**JSRM**

**JOURNAL OF SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND METRICS**

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CALL FOR PAPERS

# Special Issue: Agentic AI and the Future of Scholarly Communication

## Human Behaviour, Research Integrity and Copyright in AI-Driven Research — Original Studies by Master's and Doctoral Students

Journal of Scholarly Research and Metrics (JSRM) · Volume 2, Issue 2 (June 2027)

https://jsrm.scholarvista.in/index.php/jsrm

**NO APC · FREE TO PUBLISH · FREE TO READ**

**Submission deadline: 15 February 2027 · Best Paper Award: Certificate + USD 150**

### Why publish in this Special Issue?

- **No APC. No submission fee. No peer-review fee.** Publishing is completely free for authors.
- **Gold Open Access under CC BY 4.0.** Free to read worldwide from the day of publication. Authors keep their copyright.
- **Double-anonymous peer review** by at least two independent reviewers. Reviewers are asked to give constructive feedback to help student authors grow.
- **A timely, high-impact theme.** Agentic AI, human behaviour and copyright are among the most debated issues in research today.
- **Best Paper Award:** Certificate of Recognition and USD 150. The winning paper is announced in the issue itself and listed first in the table of contents.
- **Supervisor co-authorship allowed.** Students may publish with their official research supervisor.
- **Clear timeline.** First decision by 31 March 2027 and publication in June 2027.
- **Wide discoverability.** Article metadata is optimised for Google Scholar and reference managers such as Zotero and Mendeley.

## 1. About the Special Issue

The Journal of Scholarly Research and Metrics (JSRM) is an international, double-anonymous peer-reviewed, Gold Open Access journal (CC BY 4.0) published quarterly by ScholarVista Private Limited, India. To encourage and recognise the next generation of researchers, JSRM invites Master's and doctoral students to submit original empirical research for a dedicated Special Issue in Volume 2, Issue 2 (June 2027).

Artificial intelligence is no longer just a writing aid. AI agents can now search the literature, read papers, analyse data and draft text with little human input. This shift raises urgent questions for science and society. How do researchers think and behave when they work with AI? Who owns AI-assisted work and when does it violate copyright? How can trust, integrity and fair credit be protected? This Special Issue brings together student research on these questions. Its aim is to build an early evidence base for a field that will shape scholarly communication for the next decade. JSRM's regular issues continue as scheduled.

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## 2. Special Issue Theme

### Agentic AI and the Future of Scholarly Communication: Human Behaviour, Research Integrity and Copyright

The theme is broad by design. It covers the people, practices, rights and systems of research as AI becomes an active partner in creating and sharing knowledge. Suggested focus areas are listed below. They are examples only.

- **Agentic AI in the research workflow:** How students, researchers and librarians use AI agents and assistants to search, read, write, analyse data and review.
- **Human behaviour and trust:** Adoption, dependence, deskilling, motivation and decision-making when people work with AI. How users judge and verify AI output.
- **Copyright and intellectual property:** Use of copyrighted works to train AI. Text and data mining rights. Publisher licensing deals with AI companies. Ownership of AI-assisted outputs. Copyright violation and plagiarism through AI tools.
- **Research integrity and misconduct:** Fabricated references, AI-driven paper mills and manipulated content. Disclosure of AI use. The accuracy and fairness of AI-detection tools.
- **Peer review and publishing:** The role of AI in peer review, editorial screening and production. Policies of journals and publishers on AI.
- **Discovery, citation and visibility:** How AI search engines change what gets found, read and cited. Effects on metrics, altmetrics and research visibility. Bibliometric mapping of AI research.
- **Policy, ethics and equity:** AI policies of universities, funders and governments. Access to AI tools in the Global South. Open science and open AI models. Accountability and governance.

**Related topics are welcome.** Any original study that connects AI with scholarly communication, research evaluation, libraries, open science or research policy will be considered.

**We encourage** recent data, clear and reproducible methods, comparisons across countries or disciplines, and open sharing of data, code and instruments (for example in Zenodo or OSF).

**Accepted article types:** Original research using quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods. Studies may use primary data (surveys, interviews, experiments or user studies) or secondary data (bibliometric, altmetric, policy or document data). Systematic and scoping reviews that follow PRISMA 2020 are also accepted.

**Not accepted:** Narrative reviews, opinion pieces and purely descriptive bibliometric profiles without clear research questions.

## 3. Who Can Submit – Eligibility and Authorship

- **Eligible authors:** students currently enrolled in a Master's programme (e.g., MLISc, MA, MSc, MBA, MTech) or registered for a PhD at a recognised university or institution, in any country.
- **Authorship:** the paper may be (a) single-authored by the student, or (b) co-authored by the student and his or her official research supervisor/guide only (maximum two authors). The student must be the first author.
- **One submission per student** for this Special Issue.

