

Transforming Legal Scholarship: Strategic and Innovative Approaches to Developing a Student Edited Law Journal Toward International Recognition

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ABSTRACT

The transformation of legal scholarship in higher education increasingly depends on the capacity of student-edited law journals to align with international standards of academic quality, editorial integrity, and global visibility. In Indonesia, several student-run law journals—such as those managed by Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), Universitas Gadjah Mada, and Universitas Indonesia—have begun experimenting with digital platforms, peer review systems, and open-access dissemination to enhance their academic standing. Building upon previous research adopting and modifying the Harvard Law Review model of editorial management, this study explores strategic and innovative approaches to developing student-edited law journals toward international recognition. Using a qualitative and comparative descriptive method, it analyzes the transformation of editorial practices, digitalization processes, peer review mechanisms, and collaborative initiatives across selected Indonesian law faculties. The findings indicate that sustainable transformation requires a holistic strategy integrating academic rigor, technological innovation, and strong institutional support. Moreover, international benchmarking, ethical publication standards, and cross-border academic partnerships are identified as crucial factors in improving journal reputation and visibility. This study contributes to the advancement of legal scholarship in Indonesia by proposing a practical framework that can guide student-edited law journals—particularly at UNNES—in evolving from local academic initiatives into internationally reputable platforms for legal research and discourse.

Keywords: Student-edited law journals, Legal scholarship transformation, Editorial innovation, Internationalization of legal publications, Academic publishing in Indonesia

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of student-edited law journals represents a critical element in the evolution of legal education and scholarship across Indonesian universities. These journals are not only vehicles for disseminating student research but also serve as platforms where future legal scholars cultivate analytical, editorial, and managerial skills essential for their professional growth. In many ways, they mirror the pedagogical philosophy of leading global law schools that integrate scholarly publication into academic training (Waspiah et al., 2022).

In Indonesia, the tradition of student-led academic publishing in law faculties has grown steadily over the past decade. Prominent universities such as Universitas Gadjah Mada, Universitas Indonesia, and Universitas Airlangga have established student law journals to nurture scholarly writing and contribute to the national discourse on legal reform and justice (Budjalemba & Listyani, 2020; Cohen, 2023; Hall & Theeke, 2022). Yet, the management of these journals often varies widely in terms of editorial standards, peer review mechanisms, and publication ethics.

At Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), efforts to strengthen the *student edited law journals* have been part of a broader institutional commitment to enhancing academic publishing quality. The UNNES student-edited law journal has adopted several innovative steps—such as implementing online submission systems, developing double-blind peer review procedures, and promoting open-access dissemination. However, these initiatives remain at an early stage of consolidation, requiring systematic strategies for sustainability and international visibility (Waspiah et al., 2022).

The inspiration for reforming student-edited law journals in Indonesia often stems from international models, particularly the *Harvard Law Review* in

the United States. This model exemplifies rigorous editorial independence, student leadership, and adherence to high publication standards. Nevertheless, direct replication of the Harvard model is not always feasible due to contextual differences in institutional structure, funding, and language. Indonesian journals must therefore adapt these principles creatively to suit local academic environments while maintaining global relevance (Cohen, 2023; Martineau, 2001).

Another significant challenge in the Indonesian context is the integration of technology and digital publishing tools. While many law faculties have transitioned to online journal management systems such as Open Journal Systems (OJS), not all have the technical or human resource capacity to optimize these platforms. The resulting inconsistencies in editorial workflow, review quality, and metadata management impede the journals' inclusion in reputable international indexing databases such as Scopus or DOAJ (Kumari & Gakhar, 2021).

In addition to technological barriers, linguistic and conceptual limitations pose obstacles to international recognition. Most student-edited law journals in Indonesia publish predominantly in Bahasa Indonesia, limiting accessibility for non-Indonesian readers. To reach international audiences, journals must invest in bilingual publication, translation assistance, and cross-border collaboration with foreign scholars. These measures require institutional policy support and sustained editorial commitment (Hamilton, 2015; Saunders, 1999).

Student law journals hold a distinctive place within the landscape of legal scholarship. They function as laboratories for academic experimentation, where students are encouraged to engage with complex legal issues and contribute to public discourse. By publishing articles, notes, and commentaries, law students

not only learn the mechanics of scholarly writing but also participate actively in shaping the legal narratives that influence policy and jurisprudence.

From a pedagogical standpoint, participation in journal editing equips students with valuable research management skills. It develops their ability to critically evaluate legal arguments, apply citation norms, and maintain academic integrity. These competencies are essential for building a culture of research ethics and quality within law faculties. Therefore, student-edited law journals serve as effective educational instruments complementing doctrinal and clinical legal education (Hamilton, 2015; Saunders, 1999; Waspiah et al., 2022).

The relevance of student law journals extends beyond academic training. They contribute substantively to the dissemination of local and national legal thought (Saunders, 1999). Many Indonesian student journals publish studies addressing constitutional interpretation, environmental law, gender justice, and indigenous rights—topics that reflect Indonesia’s evolving socio-legal realities as emphasized by Waspiah, et.al (2022). By documenting such perspectives, these journals provide a valuable counterbalance to dominant Western legal narratives and enrich comparative legal scholarship.

However, despite their potential, many student-edited law journals remain underdeveloped in terms of global outreach. Their articles are seldom cited in international research, and their visibility in indexing systems remains low. This underlines the urgency of transforming editorial management into a more professionalized and internationally oriented structure. Achieving such transformation will not only elevate institutional prestige but also amplify Indonesia’s voice in global legal debates.

Furthermore, international recognition of student-edited law journals can enhance the reputation of their host institutions. For example, if journals such

as the student-edited law journals achieve consistent quality and indexing, they can become a gateway for academic exchange and collaboration between Indonesian and foreign law faculties. This aligns with Indonesia's higher education agenda to promote research excellence and cross-border academic mobility.

At a systemic level, strengthening student-edited law journals supports the broader goal of improving Indonesia's scholarly infrastructure. National accreditation systems such as SINTA (Science and Technology Index) encourage universities to enhance their journal quality through better governance and innovation. Student-led journals that meet these standards can serve as models of participatory and sustainable academic development (Parukka et al., 2024).

Against this background, the present study aims to explore the strategic and innovative pathways through which Indonesian student-edited law journals can evolve toward international recognition. It seeks to identify patterns of transformation that integrate global best practices with local institutional realities. This approach emphasizes adaptability rather than imitation, ensuring that reforms are context-sensitive and achievable.

Specifically, the research investigates the editorial and managerial frameworks of selected student law journals—including those at UNNES, Universitas Gadjah Mada, and Universitas Indonesia—to uncover common challenges and successful innovations. The study employs a qualitative comparative method, combining structured interviews with journal editors and document analysis of editorial policies, peer review procedures, and publication metrics. Through this multi-source approach, the study aims to generate evidence-based insights into how student-led editorial initiatives can be strengthened (Diniyanto & Suhendar, 2020).

Ultimately, the goal of this research is to develop a practical model for sustainable journal transformation that may be adopted by law faculties across Indonesia. The proposed framework integrates three essential dimensions: academic rigor, technological innovation, and institutional support. By addressing these dimensions collectively, student-edited law journals can advance from local platforms for student expression into internationally recognized vehicles for scholarly communication, thereby contributing meaningfully to the transformation of legal scholarship in Indonesia and the broader academic community.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Student-Edited Law Journals: Concept and Global Practices

Student-edited law journals are scholarly publications primarily managed and curated by law students under the supervision of faculty advisors. Globally, such journals serve as platforms for developing legal research, critical analysis, and academic writing skills. Leading models, notably the Harvard Law Review, Yale Law Journal, and Columbia Law Review, combine rigorous editorial procedures with student leadership, fostering high-quality legal scholarship and international recognition (Budjalemba & Listyani, 2020; Giray, 2023; Huisman et al., 2019; Lui, 2022).

The Harvard Law Review model emphasizes multi-tiered editorial responsibility, structured peer review, and adherence to ethical publication standards. These practices are designed to cultivate analytical rigor while ensuring consistency and reliability of content. Internationally, such journals are also characterized by open-access dissemination and proactive engagement with global legal debates, which contribute to their high citation rates and reputational visibility.

