



- *AJIC subject-matter audit*
- *AJIC Editorial Board expertise audit*
- *Value and practicalities of audits*

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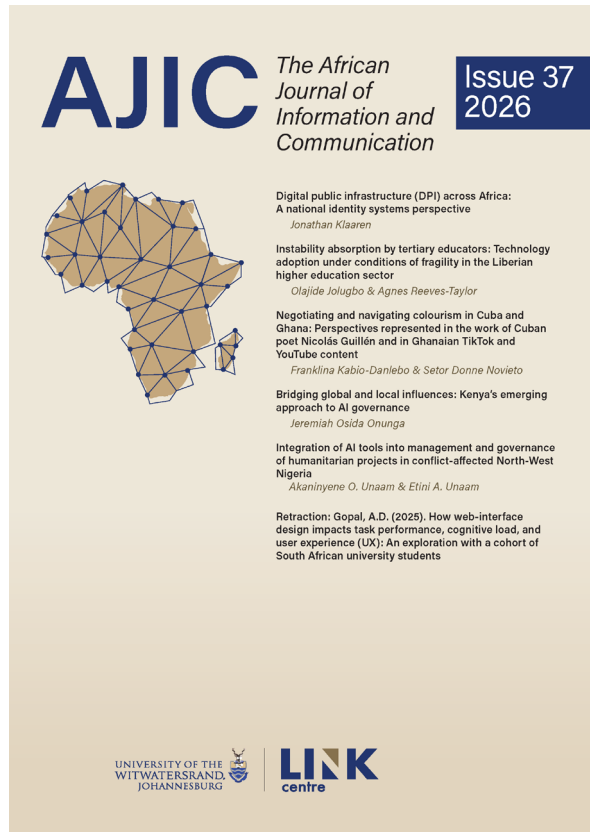
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About AJIC

<https://ajic.wits.ac.za>



- Published as *The African Journal of Information and Communication (AJIC)* since 2010
- Previously *The Southern African Journal of Information and Communication (SAJIC)*, from 2000 to 2008
- A diamond open access journal, funded and published by the LINK Centre, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
<https://www.wits.ac.za/linkcentre>
- 2 issues per year
- Ave. of 6 articles per issue (12 articles per year)

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About AJIC (2)



- Included in ASSAf's Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) SA database, <https://www.scielo.org.za>
- Also in Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), <https://doaj.org>, and Sabinet African Journals database, <https://journals.co.za>



- Managed and published on ASSAf's Khulisa Journals OJS platform, <https://journals.assaf.org.za>

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Strengthening *AJIC* project

Grant from EIFL for “Strengthening *AJIC*” project (Oct. 2024 to Jan. 2026), which aimed to:

- increase discoverability and visibility of *AJIC* articles and authors

Project included efforts to deepen subject-matter expertise on *AJIC* Editorial Advisory Board. Scholarly Publishing Consultant hired to:

- conduct journal subject-matter audit
- conduct Editorial Board expertise audit
- advise on recruitment of additional Board members

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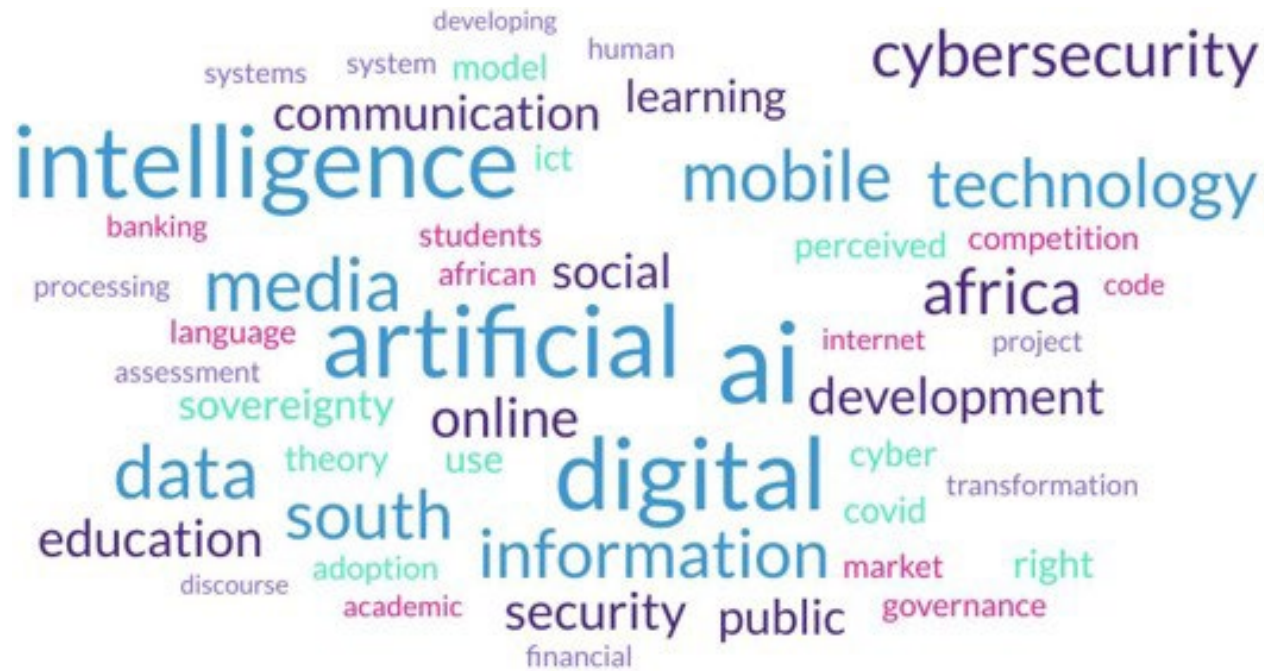


