

Charting the Future: AI, Ethics, and Scholarly Publishing in the Humanities and Social Sciences

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history

RECEIVED: 10-Jun-25

REVISED: 13-Jun-25

ACCEPTED: 16-Jun-25

PUBLISHED: 15-Jul-25

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Citation: Nayan Deep S. Kanwal, Ph.D. (Professor Dr.) and Trần Thị Vân Dung, (Dr.) (2025). Charting the Future: AI, Ethics, and Scholarly Publishing in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Horizon J. Hum. Soc. Sci. Res. 7 (S), 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.37534/bp.jhssr.2025.v7.nS.id1300.p1-6>



ABSTRACT

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in scholarly publishing is reshaping the landscape of academic communication, improving efficiency, accuracy, and inclusivity. This editorial explores the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in scholarly publishing, especially within the humanities and social sciences. As AI tools become increasingly integrated into academic workflows—from data analysis to editorial support—researchers and journals face opportunities and ethical challenges. Using secondary data from indexed journals, policy publications, and institutional guidelines, this paper assesses the emerging trends, differentiates between AI-enabled and AI-created works, and proposes strategic recommendations for journals such as the Horizon Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (JHSSR). Special attention is given to the role of AI in enhancing peer review, academic writing, and research integrity. The editorial concludes with proposed future directions, including thematic issues on AI's socio-cultural impact and frameworks for responsible AI usage in academia. The article concludes with an invitation to researchers to submit their work to JHSSR, emphasizing its commitment to rigorous peer review and global academic discourse.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Academic integrity, AI in humanities, AI-enabled criticism, Editorial policy, JHSSR, Scholarly publishing, Open Access, Transparency.

1) INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming scholarly publishing, bringing forth innovations that touch every stage of the publication process. The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into academic publishing has become both inevitable and transformative. From machine translation to AI-driven peer review tools, AI applications are reshaping the way knowledge is created,

evaluated, and disseminated (Van Dis et al., 2023; Kwok, 2023; Else, 2023; Heaven, 2023). The Horizon Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (JHSSR), with its mission to bridge global scholarship and digital innovation, is well-positioned to lead this transformation (JHSSR, 2025). However, while AI offers opportunities for efficiency and accessibility, it also raises pressing questions about authorship, accountability, and quality control (Stokel-Walker, 2023).

This editorial explores how AI is currently being used in scholarly publishing and what policies or practices can

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help maintain academic rigor and ethical standards. It further discusses the distinction between AI-enabled and AI-created works and suggests strategic orientations for journals to manage AI's socio-cultural impact.

2) METHODS

This paper employs qualitative desk research through the review of secondary data from:

- Indexed journals in Scopus and Web of Science,
- Policy publications from organizations such as COPE (2023),

- Academic commentary on AI's integration into research workflows.

These sources were selected based on their scholarly credibility and direct relevance to editorial policy, authorship ethics, and AI applications in academia. Table 1 below summarizes these data sources.

Table 1 summarizes the secondary sources analyzed for emerging trends in AI integration in scholarly publishing. The data were collected from indexed journals and policy platforms, including Scopus, Web of Science, and COPE.

Table 1: Summary of Secondary Data Sources on AI Integration in Scholarly Publishing

Source Type	Title / Description	Key Insights	Database / Publisher
Peer-reviewed Article	Open science saves lives: Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic (Besançon et al., 2021)	Demonstrates how digital and AI tools enhanced data sharing and peer review efficiency	Scopus / BMC
Peer-reviewed Article	ChatGPT: Five priorities for research (Van Dis et al., 2023)	Proposes critical AI research priorities, including ethical usage and bias detection	Web of Science / Nature
Peer-reviewed Article	ChatGPT listed as author on research papers: Many scientists disapprove (Stokel-Walker, 2023)	Highlights ethical concerns around AI authorship in academic publications	Scopus / Nature
Industry Guideline	Authorship and AI tools in research publication (COPE, 2023)	Offers policy guidelines for transparent AI tool disclosure during manuscript preparation	COPE (Policy Publication)
Peer-reviewed Article	How AI could help — or hinder — academic writing (Kwok, 2023)	Discusses potential of AI to improve or distort scholarly writing and communication	Web of Science / Nature
Peer-reviewed Article	Navigating the use of AI tools for academic writing (Yeo et al., 2022)	Explores AI writing tools' benefits for non-native English speakers in manuscript preparation	Scopus / Journal of Academic Writing
Policy Resource	About the journal (JHSSR, 2025)	Outlines JHSSR's editorial scope, AI-friendly practices, and open-access model	JHSSR Official Website
Peer-reviewed Article	AI-powered translation in academic publishing (Jiang et al., 2023)	Analyzes the role of AI translation in cross-lingual scholarly dissemination	Scopus / Journal of Scholarly Communication

3) RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. AI-Enabled Criticism

AI can greatly assist in improving the quality and integrity of research through:

- **Plagiarism detection tools** (e.g., Turnitin, iThenticate),
- **Logical consistency checks** using NLP algorithms,
- **Statistical validation** tools that help verify data claims (Besançon et al., 2021).

While these tools offer unprecedented support, the final decision regarding publication must remain a human responsibility. Editors and reviewers must use AI outputs as guides, not substitutes for judgment.

As illustrated in **Figure 1**, AI tools are currently utilized most prominently for plagiarism detection and language editing, followed by statistical validation, translation, and peer review support. These patterns highlight both the strengths and limitations of current AI applications in scholarly workflows.

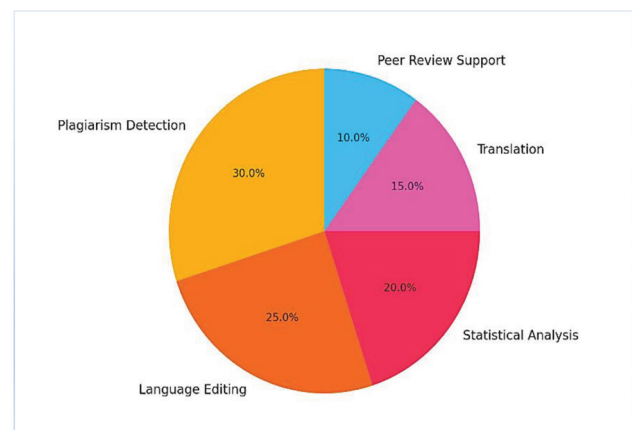


Figure 1: Usage of AI Tools in Academic Publishing.

Note: This figure illustrates estimated proportions of AI tool usage in typical academic publishing workflows.

2. Distinguishing AI-Enabled vs. AI-Created Content

There is an urgent need to differentiate between:

- **AI-enabled content:** Research or writing supported by AI tools under human control,

- **AI-created content:** Work substantially generated by AI with minimal human input.

This distinction has ethical and procedural implications. Journals like JHSSR should develop a set of **transparent disclosure criteria** that clarify AI usage during manuscript submission (COPE, 2023).

3. Ethical Considerations

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and other scholarly bodies recommend that authors disclose any AI tool used in the research or writing process (COPE, 2023). JHSSR should integrate these guidelines to ensure transparency. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and other scholarly bodies recommend that authors disclose any AI tool used in the research or writing process (COPE, 2023; Hosseini, Hilpert, & Mahdavi, 2023).

4. Proposed Strategic Orientation for JHSSR

To stay ahead in this evolving landscape, JHSSR will:

- **Launch a special issue** on “AI in the Humanities and Social Sciences,”
- **Invite submissions** on:
 - Experiences using AI in research and teaching,
 - Socio-cultural impacts of AI,
 - Philosophical, anthropological, and educational reflections,
 - Best practices and failure cases in AI use.

This initiative will not only attract diverse scholarly voices but also position JHSSR as a leader in this critical discourse.

JHSSR has kept pace with these developments, implementing advanced editorial workflows that ensure timely peer review and transparency. Its scope—which covers education, philosophy, psychology, sociology, cultural studies, and more—encourages interdisciplinary contributions that reflect the complexity of contemporary social issues (JHSSR, 2025). JHSSR has integrated these capabilities ensuring rapid peer review, ethical publishing practices, and global outreach.

Journals must adapt by establishing clear guidelines on AI usage and transparency. For instance, Springer Nature, Elsevier, and COPE now recommend that authors disclose any AI tools used during manuscript preparation (COPE, 2023). Researchers must also remain vigilant, critically evaluating AI outputs and ensuring data accuracy (Van Dis et al., 2023).

