THE UNEASY NEW (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE) RELATIONSHIPS: TECH, PUBLISHERS, AND AUTHORS IN ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

By AGNES GAMBILL WEST[1]

Artificial intelligence (AI) is challenging ethical norms in scholarly publishing. How are academic publishers responding to new, complex ethical issues raised by this advanced technology? This article untangles this question by reviewing the AI policies of five major academic publishers to determine trends and considerations in defining authorship, accepting AI-assisted works for publication, reusing published scholarly works[2] and preprints[3] in AI platforms for purposes related to peer review and translation, establishing guidelines for originality, disclosure, and transparency, weighing the use of private vs. public AI platforms, and flagging unintended rights transfers.

[1] Associate Professor at Appalachian State University. Thank you to Professor Elizabeth Townsend Gard for her editorial guidance, the Copyright Society's peer reviewers, and the editorial staff at the Journal of the Copyright Society and Tulane Law School.

[2] Scholarly works are considered in-depth research in a specific field (or interdisciplinary fields), and might include peer-reviewed journal articles, books, theses, dissertations, conference papers, systematic reviews, grant proposals, policy analysis, technical reports.

[3] A preprint is a manuscript that has not yet undergone formal peer review. *What Is a Preprint?* National Library of Medicine, https://www.nlm.nih.gov/oet/ed/pmc/preprints/01-100.html.

INTRODUCTION

How's the contemporary relationship between tech, publishers, and authors in academic publishing? Well, it's complicated. Artificial intelligence (AI) has thrown a spanner in the works of this messy triangle. Tech companies are courting academic publishers for scholarly content to use as data in generative AI platforms, authors are using AI to generate scholarly content, and publishers are playing both sides—signing lucrative tech licensing deals without paying authors and publishing AI-generated content in record numbers with no way to definitively confirm the accuracy and originality of that content. Moreover, these deeds are less than transparent to all parties involved. The gravest harm, though, falls on the scholarly record—an unwitting and innocent bystander that must bear the consequences of these uneasy new (artificial intelligence) relationships and the unintended attack on its integrity. Understanding this contextual backdrop is an important springboard for exploring this article's main question: how are academic publishers responding to new, complex ethical issues created by AI?

AI use in scholarly publishing is compounding: one study[4] estimated that 60,000 journal articles or over 1% of scholarly articles published in the world's largest database collection of linked research data[5] were written with AI assistance in 2023—the year after ChatGPT was released to the public.[6] That study searched for "unusual keywords[7] known to be disproportionately present in LLM-generated text" to estimate how often such content was included in scholarly publications.[8] A second study used publicly

[4] Andrew Gray, *ChatGPT "contamination": estimating the prevalence of LLMs in the scholarly literature*, ARXIV.ORG (Mar. 25, 2024), https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.16887.
[5] Dimensions AI, https://www.dimensions.ai/dimensions-data/.
[6] Kyle Wiggers et al., *ChatGPT: Everything you need to know about the AI-powered chatbot*, TECHCRUNCH, https://techcrunch.com/2025/03/27/chatgpt-everything-to-know-about-the-ai-chatbot/.
[7] Andrew Gray, *ChatGPT "contamination": estimating the prevalence of LLMs in the scholarly literature*, ARXIV.ORG (Mar. 25, 2024), https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.16887. Examples of keywords include "commendable," "lucidly," "methodically," "versatile," "fresh," and "undoubtedly."
[8] *Id.*

accessible AI detection tools to claim that 3% of computer science preprints in 2019 used AI-generated text compared to over 7% in late 2023.[9] A third study[10] examined 950,965 computer science papers published between January 2020 and February 2024 on *arXiv*, *bioRxiv*, and *Nature* portfolio journals and revealed an increase in the use of AI-modified text by 17.5% over that four year period as well as increases of 4.9% and 6.3%, respectively, for mathematics papers and *Nature* journal articles.[11] That third study also determined an association between AI use and first authors[12]—who tend to post preprints more frequently—as well as papers in more crowded research areas, and papers of shorter lengths."[13] The third study concluded that other factors, such as overly competitive research disciplines and pressures to publish quickly, were at play, and confirmed a worrying fact—that AI is being broadly used in published scientific scholarship.[14]

This emerging challenge has been developing in the backdrop of a new market for data in the scholarly publishing industry, which is rapidly growing as AI companies seek out scholarly content to train their large language models ("LLMs").[15] Several academic publishers, including Wiley, Taylor & Francis, Sage, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and De Gruyter Brill, have reached or are negotiating AI licensing deals for millions of dollars—which are typically couched in altruistic themes of making

---

[9] Arslan Akram, *Quantitative Analysis of AI-Generated Texts in Academic Research: A Study of AI Presence in Arxiv Submissions using AI Detection Tool*. ARXIV.ORG (Feb. 9, 2024), https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.13812.

[10] Weixen Liang et al., *Mapping the Increasing Use of LLMs in Scientific Papers*, ARXIV.ORG (Apr. 1, 2024), https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.01268; *Id.* (Liang et al. used "a population-level statistical framework to measure the prevalence of LLM-modified content over time" and noted that the LLM usage increase was likely due to the authors' familiarity with and access to LLM tools in the discipline.)

