

Editorial

Volume 4 (2025): Knowledge at the Crossroads of Transformation and Responsibility

I am proud to present Volume 4 (2025) of *Access: An International Journal of Nepal Library Association*. Every new volume is more than just a continuation of publication; it shows our commitment to intellectual integrity, global dialogue, and the pursuit of knowledge that benefits humanity. As we reach the midpoint of this decade, the world faces rapid technological changes, complex social transformations, environmental challenges, and shifting models of scholarship. Therefore, this volume focuses on responsible knowledge in a time of fast global change.

This edition features voices from different regions, disciplines, and research methods. We believe contemporary challenges cannot be understood, much less addressed, from isolated perspectives. Today, knowledge must be collaborative, ethically sound, and globally aware. Volume 4 is designed with this vision: to provide rigorous research alongside insights, interpretations, and intellectual leadership.

Global Challenges and Emerging Opportunities

Around the world, societies are going through unprecedented changes. Digital transformation is changing how we produce, share, preserve, and evaluate knowledge. Artificial intelligence, data-focused research, and open science initiatives are altering scholarly environments, raising important questions about authorship, transparency, equity, and trust. Meanwhile, global issues like climate change, public health emergencies, social inequality, misinformation, and cultural decline require evidence-based responses that cross national and disciplinary lines.

These realities present both challenges and opportunities within our field and beyond. The challenge is to ensure that innovation does not outstrip ethics and that technological progress aligns with human values. This opportunity lies in using these tools to make knowledge more accessible, elevate underrepresented voices, and encourage inclusive scholarly participation from both the Global South and the Global North.

The articles in this volume address these concerns directly. They place local studies within global contexts; challenge established ideas and suggest forward-thinking frameworks that respond to real-world needs. They embody a key

principle of this journal: scholarship should connect with society, bridging theory, practice, and policy.

Editorial Vision and the Role of the Journal

An editorial, as understood in major academic traditions, is not just an introduction to published articles or a self-congratulatory piece. It is a thoughtful opinion from the editorial team, aimed at placing current research in a broader intellectual and social context. It should inform, prompt reflection, and stimulate dialogue without prescribing strict conclusions.

Following international best practices and advice from leading academic publishers, this editorial clearly states our position: the journal supports rigorous, ethical, and globally relevant scholarship. We encourage debate, welcome different viewpoints, and are open to critical engagement. Our role is not to dictate what scholars must think, but to offer a credible, balanced platform where ideas can be explored, challenged, and refined.

Volume 4 shows this approach. The contributions tackle current issues with careful methods and deep concepts while remaining accessible to a wide international audience. They highlight that academic rigor and clear communication are not opposing forces but complementary strengths.

The Editorial Board: Stewardship and Scholarly Integrity

The quality and credibility of any journal largely depend on its editorial board. I appreciate the collective efforts of our international editorial team, whose expertise, integrity, and commitment have guided the journal since it began.

Our Editorial Board consists of senior scholars, emerging researchers, and professionals representing various regions, disciplines, and research methods. This diversity is intentional. It ensures a balanced peer review and respect for contextual differences, along with adherence to international academic standards. The board includes:

- **Chief Editor**, responsible for the journal's strategic vision, editorial policy, and overall academic direction.
- **Associate Editors**, who manage thematic areas, oversee the peer-review process, and ensure methodological and ethical rigor.
- **Section Editors and Review Editors**, who coordinate reviews, special topics, and relevant global issues.
- **International Advisory Board Members**, who offer strategic guidance and global perspectives aligned with international scholarly trends.

Together, the editorial board upholds the journal's core values: transparency in review, fairness in decision-making, respect for authors, and dedication to scholarly excellence. I express my sincere thanks to every board member for their voluntary service, intellectual effort, and commitment to advancing global scholarship.

A Call for Collaboration and Innovation

As knowledge systems change, our research and publishing approaches need to adapt as well. This journal invites collaborative, interdisciplinary, and innovative scholarships. We welcome submissions that cross traditional boundaries, blend theory with practice, and tackle globally significant issues while staying rooted in local realities.

We also reaffirm our commitment to ethical research practices, responsible authorship, and constructive peer reviews. Scholarly publishing is a joint effort—one that thrives on mutual respect among authors, reviewers, editors, and readers. Therefore, we invite not only established academics but also early-career researchers whose fresh ideas are vital to the field's energy.

Looking Ahead: Our Shared Intellectual Future

As we present Volume 4 (2025), we do so with optimism and determination. Optimism is because the global scholarly community continues to show resilience, creativity, and a commitment to truth. Determination because the responsibility of producing knowledge has never been greater.

This journal will keep being a platform for important ideas that inform policy, influence practice, and help create a more just, informed, and sustainable world. We encourage our readers to engage thoughtfully with the work presented here, question assumptions, and extend these conversations beyond the journal's pages.

On behalf of the entire editorial board, I thank our authors, reviewers, and readers for their trust and collaboration. May this volume inspire reflection, dialogue, and action, reaffirming the lasting value of scholarship based on integrity, inclusivity, and a global vision.

Pushparaj Subedi

Editor-in-Chief

President, Nepal Library Association

Knowledge Director, Mid Valley College, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Email: prs@nla.org.np

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