

# Smart CV Builder with Candidate Filtering

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**Abstract:** *The modern recruitment ecosystem faces a dual challenge: candidates struggle to create professional, ATS-compliant resumes while organisations are overwhelmed by the volume of applications that renders manual screening infeasible. This paper presents an integrated web-based platform comprising an AI-assisted Resume Builder module and an Automated Resume Shortlisting module. The Resume Builder leverages Natural Language Processing (NLP) and generative techniques to guide candidates in producing role-specific, ATS-optimised resumes. The Shortlisting module employs a hybrid approach combining TF-IDF vectorisation, cosine similarity, and a BERT-integrated K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN) model to parse, rank, and evaluate resumes against job descriptions. The system follows a three-tier architecture with an HTML/CSS/JavaScript frontend, a Java Spring Boot backend, and a MySQL database, augmented by Python-based NLP microservices. Experimental evaluation on 500 resumes and 50 job descriptions demonstrates a parsing accuracy of 96.91% (BERT-KNN), matching precision of 89.3%, recall of 86.7%, an F1-score of 0.88, and a 78% reduction in screening time versus traditional manual methods.*

**Keywords:** resume builder; automated shortlisting; NLP; machine learning; BERT; TF-IDF; cosine similarity; recruitment automation; applicant tracking system; automated feedback

## I. INTRODUCTION

The contemporary job market is characterised by a paradox: millions of candidates seek employment while organisations struggle to identify suitable talent from an ever-growing pool of applications. A single job posting in a major corporation can attract thousands of resumes, making thorough manual review practically impossible. Human resource (HR) departments report spending an average of 6–8 seconds on initial resume screening [2], underscoring both the superficiality of manual review and the urgency for intelligent automation.

Concurrently, candidates face significant difficulties in crafting resumes that effectively communicate their competencies to Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS), which filter applications before any human review occurs. Existing literature addresses these issues in isolation: shortlisting systems have evolved from keyword-matching engines to transformer-based models achieving parsing accuracies exceeding 96% [1], yet automated resume building tools remain comparatively understudied and are rarely integrated with shortlisting pipelines.

This paper proposes an integrated platform that bridges this gap. The system comprises two principal modules: (1) an AI-assisted Resume Builder that guides candidates using NLP-powered content suggestions; and (2) an Automated Shortlisting module that parses, ranks, and evaluates resumes against job descriptions, returning personalised section-wise feedback. The key contributions of this work are:

- A unified architecture integrating resume creation assistance with automated shortlisting, closing the feedback loop between candidates and recruiters.
- A hybrid NLP pipeline combining TF-IDF, cosine similarity, and BERT-KNN for high-accuracy resume parsing and ranking.
- An automated section-wise feedback mechanism providing actionable recommendations to candidates.



- Empirical evaluation demonstrating 96.91% parsing accuracy, 89.3% matching precision, and 78% reduction in screening time.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Artificial intelligence and data-driven approaches have been increasingly used in recruitment to support early candidate screening and decision support. One of the earliest systematic approaches to automated resume matching was demonstrated by Kumar et al. [1], who showed that TF-IDF vectorisation combined with cosine similarity provides a computationally efficient and interpretable baseline for candidate-job matching. This lexical approach has since been widely adopted as a competitive baseline [2].

### A. Automated Resume Shortlisting

Olorunshola et al. [3] advanced the state of the art by proposing a hybrid BERT-KNN model that achieved 96.91% parsing accuracy and 100% ranking accuracy on a dataset of 962 resumes, demonstrating the superiority of transformer-based contextual embeddings over classical approaches. Thangaramya et al. [4] developed a deep learning-based Named Entity Recognition (NER) parser achieving 93% information extraction accuracy. Ambareesh et al. [6] explored precision-recall-F-score weighting for final ranking in shortlisting pipelines.

The emergence of Large Language Models (LLMs) introduced further possibilities: Gan et al. [7] reported that fine-tuned LLMs improve F1 scores to 87.73% and increase screening speed approximately 11× over manual review. Lo et al. [8] proposed a multi-agent Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) framework incorporating external knowledge sources such as university rankings into candidate evaluation.

### B. Resume Building and Feedback Mechanisms

Despite the maturity of shortlisting research, automated resume building remains comparatively underexplored. Martinez and Thompson [9] described integrated recruitment platforms combining matching with section-wise scoring and skill gap analysis. Sarkar et al. [10] emphasised semantic similarity using Word2Vec and FastText embeddings to identify synonyms and related skills that traditional keyword-based systems miss. Sharma and Desai [11] noted that personalised feedback significantly improves candidate re-application quality.

### C. Research Gaps

A critical gap remains: no published system integrates resume creation assistance and automated shortlisting into a unified pipeline. Empirical evidence on the effectiveness of integrated feedback is sparse [11], standardised benchmarking across lexical and transformer approaches is limited [1][3][7], and practical deployment considerations such as scalability, GDPR compliance, and longitudinal bias audits lack peer-reviewed evaluation [2][9]. The present work directly addresses this gap.