Incorporating such models into the Indonesian context presents both opportunities and challenges. While the principles of editorial independence, peer review, and academic rigor are adaptable, institutional and linguistic differences require modification. Indonesian student journals often balance the dual goals of serving national legal discourse and aspiring for global standards, making strategic adaptation a critical factor for successful transformation.

B. Development of Student Law Journals in Indonesia

Research on student-edited law journals in Indonesia highlights their growing importance in legal education and scholarly communication. Journals at UNNES, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Universitas Indonesia, and Universitas Airlangga have begun experimenting with structured editorial systems, online platforms, and peer review mechanisms. Despite these initiatives, challenges persist in achieving consistent publication quality, editorial sustainability, and international indexing recognition.

Studies indicate that many Indonesian student journals operate under resource constraints, including limited faculty guidance, insufficient training in scholarly editing, and low institutional support. These constraints impede the development of systematic editorial strategies and innovative practices, limiting the potential for internationalization.

Nevertheless, certain journals have successfully implemented innovative practices. For example, the *Lex Scientia Law Review*, *Semarang State University Undergraduate Law and Society Review*, and *Unnes Law Journal* have integrated online submission systems, structured peer review, and open-access dissemination, aligning partially with international standards. Comparative analysis of these journals provides insight into effective strategies for bridging local practices with global benchmarks (Waspiah et al., 2022).

C. Strategic and Innovative Approaches in Journal Development

Strategic management in academic journals involves deliberate planning of editorial, operational, and outreach functions. In student-edited law journals, strategies may include defining editorial policies, standardizing review procedures, and ensuring transparency in publication ethics. Innovation complements strategy by introducing novel approaches to digital publication, international collaboration, multilingual content, and metadata management.

Several studies emphasize the role of innovation in enhancing journal visibility and credibility. Digitalization, for instance, allows journals to reach wider audiences through open-access platforms, DOI registration, and indexing in international databases. Similarly, implementing structured peer review enhances the quality and reliability of published articles, contributing to the journal's academic legitimacy (Beatty, 2019; Kumari & Gakhar, 2021).

In the Indonesian context, strategic innovation also involves aligning student journal practices with national and international accreditation standards. For example, journals evaluated under SINTA (Science and Technology Index) or DOAJ criteria must demonstrate consistent publication schedules, rigorous peer review, and ethical compliance. By meeting these standards, student journals increase their potential for international indexing and collaboration.

D. Theoretical Framework

This study adopts an integrative theoretical framework combining organizational innovation theory, academic publishing theory, and internationalization theory. Organizational innovation theory explains how institutions implement new processes, technologies, and management

structures to improve effectiveness and sustainability. Applied to student journals, it provides a lens to examine editorial innovation, digitalization, and process reengineering.

Academic publishing theory emphasizes the importance of quality control, peer review, and editorial governance in knowledge dissemination. It underlines the role of student journals not merely as learning tools but as legitimate contributors to scholarly discourse, highlighting the interplay between editorial rigor and institutional support (Cutri et al., 2021; Hyland, 2016; Smith, 1999; Song & Song, 2023).

Internationalization theory focuses on strategies to integrate local institutions and their outputs into global networks. For student-edited law journals, this entails aligning editorial policies, content standards, and dissemination practices with international expectations, while preserving relevance to local legal contexts (Smith, 1999)

Combining these theoretical perspectives, this study conceptualizes the transformation of student-edited law journals as a multidimensional process. It encompasses three interrelated dimensions: (1) editorial and academic rigor, ensuring research quality and ethical compliance; (2) technological and operational innovation, supporting efficiency, visibility, and accessibility; and (3) institutional and strategic alignment, facilitating sustainability, capacity building, and international engagement (Hyland, 2016; Lui, 2022; Padmalochanan, 2019; Smith, 1999).

This framework provides a foundation for analyzing Indonesian student-edited law journals, particularly at UNNES, by linking observed practices to theoretical constructs. It allows for systematic assessment of challenges, identification of successful innovations, and formulation of actionable strategies for enhancing international recognition.