- **Single affiliation only:** the student must list only the institution where he or she is currently enrolled or registered for the degree. Students who are also employed (e.g., working professionals pursuing a PhD) must use their PhD-registering university as their only affiliation. Dual or multiple affiliations will not be accepted for this Special Issue. The supervisor may use his or her own institutional affiliation.
- **Proof of student status:** a current enrolment/registration certificate, bona fide certificate or valid student ID must be uploaded at the time of submission.
- **Thesis-based work:** papers derived from an ongoing or completed dissertation/thesis are welcome, provided the content has not been published elsewhere as a journal article. Any prior deposit of the thesis (e.g., in Shodhganga or an institutional repository) must be disclosed in the cover letter.

## 4. Mandatory Cover Letter at Submission

A cover letter must be uploaded at the time of submission. Submissions without a cover letter will not be considered. The cover letter must:

- state clearly that the manuscript is submitted for the “Special Issue: Agentic AI and the Future of Scholarly Communication, JSRM Volume 2, Issue 2 (June 2027)” and name the focus area;
- give the student’s name, programme (Master’s/PhD), year of study or registration, enrolment/registration number and institution; and the supervisor’s name, designation and institution (if co-author);
- confirm that the student’s only affiliation is the enrolling/PhD-registering institution;
- confirm that the work is original, not published and not under consideration elsewhere, and disclose any thesis deposit, preprint or conference presentation;
- confirm ethics approval/exemption and informed consent (for studies with human participants), and declare any use of generative AI tools, funding and conflicts of interest.

## 5. Manuscript Requirements

- **Article type:** Research Article (empirical) – quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods.
- **Length:** JSRM does not impose a strict word limit. Manuscripts should be concise and complete; up to about 12,000 words is recommended for original research articles, excluding the abstract, references, tables, figures and appendices.
- **Format:** Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx); A4; 2.54 cm margins; Times New Roman 12 pt; single line spacing; justified text. PDF files are not accepted as the main manuscript.
- **Structured abstract (max. 250 words):** Context, Aim, Approach, Key Findings, Interpretation and Contribution; followed by 4–6 keywords.
- **Structure:** Title; Abstract; Keywords; Introduction; Literature Review; Methodology; Results; Discussion; Conclusion; References; Appendices (including the research instrument).
- **Methodological transparency:** describe the population, sampling, sample size, response rate, data-collection period and instruments. Quantitative studies should report validity and reliability (e.g., pilot testing, Cronbach’s alpha); qualitative studies should explain the analysis approach and trustworthiness; mixed-methods studies should explain how the strands are integrated. Bibliometric and other secondary-data studies must report the data source(s), full search query, date of data

retrieval, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data cleaning, software and indicators used, so that the analysis can be reproduced.

- **Reporting guidelines (recommended):** CHERRIES or STROBE for surveys, COREQ or SRQR for qualitative research, GRAMMS for mixed methods, PRISMA 2020 or PRISMA-ScR for systematic and scoping reviews, and BIBLIO for bibliometric studies.
- **Research instrument:** primary-data studies must submit the full questionnaire or interview guide as an appendix; secondary-data studies and reviews must submit the full search strategy and a description of the dataset.
- **References:** APA 7th edition; DOIs should be included wherever available.
- **Title page:** submitted as a separate file with author names, affiliation, official email addresses, ORCID iD (required for the corresponding author) and all declarations, as described in the JSRM Author Guidelines. The manuscript itself must be fully anonymised.
- **Files to upload:** (1) anonymised manuscript; (2) title page with author details and declarations; (3) cover letter; (4) proof of student status; (5) ethics approval or exemption letter (for studies with human participants); (6) research instrument or search strategy.

## 6. Ethics and Research Integrity

- Studies involving human participants must have approval from an Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC/IRB), or a written exemption from the institution, and must have obtained informed consent. Studies without appropriate ethics documentation will not be accepted.
- Data must be genuine; primary data must be collected by the authors, and secondary data must be fully sourced and described. Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, duplicate submission and citation manipulation will lead to rejection and may be reported to the authors' institution, in line with COPE guidance.
- All manuscripts are screened for similarity and AI-generated text. The overall similarity index must be below 5% (excluding references), and the AI-generated text score is expected to be below 25%. Manuscripts exceeding these limits may be returned or rejected.
- Any use of generative AI tools must be disclosed; AI tools cannot be listed as authors, and authors remain fully responsible for the content.
- A data availability statement is required.