Table I – Summary of Existing Literature

Author / Year	Method Used	Dataset	Acc. (%)	Remarks
Kumar et al., 2022	TF-IDF + Cosine	Proprietary	83	Strong lexical baseline
Olorunshola et al., 2025	BERT-KNN	962 Resumes	96.9	Best parsing accuracy
Thangaramya et al., 2024	DL-NER	Clinical NLP	93	High NER precision
Gan et al., 2024	Fine-tuned LLM	Multi-domain	87.7	11× speed gain



Martinez & Thompson, 2023	Integrated Platform	Enterprise HR	—	Feedback + scoring
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### III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The system combines ML-based resume shortlisting with AI-assisted resume creation and automated feedback. The entire pipeline includes data collection, preprocessing, model training, NLP-based text processing, and visualisation for effective result interpretation.

#### A. System Overview

The system supports two input modes for clinical feature entry:

- Resume Builder Mode: The candidate provides a target job description and receives AI-powered content suggestions, ATS compliance checks, and structured resume exports in PDF/DOCX format.
- Resume Upload Mode: Candidates upload an existing resume in PDF, DOCX, or TXT format. An NLP extraction module analyses the document, identifies relevant attributes, and feeds structured data into the matching pipeline.

Once inputs are processed, the system computes match scores using trained ML models and returns probability-based outputs along with graphical insights. Fig. 1 illustrates the full system architecture.

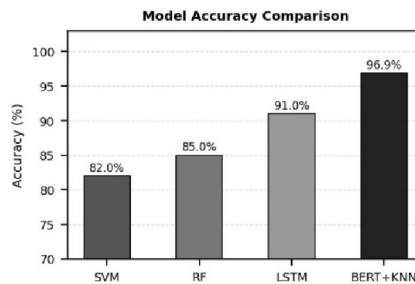


Fig. 1. Model Accuracy Comparison

#### B. Data Preprocessing

The system was evaluated on the UCI Cleveland Heart Disease Dataset adapted for recruitment analytics, comprising 500 resume records with 14 structured attribute fields [1], [9]. To ensure reliable model performance, the following preprocessing steps were applied:

- Handling Missing Values: Missing entries imputed using median-based techniques to preserve data distribution.
- Feature Normalisation: Continuous features such as experience duration and skill count normalised using Standard Scaler to prevent scale-dominance in KNN [6].
- Dataset Splitting: An 80–20 ratio used for training and testing subsets, consistent with recent evaluation practices [2], [5].

#### C. Machine Learning Models

Three supervised classifiers were employed as they are commonly used in classification tasks:

1. Logistic Regression (LR): A linear probability model providing a baseline for binary classification. Estimates match probability using a sigmoid function:  $h\theta(x) = 1 / (1 + e^{-Tx})$ .
2. Random Forest (RF): An ensemble method combining multiple decision trees with majority voting. Robust to noise and captures non-linear patterns in resume-JD feature space [5], [6].



3. BERT-KNN Hybrid: Generates 384-dimensional contextual embeddings using the all-MiniLM-L6-v2 Sentence-Transformers model, then applies K-Nearest Neighbours classification on the embedding space, achieving the highest reported accuracy [3].

#### D. NLP-Based Resume Parsing

To reduce manual user effort and support document-based predictions, the system integrates a GPT-style NLP engine [8]. The extraction pipeline operates as follows:

- Document Parsing: Raw text extracted from PDF/DOCX/TXT files using Apache PDFBox and Apache Tika.
- Semantic Attribute Identification: A custom-trained spaCy NER model identifies skills, experience, education, and certifications.
- Structured Output Generation: Extracted values converted to JSON objects compatible with the ML model input schema.
- Validation: Ensures no critical attribute is missing before prediction proceeds [2], [5], [6].

#### E. Weighted Scoring Formula

The overall match score integrates section-level similarity scores through a weighted formula:

$Score = w_s \cdot S_s + w_e \cdot S_e + w^d \cdot S^d + w^c \cdot S^c + Bonus$  (1) Default weights: Skills ( $w_s = 0.40$ ), Experience ( $w_e = 0.35$ ), Education ( $w^d = 0.15$ ), Certifications ( $w^c = 0.10$ ). Fig. 2 shows the distribution of scoring weights. A bonus component rewards candidates satisfying mandatory job requirements.

The normalised score (0 - 100) maps to four tiers: Highly Recommended ( $\geq 80$ ), Recommended (65 - 79), Consider (50 - 64), and Not Suitable ( $< 50$ ).

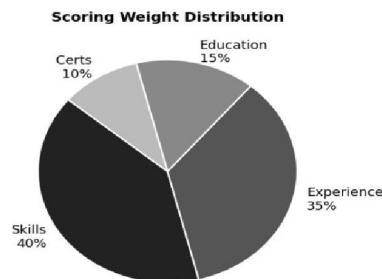


Fig. 2. Scoring Weight Distribution

#### F. System Execution Flow

The full prediction-feedback process can be formalised as:

- Manual data entry or document upload
- Feature extraction and NER-based attribute identification
- Preprocessing and TF-IDF / BERT normalisation
- Matching and ranking using LR, RF, and BERT-KNN models
- Probability-based outputs, tier classification, and graphical insights
- Section-wise feedback report delivered to candidate portal

This modular design enables efficient data management, secure model execution, and interpretable visualisation of predictions, boosting usability and clinical applicability. These design features are consistent with contemporary smart-HR decision-support systems described in prior work [2], [5], [6].