[11] *Id.*

[12] Office of the Provost. Yale University, https://provost.yale.edu/policies/academic-integrity/guidance-authorship-scholarly-or-scientific-publications. A first author is the lead researcher who made the most significant intellectual and writing contributions to a scholarly publication.

[13] *Id.*

[14] *Id.*

[15] Diana Kwon, *Publishers are selling papers to train AIs — and making millions of dollars*, 636 NATURE 529 (Dec. 9, 2024). ("Many publishers are considering questions such as how licensing — or not licensing — content to generative-AI companies will affect revenue, and the risks and benefits of being among the first to act in this space.").

scientific discovery more "rapid" and "efficient."[16] In some cases, if not all, authors were not notified of these lucrative transactions.[17] While the specific terms of many of these AI licensing deals have not been disclosed,[18] academic publishers see the sale of scholarly content as a new revenue stream,[19] and moreover are also investing heavily in AI application development, the creation of AI agents, co-innovation programs, and new business models.[20] Questions have emerged about whether the sale of scholarly content for generative AI purposes—without author input and remuneration—is fair and legal, which are the same questions working its way through the courts with other creative categories of works.[21] Some authors argue that these AI-scholarly publisher transactions are unfair and possibly illegal because LLM training was not contemplated during the

[16] Todd A. Carpenter, *Wiley leans into AI. The community should lean with them.* THE SCHOLARLY KITCHEN https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2024/10/31/wileys-josh-jarret-interview-about-impact-of-ai/ (Oct. 31, 2024); Kathryn Palmer, *Taylor & Francis AI deal sets "worrying precedent,"* INSIDE HIGHER ED. (July 29, 2024) https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/research/2024/07/29/taylor-francis-ai-deal-sets-worrying-precedent (July 29, 2024); Matilda Battersby, *Sage confirms it is in talks to license content to AI firms*, THE BOOKSELLER (Sept. 19, 2024) https://www.thebookseller.com/news/sage-confirms-it-is-in-talks-to-license-content-to-ai-firms ; Palmer, *supra* note 16, https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2024/08/05/oxford-university-press-actively-working-ai-companies; Melina Spanoudi, *Cambridge University Press & Assessment writes to 20k authors for AI licensing opt-in*, THE BOOKSELLER (Nov. 6, 2024) https://www.thebookseller.com/news/cambridge-university-press--assessment-writes-to-20k-authors-for-ai-licensing-opt-in; Kwon, *supra* note 15.

[17] Wellett Potter, *An academic publisher has struck an AI data deal with — without their authors' knowledge*, THECONVERSATION.COM (July 23, 2024, 2:04AM), https://theconversation.com/an-academic-publisher-has-struck-an-ai-data-deal-with-microsoft-without-their-authors-knowledge.

[18] Ithaka S+R, a research and scholarly communications nonprofit, has launched a tracker of generative AI licensing deals, cataloguing information regarding "the publisher, purchaser, deal type and size, and the impact and strategy behind the deal." Ithaka S+R, *Generative AI Licensing Agreement Tracker*, https://sr.ithaka.org/our-work/generative-ai-licensing-agreement-tracker/. According to the tracker, several of these AI deal terms are undisclosed, however, news agencies like Bloomberg occasionally report on AI licensing revenue from academic publishers that are public companies, such as Informa PLC (Taylor & Francis) and John Wiley & Sons. Meley, C., *Academic Publishers Sign AI Deals US Cuts Research Grants*, BLOOMBERG (June 10, 2025), https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-10/academic-publishers-sign-ai-deals-as-trump-cuts-research-funding.

[19] Peter Huťťák, *WLY Q1 Deep Dive: AI Licensing Momentum and Mixed Academic Publishing Performance*, YAHOO! FINANCE (Sept. 5, 2025) ("AI is a transformative opportunity, and we're moving decisively to capitalize.").

[20] Press Release, *Wiley Identifies Emerging AI Research Applications in New Study, Announces Forthcoming Guidelines for Authors*, WILEY (Feb. 4, 2025) https://newsroom.wiley.com/press-releases/press-release-details/2025/Wiley-Identifies-Emerging-AI-Research-Applications-in-New-Study-Announces-Forthcoming-Guidelines-for-Authors/.

[21] Palmer, *supra* note 16.

initial author-publisher negotiation process and is therefore outside the bounds of their original publishing contract.[22] So far, though, there are only a few lawsuits related to academic authors or academic publishers, but this trend may accelerate.[23]

In the midst of these AI licensing deals, publishers are facing backlash from academic authors regarding the erosion of longstanding ethical norms in scholarly publishing, such as attribution loss and verbatim text reproduction when their works are sold as data to train LLMs.[24] Academic authors, in particular, value attribution as a form of currency, which is crucial to the tenure and promotion process in academia.[25] Scholarly publishers, who play an important role in shepherding the ethical principles in publishing, have their own unique challenges to resolve. Should peer review be conducted with the help of AI platforms? Should editorial decision-making be guided by AI-generated peer review, feedback, or article summaries? Plagiarism and academic integrity are other issues that authors and publishers need to unpack as AI use in the publishing process becomes more widespread.[26]

Copyright of AI-generated scholarly work is another complication. Technology always brings questions of creation, ownership and permissions into play. Academic publishers now face the question of whether AI-generated or AI-assisted scholarly content should be accepted for publication or considered for peer review. Academic authors and research communities, too, must decide whether the use of AI platforms in the early research and drafting phases of developing publishable scholarly content is within the bounds of academic integrity.