Journal subject-matter audit (Sept. 2025)

- Purpose: Identify **current trends** in submission subject matter
- Based on **keywords** of submissions: Keywords extracted from **231 submissions** made between **1 Jan. 2023 and 15 Sept. 2025**
- Scholarly Publishing Consultant extracted keywords **from back-end of AJIC's OJS site** on ASSAf Khulisa Journals platform

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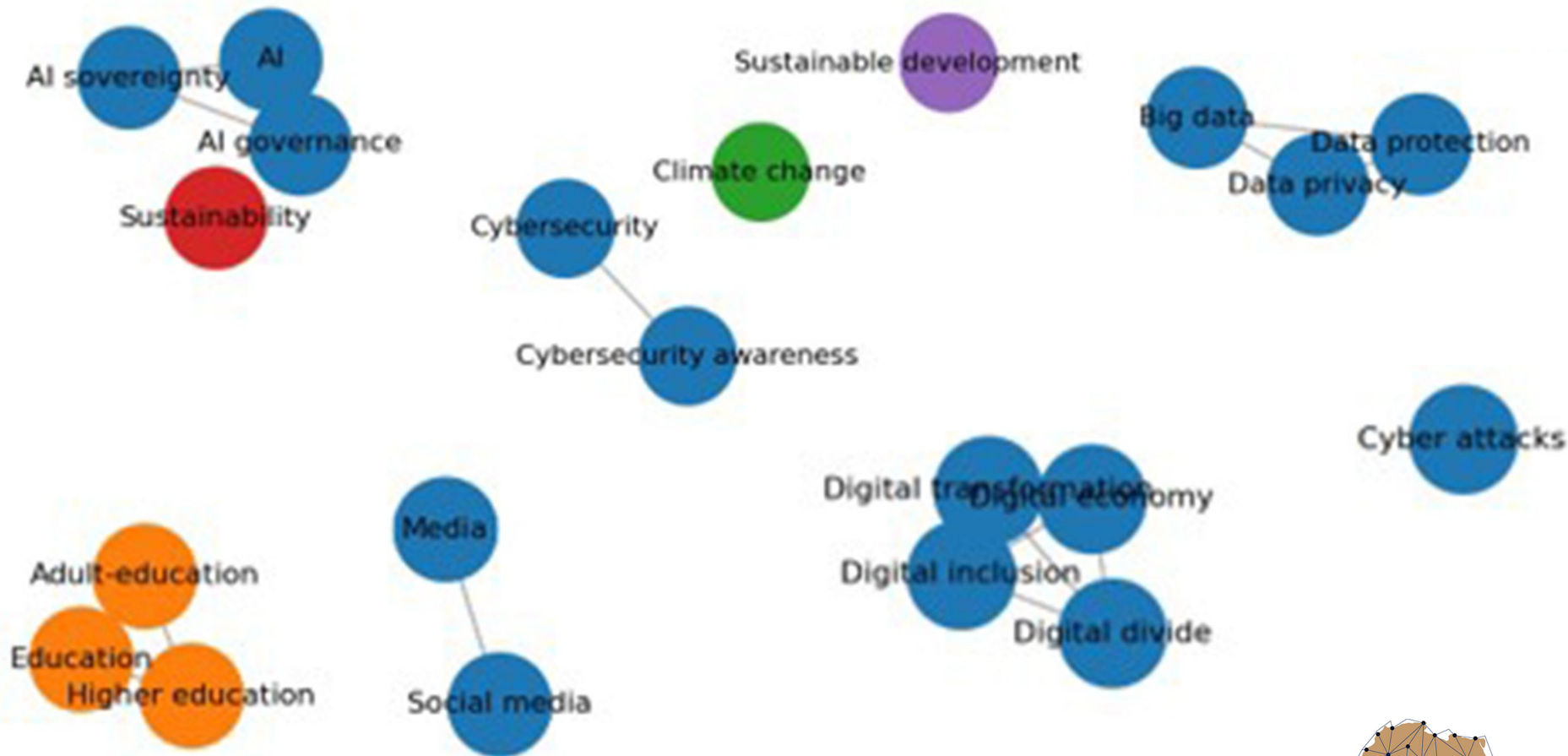
Subject-matter audit findings



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Subject-matter audit findings (2)

Examples of thematic clusters



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Editorial Board expertise audit

(Sept.-Oct. 2025)

