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Foreword

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The Ghana Library Journal (GLJ) is pleased to present Volume 31, Issue 1, a special issue dedicated to the theme "Enhancing Information Access in an Era of ChatGPT and Other Artificial Intelligence Technologies." This issue brings together selected papers presented at the 4th CARLIGH International Conference, held from 6th to 10th May 2024 at the GIMPA Executive Conference Centre in Accra, Ghana. The conference provided an important platform for researchers, librarians, educators, information professionals, and technology experts to reflect on the opportunities and challenges emerging from the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and its implications for information access, learning, research, and library services.

The emergence of ChatGPT and other AI technologies has transformed the information landscape. In educational institutions, libraries, research environments, and professional settings, AI tools influence how information is discovered, accessed, evaluated, generated, and shared. While these developments offer exciting opportunities for enhancing service delivery, research productivity, and knowledge creation, they also raise essential questions regarding ethics, academic integrity, digital inclusion, information literacy, privacy, and equitable access. The papers in this special issue critically engage with these challenges and provide valuable insights into how libraries and information professionals can navigate this evolving landscape. The contributions examine various contemporary issues, including awareness and accessibility of electronic information resources, AI adoption in academic libraries, the use of AI tools in academic writing and research, and the role of librarians in promoting academic integrity in the age of generative AI. Together, these papers highlight the increasing relevance of AI within library and information services and underscore the critical role information professionals play in ensuring responsible, ethical, and inclusive technology deployment.

As Editor-in-Chief, I am particularly delighted that this special issue reflects the Ghana Library Journal's continued commitment to publishing timely and impactful scholarship that responds to emerging developments within the library and information science profession. It also comes at an important period in the Journal's growth and transformation. Over the past year, the Journal has strengthened its commitment to open-access scholarly communication through the successful implementation of the EIFL-supported no-fee open access publishing project. Significant milestones have included the upgrading of our Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform, assignment of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to published articles, enhancement of article metadata, improved online visibility, and strengthened accessibility through platforms such as the African Journals Online (AJOL). These developments reinforce our mission to increase the discoverability, accessibility, and impact of African scholarship.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Mac-Anthony Cobblah, Mr. IK Antwi and Ms. Mary Arkoful who served as Guest Editors for this special issue, for their dedication and leadership throughout the editorial process. I also extend my gratitude to the authors, reviewers, members of the Editorial Board, and the editorial management team whose commitment and expertise have contributed to the successful publication of this volume. Their collective efforts continue to strengthen the quality and reputation of the Ghana Library Journal. It is my hope that the articles contained in this issue will stimulate further research, professional dialogue, and innovation in the application of artificial intelligence within libraries and information environments. More importantly, I hope they will encourage librarians, educators, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to continue exploring how emerging technologies can be harnessed to improve access to information while upholding the core values of the profession.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I am pleased to present this special issue to our readers and invite you to engage with the important conversations it advances.