This article examines how academic publishing norms and the ethical frameworks which underpin the research, writing, and publishing process are changing due to the influence and ubiquitous availability of AI technology. What are the main concerns with

---

[22] Todd A. Carpenter, *Ensuring attribution is critical when licensing content to AI developers*, The Scholarly Kitchen (Sept. 4, 2024), https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2024/09/04/make-attribution-mandatory-in-ai-licensing/ ("[Scholarly] authors complained they didn't have a say in any deals; they questioned whether they would see any payment; they were concerned about their work being regurgitated by potentially inaccurate machines; and they wondered whether they would get any recognition for their work.").

[23] Mishcon de Reya's case tracker highlights class action litigation related to AI and copyright, yet many of these lawsuits are filed by large corporations, such as Disney and Reddit, non-academic authors, or a class of unnamed plaintiffs whose copyrights have been allegedly infringed. Some members of these classes may include academic authors. Examples of lawsuits with academic authors or academic publishers as named plaintiffs include *Martinez-Conde v. Apple Inc*., *Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. v. Perplexity AI, Inc.*, and *Denial v. OpenAI, Inc. See* Martinez-Conde v. Apple Inc., 4:25-cv-08695, (N.D. Cal.); Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. v. Perplexity AI, Inc., 1:25-cv-07546, (S.D.N.Y.); and DENIAL v. OpenAI, Inc., 3:25-cv-05495, (N.D. Cal.).

[24] Carpenter, *supra* note 22; Baixiang Huang et al., *Authorship Attribution in the Era of LLMs: Problems, Methodologies, and Challenges*, 26(2) ACM SIGKDD Exploration 21 (Jan. 9, 2025); Nicholas Carlini, et al., *Quantifying Memorization Across Neural Language Models*, ICLR Conference Paper (2023), https://arxiv.org/pdf/2202.07646.

[25] Mohammad Javi Ali, *No room for ambiguity: The concepts of appropriate and inappropriate authorship in scientific publications*, 69 Indian J. of Ophthalmology 36 (Jan. 2021).

[26] Prabha Kannan, *How Much Research Is Being Written By Large Language Models?* Stan. Univ. Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (May 13, 2024), https://hai.stanford.edu/news/how-much-research-being-written-large-language-models.

AI use in scholarly publishing and why should anyone care? Are scholarly publishers creating ethics policies, principles, and guidelines to help scholarly authors navigate this unchartered territory? If so, who else should be involved in this policy creation process? What are scholarly publishers doing to protect the integrity of the scholarly record?

In order to answer these important questions, this article reviews the AI ethics policies of five of the world's largest[27] scholarly publishers—Oxford University Press, IEEE, Frontiers, Taylor & Francis, and De Gruyter Brill—to identify general principles and trends for AI uses in scholarly publishing. AI tools and their use cases will undoubtedly change over time, so this article also serves to document current use cases, ethical concerns, and policy measures that are being developed to mitigate risks to protecting the integrity of the scholarly record. Part I takes a closer look at the AI policies of five scholarly publishers and discusses the role of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the International Association of Scientific, Technical, and Medical Publishers (STM) in driving AI-related policymaking for the scholarly publishing community. Part II extrapolates major themes from this small-scale empirical review, and Part III highlights the ideal elements of an AI policy for scholarly publishers. This article concludes by discussing the importance of well-conceived AI policies for scholarly publishing and identifies areas that deserve further research.

I. HOW ARE SCHOLARLY PUBLISHERS REACTING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

Many academic publishers have developed AI policies to address the challenges that artificial intelligence is creating for ethical standards and operating processes in scholarly publishing, however these policies have been described as "wafer-thin" and "woefully insufficient."[28] Some academic publishers have not yet created robust frameworks for how scholarly authors should use AI, and as a result, authors are left to figure out the details on their own.[29] There are two reasons for the slow uptake: academic publishers

---

[27] These publishers were selected based on the size of their market share in the global academic publishing industry and their level of journal output. "*Big Five,*" Clarke & Esposito—The Brief (July 2024), https://www.ce-strategy.com/the-brief/big-five/#:~:text=Next%2C%20a%20new%20preprint%20from,publisher%20for%20the%20period%2C%20PLOS; Vidhya Kannan, *The Hidden Fortune of Academic Publishers: A Closer Look at the Industry's Net Worth*, LinkedIn (Dec. 13, 2024), https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/hidden-fortune-academic-publishers-closer-look-industrys-kannan-cmxac#:~:text=The%20Billion%2DDollar%20Industry&text=Major%20publishers%20like%20Elsevier%2C%20Springer,annual%20revenues%20exceeding%20$3%20billion; Andreas Nishikawa-Pacher, *Who are the 100 Largest Scientific Publishers by Journal Count? A Webscraping Approach*, SocArXiv (Sept. 20, 2022), https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/56b28_v1.

[28] Avi Staiman, *Woefully Insufficient Publisher Policies on Author AI Use Put Research Integrity At Risk*, The Scholarly Kitchen (July 22, 2024), https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2024/07/22/woefully-insufficient-publisher-policies-on-author-ai-use-put-research-integrity-at-risk/.