- Purpose: Identify subject-matter **areas where additional expertise needed on Editorial Board**, <https://ajic.wits.ac.za/edteam>
- Scholarly Publishing Consultant provided Board members with **tabular listing** (*see next slide*) of **AJIC Content Areas**, <https://ajic.wits.ac.za/areas>
- Board members asked to:
 - highlight content areas in which they are **comfortable conducting double-blind peer reviews**
 - track **proposed edits** to the Content Areas listing

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Board expertise audit (2)

AJIC Content Areas:

<https://ajic.wits.ac.za/areas>

Categories:

1. digital technologies
2. internet
3. cybersecurity
4. digital economy
5. media and creative industries
6. information and data
7. science, technology and innovation (STI)
8. knowledge governance
9. social capital
10. linguistics

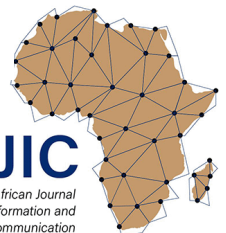
AJIC Editorial Advisory Board Subject-Matter Expertise

(1) Please **highlight in green** all subject areas (listed below) in which you would feel comfortable conducting double-blind peer reviews of articles.

(2) Please also feel free to **add to or edit this listing**, via additions/edits in **tracked-changes mode**.

Category	Subject areas
digital technologies	digital platforms; electronic networks; telecommunications; digital hardware; digital devices; mobile technologies; software; applications (apps); blockchain; cryptocurrency; artificial intelligence (AI) tools and techniques; information systems; automation; robotics; mechatronics; educational technologies; health technologies; technical standards; digital access, adoption and use; information and communication technology (ICT); ICT for development (ICT4D); disruptive technologies; digital technologies and achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
internet	internet access, adoption, and use; internet/online applications; world wide web; cloud services; internet of things (IoT); internet of people (IoP); internet governance
cybersecurity	cyber vulnerability; cyber resilience; cyber incident response teams; cybersecurity skills; policy and regulation for cybersecurity; cybersecurity governance
digital economy	digital innovation; digital transformation of institutions and economic sectors; digital skills and capabilities; tech hubs and digital innovation hubs; maker movement; makerspaces; digital services (commerce, government, health, education, advertising, marketing, public relations, postal, fintech, insurtech); policy and regulation for the digital economy; digital governance
media and creative industries	broadcasting (radio, television); print media; audio and audio-visual content services (AAVCS); film; video; music; digital arts; online media; social media; digital broadcasting; digital audio broadcasting (DAB); digital terrestrial television (DTT); community media; local/regional media; private/commercial media; public service broadcasting (PSB); state media; media freedom; freedom of expression; media governance; media and creative industry funding; media training and literacy; media monitoring; journalism; news; misinformation; disinformation
information and data	information science; data science; computer science; information systems; big data; quantum computing; personal data; personal information; personally identifiable information (PII); data privacy; data governance; data protection; access to information; human-computer interaction (HCI); artificial intelligence (AI); machine learning; generative AI; responsible AI; ethical AI; natural language processing (NLP); natural language generation (NLG); large language models (LLMs); small language models (SLMs); multilingual machine translation (MMT); African language resources; African language technologies
science, technology and innovation (STI)	digitalisation and virtualisation in research and development (R&D); digital research infrastructure; design science research; scaling; commercialisation; technology transfer; intellectual (IP) property rights; digital sequence information (DSI); licensing; innovation and entrepreneurship; social innovation; open innovation; peer production; user innovation; informal innovation; informal-sector innovation; open science; free and open source software (FOSS); scholarly communication; open access publishing; open educational resources (OERs); science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM); science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, innovation and entrepreneurship (STEAMIE)
knowledge governance	knowledge management; intellectual (IP) property rights; Indigenous knowledge (IK); traditional knowledge (TK); climate change adaptation/mitigation technologies; access and benefit sharing (ABS); access to knowledge (A2K); knowledge commons; patent pools
social capital	networking; collaboration; communities of practice (CoPs); social network analysis (SNA)
linguistics	phonetics; phonology; morphology; syntax; semantics; sociolinguistics; computational linguistics

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Board expertise-audit outcomes

- **Minor edits** suggested to *AJIC* Content Areas listing
- Based on Board members' responses, Scholarly Publishing Consultant identified **five content areas where additional expertise needed** on the Board:
 - Cybersecurity
 - AI, specifically computational linguistics
 - Climate-related innovation
 - Data ethics and digital rights
 - Social-capital analytics
- **Seven new Board members recruited**

Value and practicalities of audits

Value	Practicalities
• Systematic review of current trends in foci of submissions • Refinement of content areas • Identification of areas where additional Editorial Board expertise needed • Recruitment of additional Board members (and, in turn, improved recruitment of peer reviewers and improved quality of peer reviews)	• Seek funding for consultant OR conduct audits without use of consultant • Begin with data available via the journal's online management platform, e.g., OJS • For content audits, use keyword data and/or abstract data and/or full article data • For expertise audits, survey Board members • Use AI tools to analyse data (with human checking and refinement of data analysis)

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