## 7. Peer Review and Editorial Process

- There are no guest editors for this Special Issue. All submissions are handled by the JSRM Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board under the same editorial standards and double-anonymous peer review (at least two independent reviewers) as regular papers.
- Manuscripts co-authored by students supervised by a member of the Editorial Board will be handled by another editor, and the member will have no role in the review or decision.
- Accepted papers will be clearly labelled as part of the Special Issue. Papers that are accepted after the issue closes may, with the authors' consent, be published in a subsequent regular issue.
- Manuscripts that do not meet the eligibility criteria may be invited to submit to a regular issue instead.

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## 8. Best Paper Award

One Best Paper Award will be made for this Special Issue. Only one paper will receive the award.

- **Award:** Certificate of Recognition to each author of the winning paper and a cash prize of USD 150 (or the equivalent in INR), paid to the student first author.
- **Selection:** made after the final acceptance of all Special Issue papers and before publication, by an Award Committee of three Editorial Board members, using the following criteria: originality, timeliness and significance; rigour of design and analysis; transparency, ethics and quality of reporting (including open data or code where possible); and potential contribution to scholarly communication research and practice.
- **Independence:** only papers already accepted through the normal peer-review process are considered. The award has no influence on acceptance decisions; reviewers assess manuscripts without regard to the award. Committee members may not evaluate papers by their own students, co-authors or colleagues from the same institution.
- **No award:** the Committee may decide not to make the award if no paper meets the required standard.
- **Announcement in the issue:** the winning paper will be announced in Volume 2, Issue 2 itself. It will appear first in the table of contents under the heading “Winner of the JSRM Best Paper Award 2027”, and its article page and PDF will carry the award label. A short award announcement will also be published in the issue and on the JSRM website.

## 9. Publication Fees – Free to Publish

**There is NO Article Processing Charge (APC), NO submission fee and NO peer-review fee for this Special Issue.**

All accepted papers will be published in Gold Open Access under the CC BY 4.0 licence. Readers can access them free of charge. Authors retain copyright. JSRM never asks authors for payment in exchange for acceptance. Please report any such request made in the name of JSRM to editor.jsrm@scholarvista.in.

## 10. Important Dates

| Milestone | Date |
|---|---|
| Call announced / submissions open | 1 October 2026 |
| Submission deadline | 15 February 2027 |
| First decision (after peer review) | by 31 March 2027 |
| Revised manuscript due | by 30 April 2027 |
| Final decision | by 20 May 2027 |
| Best Paper Award decision | by 31 May 2027 |
| Publication – Volume 2, Issue 2 | June 2027 |
| Best Paper Award announced (in the issue) | June 2027 |

## 11. How to Submit

**Journal website:** https://jsrm.scholarvista.in/index.php/jsrm

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**Submission login:** https://jsrm.scholarvista.in/index.php/jsrm/login

Submit online through the JSRM submission system. New users should first register an account on the journal website, then log in using the submission link above. When submitting, select the section "Special Issue: Agentic AI and the Future of Scholarly Communication" and upload all required files. Please read the Author Guidelines and Journal Policies (https://jsrm.scholarvista.in/for-authors and https://jsrm.scholarvista.in/policies) before submitting. Submissions that do not follow these guidelines may be returned without review.

**Pre-submission enquiries are welcome.** Students who are unsure whether their topic fits the theme may email a title and a short abstract (up to 250 words) to the editorial office before submitting.

**Contact:** editor.jsrm@scholarvista.in | +91 70947 34353

**Dattatraya T. Kalbande**
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Scholarly Research and Metrics (JSRM)
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## Annexure – Cover Letter Template (to be submitted with the manuscript)

Date: _____

To
The Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Scholarly Research and Metrics (JSRM)

Subject: Submission of manuscript for the Special Issue “Agentic AI and the Future of Scholarly Communication”, JSRM Volume 2, Issue 2 (June 2027)

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

I submit my manuscript entitled “_____” for consideration in the above Special Issue. Focus area: _____.

Student (first author): Name _____; Programme (Master’s/PhD) _____; Year of study / Date of PhD registration _____; Enrolment/Registration No. _____; Institution (only affiliation) _____; Email (institutional) _____; ORCID _____.

Supervisor (co-author, if any): Name _____; Designation _____; Department and Institution _____; Email _____; ORCID _____.

I confirm that: (1) I am currently enrolled/registered for the above programme and my enrolling/PhD-registering institution is my only affiliation in this manuscript; (2) the manuscript is original, has not been published and is not under consideration elsewhere; (3) prior thesis deposit / preprint / conference presentation, if any: _____; (4) ethics approval/exemption (if human participants are involved): _____ (committee, reference number, date) and informed consent was obtained from all participants; (5) generative AI use: _____; (6) funding: _____; (7) conflicts of interest: _____.

Enclosures: anonymised manuscript; title page; proof of student status; ethics approval/exemption letter (if applicable); research instrument or search strategy.

Yours sincerely,

(Signature of student)
Name:

(Signature of supervisor, if co-author)
Name: