

Introduction to the *Frontiers of Digital Education*

Education is the cornerstone of human civilization, and it progresses hand-in-hand with the evolution of science and technology. At present, momentous changes of a like not seen in a century are accelerating across the world, and digitization has become a new engine driving world economic and social progress. Countries around the world are jointly reflecting on the essential questions of the nature of education and its future direction. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is championing the creation of a new social contract for education, emphasizing its status as a global public good. A pivotal approach to realizing this goal is to harness the transformative power of digital technology in education. Digitization of education has become an inevitable choice for countries around the world to align with the latest technological progress and industrial transformation, catalyzing a shift in educational paradigms, reshaping educational practice, and fostering innovation.

The Chinese government highly prioritizes the development of digital education. The digitization of education is an important breakthrough for China to forge new paths in educational development and establish new competitive edges. There is a pressing need to further promote digital education to support personalized and lifelong learning, extend the reach of high-quality educational resources, and contribute to education modernization. In recent years, the Chinese government has been actively implementing a national strategy for digital education, leveraging it to promote high-quality development of education and spearhead education modernization. It is committed to the 3C model (Connection, Content, Cooperation), and the 3I strategy (Integration, Intelligence, Internationalization). Following the principles focusing on “application, service, demonstration, and safe operation,” its objective is to bolster the fivefold capabilities that facilitate learning, teaching, research, management, and exchange and cooperation. Significant strides have been made to consolidate China’s educational resources, culminating in the creation of “Smart Education of China,” the world’s largest smart education platform, which was recognized with the 2022 edition of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education, marking China’s unique trajectory in developing digital education that harmonizes resource digitization, intelligent administration, personalized development, and community-based learning.

Digital education should be equitable and inclusive, ensuring higher quality and accessibility for all, with a commitment to green development and openness to international cooperation. China is eager to share its educational development resources, capabilities, models, and methodologies with the global community. To further the digital transformation of education, enhance the development of digital education globally, and create a brighter educational future, the English-language journal, *Frontiers of Digital Education*, is launched. Supervised by the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China and published by Higher Education Press, this journal aims to explore and discuss the concepts, trends, and practices of the ongoing digital transformation of education, build a platform for publishing and exchanging significant achievements in digital education, promote joint contribution and sharing of premium digital resources, and elevate global cooperation in the digital transformation era to a higher level.

We aspire for this journal to become a premier international academic service platform, and to diligently cultivate a robust digital education ecosystem. We are eager to collaborate with the peers

worldwide in the digital education sector to investigate new challenges, compile fresh insights, infuse new energy, and forge new frontiers. It is our ambition to orchestrate a symphony of education and digital innovation that enriches the legacy and progress of civilization, and to hasten the fulfillment of the aspiration that quality education becomes accessible to all globally.

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