Through this lens, the study aims to contribute both practically and theoretically to the discourse on legal scholarship transformation in Indonesia. By combining comparative analysis, structured evaluation, and innovation-oriented strategy, the research seeks to develop a model that supports student journals in evolving from local academic initiatives into globally respected platforms for legal research and discourse.

III. RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a qualitative, comparative-descriptive approach to explore strategic and innovative practices in student-edited law journals in Indonesia, with particular focus on Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES). Data were collected through structured interviews with journal editors, faculty advisors, and administrative staff, as well as document analysis of editorial policies, publication records, peer review guidelines, and online journal platforms. Comparative analysis includes additional cases from prominent universities such as Universitas Gadjah Mada and Universitas Indonesia, providing insights into diverse editorial structures, innovation adoption, and internationalization efforts.

Data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis and cross-case comparison to identify patterns, challenges, and best practices in journal management. Triangulation of interviews, documents, and online data ensured the validity and reliability of findings. Ethical considerations, including informed consent and confidentiality, were strictly observed. The study aims to develop practical recommendations and a strategic framework for enhancing the quality, visibility, and international recognition of student-edited law journals in Indonesia, particularly at UNNES.

IV. RESEARCH RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

A. Strategies for Developing Student Law Journals

1. *Enhancing Editorial Quality*

Enhancing editorial quality is a cornerstone in developing student-edited law journals capable of attaining international recognition. High editorial standards ensure that publications are academically credible, ethically sound, and consistent in their contribution to legal scholarship. Student journals in Indonesia, including those at Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES), face unique challenges in maintaining consistent quality due to variations in editorial experience, limited faculty supervision, and resource constraints.

A central aspect of editorial quality is the implementation of *effective peer review processes*. Structured peer review ensures that submitted articles are evaluated objectively, rigorously, and consistently. Double-blind review systems are increasingly recommended, allowing reviewers and authors to remain anonymous, which reduces potential bias and enhances fairness.

Peer review mechanisms should be accompanied by clearly defined evaluation criteria. These criteria typically assess originality, methodological rigor, relevance to current legal discourse, and clarity of argumentation. By standardizing these metrics, journals can maintain uniform quality across multiple issues and volumes, reinforcing their credibility.

Another essential strategy is the *implementation of international standards* in editorial and publication practices. This includes adherence to ethical guidelines such as the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) standards, proper citation protocols consistent with internationally recognized styles, and transparent correction or retraction policies (Bazzaz & Sadeghi, 2012; Cutri et al., 2021; Foo & Wilson, 2012; Wager, 2012).

Maintaining a consistent publication schedule is also vital. Irregular or delayed publication can undermine the perceived reliability of a journal and negatively impact its eligibility for indexing in databases such as Scopus, DOAJ, or SINTA. For UNNES and similar journals, careful planning of editorial timelines and proactive monitoring of submission pipelines help mitigate these challenges.

2. *Innovation in Content Management*

Innovation in content management supports the operational efficiency and academic impact of student law journals. Modern editorial workflows increasingly rely on information technology, such as online submission platforms, digital manuscript tracking systems, and automated reviewer assignment tools. These technologies reduce administrative burdens, minimize errors, and accelerate the review process.

Digital tools also facilitate *open-access dissemination*, allowing wider accessibility and increasing the journal's visibility both nationally and internationally (Kumari & Gakhar, 2021). For example, journals at UNNES have started hosting issues on institutional repositories and digital platforms, enabling real-time access for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

Beyond technological adoption, innovation in content management involves the *diversification of themes and approaches*. While traditional student journals often focus on doctrinal legal analysis, incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives—such as law and technology, human rights, or environmental law—broadens readership and encourages contributions from diverse authors (Cutri et al., 2021; Dergaa et al., 2023; Li & Mak, 2022; Song & Song, 2023).

Diversified content also enables journals to respond to emerging legal issues and contemporary challenges, making them more relevant to global

debates. For instance, student journals addressing digital law, cybersecurity, or international trade law attract attention from a wider scholarly audience and increase potential citations.

Another aspect of innovative content management is the inclusion of multilingual publications. While Indonesian remains central for local readership, publishing articles in English or providing bilingual abstracts enhances international reach and accessibility, improving the journal's potential for global indexing.

3. Collaboration with Research Institutions and Academics

Strategic collaboration with research institutions and experienced academics is critical in enhancing journal credibility and reach. Student journals often face constraints in editorial expertise, and partnering with established scholars provides guidance on research standards, review processes, and publication ethics.

The involvement of external academics on the editorial boards or as peer reviewers plays a pivotal role in elevating the *methodological rigor* and *scholarly credibility* of student-edited law journals. From the vantage of *academic publishing theory*, the engagement of seasoned scholars provides an institutional mechanism of quality assurance: unlike student-only editorial workflows, such participation introduces established norms of research design, peer evaluation, and ethical publication practice. Empirical work in related fields has shown that mentorship and expert collaboration significantly boost productivity and research quality—studies have documented that junior researchers working with senior, experienced collaborators yield higher-impact outputs (Cutri et al., 2021; Peters et al., 2021; Strobl et al., 2019).

In the specific context of legal scholarship, recent analysis of peer-review practices in law journals found that only about 48% of the sample engaged independent external reviewers. The implication is clear: by integrating external academics, student journals in Indonesia—such as those at Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES)—are better positioned to advance beyond local editorial norms and align with global publication standards (Waspiah et al., 2022).

In addition, these collaborations serve as a form of benchmarking: by working with academics who are active in internationally indexed journals, student law journals can compare their editorial policies, peer review models, and publication ethics against recognized international norms. This process resonates with internationalization theory, which emphasises the need for local units (in this case student-journals) to align with global academic networks to achieve recognition and visibility. Institutionally, this shift reflects organizational innovation theory: by introducing new governance structures (external board members, external peer reviewers) and connecting with external knowledge networks, student journals remodel their workflows and norms. Moreover, partnership with external scholars often leads to downstream benefits—co-authored special issues, joint conferences, or themed editions—that further anchor the journal in professional and academic communities, expanding reach and reputational capital. Through these mechanisms, student-edited law journals transform from insular student-ventures into platforms integrated with broader scholarly ecosystems.

Another critical outcome of collaboration is the ability to attract international readership. By engaging scholars from other countries as contributors, reviewers, or advisory members, student journals expand their visibility and network, fostering cross-border knowledge exchange and citation

potential. Furthermore, international collaboration supports capacity building within student editorial teams. Exposure to global standards, best practices, and diverse editorial perspectives enhances the professional skills of student editors, creating a sustainable foundation for future journal management.

Collectively, these strategies—enhancing editorial quality, innovating content management, and fostering strategic collaborations—provide a comprehensive framework for transforming student-edited law journals in Indonesia. When effectively implemented, they enable journals like those at UNNES to evolve from primarily local academic initiatives into credible, internationally recognized platforms for legal scholarship and discourse.

B. Student-Edited Law Journals Transformation: Challenges and Obstacles

A significant obstacle for student-edited law journals in Indonesia lies in resource limitations. For instance, the *Brawijaya Law Student Journal* at Universitas Brawijaya publishes student papers without a formal peer review system due to administrative and financial constraints. This illustrates how inadequate funding, staffing, and technology can impede essential editorial functions. From the perspective of organizational innovation theory, the lack of investment in infrastructure and workflow innovation inhibits the journals' ability to evolve into internationally recognized platforms.

The absence of advanced submission and management systems further undermines journal quality. Many student journals still rely on manual processes, which slow down review cycles and increase the risk of error. Studies in academic publishing suggest that technological maturity, including online submission and peer review platforms, is positively correlated with journal indexing and visibility. Research by Sadeghi and colleagues demonstrates that collaborative authoring tools enhance communication, efficiency, and overall

output quality. The gap in technological adoption limits Indonesian student journals' ability to meet the rigorous demands of international scholarship.

Human resource constraints are another significant challenge. Editorial teams are often composed of students who must balance academic coursework with editorial responsibilities, which restricts continuity and consistency in the publication process. For example, the Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies (JILS) at Universitas Negeri Semarang has successfully achieved Scopus indexing, but maintaining this status requires sustained human capital and experienced editorial oversight. High turnover rates in student teams can result in the loss of institutional memory and weaken the capacity for long-term strategic innovation.

