (RRC) service processes, reducing  
128 manual intervention and enhancing operational efficiency.
- 129 2. Create a centralized data management system for RRC that ensures secure,  
130 efficient storage and retrieval of information related to service requests, lab-  
131 oratory usage, and client transactions.
- 132 3. Improve communication and feedback mechanisms between RRC staff and  
133 clients, enabling the RRC to get the necessary statistics for customer satis-  
134 faction, and identify their service strengths and weaknesses.
- 135 4. Design and implement a chatbot, allowing the automation of the initial  
136 consultation process and for clients to interact with the system for service  
137 inquiries and assistance, providing immediate and accurate responses.
- 138 5. Evaluate the system's impact on operational efficiency, compare the au-  
139 tomated workflow with the previous manual processes in terms of speed,  
140 accuracy, and user satisfaction.
- 141 6. Ensure the system is scalable and adaptable to future requirements, allow-  
142 ing the RRC to accommodate increased demand and potentially integrate  
143 additional features in the long term.

## 144 1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Research

145 This special problem focuses on developing the Tracking Utility for Knowledge  
146 Integration and Benchmarking (TUKIB), an integrated workflow automation sys-  
147 tem designed for the UPV Regional Research Center (RRC). The system aims to  
148 automate key service flow and data management aspects within the RRC.

149 TUKIB will cover the full-service management cycle of the UPV RRC, from  
150 initial client service requests to the completion and feedback stage. It will in-  
151 clude features such as real-time tracking of service requests, a full inventory list  
152 and management of the RRC equipment, automated notifications to clients and  
153 staff, and an integrated platform for storing and managing service data. Key  
154 components such as user interfaces for staff and clients, real-time service status  
155 updates, events and schedule management, transaction records, and a feedback  
156 collection mechanism will be developed. Data accuracy will be ensured by min-  
157 imizing manual input and automating repetitive processes, reducing errors and  
158 improving operational efficiency. The project will also involve the deployment of  
159 chatbots to enhance the communication flow between clients and staff, providing  
160 instant responses to inquiries and updates on service requests. The system will  
161 be scalable, allowing it to be adapted to other similar research institutions in the  
162 future.

163 The system's functionalities will be limited to the services provided by the  
164 UPV RRC and may not cover other internal or external functions and services.  
165 Customization will be tailored to the specific workflows of UPV RRC, so further  
166 modification would be needed for implementation of different institutions or in-  
167 dustries. The project will focus on workflow automation but will not delve into  
168 advanced analytics or AI beyond using chatbots for customer communication and  
169 statistics for service feedback reports. The system also requires a stable internet  
170 connection for real-time features like notifications and status tracking; thus, its  
171 performance may be compromised in areas with poor connectivity. The effective-  
172 ness of the system depends on staff and client adaptability to the new system,  
173 which may require a period of training and adjustment.

## 174 1.5 Significance of the Research

175 The development of TUKIB offers significant contributions on multiple fronts,  
176 benefiting the researchers, the UPV RRC, and other research institutions facing  
177 similar challenges in service and data management, the computer science commu-  
178 nity, and the general society.

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- **The Researchers**

The TUKIB project provides an invaluable opportunity for researchers to apply their theoretical knowledge and practical skills to solve real-world problems. It allows them to demonstrate their competency in system design, workflow automation, and software development, contributing to the completion of their degree requirements.

Beyond academic fulfillment, the project also equips the researchers with hands-on experience in managing complex systems, collaborating with stakeholders, and implementing scalable technological solutions, which will be beneficial in their future careers in computer science and related fields.

- **The UPV RRC and Other Research Institutions**

The TUKIB system will significantly improve the operational efficiency of the UPV Regional Research Center by automating its service request workflows and data management processes. The integration of this system will reduce the time and effort spent on manual tasks such as request processing, service tracking, and data entry. This not only streamlines the internal processes but also enhances the overall user experience for both researchers and external clients, who will benefit from a more transparent and efficient service flow.

Furthermore, other research institutions facing similar challenges in managing their services and data will be able to adapt TUKIB to their own workflows, allowing them to optimize resource allocation and improve communication between staff and clients. TUKIB’s customizable and scalable nature makes it a valuable model for research institutions looking to enhance their operations without investing in entirely new systems.