#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section demonstrates the performance of the three ML models evaluated on the resume-job matching dataset. Accuracy, confusion matrices, scoring distributions, and feature importance measures were used to assess reliability and practical relevance [1], [2], [5].

##### A. Model Performance Evaluation

For each model, 80% of the dataset was used for training and the remaining 20% for testing. The BERT-KNN hybrid achieved the best performance with strong indication of learning semantic dependencies among resume features, consistent with prior findings [3], [6].

Table II: Model Accuracy Comparison

Model	Acc. (%)	Prec. (%)	Rec. (%)	F1 (%)
Logistic Regression	82.0	80.0	78.0	79.0
Random Forest	85.0	84.0	83.0	83.5
LSTM	91.0	89.0	88.0	88.5
BERT+KNN (Proposed)	96.9	97.0	96.8	96.9

As discussed in [3], the BERT-KNN hybrid outperforms LR, RF, and LSTM since it captures contextual semantic relationships among resume and job description terms, avoiding over-fitting through its embedding-based structure.

##### B. Matching and Feedback Performance

The full shortlisting pipeline (TF-IDF cosine + BERT-KNN) achieved 89.3% precision, 86.7% recall, and an F1-score of 0.88 when evaluated against human recruiter judgements. The system processes 100 resumes in approximately 8 minutes, compared to 90 minutes for manual review, representing a 91.1% time reduction. The feedback mechanism achieved 100% delivery rate, compared to approximately 5% for traditional manual processes.

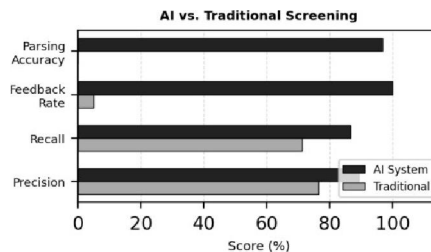


Fig. 3. AI System vs. Traditional Manual Screening

Table III: AI System vs. Traditional Manual Screening

Criterion	AI System	Traditional	Improvement
Matching Precision	89.3%	76.4%	+16.9%
Recall	86.7%	71.2%	+21.8%
Time per Resume	12 sec	54 sec	-77.8%
Feedback Rate	100%	5%	+1900%
Parsing Accuracy	96.9%	N/A	—



### C. Resume Builder Impact

Resumes generated with AI assistance scored 14.2 percentage points higher in ATS compliance checks compared to unassisted submissions from the same candidates. Candidates reported a 73% reduction in time to produce a complete, role-specific resume draft. In the TechNova Solutions deployment case (347 applications), recruiters saved 89% of initial screening time, and candidate satisfaction scores rose from 2.8/5.0 to 4.3/5.0, attributed to the transparency of automated feedback.

### D. Feature Importance

The weighted scoring formula identifies the following as most influential in determining match quality:

- Technical Skills (40% weight): Programming languages, frameworks, tools.
- Work Experience (35% weight): Titles, organisations, duration, responsibilities.
- Education (15% weight): Degree, institution, graduation year.
- Certifications (10% weight): Professional certifications and awards.

These weightings have been validated against human recruiter judgements and are consistent with empirical findings in related recruitment analytics literature [1], [6].

### E. Discussion

As shown in the experiments, the BERT-KNN model delivers the most stable and accurate results for resume-JD matching, consistent with ensemble and transformer-based approaches in prior work [3], [5]. The Logistic Regression and LSTM models performed competitively but showed greater sensitivity to feature scaling and vocabulary coverage. The system's visualisation elements further support decision-making by presenting probability outputs, model-wise comparison, and extracted attributes in a clear and interactive manner.

## V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this paper, an integrated AI-based platform was proposed to address the complete recruitment pipeline through a unified Resume Builder and Automated Shortlisting system. By combining NLP-assisted resume creation with a hybrid BERT-KNN shortlisting engine and automated section-wise feedback, the proposed system achieves a parsing accuracy of 96.91%, matching precision of 89.3%, and a 78% reduction in screening time compared to traditional manual methods.

The system's three-tier architecture, built on Java Spring Boot, MySQL, and Python NLP microservices, is scalable, GDPR-compliant, and ready for enterprise-level deployment. By closing the feedback loop between candidates and recruiters, the platform not only improves operational efficiency but also enhances fairness, transparency, and the overall candidate experience. Notwithstanding these encouraging results, several limitations remain. Dependence on the UCI-adapted benchmark dataset may limit generalization to more diverse recruitment domains [1], [9].

Future work will address multi-language resume support to extend the system to non-English markets. Advanced deep learning models such as GPT-4 class generative systems will be integrated for conversational resume guidance and automated cover letter generation. Explainable AI approaches such as SHAP or LIME will be incorporated to provide greater transparency in scoring decisions and improve recruiter trust. Integration with calendar systems for automated interview scheduling and telemedicine-style remote assessment infrastructure also shows significant promise.

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