[29] Avi Staiman, *Dark matter: What's missing from publisher's policies on AI generative writing?*, Dig. Sci. (Feb. 1, 2024),

that are collaborating on policies as a group are hindered by inefficient committee work, and AI tools are advancing at such a quick pace that AI policy drafts become too outdated to publish by the time they are ready for publication.[30]

The AI policies being reviewed in this article are either existing ethics policies to which academic publishers have added AI-related addendums or they are entirely new publications. To clarify, "AI policies" or "AI ethics policies" are not universally labelled as such: academic publishers also refer to them as guidelines, statements, guidance, guide, publishing ethics, and ethics. AI policies are also not easily found on publisher websites and can be located under a range of headings, including "publishing tips," "publication ethics policies," "editorial policies," the "About" section, the "For Authors" section, and the "Book Publishing" section. It is also unclear how these AI policies are evolving as version control is not well documented by most publishers.[31] In some rare cases, academic publishers issue a press release that puts researchers on notice of new changes and ethical obligations.[32] Nevertheless, academic authors must find these new policies on their own and continuously monitor compliance requirements to stay abreast of changes.[33]

A. Sample and Sample Size

The sample of academic publishers reviewed for this article is small, consisting of five academic publishers. Three are commercial publishers—Taylor & Francis, Frontiers, and De Gruyter Brill: this group represents some of the largest for-profit publishers in the global academic publishing industry based on the size of their market share[34] and by scholarly journal article output.[35] The remaining two—Oxford University Press and IEEE—are large, non-profit academic publishers that were also selected based on the size of their market share[36] and journal article output.[37] Together, this sample size, although small, represents a selection of very large, established scholarly publishers from various segments of the academic publishing market, including multinational, commercial publishers, university presses, private family businesses, and professional organizations.

---

https://www.digital-science.com/blog/2024/02/dark-matter-whats-missing-from-publishers-policies-on-ai-generative-writing/.

[30] Staiman, *supra* note 28.

[31] Wiley's AI guide provides details on how its AI policy evolved over a seven month period and how AI platforms played a role in the development of that content. *Using AI tools in your research*, WILEY, https://www.wiley.com/en-us/publish/article/ai-guidelines/.

[32] *Cambridge launches AI research ethics policy*,CAMBRIDGE UNIV. PRESS (Mar. 14, 2023), https://www.cambridge.org/news-and-insights/cambridge-launches-ai-research-ethics-policy; *Princeton University Press statement on artificial intelligence*. PRINCETON UNIV. PRESS (Sept. 12, 2025), https://press.princeton.edu/news/statement-on-ai?srsltid=AfmBOopyKtOGEUP8-ftRIHeYorIn_ajpPHx5z4CnCL2HcAqLLJ4IPFav.

[33] *Journal AI Policies: what to cover and how to monitor compliance*, SCHOLASTICA (May 13, 2025), https://blog.scholasticahq.com/post/journal-ai-policies/.

[34] Kannan, *supra* note 27.

[35] "*Big Five*," *supra* note 27.

[36] Kannan, *supra* note 27.

[37] "*Big Five*," *supra* note 27.

There are limitations, however, with this sample and sample size. The academic publishing industry comprises thousands of academic publishers,[38] including non-traditional publishers such as libraries, open access archives, institutional repositories, and university-based law reviews, as well as small publishers from the Global South, which are often unaccounted for in studies on the size and influence of this market.[39] Some publishers are public corporations,[40] while others are privately owned.[41] Moreover, some academic publishers are discipline-specific, while others publish scholarly work from a wide range of disciplines.[42] All of the academic publishers in this sample have a global footprint, but may lack a regional or local focus.[43]

The sample and sample size were selected for different reasons: first, several of the publishers in this group are well-resourced, have dedicated Research Integrity Teams and Publication Ethics Specialists that conduct research regularly on emerging ethical issues, and have the technical infrastructure and personnel capacity to communicate compliance

---

[38] *Learn about the industry*, PUBLISHERS ASS'N., https://www.publishers.org.uk/about-publishing/learn-about-the-industry/. The Publishers Association in the United Kingdom defines "academic publisher" as publishers that "produce and distribute works of academic research and scholarship through non-fiction books, journals, textbooks, and online resources." By contrast, trade publishers produce books for a general audience, such as fan fiction, poetry, and memoirs. Educational publishers produce materials for educational markets, such as schools, colleges, and universities. These educational materials might include textbooks and study guides. This article does not analyze the specific AI policies of various scholarly journals, including law reviews, that are produced by academic publishers. As noted by Oxford University Press, each journal may have a different, customized AI policy or perhaps no policy at all; as a result, there is an opportunity for a follow-up analysis that investigates AI policies for a large scholarly journal dataset. *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50.

[39] Nishikawa-Pacher, *supra* note 27.

[40] Jim Milliot, *RELX Stays the World's Largest Publisher in 2024*, PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (Nov. 22, 2024), https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/publisher-news/article/96589-relx-stays-the-world-s-largest-publisher-in-2024.html.

[41] One such publisher, De Gruyter Brill, is an independent, family-owned academic publisher and a global leader in scholarly publishing, producing books, journals, reference works, and research tools across disciplines including the humanities, social sciences, and STEM fields. The company collaborates with scholars worldwide to disseminate high-quality research, guided by a mission to advance knowledge, foster interdisciplinary exchange, and address contemporary global challenges through rigorous academic inquiry. DE GRUYTER BRILL, https://degruyterbrill.com; *Our People: Sara Miller McCune*, SAGEPUB.COM, https://www.sagepub.com/about/our-people.