- **The Computer Science Community**

For the computer science community, TUKIB represents a meaningful contribution in terms of integrating workflow automation, real-time tracking, and chatbot technology into a research-driven service environment. The project showcases an innovative approach to solving a niche problem, providing a practical application for the latest software development methods and techniques in workflow optimization. Additionally, it demonstrates the importance of developing scalable, customizable solutions that can be adapted to a variety of organizational contexts.

This research also serves as a case study in designing user-centered automation systems, contributing to the knowledge of software solutions that

217 bridge the gap between operational requirements and technological advance-  
218 ments. The learnings from TUKIB could inspire future research in workflow  
219 management, data accuracy, and intelligent user interfaces.

220

## 221 • The General Society

222 On a broader scale, the TUKIB project has the potential to benefit so-  
223 ciety by promoting more efficient research processes. By optimizing how  
224 research institutions manage their services, TUKIB indirectly supports the  
225 advancement of scientific research. With more streamlined workflows and  
226 reduced administrative burdens, research institutions can focus their re-  
227 sources on the core activities of scientific discovery and innovation. This, in  
228 turn, may lead to faster advancements in areas like environmental science,  
229 technology development, and public health, which could have far-reaching  
230 societal impacts.

231

232 In summary, TUKIB stands as an important system not only for those  
233 immediately involved in its implementation but also for the larger commu-  
234 nity of researchers, developers, and society as a whole. Its contributions  
235 reach across the fields of computer science, research, and institutional man-  
236 agement, offering lasting benefits in terms of technological innovation and  
237 service improvement.

## Chapter 2

# Review of Related Literature

The purpose of this literature review is to provide a comprehensive background on automated systems for workflow automation, especially on service processes, which will inform the development of the system for the University of the Philippines Visayas - Regional Research Center (UPV RRC). This review aims to identify existing solutions, highlight gaps and challenges, and explore technologies that can be used to develop the system to improve the UPV RRC's operational efficiency.

## 2.1 Challenges in Manual Service Handling

Manual handling of service processes and data management can often lead to challenges, including inefficiencies, errors, and delays. One of the most common issues is the risk of data entry errors. Even small data entry errors can devastate outcomes, corrupting important data. A study involving three different data entry methods (double entry, visual checking, and single entry) revealed that manual entry, particularly visual checking, has a significantly higher number of errors-2958% more than double entry methods (Beaty, 1999). These errors can be subtle and difficult to detect, compounding their negative impact on operational efficiency.

Another limitation of manual service handling is its reliance on human intervention, which frequently results in mistakes that are hard to correct. These errors can escalate operational costs, affect service quality, and lead to customer dissatisfaction. For organizations with manual systems, human error compromises not just data integrity but also the scalability and effectiveness of service

262 operations. Additionally, manual systems lack real-time monitoring capabilities,  
263 which are critical for improving service processes. Without automated tracking  
264 tools, organizations often miss out on insights that could highlight areas needing  
265 improvement.

266 Current practices in manual service handling also highlight limitations in  
267 widely used tools like Google Sheets and Google Docs, which are often insuffi-  
268 cient for managing large-scale workflows. These tools lack advanced data retrieval  
269 capabilities, and users have reported issues with data not being pulled correctly.  
270 According to Okta’s documentation on Google Sheets limitations, there are sig-  
271 nificant challenges when retrieving and integrating data, leading to inefficiencies  
272 in data management processes. Moreover, manual entry in Google Forms is prone  
273 to errors, which can undermine the accuracy of collected data.

274 The impact of these manual methods on stakeholders is substantial. Organi-  
275 zations relying on manual workflows often experience extended processing times,  
276 directly affecting service delivery. For instance, tasks that could be automated are  
277 unnecessarily prolonged when handled manually, delaying customer satisfaction.  
278 Furthermore, manual systems offer limited visibility and tracking capabilities.  
279 Without real-time performance metrics, organizations cannot effectively monitor  
280 their workflows or identify improvement areas. According to research, companies  
281 that automate their workflows experience reduced errors and faster processing  
282 times, which lead to improved operational efficiency and better customer out-  
283 comes. Thus, the inefficiencies inherent in manual service handling are a barrier  
284 to organizational growth, and stakeholders across all levels—from employees to  
285 customers—are adversely affected (Davis, n.d.).

