

Editorial

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<https://doi.org/10.5109/7343226>

出版情報 : Evergreen. 12 (1), pp.vi-viii, 2025-03. Interdisciplinary Graduate School of
Engineering Sciences, Kyushu University, Japan

バージョン :

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Editorial

A new superpower is in town; hard to tell if it is going to be a superhero or a supervillain, but, for sure, it is reshaping the ways things are done by people from all walks of life. The opportunities it is creating are tremendous, massive and, most of the time, unimaginable. The only things it needs are energy and silicon. Electricity and NVIDIA—to be exact. Artificial Intelligence (AI) arrives suddenly with lots of surprises and capabilities. AI reshapes the ways of fighting wars; search engines responses; speeches in many events, and customer services. Most importantly, AI is knocking the academic industry with new innovations and challenges. Students suddenly become super-capable of doing their assignments, research manuscripts, and theses; reviewers become more productive with astonishing ORCID records of review accomplishments. In general, humans who can afford the AI service become powerful and productive.

From what can be observed through ongoing media coverage—particularly of the near-daily incidents unfolding in the United States (revealed by DOGE)—it appears that public perception and the global flow of information may be profoundly shaped by a small number of coordinated actors operating through strategic messaging and media influence. *EVERGREEN* previously raised this concern (information manipulation) in an earlier editorial¹⁾, stating: “If people become the information prisoners, humanity is in danger and may go extinct with the wrong decisions.”. At first glance, it may seem unusual for an academic journal to engage with such topics. However, it turns out that our concern has been proved to be valid.

In the past, well-read people were familiar with the word “transitory” championed by the key figures in the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Biden administration including Chair Jerome Powell, Janet Yellen, the then U.S. Treasury Secretary, Raphael Bostic, Atlanta Federal Reserve President, to name a few²⁻⁷⁾. MSM around the world rewound the “transitory” clips concertedly. However, inflation is not “transitory” and it is hard to beat this beast. Lately, a flood of messages like “We stand with you” came out from several SNS accounts at the end of February 2025. These are some examples of how information is engineered to people. There is no exception in the academic environment. One might look into the concepts through glossy keywords such as “sustainable development goals, SDGs”, “carbon neutral”, “global warming”, etc. On the other hand, many reviewers cannot understand why it is necessary to declare the gender before they proceed with their noble yet volunteer review service. Organizations such as “USAID” have played active roles in various global initiatives. A commonly heard phrase from individuals affiliated with international NGOs or development agencies is, “we want to educate.” While these efforts may be well-intentioned, questions have been raised about the nature and direction of such educational outreach, especially when it intersects with local values and autonomy. In parallel, a growing discourse around “efficiency, anti-woke, anti-DEI” movements is gaining momentum in the United States. Whether these trends will lead to meaningful reform or unintended consequences remains uncertain. What is clear, however, is that humanity is prone to be abused by information manipulations. We are even more in danger than a nuclear disaster, since nuclear powers have protocols for pressing the button, while we have no idea about who holds the AI keys.

EVERGREEN has been expanding into the publication of papers on computer and data science before the ChatGPT era. Again, it turns out that our vision is timely and relevant. The numbers of manuscripts on computer and data science are increasing every publication. In *EVERGREEN*, we try to be true to science, engineering, and technology with a consistent focus on the sustainable environment; obviously, not resonating people from USAID and NGOs. Thus, we are very pleased to publish *EVERGREEN* Vol. 12, Issue 01, the first publication in 2025. In this edition, we have several interesting papers touching from fundamentals to applications. All papers cover several subjects such as environmental, material, engineering and material sciences with the collective goal of carbon neutral and sustainable environment.

We’re experiencing growing pains as submissions surge, stretching our resources thin. Handling three or more papers daily is a challenge, but it’s a good problem to have. We’re adjusting our processes and sincerely apologize

to authors for any delays. Our passion for *EVERGREEN* is stronger than ever, and we're implementing new tools and facilities to improve efficiency. We're confident these delays are temporary.

We're deeply grateful to our authors and reviewers—finding excellent human reviewers is increasingly difficult, but our author-reviewer community remains strong and ethical. Special thanks to our Secretariat, Ms. Mieko INOUE, whose efforts have been pivotal to *EVERGREEN*'s growth.

AI presents both opportunities and challenges for academic publishing. Many authors and reviewers now use AI to some extent, and it's unclear what full (100%) reliance would lead to. Yet, history shows humanity adapts. As we've said before, AI will be a valuable tool as we move toward a greater future⁸⁾.

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Evergreen - Joint Journal of Novel Carbon Resource Sciences & Green Asia Strategy

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