JHSSR stands out as a publication that upholds ethical integrity while embracing innovation. As an open-access journal indexed in Academia, Google Scholar, and MyCite etc, it offers scholars a reputable platform for

the dissemination of interdisciplinary work and provides global visibility to authors and fosters inclusive academic dialogue.

Recommendations and Limitations

Recommendations:

1. Hosting webinars or forums on responsible AI usage.
2. Researchers should be transparent about their use of AI in their methodology or writing processes.
3. Editors should combine AI tools with human oversight to maintain ethical standards and contextual sensitivity (O'Connor & Chatfield, 2023).

Limitations:

This editorial represents Part 1 of an ongoing investigation and is based solely on secondary data and desk research, without the inclusion of original empirical evidence. As such, its findings are preliminary and exploratory in nature. In Part 2 of this article, the authors intend to undertake a more rigorous experimental evaluation, incorporating primary data collection through surveys and interviews with authors, editors, and reviewers to gain nuanced insights into real-world AI practices and perceptions within scholarly publishing. Moreover, the forthcoming study will introduce at least five specific comparative criteria—focusing on perception, academic standards, moral responsibility, the author's role, and the ability to integrate digital technology effectively. These criteria will provide a more structured and analytical framework for assessing AI's impact in the academic domain. Given the rapidly evolving landscape of AI tools, continual reassessment and updating will be essential to ensure the relevance and accuracy of any conclusions drawn.

4) CONCLUSION

AI's integration into scholarly publishing represents both a technological leap and an ethical imperative. AI is reshaping the academic publishing landscape in profound ways. Its role in enhancing review quality, improving access, and supporting multilingual publication is undeniable. However, to maintain ethical integrity and research quality, journals must:

- **Adopt clear policies distinguishing AI-enabled from AI-created work,**
- **Support responsible AI usage through editorial guidelines,**
- **Promote dialogue through thematic issues and interdisciplinary collaboration.**

The Horizon Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research stands as a model in this evolving landscape—responsive to technological change, rooted in scholarly excellence, and committed to global engagement.

Benefits of Publishing in JHSSR:

The Horizon Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (JHSSR), eISSN 2682-9096 offers a trusted platform for authors aiming to publish high-quality, interdisciplinary work. With a transparent and efficient peer review system, indexing in some of the major indices, and open-access availability, JHSSR ensures wide dissemination and academic recognition. JHSSR offers an inclusive platform for scholars worldwide, with open-access dissemination, rigorous peer review, and a focus on interdisciplinary topics that reflect pressing global challenges. Its commitment to ethical and innovative scholarship makes it a highly suitable venue for AI-related academic work.

The journal also emphasizes inclusivity, making it ideal for researchers from diverse regions and backgrounds seeking international reach. Its editorial board comprises leading scholars committed to maintaining ethical publishing standards and academic excellence.

We encourage scholars across the humanities and social sciences to submit their work to JHSSR, where human insight meets technological advancement in the pursuit of impactful scholarship. Together, we can shape a future where technology enriches—not replaces—human insight in the pursuit of knowledge.

JHSSR has taken a forward-thinking approach by developing and implementing clear AI disclosure policies to promote digital literacy among authors and reviewers. It has already incorporated ethical and technological guidelines well ahead of time to ensure responsible AI usage. JHSSR is collaborating with ethics committees to formulate robust standards and is actively building partnerships with AI developers to better understand the limitations and capabilities of emerging tools. These proactive steps not only enhance the credibility and innovation of the journal but also position JHSSR as a leader in navigating the complex landscape of AI in scholarly publishing.

Strategic Collaborations and Future Directions

In its ongoing efforts to foster academic collaboration and broaden scholarly engagement, the Horizon Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (JHSSR) has formalized Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with several esteemed institutions, including Infrastructure

University Kuala Lumpur (IUUKL), GlobalNXT University and Unitar International University. These strategic partnerships aim to co-organize national and international academic conferences and seminars, with the potential for publishing selected outputs in the form of peer-reviewed journal articles or as part of a formal Book of Proceedings under the Horizon imprint. These collaborative initiatives will enable faculty members, students, and editorial board representatives to actively participate in academic events, contributing both as speakers and attendees. The scale and thematic focus of such events will be tailored through mutual consultation with partnering institutions. Moreover, JHSSR can serve as a resource hub, supporting training workshops on academic publishing, including sessions on publishing in indexed and peer-reviewed journals. These events—whether in-person or virtual—are designed to enhance accessibility, visibility, and global academic discourse.