## 286 2.2 Workflow Automation

287 Workflow automation refers to the utilization of technology systems, usually in-  
288 volving several software and hardware integrations, to efficiently carry out repeti-  
289 tive tasks, thereby reducing the roles of humans in it (Winarko, 2021). Workflow  
290 automation simplifies the sequencing and completion of tasks within a process by  
291 minimizing manual input. Also known as business process automation (BPA),  
292 this approach replaces human intervention with digital technologies to automate  
293 workflows. At the core of workflow automation is the ability to streamline pro-  
294 cesses in various job functions—such as HR, accounting, and procurement—into a  
295 series of repeated steps without human involvement. Users can define these steps  
296 and use tools like drag-and-drop interfaces to create automated workflows.

297 Research indicates that automating business processes through workflow au-  
298 tomation can re-engineer operations, increase productivity, and improve decision-  
299 making timeliness (Abecker et al., 2000; Aversano et al., 2002; Kumar & Zhao,  
300 1999). It can also enhance efficiency, ensure quality data collection, and improve  
301 overall output quality (London et al., 2009; Pakdil et al., 2009). Suitable pro-  
302 cesses for automation typically exhibit characteristics such as repeatability and  
303 predictability (Baresi et al., 1999; Basu & Kumar, 2002).

304 A workflow automation software uses rule-based logic to automate tasks that  
305 would otherwise require manual effort, such as data entry. While traditionally  
306 seen as a tool for IT departments, this software simplifies complex business op-  
307 erations, enhancing efficiency, productivity, and overall customer satisfaction. It  
308 is a valuable resource across the entire organization. Connecting various business  
309 processes automates critical tasks, sequences, and approvals, allowing workflows  
310 to progress automatically without human intervention. This leads to several key  
311 advantages for businesses (ServiceNow, n.d.).

312 Automating workflows offers significant benefits by addressing the limitations  
313 and inefficiencies associated with manual processes. While employees are crucial  
314 assets, their capacity to handle repetitive tasks is limited, and relying solely on  
315 them can lead to bottlenecks, errors, and revenue loss. By automating key steps  
316 and handoffs, workflows proceed more swiftly, reducing the time spent on man-  
317 ual tasks and enabling employees to focus on strategic initiatives. Furthermore,  
318 automated workflows provide transparency and detailed records, which improve  
319 accountability by clearly documenting task progress and responsibilities. Automa-  
320 tion also minimizes errors by adhering to predefined rules and methodologies set  
321 by programmers, maintaining consistent results. Ultimately, these improvements  
322 improve customer experience by speeding up processes, reducing errors, and en-  
323 hancing service delivery.

### 324 2.2.1 Workflow automation in different industries

325 Automation was used for several workflows across a range of industries. Certain  
326 industries, like manufacturing and banking, have a long history of using automa-  
327 tion, while others, such as legal consultation, hospitality, and transportation, are  
328 newer to automation (Zayas-Cabán et al., 2021). Across industries, various work-  
329 flows have been automated, such as accounting tasks, document routing, resource  
330 allocation, quality monitoring and control, report generation, and supply chain  
331 and logistics management (Aguirre & Rodriguez, 2017; McQuilken, 2014).

332 In the education sector, many universities worldwide use automation tools of

333 some form, driven by the need for efficiency and compliance with educational stan-  
334 dards. These tools facilitate various processes, including enrollment, grading, and  
335 course management, allowing educators to focus more on teaching and student  
336 engagement (Choudhary, Tariq, Chaudhry, Maneha, & Awan, 2024). Similarly,  
337 automation in healthcare has improved the accuracy and accessibility of patient  
338 information, resulting in more informed decision-making. Even in government of-  
339 fices, the evident use of automation tools for service processes can also be observed  
340 to enhance service efficiency and transparency.

## 341 **2.3 Client and stakeholder feedback mechanisms**

342 Automated systems enhance client and stakeholder feedback mechanisms, offering  
343 faster, more accurate, and easily accessible ways to gather feedback. In contrast to  
344 manual systems, where feedback collection is often slow and inefficient, automation  
345 streamlines the process and allows organizations to capture valuable insights in  
346 real-time. Automated feedback systems provide multiple channels for clients to  
347 share their experiences, such as surveys, feedback forms, chatbots, and email  
348 prompts, making it more convenient for them to respond.

