From Manuscript to Published Issue: The TACI Bulletin Digital Publishing Platform

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A journal is only as credible as the process behind it. This article presents the TACI Bulletin platform, an in-house system that carries every contribution from first submission to a typeset, published issue: online submission with ORCID-verified authorship, double-blind peer review, editorial decisions with full version history, and an automatically compiled issue book that handles English and Urdu alike. In its first volume the platform has received 35 submissions and published 18 papers across the Scientific Forum and Sahifa.

Introduction

A scholarly journal gives an institute a lasting record of its research, its writing and its achievements. For Tahseen Ahmad Cheema Institute (TACI), launching TACI Bulletin meant more than choosing a name and an editorial board: it required a dependable process through which authors submit, editors assign reviewers, reviewers evaluate anonymously and decisions are recorded, all within agreed deadlines.

Without a dedicated system, a new journal typically runs on email: manuscripts arrive as attachments, reviewer identities are hard to keep hidden, versions multiply in inboxes, and the final issue is assembled by hand. Commercial journal-management platforms solve these

problems but are costly, complex to configure and rarely support Urdu typesetting, which the Sahifa forum needs. TACI therefore built its own platform, designed around its two forums and its own editorial practice.

The Platform

TACI Bulletin is a peer-reviewed, open-access journal published under two forums: the **Scientific Forum** for research, review articles, case studies, short communications and technical reports, and **Sahifa** for literary, opinion and institutional contributions. Its public website presents the current issue, the journal's scope, announcements and editorial board, and invites authors to submit (Figure 1). Behind it, a role-based portal serves authors, reviewers, editors and administrators, and is reachable through TACI Digital Campus with a single sign-on.

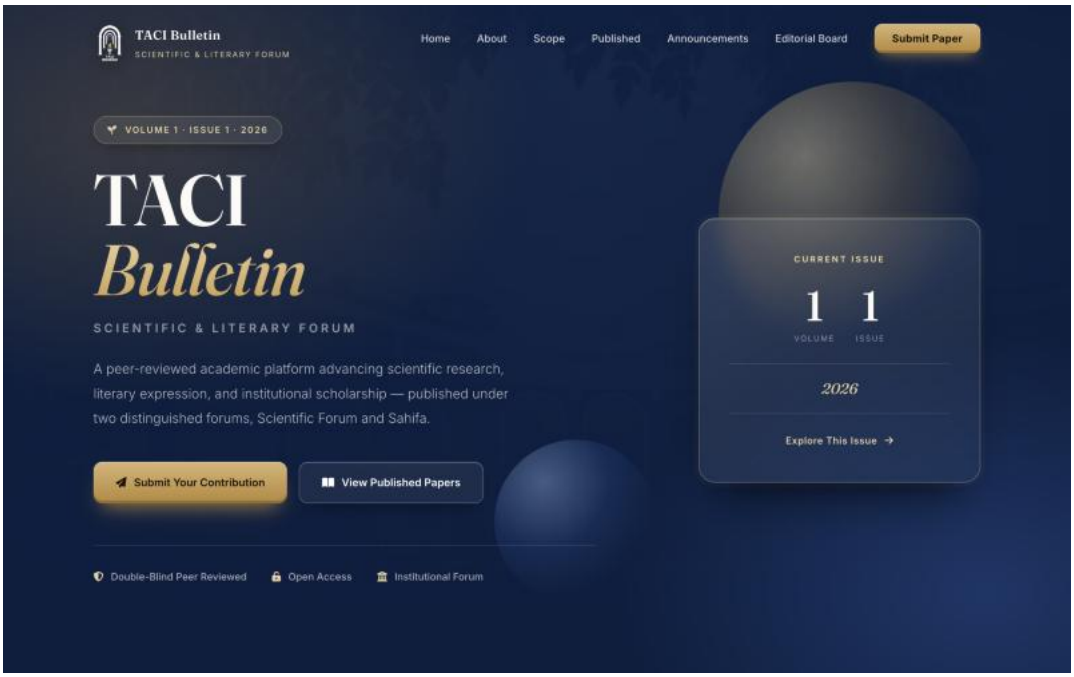


Figure 1. The public home page of TACI Bulletin (taci-bulletin.taci.com.pk), showing the current issue and the two forums. Live screenshot.

In its first volume the platform has already carried a full publication cycle (Figure 2).