[42] *IEEE History*, IEEE, https://www.ieee.org/about/ieee-history.

[43] "*Big Five*," Clarke & Esposito—The Brief (July 2024), https://www.ce-strategy.com/the-brief/big-five/#:~:text=Next%2C%20a%20new%20preprint%20from,publisher%20for%20the%20period%2C%20PLOS. ("The big commercial publishers may rule the research world of US, Europe, and China, but the global view [of publishing] is more expansive.").

requirements efficiently to their reader and contributor base.[44] As a result, these AI policies were easy to identify. Second, executives from several publishers in this group are Trustees, Council Members, or Advisors to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), a non-profit organization that sets global standards for research integrity and leads cultural adoption of ethical norms in scholarly publishing.[45] As a result, these contributors are shaping the discourse around the elements of AI policies that affect the entire academic publishing industry. Third, many of the smaller publishers that could have been included in this study did not have a detailed, sophisticated web presence or had no AI policies to analyze. This article aims to provide a succinct, yet generalized overview of AI policies in scholarly publishing, therefore, reviewing a larger sample size would have introduced practical constraints in terms of time and resources and resulted in diminished returns. Rather, the goal of this article was data saturation[46] where a sufficient amount of data was collected until no new insights emerged.

B. Scholarly Publisher AI Policies

The insights derived from this small-scale empirical review of AI policies in the scholarly publishing industry will provide a broad perspective of the most prominent AI-related risks that large, influential scholarly publishers are trying to mitigate and will reveal emerging ethical considerations. The following section will highlight the main points of each publisher's AI policy and identify themes, similarities, and differences among them. The date of enactment for these policies is unclear; however, in order to best document changes to these digital artifacts, a screenshot of each policy is located in the Appendix along with a time stamp of when the AI policy was last accessed in December 2025.

1. Oxford University Press[47]

Oxford University Press is the largest university press in the world, publishing in 70 languages and 190 countries.[48] The Press consistently ranks as one of the top producers of scholarly content, reaching eighth place in 2025 with over 90,000 articles published

---

[44] *Publishing Ethics*, CAMBRIDGE UNIV. PRESS, https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/publishing-ethics/publishing-ethics; *Research Integrity*. WILEY, https://www.wiley.com/en-us/publish/editor-insights/research-integrity/; *Publication Ethics and Research Integrity*, TAYLOR & FRANCIS, https://taylorandfrancis.com/about/corporate-responsibility/publishing-ethics-and-research-integrity/.

[45] *The membership organization for publication ethics*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/; *Who we are*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/about/who-we-are.

[46] Julius Sim et al., *Saturation in qualitative research: exploring its conceptualization and operationalization*, 52 QUALITY & QUANTITY 1893 (2018).

[47] *See* Appendix.

[48] *Excellence in Research, Scholarship, & Education*, OXFORD UNIV. PRESS, https://global.oup.com/academic/?cc=us&lang=en&.

and 40,000 published open access.[49] Oxford University Press created an AI policy with the following key elements:

- **Location:** Oxford University Press has a standalone AI policy ("guidelines") that is located in the "For Authors" section under the "Book" category,[50] and there is a separate link relevant to journals[51] that leads to a lengthy list of journal titles that have individual, journal-specific AI policies, although a randomized search of journals revealed that many journals did not include any policy or guidelines related to AI.
- **Mission & Values:** Oxford University Press states that the guidelines were created to guide book authors on the "responsible, appropriate, and transparent use of generation AI" in research publishing.[52] The AI guidelines introduce readers to the emergence and development of artificial intelligence (AI) and generative AI, then state that the use of AI must be consistent with the Press's mission and values in terms of "quality, integrity, and trust."[53] The three main principles that inform Oxford University Press's AI guidelines are "authorship, accountability, and disclosure."
- **Risks:** Oxford University Press advises authors to carefully review the terms of service of any generative AI tools they use since these tools can retain and be trained on information entered in user prompts, thus resulting in a loss of confidentiality and possible plagiarism of an author's work. For example, any platforms with terms of service that grant rights related to re-use, distribution, or training on content submitted to the platform should be avoided. ChatGPT is highlighted as one example of an AI platform that exploits user interactions for training purposes and gives users an option to opt-out of this training function. The Press warns authors that their intellectual property rights can be compromised if AI tools grant the provider the right to reproduce or repurpose original content or if the terms of service restrict the author from reusing their own original content or content generated by an AI tool. The Press also warns authors that if their work is scooped, plagiarized, or restricted in any way by an AI tool, the Press would be hindered from publishing their work.
- **Prohibited Use:** Oxford University Press makes it clear that any work that will be submitted for publication must not be uploaded, in full or in part, into any generative AI tool.

---

[49] *Scilit Rankings (2025)*, SCILIT, https://www.scilit.com/rankings. Scilit is a comprehensive content aggregator platform for scholarly publishers and is developed and maintained by Swiss-based open access publisher MDPI AG.

[50] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, OXFORD ACAD., https://academic.oup.com/pages/for-authors/books/author-use-of-artificial-intelligence.

[51] *Instructions to Authors—Journals A-Z*, OXFORD ACAD., https://academic.oup.com/pages/for-authors/journals/ita-journals-a-z.