349 One of the key advantages of automation in feedback mechanisms is its abil-  
350 ity to increase client satisfaction. Automated systems ensure timely follow-up,  
351 enabling organizations to respond to client issues promptly. This immediacy im-  
352 proves client trust, as they feel heard and valued. Furthermore, automation allows  
353 consistent feedback collection without burdening staff with repetitive tasks. For  
354 instance, after a service interaction or product delivery, an automated system can  
355 trigger a feedback request immediately, reducing the chances of missed feedback  
356 opportunities. Automation also enhances the quality and volume of feedback col-  
357 lected. By integrating analytics tools, organizations can sort and analyze client  
358 responses faster, identifying trends and areas for improvement more effectively  
359 than manual methods. This enables companies to act swiftly on the feedback  
360 received, leading to quicker improvements in service quality and customer sat-  
361 isfaction. Additionally, automated feedback systems can be configured to send  
362 reminders to clients who have not yet provided feedback, thus increasing the re-  
363 sponse rate.

364 Moreover, automated systems contribute to data centralization and organi-  
365 zation, making tracking feedback over time and measuring progress on key per-  
366 formance indicators (KPIs) easier. For example, client satisfaction scores, Net  
367 Promoter Scores (NPS), and other metrics can be automatically compiled and  
368 visualized in dashboards, providing stakeholders with actionable insights. This



369 real-time access to data helps address individual client concerns and allows busi-  
370 nesses to refine their services based on aggregate feedback.

371 In stakeholder management, automated systems enhance transparency and  
372 engagement. Regular automated reports on client satisfaction metrics keep stake-  
373 holders informed about service performance and areas that require attention. This  
374 fosters a culture of continuous improvement, as stakeholders can actively shape  
375 the business strategy based on real-time feedback. As summary, automated feed-  
376 back mechanisms lead to greater client satisfaction by streamlining the feedback  
377 process, improving response times, and providing actionable insights that support  
378 long-term business growth.

## 379 **2.4 Existing Systems**

380 The development of various digital automation systems and platforms has prolif-  
381 erated over the years. These systems encompass a wide range of functionalities -  
382 from automating tasks to facilitating collaboration among staff.

383 For instance, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems are integrated  
384 software solutions that manage the core business processes of an organization  
385 (Blahusiakova, 2023). ERP systems integrate various business processes, such  
386 as Finance, Human Resources, Supply Chain Management, and Customer Rela-  
387 tionship Management (CRM), into one complete system to streamline processes  
388 and information across the organization (Kimberling, 2024). Examples of existing  
389 ERP systems that are used by businesses and organizations are Microsoft Dy-  
390 namics 365 Business Central, Syspro, QT9, and Acumatica. In addition to these  
391 comprehensive systems, some businesses and institutions are also utilizing Google  
392 apps like Google Drive, Docs, and Sheets to facilitate easier information sharing,  
393 enabling teams to work collaboratively.

394 Moreover, online automation platforms like Zapier and Integromat (Make)  
395 help automate interactions between different apps, enabling businesses to inte-  
396 grate multiple systems and optimize workflows without the need for coding (Wolf,  
397 2020). These systems are examples of how institutions tackle complex tasks, re-  
398 duce manual data entry, and improve decision-making.

## 399 2.5 Gaps in the existing systems and solutions

400 Despite the availability of various existing automation systems, significant gaps  
401 persist that hinder their effectiveness. One major gap is customization limitations  
402 which prevent organizations from tailoring solutions to their specific workflows  
403 (Aleixo, Freire, Santos, & Kulesza, 2010). These one-size-fits-all solutions can  
404 lead to inefficiencies, as standardized systems may not align with different organi-  
405 zations’ unique processes or requirements. Employees might adapt their workflows  
406 to fit the software rather than the software, enhancing their operational efficiency.

407 Additionally, the lack of adaptability to changing processes can render these  
408 existing systems ineffective over time. While these existing solutions might be  
409 beneficial to some companies, they can be detrimental to organizations that rely  
410 on their capacity to meet customer demands(Akkermans et al., 2003). Also, as  
411 organizations evolve, they often need to adjust their workflows in response to new  
412 challenges, regulations, or market demands. Rigid Systems that cannot easily  
413 accommodate such changes can become obsolete.