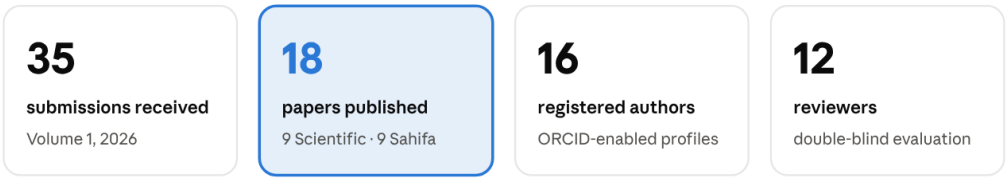
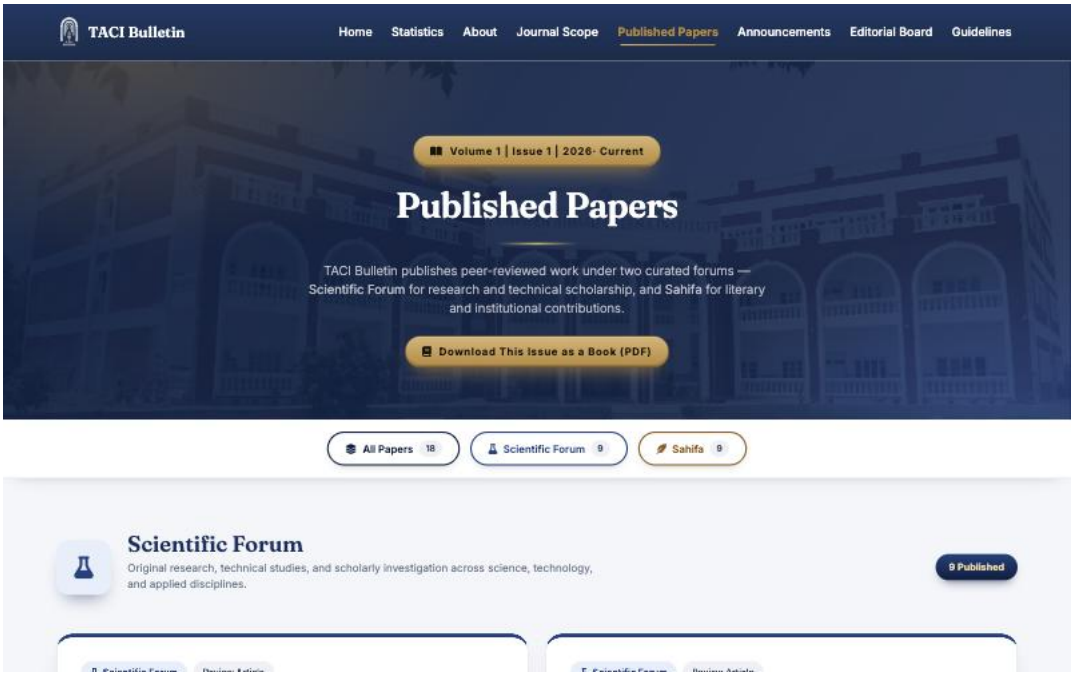


Figure 2. TACI Bulletin at a glance, Volume 1 (2026). Source: live journal statistics, October 2026.

Published papers are listed by forum and article type, each with its paper ID, authors, department, keywords and abstract, and can be read online, downloaded individually or downloaded as part of the complete issue book (Figure 3).



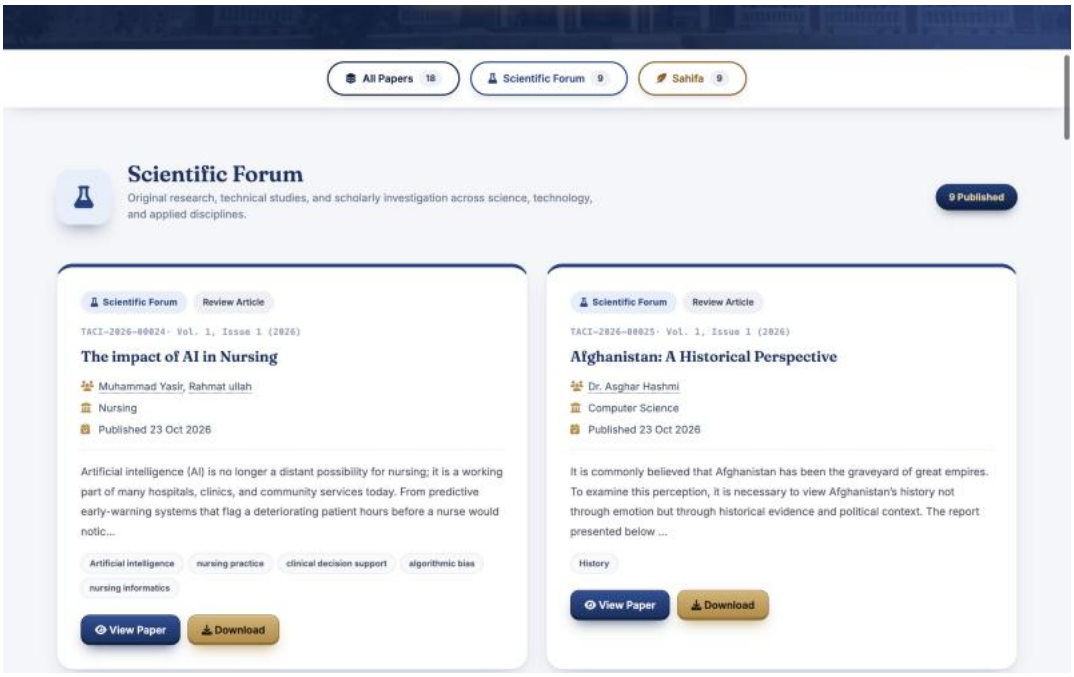


Figure 3. The Published Papers page: filters for All Papers, Scientific Forum and Sahifa, a one-click issue book download (top), and paper cards with ID, authors, department, keywords and actions (bottom). Live screenshots.

The Editorial Workflow

At the heart of the platform is a single, traceable editorial path (Figure 4). An author submits a manuscript with ORCID-verified authorship, and each co-author confirms authorship before review begins. A paper ID in the form TACI-2026-000NN is issued, and the manuscript is automatically assigned to the Chief Editor and a default editor, who are notified by email. The editor invites reviewers, whose evaluation is double-blind: reviewers see the manuscript but not its authors.

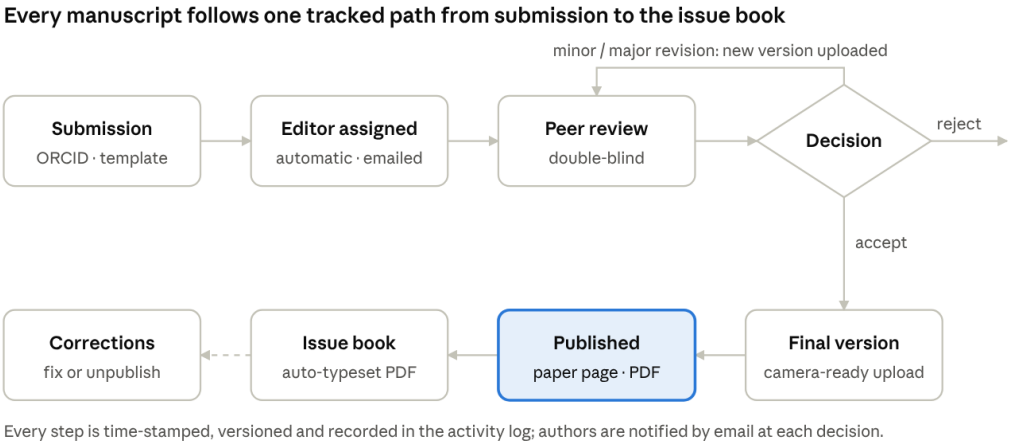


Figure 4. The editorial workflow of TACI Bulletin, from submission to publication and the compiled issue book, including the revision loop and post-publication corrections.

On the basis of the reviews, the editor records one of four decisions: accept, minor revision, major revision or reject, and sends a formal decision letter. A revision returns to the author, whose new version is stored alongside the original so that the full history of the manuscript is preserved. Once accepted, the author uploads the final camera-ready version, the paper is published on its own page, and it is included automatically in the issue book.

Modules for Every Role

The portal opens through a secure sign-in page (Figure 5), and each user then sees a workspace tailored to their role. Table 1 summarises the four modules, which are described in turn below.

