

Editorial

Operational AI

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Managing Editor

Abstract: This editorial provides some reasoning behind the decision to publish the Special Issue section on “Perspectives on Machine Learning”. It also outlines the other content of this September issue and introduces the new Managing Editor of the *Journal* to take over in 2025.

Keywords: Editorial, Machine Learning, Managing Editor

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Over the past few years, the *Journal* has built relationships with several conferences – to identify new and interesting areas of research on telecommunications and the digital economy; and as a source of good submissions. A significant number of papers – usually extensions of work originally presented at a conference – have been published as a result.

In looking at the stream of potential papers coming from these conferences, it was clear that there were many research groups using machine learning as a technique. With a dataset of suitable size from some application, one can train a machine-learning model and then test its predictive power on unseen data. Essentially, this is just a new and powerful way to identify important characteristics in a large dataset and to build, automatically, a predictive model. It replaces, or often incorporates, other statistical packages and procedures that have been used in the past. The automated production of a predictive model is often an attractive feature.

This is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being used operationally. While there has been much public discussion – some of it in the nature of a moral panic – about the potential benefits or harms associated with AI, this is the less scary end of the subject – no deepfakes or disinformation. The techniques of machine learning are already embedded in many support systems and research is identifying new potential areas of application.

It seemed timely, therefore, to provide some further data for the discussion of AI by bringing together a collection of papers that apply an AI technique — machine learning — to a variety of applications. Thus, the idea for a special issue on “Perspectives on Machine Learning” was born.

In seeking a guest editor, we approached several university staff working in relevant areas. Professor Haw Su-Cheng from Multimedia University in Malaysia responded enthusiastically and took up the challenge to curate a special issue. She invited papers from a range of university groups: 8 submissions were received and, after the usual peer review, 6 have been accepted for publication. I would like to thank Professor Haw for all her efforts in making the special issue possible.

Professor Haw’s introductory editorial ([Haw, 2024](#)) is the first paper in this issue.

In This Issue

The Special-Issue section on “Perspectives on Machine Learning”, with an editorial and 6 papers, makes up the bulk of the September issue. However, we do also include other papers.

In the Digital Economy & Society section, there are two papers. *Exploring Digital Proficiency Among Mothers of School-going Children in Kerala* uses a survey of 1,000 homemakers in India about their supervision and guidance of their children’s use of digital services to make recommendations about how to support this important task. *How Does the Digital Economy Influence the Pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals?* analyses data from both developed and developing countries to identify how the digital economy affects sustainable development.

We also publish a Review paper, *Developing a Holistic Framework for Assessing the Development of the Digital Economy: A Systematic Review of Key Dimensions and Indicators*, which reviews the academic literature and identifies four core dimensions for assessing the development of the digital economy.

As a complement to our Special Issue section, in the History of Telecommunications section, we reprint a paper from 1970 on *An Early Management System for Subscriber Equipment Installation*. No machine learning included – instead, a hand-crafted workflow process.

As always, we encourage you to consider submitting articles to the *Journal* and we welcome comments and suggestions on which topics or special issues would be of interest. Feedback on the current issue would be welcome.

A New Managing Editor for 2025

I will be retiring from the role of Managing Editor at the end of volume 12 in December 2024. A new Managing Editor, Dr Michael de Percy, will take over from January 2025. Dr de Percy

was appointed by the TelSoc Board after consideration of the candidates who expressed interest in the position.

The *Journal* has benefitted from Michael de Percy's support for the past 8 years, first as Section Editor, Telecommunications and, for the past 3 years, as Section Editor, Public Policy. He is also a published author in the *Journal*.

Michael de Percy is Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Canberra's School of Politics, Economics and Society. He is also a weekly columnist for *The Spectator Australia*. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the Australian National University and is currently a member of the Australian Research Council's College of Experts. His research background has been in public policy on telecommunications and transport; and he has been a public commentator on the development of the Australian Government's National Broadband Network. Michael is currently the Vice-President of TelSoc, the publisher of the *Journal*.

We can look forward to a smooth transition to the new Managing Editor in the new year and a refreshed approach to the further development of the *Journal*.

Reference

Haw, S.-C. (2024). Editorial: Perspectives on Machine Learning. *Journal of Telecommunications and the Digital Economy*, 12(3), 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.18080/jtde.v12n3.1042>