Access to research resources, including international legal databases and subscription journals, also constrains development. Student editors and contributors may lack the tools necessary to produce research that aligns with global scholarly standards. According to publishing theory, limited access to core literature diminishes originality and lowers the overall quality of submissions, reducing the attractiveness of the journal to external academics. This limitation affects both content quality and the potential for international recognition (Cutri et al., 2021; Grearson, 2002; Li & Mak, 2022; Strobl et al., 2019, 2019).

Resistance to change represents another pervasive obstacle. Established faculty norms and institutional practices often favor traditional, informal publication methods. The transition to structured online workflows and rigorous peer review may encounter *skepticism* from both students and faculty. Historical analyses of student-edited law journals, such as those by Swygert and Bruce on U.S. law reviews, highlight that meaningful transformation

depends on strong institutional endorsement. Without this cultural shift, even technically feasible innovations may not be fully implemented.

In some faculties, student journals are perceived as supplementary to faculty-led publications, which leads to minimal support and limited resource allocation. This perception aligns with institutional theory, where existing organizational norms constrain experimentation and maintain the status quo. Cultural factors, including hierarchical structures in Indonesian universities, can further limit students' willingness to propose substantial changes in editorial processes.

Student editors may also resist additional workload associated with implementing higher editorial standards. Introducing practices such as double-blind peer review or structured editorial guidelines requires extra coordination, training, and oversight. Research on peer review quality, including studies by Ausloos et al., demonstrates that the performance of reviewers and robustness of the review process are key determinants of journal credibility. In environments where resources are limited, maintaining rigorous review processes becomes a persistent challenge.

Technological adoption encounters similar resistance. Even when institutions provide licenses for online submission platforms or digital publishing systems, student editors may lack the necessary skills or motivation to implement them effectively. According to Rogers' diffusion of innovation theory, early adopters may integrate new tools successfully, but lagging adopters slow overall institutional progress. This phenomenon is evident in many Indonesian student journals, which struggle to modernize editorial workflows despite available technology.

Institutional support is a critical determinant of success. Universities that integrate student journal work into official academic programs, provide

funding, and recognize editorial labor in faculty assessments create a favorable environment for growth. For example, Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies at Universitas Negeri Semarang demonstrates that strategic institutional backing can facilitate indexing in Scopus and increase international visibility. Without such support, journals face difficulty sustaining long-term development and implementing international-standard practices.

The readiness of student contributors also affects journal development. Writing for a peer-reviewed, international-standard journal requires competencies in research methodology, academic writing, and critical analysis. Waspiyah et al (2022) highlight that while student-edited law journals in Indonesia foster creativity, contributors often exhibit gaps in research maturity. These deficits slow the production of high-quality articles, which in turn affects the journal's credibility and visibility in academic networks.

Time constraints and high turnover of editorial teams disrupt continuity. Students often serve limited terms, resulting in the loss of organizational knowledge and impeding long-term strategic planning. Organizational theory emphasizes that sustained leadership and institutional memory are crucial for successful implementation of systemic changes. Many Indonesian student journals experience interruptions in workflow and strategy as a consequence of short-term editorial tenures.

Networking and academic collaboration are essential for journal growth. Access to partnerships with other faculties, guest editors, or international contributors enhances visibility and credibility. Internationalization theory highlights the importance of connecting local journals to global academic networks to achieve recognition. Journals in more isolated regions without these collaborative networks often remain locally confined, limiting their potential impact.

Language also represents a significant barrier. Journals primarily publishing in Bahasa Indonesia have limited access to international readership. The Indonesia Law Review at Universitas Indonesia, which publishes primarily in English, demonstrates that strategic language choices can enhance international visibility and citations. Student journals that fail to adopt multilingual or English-language publication risk exclusion from global scholarly communication (Cutri et al., 2021; Lui, 2022).

