

## Editorial

We present the second issue of the seventeenth volume of the **Journal of Information Technology Review**, featuring papers in the special issue on the *US-Iran war conflict and Information Technology*.

In the first paper, “**Modeling and Analysis of AI-Generated Misinformation Diffusion in Geopolitical Conflicts: The case study of US-Iran war using a Multi-Model Network Approach**,” the authors studied the emergence of generative artificial intelligence as a vector for misinformation during heightened US-Iran geopolitical tensions, drawing on a systematic analysis of The New York Times investigative report in March 2026. They used a multi-layered verification framework encompassing visual forensics, digital watermark analysis, algorithmic detection, and cross-referencing with authoritative sources. They conclude that cross-verification with trusted sources remains the most reliable approach, while platform-level interventions have proven to be heterogeneous and largely reactive.

In the second paper, “**Misinformation Clusters and Virality Dynamics in Online Social Networks: A Topic Modelling and Epidemiological Analysis of Reddit Communities**,” the authors addressed the issue of misinformation on social media, which poses considerable risks and trust issues. Using epidemiological diffusion models, they analysed the misinformation clusters and virality dynamics within Reddit communities with topic modelling. Using TF-IDF vectorization and K-means clustering to identify five dominant thematic groups, with the large Zenodo dataset. They found that misinformation is not randomly distributed but concentrated in specific thematic clusters where high virality overlaps with high density.

In the last paper, “**Modeling Oil Price Shocks and Global Economic Vulnerability During the 2026 US–Iran Conflict: A Time-Series, Machine Learning, and Diffusion-Based Approach**,” the authors studied the impact of oil price shocks on global economic vulnerability during the hypothetical 2026 US–Iran conflict, specifically focusing on the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The study indicated that combining diffusion models with machine learning enhances forecasting accuracy under geopolitical uncertainty. It outlines that shock severity depends not only on market dynamics but also on policy responsiveness, urging coordinated strategic reserve releases and rapid diplomatic action to mitigate systemic risks in energy-dependent economies.

We hope that this research represents a modelling of the current crisis for predicting future information technology.

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