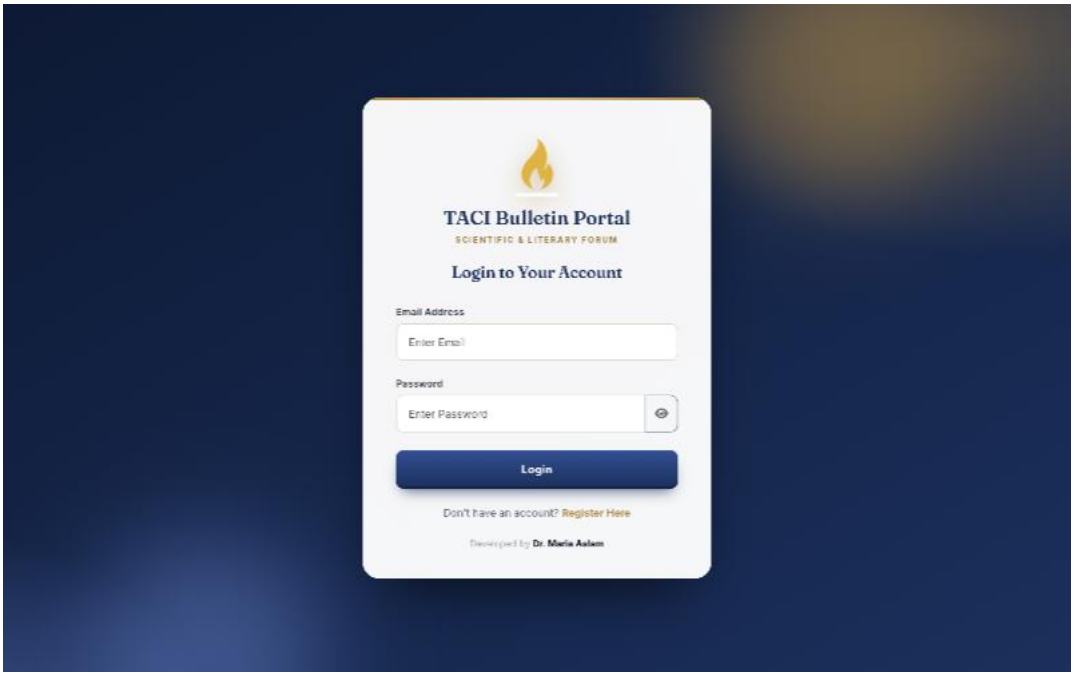


Figure 5. The TACI Bulletin portal sign-in page; users can also enter directly from TACI Digital Campus through single sign-on. Live screenshot.

Table 1. Modules of the TACI Bulletin portal by role.

Role	Workspace	Key functions
Author	Author Dashboard	Submit paper, convert to TACI template, track submissions, upload revisions and final version, read reviewer reports, ORCID profile
Reviewer	Assigned Reviews	Structured evaluation form, recommendation, comments to author and confidential comments to editor, annotated file upload

Editor	Editor Dashboard	Assigned manuscripts, reviewer assignment, editorial decision and letter, version history, template conversion
Administrator	Admin Dashboard	Journal settings and issues, announcements, users and roles, paper management, categories, activity log, issue book

Author module

Authors submit through a guided form that captures the forum, article type, title, abstract, keywords, department and co-authors (Figure 6). ORCID iDs are validated with the official checksum and shown as verified badges, and a built-in **Convert to TACI template** tool reformats an ordinary Word manuscript into the journal's house style for either forum (Figure 7). From **My Submissions**, authors follow the status of each paper, read reviewer reports, upload revisions and, once accepted, the final camera-ready file.