414 Furthermore, many existing software solutions are proprietary, increasing costs  
415 for organizations. Proprietary systems often have high licensing fees, maintenance  
416 costs, and limited scalability (Madhu Goel, 2012; Prasad & Reddy, 2013). Or-  
417 ganizations may find themselves locked into contracts that are not cost-effective,  
418 particularly if the software does not deliver the expected return on investment.  
419 On top of that, the difficulty of adapting and getting these automation systems  
420 to work effectively is also well documented (Adams, Edmond, & Ter, 2011).

## 421 2.6 Chatbot

422 With the increasing use of the Internet, many businesses and institutions are  
423 utilizing online platforms to manage customer inquiries. Consequently, a growing  
424 number of them are adopting chatbots to enhance customer service, streamline  
425 operations, and boost productivity (Suta et al., 2020). In recent years, chatbots  
426 have become an important tool across various industries, particularly in service  
427 delivery and automation.

428 The word “chatbot” is a portmanteau word that is a combination of the words  
429 “chatting” and “robot” (Rese, Ganster, & Baier, 2020). A chatbot is an example of  
430 technology that is used in computer-mediated communication, where an intelligent  
431 system occupies roles once served by humans (Austin Beattie & Edwards, 2020).  
432 It is also defined as conversational software that is capable of simulating human

433 conversation with an end user through text or voice interaction (Nuruzzaman &  
434 Hussain, 2018).

435 Chatbots can be broadly categorized into two types; rule-based and AI-based  
436 chatbots. Rule-based chatbots function with a set of guidelines through pattern-  
437 matching and are limited in their conversation. This means that it can only  
438 respond to a limited range of queries and vocabulary. AI-based chatbots leverage  
439 artificial intelligence(AI), natural language processing(NLP), and machine learn-  
440 ing(ML) technologies and algorithms to understand different keywords that users  
441 type in when chatting with them. This integration significantly enhances user  
442 experience and operational efficiency as these chatbots learn and adapt over time  
443 (Kar & Haldar, 2016).

## 444 2.6.1 Chatbots in Service Automation

445 Chatbots are deployed across different platforms, including websites, social me-  
446 dia, and instant messaging applications, making them good tools for both internal  
447 and external organizational tasks (Hagberg, Sundström, & Egels-Zandén, 2016;  
448 Zarouali, Van den Broeck, Walrave, & Poels, 2018). Internally, chatbots support  
449 services, including IT Service Management (ITSM), Human Resource Manage-  
450 ment (HRM), and learning management systems (Wolf, 2020; Nawaz& Gomes,  
451 2019; Bakouan, 2018). Externally, chatbots are increasingly replacing traditional  
452 branded websites, offering a more interactive platform for customer relationship  
453 management, sales, and marketing (Broeck, 2019).

454 Institutions are utilizing chatbots for various applications. For instance, Penn-  
455 sylvania State University employs a chatbot called “LionChat” to address fre-  
456 quently asked questions regarding admissions, student aid, and tuition costs (PennState,  
457 2020). In healthcare, AI chatbots can be utilized to enhance patient care and  
458 streamline processes such as checking symptoms, reminders, and appointment  
459 scheduling (Altamimi, Altamimi, Alhumimidi, Altamimi, & Temsah, 2023). More-  
460 over, a case study by (Fan et al., 2021) on the utilization of a self-diagnosis chatbot  
461 in China highlighted the potential for chatbots to improve user engagement by  
462 offering real-time feedback and personalized responses.

## 463 2.7 Synthesis

464 As previously mentioned, the researchers aim to create a workflow automation sys-  
465 tem specifically for the University of the Philippines Visayas Regional Research

466 Center (UPV RRC) to streamline and optimize their service flow and data man-  
467 agement. Currently, the institution is using manual processes employing tools  
468 such as Google apps.

469 The difficulty of manual service handling is discussed in this chapter, as well as  
470 the benefits of having an automated system. Several studies mentioned indicate  
471 that workflow automation can significantly streamline repetitive tasks, improve  
472 data accuracy, and enhance decision-making processes reducing human interven-  
473 tion.

