

Editorial: Digital transformation and society — a fast-growing flagship journal in the era of digital and AI convergence

Digital
Transformation
and Society

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Digital Transformation and Society (DTS) was established in the second half of 2022 as a diamond open-access journal, published by Emerald Publishing with the support of Chengdu University, China. As we prepare the third issue of our fifth volume, we reaffirm our core mission: to promote the investigation of the co-evolution and value of digital technologies and society in advancing human development. Covering areas such as digital and business transformation, artificial intelligence, smart cities, digital finance, the future of work and innovations in a digitalized, interconnected society, DTS has quickly become a leading platform for exploring, analyzing and understanding the complexities of the digital, AI-driven era.

Achieving exceptional milestones and metrics

The development of DTS over the past few years has been remarkable. This momentum, combined with a commitment to publishing high-impact, rigorous research, has resulted in strong performance metrics and rapid international recognition.

- (1) *Significant impact*: The CiteScore for DTS increased from 0.5 in 2023 to 9.6 by June 2026, positioning the journal within Scopus Q1 in library and information sciences.
- (2) *Increased demand and selectivity*: Submission volume grew from 115 in 2023 to 461 in 2025, with over 460 submissions received by mid-June 2026. The acceptance rate became more selective, decreasing from approximately 18% to 6.5% in 2025, demonstrating a sustained commitment to scholarly excellence.
- (3) *Global engagement*: Published articles have achieved high average download rates, with the most-read paper exceeding 23,000 downloads to date.
- (4) *Indexing achievements*: The journal attained key indexing milestones, including inclusion in DOAJ (May 2023), Scopus (January 2024) and the Web of Science as an ESCI journal (May 2025).
- (5) *Efficient peer review*: Despite increased submission volume and selectivity, the journal maintains an author-focused peer-review process, delivering first decisions in an average of 28 days and publishing accepted articles within an average of 33 days.

A truly international and collaborative ecosystem

The rapid growth of DTS has been enabled by the support of a global academic network. The geographic diversity of authors, reviewers and readers brings a range of perspectives, effectively connecting theoretical frameworks with practical applications and policy development.

The editorial board, consisting of scholars from the USA, UK, Switzerland, China and other countries, has played a central role in shaping the journal's strategic direction. DTS functions as a community hub. For example, the "Digital Transformation and Future Society" international symposium at Chengdu University in 2024 brought together thought leaders



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The vitality of our scholarly community

The progress of DTS reflects the dedication and trust of all contributors. We express sincere gratitude to each author who submitted their work, to every reviewer who contributed time and expertise, to every editorial board member who established high standards and to every reader who engaged with our publications. Collectively, these efforts have shaped the journal's promising development.

To recognize these collective efforts, DTS is committed to transparent governance. The journal conducts regular board rotations and publicly acknowledges outstanding reviewers with annual awards, fostering a culture of shared ownership and mutual respect.

Looking ahead, it is recognized that the rapid DTS growth introduces significant responsibilities. Upcoming challenges include maintaining inclusivity amid increasingly competitive acceptance rates, prioritizing scholarly value over metric-driven approaches and addressing the digital transformation challenges faced by diverse populations worldwide. The foundation of DTS remains strong, built on trust and active participation.

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I, as Editor-in-Chief, and on behalf of the entire editorial leadership, would like to express my profound gratitude to our authors, reviewers, editorial board members and the broader scholarly community. I also offer special, heartfelt thanks to Chengdu University for its steadfast support and to Emerald Publishing for its exceptional professional stewardship.