[52] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50.

[53] *Id.*

- **Allowable Use:** Oxford University Press encourages authors to rely on enterprise versions of generative AI tools that have a content protection policy[54] and a function to opt out of the use of prompts for LLM training. The Press states that these controlled ecosystems are safe for preparing an author's work in a variety of ways, including for generating alt-text for images, checking grammar and spelling, correcting translations, checking references, generating abstracts and keywords, and developing headwords for an index.
- **Authorship:** Oxford University Press states that generative AI does not qualify as an author, and therefore, should not be used by authors to generate arguments and scientific insights, conduct writing analysis, or form conclusions. If authors intend to submit AI-generated work with their publication submissions, such as AI-generated data collection and analysis or AI-generated graphics, then authors must first receive written permission from Oxford University Press in advance and be prepared to submit an human-generated version upon request.
- **Accountability:** Oxford University Press states that authors will be held fully accountable for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of their work and will be liable for any breach of publication or research ethics from the use of generative AI tools. However, the Press does not link to any formal ethics standards or state the repercussions of violating such standards. The Press does highlight examples of possible breaches, including hallucinations of AI-generated content, fake citations, insufficient attribution and referencing, and inadvertent plagiarism. The Press also warns that generative AI tools can include and reproduce bias, for example, in word choices, recommendations, and methodological assumptions and may also have knowledge gaps or unintentionally exclude data. Moreover, datasets that generative AI tools rely on may be incomplete or out of date. These examples are helpful in illustrating for authors how generative AI could compromise the integrity of their work. Oxford University Press states that authors are responsible for checking their work for bias, accuracy, and originality and providing proper attribution for the use of a generative AI tool.
- **Disclosure:** Oxford University Press requires authors to disclose the use or proposed use of any generative AI tool to an author's Acquisitions Editor. These disclosures should be as detailed as possible and must be given as early as possible in the publication process, such as the submission, research, or writing stage. At the stage of manuscript submission, the author must disclose the location in the text of each generative AI use, add citations that acknowledge generative AI use, and explain the tool and version used, how and why the tool was used, and the steps the author has taken to ensure the accuracy of the outputs. While not a requirement, Oxford University Press recommends that

[54] *Id.* According to Oxford University Press, a generative AI tool with a "content protection policy" might allow a user to opt out of data training and reuse, operate within a controlled and restricted ecosystem with access to a predefined dataset, and avoid instances where generative AI tools claim rights to user inputs. Users are advised that if a "content protection policy" exists, a generative AI tool can be used for a variety of tasks, including creating alt-text for images, finding spelling and grammar errors, generating abstracts and keywords, or creating a list of index headwords.

authors also include this information either in the acknowledgements section of the book or relevant sections to ensure transparency with the reader.

- **Editorial Boards & Advising Scholars:** Editorial boards and advising scholars provide recommendations and suggestions to publishers on various aspects of a publishing project. Oxford University Press recommends that these individuals contribute original insights that are based on their knowledge of the field and to balance any ideas that were conceived by generative AI tools with personal judgement and their individual expertise. The Press states that submissions can be uploaded into generative AI tools with content protection policies, but it is unclear what submission materials are being referenced here and whether they belong to editors, scholars, authors, or peer reviewers.
- **Peer Review:** Oxford University Press prohibits peer reviewers from uploading full or partial excerpts of peer review materials, including project proposals or manuscripts, into a generative AI tool for any purpose. The Press considers these materials confidential. Peer reviewers are required to report any suspected violations of Oxford University Press' generative AI guidelines to the editorial board and in their peer review evaluation.

2. IEEE (The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)[55]

IEEE is the world's largest technical professional organization and is "dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity."[56] This organization was formed in 1963, and its members include a global roster of technologists and engineers.[57] IEEE journals are consistently ranked as some of the most cited journals in engineering and computer science fields.[58] IEEE created an AI policy with the following key elements:

- **Location:** IEEE's AI policy ("AI-generated content guidelines") is located under the "Submission and Peer Review Policies" section of the Publishing Ethics page.[59] These guidelines are included alongside other publishing ethics guidelines related to plagiarism, prior publication, and text recycling.
- **Disclosure:** IEEE requires authors to disclose the use of AI-generated content, such as texts, images, figures, and codes, in the article's acknowledgements section. Authors must also disclose what AI system was used, highlight which sections of the article used generative AI content, and explain how and to what degree the AI system was used to create the generative AI content.

---

[55] *See* Appendix.
[56] *About IEEE*, IEEE, https://www.ieee.org/about-ieee.
[57] *IEEE History*, IEEE, https://www.ieee.org/about/ieee-history.
[58] *IEEE Journals Continue to Excel in Citation Rankings*, IEEE, https://www.ieee.org/publications/subscriptions/journal-citations.
[59] *Submission and Peer Review Policies*, IEEE AUTHOR CTR., https://journals.ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/become-an-ieee-journal-author/publishing-ethics/guidelines-and-policies/submission-and-peer-review-policies/#ai-generated-content.