474 While existing systems for workflow automation are available, there are still  
475 gaps that these systems cannot fill, such as limitations with customization, cost-  
476 effectiveness, adaptability, and integration issues. The proposed system for UPV  
477 RRC aims to address these specific gaps by offering a tailored solution that meets  
478 the specific needs of the institution. One technology that can be particularly  
479 beneficial for this is a chatbot, which will enhance the consultation process when  
480 availing a service from the institution by providing instant responses to inquiries.

## Chapter 3

# Research Methodology

This chapter presents the tools, techniques, and methodologies used in the development of the TUKIB system, an integrated workflow automation solution designed for the UPV Regional Research Center (RRC). It specifies the software and hardware requirements, as well as the comprehensive process involved in creating the system.

### 3.1 Research Activities

#### 3.1.1 Development Framework

##### Agile Methodology

The software development approach that the developers will follow in developing TUKIB is the agile methodology. Agile methodology, or simply agile, is a framework that emphasizes iterative development and features communication and collaboration, adaptive planning, and continuous development (Agile Framework, 2022). The developers chose this framework because of its flexibility and adaptability to change, which is beneficial, especially with evolving user requirements.

As seen from Figure 3.1, agile involves continuously cycling through phases of development, testing, and review or feedback before finally launching the system. This enables developers to make adjustments and improvements based on user input.

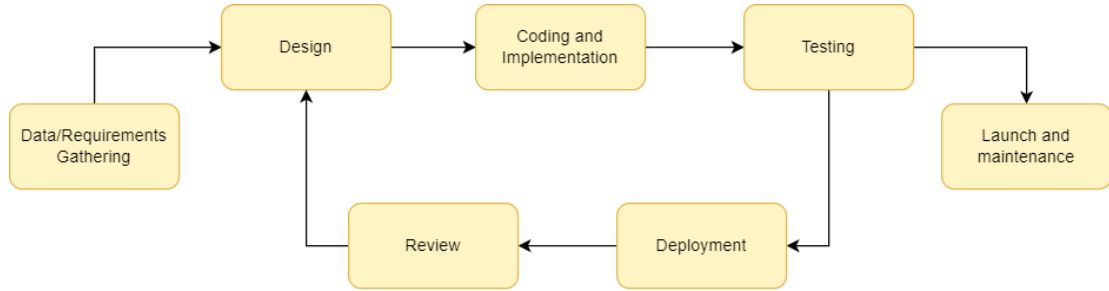


Figure 3.1: Agile Methodology

## 502 Data Gathering and Documentation

503 The developers will begin the project by visiting the UPV RRC, where they  
 504 will conduct interviews with stakeholders. This phase is crucial for understanding  
 505 the specific needs of the institution and planning the features of the system ac-  
 506 cordingly. The data gathered during these interviews will inform the subsequent  
 507 processes of the project, ensuring that the system is tailored to meet the require-  
 508 ments and expectations of its users.

## 510 System Design

511 After data gathering, the system’s architectural design will be developed. This  
 512 process will involve creating a context model to outline the system’s interactions  
 513 with external entities, as well as a data flow diagram to illustrate how data moves  
 514 through the components of the system. A process flow diagram will also be  
 515 constructed to detail the specific processes and workflows, while database models  
 516 will be designed to ensure efficient data storage and retrieval.

517 The researchers will also focus on effective user interfaces (UI) for service re-  
 518 quest handling and management, investigating best practices and design principles  
 519 that enhance user experience based on feedback from users of existing similar soft-  
 520 ware or systems. Once all necessary information is gathered, a mock-up design  
 521 of TUKIB will be created, serving as the basis for the system’s prototype. To-  
 522 gether, these diagrams and designs will provide a comprehensive framework that  
 523 will guide the development and implementation of the system effectively.

## 525 Implementation

526 From the design phase, the development of the system will start. The frontend  
 527 will be built to ensure a user-friendly interface, while the backend will support  
 528 functionality through efficient data processing and secure user authentication. A

529 chatbot will also be integrated to facilitate real-time support and user interaction  
530 with the system.

531 Since the developers are following the Agile methodology, the implementation  
532 phase will occur alongside testing. This iterative process will involve cycles of  
533 development and testing during each sprint, with each sprint lasting two weeks.  
534 This approach allows for continuous feedback and improvements, ensuring the  
535 system meets user needs effectively.