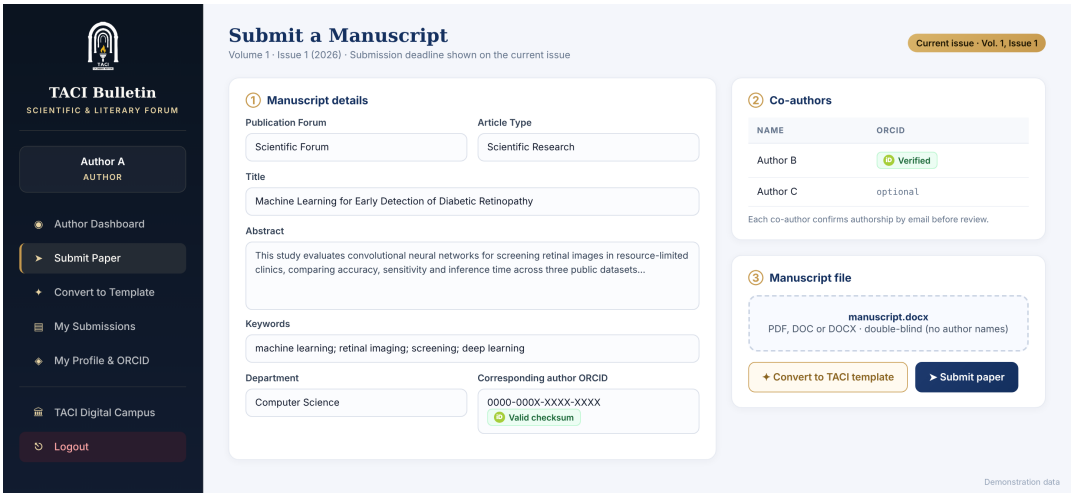


Figure 6. Author module: the Submit a Manuscript form with ORCID validation, co-author confirmation and one-click template conversion. Interface reconstructed from the portal source code with demonstration data.

One-click template conversion

Formatting a manuscript to a journal's template is one of the most time-consuming tasks for authors and editors alike. TACI Bulletin removes it. An author or editor uploads an ordinary Word file, selects the forum, and the platform returns a correctly formatted document in one click (Figure 7):

- **Scientific Forum:** A4 page, **two-column** body with a 0.3-inch gutter, 10 pt Times New Roman, the journal's published margins, the TACI masthead header and a Creative Commons (CC BY 4.0) footer with page numbers.

- **Sahifa:** A4 page, **single-column** body, 12 pt Times New Roman, wider literary margins and the same masthead and footer.

The converter preserves the author's own content, emphasis, images and tables while replacing fonts, margins, columns, headers and footers, so every paper in the issue shares one consistent, professional look.

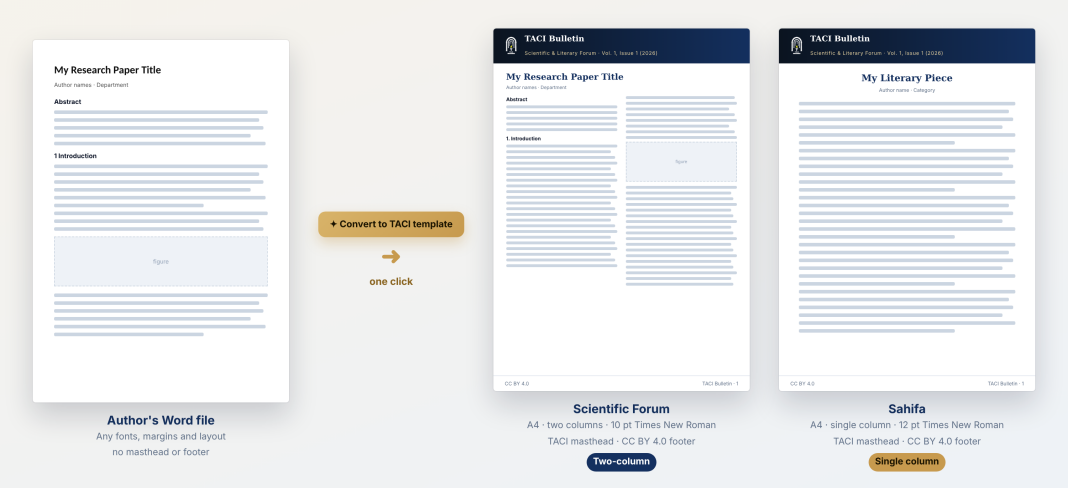


Figure 7. One-click template conversion: an author's ordinary Word file (left) becomes a two-column Scientific Forum manuscript (centre) or a single-column Sahifa manuscript (right), with the TACI masthead and CC BY 4.0 footer. Illustration based on the converter's settings.

Reviewer module

Reviewers work from a list of assigned manuscripts and a structured evaluation form (Figure 8). Each paper is rated on five criteria, namely originality and novelty, methodology and structure, clarity of writing, references and literature support, and relevance to TACI Bulletin, on a five-point scale from Excellent to Poor. The reviewer then recommends accept, minor revision, major revision or reject, writes comments for the author, adds confidential comments for the editor and may attach an annotated copy. Authors' identities remain hidden throughout.

