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Behind the bookshelves: Publisher AI policies

Michael Bachmann – Group leader «Publication Services»

AI use: The good, the bad and the ugly

- The good: AI tools can be very helpful
 - Translation, spell checking, intellectual sparing partner, ...
- The bad: AI tools (can) make you lazy
 - Writing is hard, learning it is slow; deskilling
 - Anchoring effect, framing effect
 - ...
- The ugly: AI tools are our doom
 - Paper inflation (attend our webinar on 01 Dec, “Paper mills – a librarian’s perspective”)
 - Bias, water consumption, CO2 emissions
 - Copyright infringement
 - Invented citations, plagiarism, scientific misconduct
 - ...



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Good_the_bad_and_the_ugly_poster.jpg

What are potential (legal) problems when I have used AI during the research cycle of my publication?

- Not “Training your own LLM to do research” ...
 - [see last years OA week keynote by David Rosenthal](#)
- ... but “using generative AI to assist in writing, data analysis, code writing, brain storming, reviewing, ...”
- Potential problems:
 - Scientific misconduct (manipulated data, invented citations, plagiarism, ...)
 - Insufficiently declared method
 - Corrupted meaning (“This result indicates” → “This result proves”)
 - Your output violates copyright.
 - Authorship guidelines: AI tools cannot be an author.
 - Data protection, confidentiality



<https://www.lib4ri.ch/scientific-publishing>

How to declare AI use according to publisher policies

- Overview about publisher policies for AI declaration, most important publishers
 - <https://www.lib4ri.ch/ai-scientific-writing#policies>

AI policies

- Below are links to the AI policies of many publishers and brief summaries about the most important regulations. In general, be aware that policies can quickly change and that not every use case can be easily covered by a general policy.
- We highly recommend to check the AI policies of the journal itself; policies of a journal and of its publisher can differ in important aspects. Contact the editorial office before submitting to a journal if you have questions about the allowed use of AI at this journal.

American Chemical Society	+
American Physical Society	+
Cambridge University Press	+
Copernicus Publications	+
Elsevier	+

URL

[Elsevier, AI policy](#)

AI as author

AI technology cannot fulfill the role of an author.

Declaration of AI use

"Authors should disclose the use of AI tools for manuscript preparation in a separate AI declaration statement included in their manuscript upon submission. This statement will appear in the published article to ensure transparency. Authors should document their use of AI, including the name of the AI tool used, the purpose of its use, and the extent of their oversight. Declaring the use of AI tools supports transparency and trust between authors, readers, reviewers, editors and contributors and facilitates compliance with the terms of use of the relevant AI tool."

Spell checks

"Basic checks of grammar, spelling and punctuation do not need a declaration statement. However, when an AI tool makes substantive changes to sentence structure or organization of a part of the text, this should be disclosed."

How to declare AI use according to publisher policies: overview

- **AI as author**
 - AI technology cannot fulfill the role of an author.
- **Declaration of AI use**
 - Necessary (potential exception for spell checks)
- **Spell checks**
 - Usually allowed
- **AI-generated images, figures & visual content**
 - Carefully check policy, might double check with editor
- **AI in the research process & methodology**
 - Carefully check policy, might double check with editor
- **AI use by peer reviewers & editors**
 - AI use typically violates confidentiality and is not permitted
- **Author accountability & research integrity**
 - Accountability for the final manuscript remains with the authors.

How to declare AI use according to publisher policies: pitfalls and limitations

- Policies are inconsistent.
- Policies exist to protect the journal and the publisher.
- No guarantee that journals follow the policy of their publisher
 - Editorial decisions, society journals, journal specific policy, ...
- Policies are not keeping up with pace of development
 - Currently: focussed on assistance in the writing process
 - AI in the research process, in methodology, ...?
 - AI in coding?
- Regulations are out of touch
 - Example Frontiers: *“We encourage authors to upload all input prompts provided to a generative AI technology and outputs received from a generative AI technology in the supplementary files for the manuscript.”*

How to deal with this (mess)?

- Guiding star: Good scientific conduct
 - Swiss Competence Centre for Scientific Integrity: <https://scientific-integrity.ch/>
- In case of doubt:
 - Documentation and transparency
 - Discuss with editors before submission
- **Lib4RI recommendation:**
 - Make a list of several possible journals for your manuscript; already when writing it.
 - Check Open Access policies (Search tool: <https://www.lib4ri.ch/search?&tab=2&scope=>)
 - Check AI policies (“For author” section at journal)
- Potential problems:
 - Scientific misconduct (manipulated data, invented citations, plagiarism, ...)
 - Insufficiently declared method
 - Corrupted meaning (“This result indicates” → “This result proves”)
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www.lib4ri.ch
info@lib4ri.ch
T: + 41 58 765 57 00