In addition to welcoming innovative papers for its regular issues (Figure 2)—which remain open for submissions throughout the year—the *Horizon Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (JHSSR)* actively invites proposals for special or thematic issues (Figure 3). One such edition is this issue dedicated to the **2024 ASAIHL Conference**, marking a significant milestone not only for the Journal but also for the **Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL)** and its enduring commitment to regional and global academic collaboration.



Figure 2: Regular Issues: July & December.

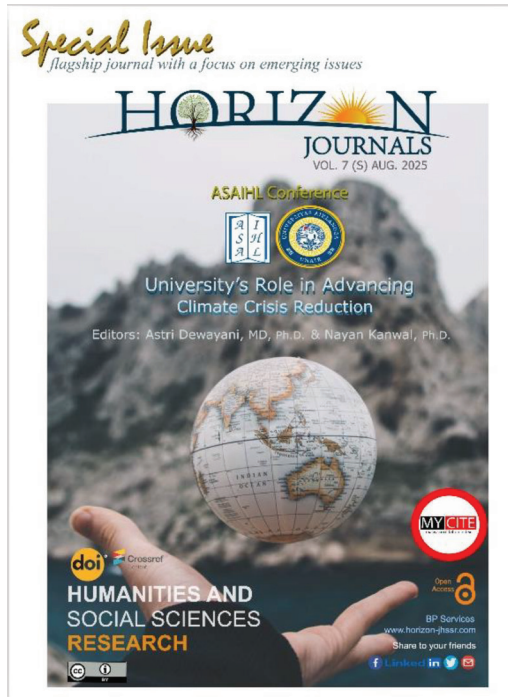


Figure 3: Special/Thematic Issues: As Requested.

Join a community dedicated to advancing knowledge and fostering meaningful international scholarship. We look forward to your valuable contributions to JHSSR.

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Biographical Statement of Author(s)

Professor Nayan Deep Singh

Kanwal is a distinguished academic editor, researcher, and publishing consultant with over three decades of experience in international development, education, and scholarly publishing. He is the Chief Executive Editor of the *Horizon Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (JHSSR)*. Prior to the successful launch of the JHSSR in 2018, Professor Kanwal was instrumental in developing Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) three *Pertanika* titles into top-tier Malaysian academic journals. He played a pivotal role in elevating the scholarly reputation of Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) academic ranking via enhanced publications and citations.

Over his 26-year tenure at UPM, he was instrumental in transforming the *Pertanika* journal series into top-tier Malaysian-International publications and securing their indexing in Scopus and the Web of Science (Emerging Sources Citation Index), earning several accolades for editorial excellence. Under his editorial leadership,



Pertanika journals earned multiple national and institutional tributes for excellence in academic publishing.

As the Chief Executive Editor of JHSSR, he continues to champion ethical publishing practices, interdisciplinary collaboration, and open-access dissemination. His ongoing mission is to support scholars—both emerging and established—in producing high-impact research that advances knowledge in the humanities and social sciences globally. Prof. Kanwal's current interests include the ethics of AI in scholarly communication, academic integrity, and innovations in digital publishing.

Professor Kanwal is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA), a Life Member of the British Institute of Management (BIM), an Associate Member of the Marketing Institute of Singapore (AMIS), and an Associate Member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (AIAST).

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Trần Thị Vân Dung, born in Vietnam in 1978, holds a Bachelor of Pedagogy in Linguistics from Hue University, earned in 2006. In 2013, she achieved a Master's degree in Vietnamese Literature from the University of Sciences, Hue University. In 2024, she obtained her Ph.D. in Vietnamese Literature from Hanoi National University of Education, Vietnam.

Since 2020, she has served as the main lecturer at Thua Thien Hue Pedagogical College. She is also a



valued editorial board member of the *Horizon Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences Research*, a distinguished peer-reviewed scholarly journal. In addition, she holds the position as the Vice Chairman of Thua Thien Hue Writers Association, Vietnam.

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