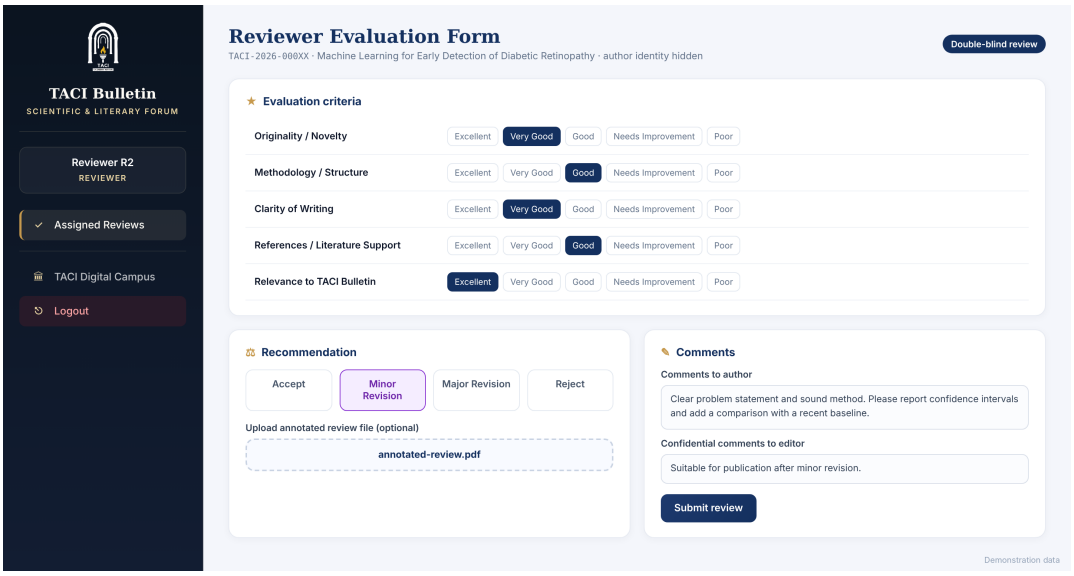


Figure 8. Reviewer module: the double-blind Reviewer Evaluation Form with five scored criteria, recommendation and two comment channels. Interface reconstructed from the portal source code with demonstration data.

Editor module

Editors see every manuscript assigned to them with its current status (Figure 9). For each paper they invite and track reviewers, compare recommendations, consult the version history and record the editorial decision with a formal decision letter, which is emailed to the author. Editors can also convert accepted manuscripts into the journal template before publication.

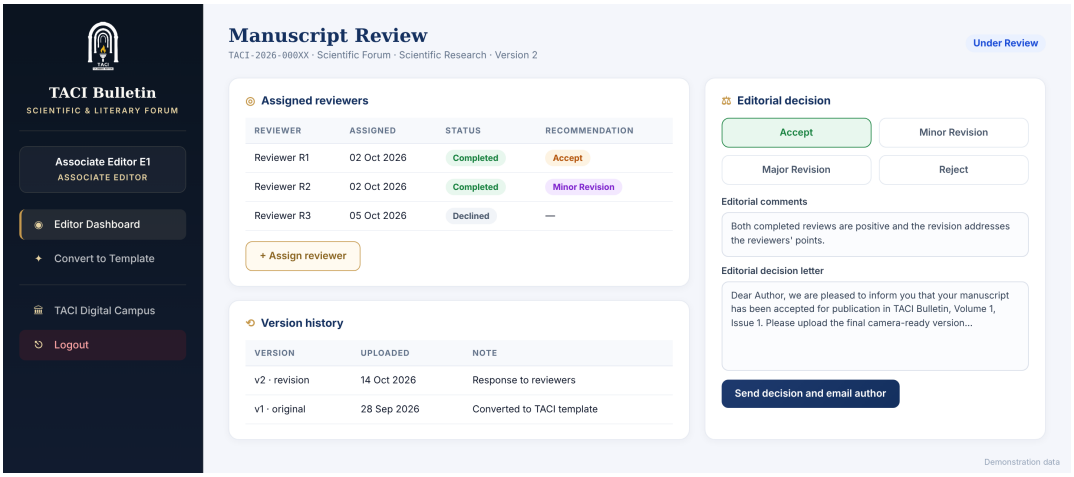


Figure 9. Editor module: assigned reviewers and their recommendations, version history, and the editorial decision panel with decision letter. Interface reconstructed from the portal source code with demonstration data.

Administrator module

The administrator governs the journal as a whole (Figure 10): creating volumes and issues with submission, review and publication deadlines; publishing announcements; managing users and roles; maintaining the article categories of each forum; assigning editors; and managing every paper. For published papers, the administrator can replace a file with a recorded correction note, or unpublish a paper with a reason that is shown publicly, a safeguard expected of any credible journal.