Publication ethics and review quality are critical for credibility. Inadequate peer review or weak ethical oversight diminishes trust in a journal. Sikdar et al.'s work on peer review processes in scientific journals, though in a different field, illustrates the universal principle that robust review mechanisms underpin scholarly credibility. Student journals in Indonesia that do not enforce rigorous ethical and review standards may struggle to gain recognition and inclusion in reputable indexes.

Regulatory requirements and indexing criteria also pose challenges. To be included in databases like Scopus or DOAJ, journals must meet stringent standards regarding editorial board composition, transparency, frequency, and online accessibility. Student journals often lack the administrative and technical capacity to comply fully with these standards, limiting international visibility and readership.

Financial sustainability adds another layer of complexity. Journals relying on sporadic funding or volunteer labor face difficulties in consistently supporting editorial operations, website hosting, DOI registration, and archiving. Smaller faculties with limited budgets often prioritize other initiatives over journal development, constraining the ability to sustain long-term growth.

These challenges are interconnected, suggesting that addressing a single factor in isolation is insufficient. For example, adopting digital platforms without accompanying training and policy support yields minimal benefits (Cutri et al., 2021; Dergaa et al., 2023; Peters et al., 2021; Song & Song, 2023). Organizational innovation theory stresses that successful transformation requires alignment across resources, culture, and structure. Indonesian student journals must pursue comprehensive strategies rather than piecemeal solutions.

The Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies (JILS) at UNNES exemplifies a successful model. With institutional support, dedicated funding, editorial training, and English-language publications, JILS achieved Scopus and DOAJ indexing. This demonstrates that even within resource-constrained contexts, strategic alignment across multiple dimensions can lead to sustainable internationalization and credibility enhancement.

Overall, student-edited law journals in Indonesia face substantial obstacles, including limited resources, resistance to change, institutional deficits, contributor readiness, language barriers, and indexing requirements. Research on academic publishing, peer review quality, innovation diffusion, and internationalization provides conceptual frameworks for understanding these challenges and designing effective interventions. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach. Enhancing editorial standards, securing institutional support, investing in technology, training contributors, adopting language strategies, and building international networks are all essential. Only through coordinated action across these areas can student-edited law journals in Indonesia progress toward recognition as credible, internationally visible scholarly platforms.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Developing student-edited law journals in Indonesia requires a comprehensive strategy that strengthens editorial quality and institutional support. Structured training programs for student editors on peer review, research methodology, academic writing, and ethical standards are essential to ensure continuity and maintain high publication standards despite annual turnover. Implementing rigorous peer review processes, including double-blind review and clearly defined reviewer responsibilities, aligns journals with international norms and enhances credibility. Collaboration with faculty members and external academics further supports methodological rigor and provides guidance for aligning journal practices with global expectations.

Technological innovation is critical for improving workflow efficiency, accessibility, and visibility. Adopting online journal management systems, such as Open Journal Systems (OJS), facilitates submission tracking, peer review, archiving, and indexing for international databases. Coupled with targeted training, technology adoption supports continuity, reduces errors, and strengthens journal professionalism. Strategic use of language, particularly English or bilingual publication formats, expands the journal's reach and potential readership, making it more attractive for international authors and collaborators.

Institutional and financial support underpins sustainable journal development. Universities should formalize journal operations within academic programs, provide funding for editorial and technological needs, and recognize editorial contributions in student and faculty assessments. Partnerships with research institutions, think tanks, and international academics can further enhance visibility, co-publication opportunities, and participation in conferences, thereby raising the journal's profile. Diversifying

journal content to include interdisciplinary and comparative legal studies, as well as contemporary legal issues, attracts broader readership and increases relevance in the international legal scholarship landscape.

Finally, continuous monitoring, evaluation, and iterative improvement are crucial for long-term success. Journals should establish performance indicators related to submission quality, review timelines, citation metrics, and readership to guide evidence-based improvements. Ethical standards, structured editorial handovers, and active community-building through advisory boards and mentorship strengthen institutional memory and social capital. By integrating editorial enhancement, technological adoption, institutional support, content innovation, and international collaboration, student law journals in Indonesia can evolve into credible, internationally recognized platforms for legal research and discourse.

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