536

## 537 **Testing**

538 The testing of the system will be consisted of 3 main components to ensure  
539 its reliability, usability, and overall performance.

540 • **Alpha Testing.** During and after the development of each feature, ex-  
541 tensive user testing will be conducted to ensure that each feature works as  
542 intended. Any bugs or problems will be immediately fixed. For features  
543 dependent on other features (i.e. user account creation must function cor-  
544 rectly before user can log in), thorough testing will ensure and verify that  
545 the integration between these features operates smoothly.

546 • **Automated testing.** Automated testing will be implemented to ensure  
547 reliability and efficiency in testing the features of the system. This ap-  
548 proach will allow for the execution of predefined test cases that can be run  
549 repeatedly with minimal manual intervention.

550 • **Beta Testing.** Beta testing will be done with a limited group of users com-  
551 posed of available RRC staff and selected potential customers of RRC (e.g.  
552 students and faculty). This phase will allow real-world usage feedback and  
553 will help in identifying any remaining bugs and usability issues. Users will  
554 test the system in various environments and will be encouraged to provide  
555 insights on functionality, performance, and overall experience.

556

## 557 **Deployment and Maintenance**

558 The final product of the study, TUKIB, will made available to the intended  
559 users. In this phase, ongoing maintenance and regular performance monitoring,  
560 especially of the backend, are essential to ensure stability and reliability. Feedback  
561 form will be issued to users in to gather their thoughts and insights about the  
562 system or if they have encountered any bugs. Constant feedback from users during  
563 this phase will guide further improvements and updates.

## 564 3.2 Development Tools

### 565 3.2.1 Hardware

566 The hardware requirements for the development of the system include a computer  
567 or laptop with the following specifications:

- 568 • Processor: Intel Core i5, its equivalent on other brands or higher
- 569 • RAM: 6GB or higher
- 570 • Storage: 200GB SSD or more for faster data access and retrieval
- 571 Operating System: Windows 10 or higher, macOS, or Linux

572 These specifications are necessary to ensure smooth development and testing  
573 of the system, especially when handling large datasets and concurrent processes.

### 574 3.2.2 Software

575 The TUKIB system will be developed using a range of modern software tools  
576 tailored to meet the specific needs of the research center's workflow automation  
577 and data management processes.

#### 578 • HTML5, CSS, and ReactJS

579 These technologies will be used for front-end development of the system.  
580 HTML5 will structure the webpages, CSS will be responsible for the visual  
581 styling, and ReactJS enables dynamic and interactive user interfaces.

#### 583 • PostgreSQL

584 For backend development, PostgreSQL is will be used as the database man-  
585 agement system, offering robust data storage, querying, and management  
586 capabilities.

#### 588 • Rasa Framework

589 Rasa will be used for the chatbot development. It allows the creation of  
590 a conversational AI system which will handle the service requests, queries,



591 and management capabilities of the system.

592

593 • **Figma**

594 Figma will be utilized for designing the UI/UX of the system. Figma allows  
595 design collaboration, which will enable the team to create the system pro-  
596 totype, wireframe, and mock-up interfaces before implementation, ensuring  
597 a user-friendly experience for both clients and researchers.

598

599 • **VS Code**

600 Visual Studio Code (VS Code) is the primary code editor that will be used  
601 to develop the system. Its features, such as syntax highlighting, extensions,  
602 integrated Git, and debugging tools, make it the most suitable environment  
603 for writing and testing front-end and back-end code.

604

605 • **Github**

606 GitHub will be used to facilitate for version control and collaboration through-  
607 out the development of the system. The project code is stored in repositories,  
608 allowing the team to manage changes, track progress, and collaborate  
609 effectively. It also serves as a backup and source for future development or  
610 modification.

## 611 Chapter 4

# 612 Preliminary Results/System 613 Prototype

614 This chapter presents the preliminary results or the system prototype of your SP.  
615 Include screenshots, tables, or graphs and provide the discussion of results.

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<sup>682</sup> **Appendix A**

<sup>683</sup> **Appendix Title**

## 684 **Appendix B**

### 685 **Resource Persons**

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694