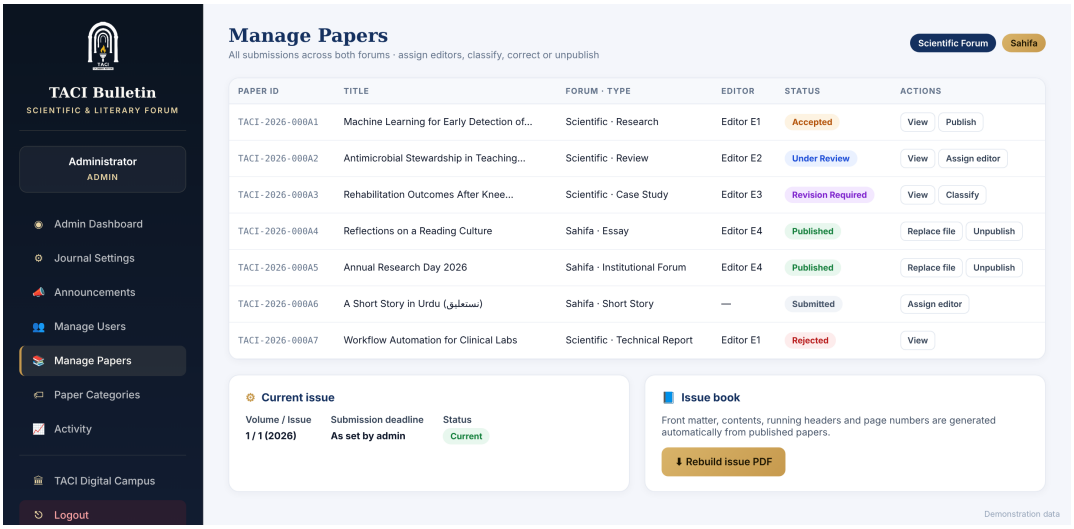


Figure 10. Administrator module: Manage Papers across both forums, with editor assignment, classification, correction and unpublish actions, current-issue settings and issue-book rebuilding. Interface reconstructed from the portal source code with demonstration data.

The Issue Book and Bilingual Typesetting

A distinctive feature of the platform is its automatic issue book. With one click, readers download the complete volume as a single, professionally typeset PDF. The system assembles the front matter (About This Issue, Aims and Scope, the Editorial Board, Information for Authors, Peer Review, Publication Ethics, Open Access and Copyright policies, and a table of contents), then imports every published paper in the order used by international journals: by forum, then by article type, then by publication date. Running headers and page numbers are stamped on every page, with Roman numerals for the front matter and Arabic numerals for the articles.

Because Sahifa publishes in Urdu as well as English, the typesetting engine detects Arabic-script text and renders it in the Noto Nastaliq Urdu typeface, with correctly shaped letters and right-to-left layout, while English words inside Urdu passages fall back to a Latin font. Few

journal systems handle Nastaliq typesetting out of the box; here it is built in. When a paper is corrected or unpublished, the issue book is rebuilt automatically so that it always matches the website.

Governance and Security

The platform is designed to be trustworthy as well as convenient:

- **Single sign-on with TACI Digital Campus.** Users move from the campus hub to the journal through a digitally signed, one-time token (RS256), which cannot be reused or forged.
- **Complete activity log.** Every sign-in and every change is recorded with the user, time and network address, and a live view shows who is online. Passwords and typed content are never stored in the log.
- **Protected forms.** Every form that changes data carries a CSRF token, and security headers are applied to every page.
- **Transparent corrections.** Replaced files keep their earlier versions with the reason for the change, and unpublished papers show their reason publicly.
- **Verified identity.** ORCID iDs are checked against the official ISO 7064 checksum before they are saved.
- **Installable app.** The portal can be installed on phones and desktops as a progressive web app, with its own icon.

System Architecture

Technically, the platform is a single web application that serves every role over one shared database and a set of common services (Figure 11). Users reach it through the public website, the portal sign-in or single sign-on from TACI Digital Campus. Role-based access determines which module each user sees, while services for template conversion, issue-book typesetting, email notification, activity logging and ORCID validation are shared by all modules. Schema updates are applied automatically and safely, so new features can be introduced without interrupting the live journal.

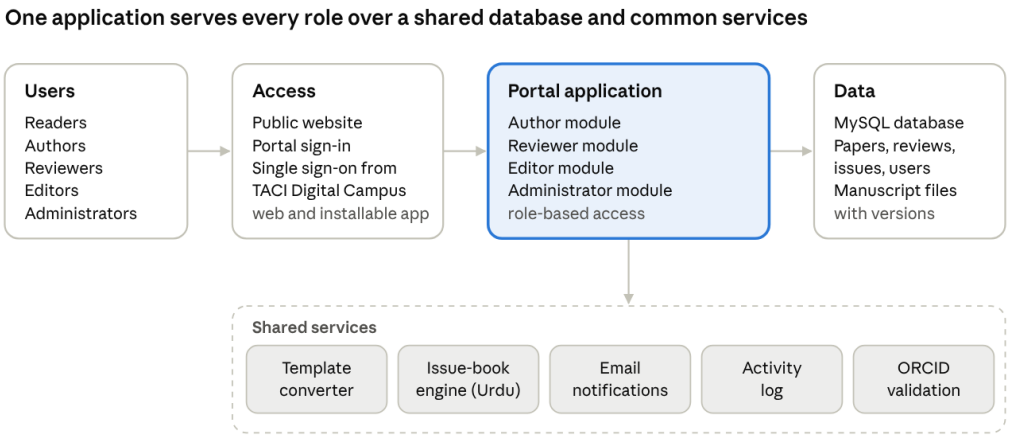


Figure 11. System architecture of the TACI Bulletin platform: access channels, role-based application modules, shared services and the data layer.

Value for the Institute

For TACI, the platform turns the journal from an editorial ambition into a dependable institutional process. Authors gain a clear, guided path and visibility of their paper at every stage. Reviewers receive a structured form that makes their evaluation consistent and fair. Editors manage their manuscripts, reviewers and decisions in one place, with the full history at hand. The administration gains control over issues, deadlines and policies, together with a complete audit trail. Readers gain open access to every paper and to the complete issue in a single, professionally typeset volume. Table 2 contrasts this with the email-based process that a new journal would otherwise depend on.

Table 2. Journal operations with an email-based process and with the TACI Bulletin platform.

Aspect	Email-based process	TACI Bulletin platform
Submission	Attachments sent to an inbox	Guided online form with paper ID and ORCID
Manuscript format	Varies by author	One-click conversion to the TACI template
Peer review	Identities hard to keep hidden	Double-blind by design, structured evaluation form
Versions	Multiple copies in inboxes	Full version history for every paper
Decisions	Informal emails	Recorded decisions with formal letters
Issue compilation	Assembled by hand	Automatic, typeset issue book in English and Urdu
Corrections	Untracked	Recorded corrections and public unpublish notes

Accountability	None	Complete activity log of every action

Early Impact

The first volume of TACI Bulletin was produced entirely through the platform. By October 2026 it had received 35 submissions from 16 registered authors, engaged 12 reviewers and published 18 papers, nine in the Scientific Forum and nine in Sahifa, ranging from research and review articles to literary and institutional writing (Figures 2 and 3). The complete issue is available to readers both paper by paper and as a single typeset volume.

The Road Ahead

The platform has been built to grow with the journal. Planned enhancements include assigning DOIs to published papers, indexing-ready metadata for scholarly databases, reviewer recognition certificates, and AI-assisted screening for formatting and similarity before review. As part of TACI Digital Campus, the journal will continue to share a single sign-on and a common design with the institute's other portals.

Conclusion

The TACI Bulletin platform shows that a young institute can run a credible, modern journal with an in-house system. It brings submission, double-blind review, editorial decisions, publication and issue compilation into one transparent workflow, supports English and Urdu publishing alike, and keeps a complete record of every action. With its first volume published through the platform, TACI Bulletin now has the digital foundation to serve the institute's scholarship for years to come.

About the Author

Dr. Maria Aslam is Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Computer Science, and Director IT, at Tahseen Ahmad Cheema Institute, Bahawalpur, where she designed and developed TACI Bulletin and TACI Digital Campus. She received her PhD in Computer Science from The Islamia University of Bahawalpur in 2025, and her MS and BS in Computer Science with Gold Medals. Her research spans healthcare AI, large language model applications and GPU computing, with publications in IEEE Access, Scientific Reports and Frontiers in Pharmacology. She is a PHEC-nominated AI Expert and Trainer, a peer reviewer for Frontiers in Microbiology, and founder of MarXus AI Nexus.

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