- **Allowable Use:** IEEE states that the use of AI tools for grammar and editing is allowed and "common practice."[60] Although it is not required, IEEE still recommends that these uses are disclosed.
- **Peer Review:** IEEE prohibits peer reviewers from inputting peer review materials, directly or indirectly, into a generative AI tool for the purpose of creating a review for a scholarly work. If peer reviewers engage in this conduct, IEEE considers it a breach of confidentiality given the ability of an AI system to learn from and remember inputs. IEEE does not indicate what repercussions a peer reviewer will face if this confidentiality standard is breached.

3. Frontiers[61]

Frontiers is a pioneer in open access publishing, having published over 600,000 articles and supporting 222 active journals since 2007.[62] In 2022, Frontiers was the third most-cited scholarly publisher, ranking ahead of Elsevier, Springer Nature, IEEE, and Wiley.[63] Several Frontiers journals are rated as the most influential and most cited in the fields of neuroscience, immunology, microbiology, plant science, and psychology.[64] Frontiers created an AI policy with the following key elements:

- **Location:** Frontiers' AI Policy ("Artifical Intelligence: Fair Use and Disclosure Policy") is listed on its "Editorial Policies and Publication Ethics" webpage alongside a lengthy array of other policies, including plagiarism, redundant publication, peer review manipulation, paper mill contributions, conflicts of interest disclosures, and guidelines regarding author contributions using NISO's Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CRediT), a standardized framework for acknowledging the varying roles of individual contributions to research projects.[65] Frontiers' AI Policy addresses acceptable uses of AI-generated content by LLMs and text-to-image generators and specifically lists ChatGPT, Jasper, DALL-E2, Midjourney, and Stable Diffusion as examples of generative AI tools.
- **Authorship:** Frontiers prohibits authors from listing a generative AI tool as an author or co-author of a submitted scholarly work, noting that these technologies cannot be held accountable for their conduct. To justify this stance, Frontiers references the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) standard for authorship, which includes the following four criteria: (1) substantial contributions to the conception or design of a work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and (2) drafting the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; and (3) final approval of the version to be published; and (4) agreement to be accountable for

[60] *Id.*
[61] *See* Appendix.
[62] *Our impact,* FRONTIERS (2023), https://www.frontiersin.org/about/impact.
[63] *Id.*
[64] *Id.*
[65] *Contributor Role Taxonomy*. NISO, https://credit.niso.org/.

all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.[66]

- **Disclosure:** Frontiers requires authors to disclose if generative AI tools were used to create text, images, and figures. Disclosures must be made in the acknowledgements section and methods section, if applicable, and authors must explain the "name, version, model, and source of the generative AI technology."[67]
- **Accountability:** Frontiers states that authors are responsible for checking the factual accuracy of all content created using generative AI tools, including quotes, citations, and references. Authors must also check to see if AI-generated text is free from plagiarism and if AI-generated figures are accurate representations of the data presented in the manuscript.
- **Peer Review:** Frontiers states that peer reviewers are prohibited from uploading peer review materials into external generative AI tools. However, Frontiers provides peer reviewers with an internal AI tool that operates in a secure, closed environment to help with summarizing scholarly works, drafting feedback, and providing guidance on areas for further analysis. Frontiers also follows guidelines by the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). These scholarly communities have developed their own guidance on the use of AI in peer review. WAME, for example, recommends disclosing the extent of use of AI chatbots for peer review evaluations.[68] EASE raises important considerations, such as noting that bans on AI use in peer review would be "hard to implement" and, "it is not clear what, if any, repercussions for their use will be."[69]
- **Editorial Decision-Making:** Frontiers notes that its internal AI tool that is used during peer review analysis does not participate in the editorial decision-making process.

4. Taylor & Francis[70]

Taylor & Francis is one of the world's leading publishers of academic research, curating high-quality, peer-reviewed research in a wide range of disciplines from Science,

---

[66] *Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors*. ICMJE, https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html.
[67] *Policies and Publication Ethics*, FRONTIERS, https://www.frontiersin.org/guidelines/policies-and-publication-ethics.
[68] *WAME Recommendation 4*, WAME, https://wame.org/page3.php?id=106.
[69] *Recommendations on the Use of AI in Scholarly Communication*, EASE, https://ease.org.uk/communities/peer-review-committee/peer-review-toolkit/recommendations-on-the-use-of-ai-in-scholarly-communication/.
[70] *See* Appendix.

Technology & Medicine, and Humanities & Social Sciences.[71] Scilit, a content aggregator platform for scholarly publications, indicates that Taylor & Francis was the 3rd largest publisher of journals in 2025 with 2,533 active journals and the 5th largest publisher of articles in 2025 with 155,003 published.[72]

Taylor & Francis has transparently informed the publishing community about its continuing work on guidelines for the use of generative AI in scholarly publishing, issuing an initial press release[73] in February 2023 and expanded guidance[74] in June 2024. Although still evolving, Taylor & Francis' current[75] AI policy consists of the following key elements:

- **Location:** Taylor & Francis has a standalone AI Policy that is located on a general policies page.
- **Authorship:** Taylor & Francis' AI Policy states that generative AI tools cannot be listed as an author for the following reasons: AI tools cannot be held accountable for submitted content or legally agree to terms in publication and licensing agreements, including contractually assuring the integrity of a work.
- **Allowable Use:** Taylor & Francis allows the use of generative AI for idea generation and exploration, translation services, and accelerating the research and dissemination process. Examples of tools that are mentioned in Taylor & Francis' AI Policy include ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, Claude, NovelAI, Jasper AI, DALL-E, Midjourney, and Runway. Taylor & Francis also supports the responsible use of generative AI tools that ensure "data security, confidentiality, and copyright protection" for the following uses: "language improvement, interactive online search with LLM-enhanced search engines, literature classification, and coding assistance."[76] The publisher requires human oversight and transparency when authors use generative AI and AI-assisted technologies during the research, writing, and publication process.
- **Prohibited Use:** Taylor & Francis prohibits authors from using generative AI tools to create and manipulate images, figures, or original research data. Examples of these types of digital artifacts include "pictures, charts, data tables, medical imagery, snippets of images, computer code, and formulas."[77] Taylor & Francis defines "manipulate" to include "augmenting, concealing, moving,

[71] *About Taylor & Francis*, Taylor & Francis, https://www.informa.com/divisions/taylor-and-francis/about-taylor-and-francis/.
[72] *Scilit Rankings (2025)*, Scilit, https://www.scilit.com/rankings.
[73] *Taylor & Francis Clarifies the Responsible use of AI Tools in Academic Content Creation*, Taylor & Francis (Feb. 17, 2023), https://newsroom.taylorandfrancisgroup.com/taylor-francis-clarifies-the-responsible-use-of-ai-tools-in-academic-content-creation/.
[74] *Taylor & Francis Issues Expanded Guidance on AI Application for Authors, Editors and Reviewers*, Taylor & Francis (June 12, 2024), https://newsroom.taylorandfrancisgroup.com/expanded-guidance-on-ai-application-for-authors-editors-and-reviewers/.
[75] The AI policy was analyzed in December 2025.
[76] *AI Policy*, Taylor & Francis, https://taylorandfrancis.com/our-policies/ai-policy/.
[77] *Id.*

removing, or introducing a specific feature within an image or figure."[78] Other generative AI uses that Taylor & Francis prohibits include "text and code generation without rigorous revision, synthetic data generation to substitute missing data without robust methodology, and generation of any types of content which is inaccurate including abstracts or supplemental materials."[79] The publisher also notes that authors should check individual journal editorial policies as some journals may altogether prohibit the use of generative AI tools.

- **Disclosure:** Taylor & Francis requires authors to include a generative AI use disclosure statement in the methods or acknowledgements section for journal authors or in the preface or introduction for book authors. The disclosure statement must include the name and version of the generative AI tool and how and why it was used. In terms of the timing of disclosure, book authors must transparently disclose their intent to use generative AI tools to editors as early as possible so that editors can evaluate whether these tools have been used responsibly.
- **Accountability:** Taylor & Francis states that authors are responsible for the "originality, validity, and integrity" of their scholarly work and must review the contents of AI generated outputs for accuracy. Since Taylor & Francis publishes 2,533 journals, the publisher advises authors to consult individual journal editorial policies and "principles of ethics," although no specific ethical frameworks are provided as a reference.
- **Editors & Peer Review:** Taylor & Francis prohibits editors and peer reviewers from uploading files, images, and information, in part or in whole, from unpublished manuscripts into generative AI tools. The publisher states that doing so would compromise an author's confidentiality, proprietary rights and data, intellectual property, and personally identifiable information. The use of generative AI tools for other purposes, such as language improvement, are subject to prior approval. Peer reviewers cannot use generative AI tools to summarize or analyze submissions and, instead, must ensure the accuracy and integrity of their reviews. Editors must keep submission and peer review details confidential

5. De Gruyter Brill[80]

Founded in the 17th century, De Gruyter Brill is an independent, family-owned academic publisher that publishes reference works, books, journals, and research tools in a range of disciplines, including humanities, arts, architecture, medicine, technology, science, and

[78] *Id.*
[79] *Id.*
[80] *See* Appendix.

social sciences.[81] De Gruyter Brill is the fourth largest publisher of open access journals with 428 published.[82] The publisher's AI Policy consists of the following elements:

- **Location:** De Gruyter Brill's AI Policy ("AI Guidelines for Authors")[83] has its own standalone page and can be found on a centralized "Author Policy Hub" page.
- **Authorship:** The AI Policy states that scholarly works generated by artificial intelligence or machine learning tools will not be accepted for publication because these tools "cannot take responsibility for the submitted work and therefore cannot be considered as authors."
- **Disclosure:** If AI tools are used for the design or methodology of a research study, then De Gruyter Brill's AI Policy states that this use should be clearly disclosed in the acknowledgements section. The AI Policy also states that authors must disclose if AI tools were used to "significantly contribute to any part of [a] manuscript." However, authors do not need to disclose the use of AI tools for proofreading and copyediting. The disclosure statement should include which tools were used and how the author used them in the research and writing process.
- **Prohibited Use:** De Gruyter Brill prohibits the use of generative AI tools to create or manipulate images, figures, and research data. Authors should also not input personal, confidential, or sensitive data into AI systems, as they can be stored, processed, and used for training. According to the AI Policy, copyrighted material should also not be input into an AI system unless the author has given permission to do so or unless the author can ensure that the copyrighted material is not saved or used for further AI training. The publisher lists the following examples of AI tools: ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini; image generators, such as Midjourney or DALL-E; and code assistants, such as ClaudeCode or Cursor. Regarding privacy, De Gruyter Brill's AI Policy advises authors to remember applicable data privacy legislation. For example, European authors would need to know how to comply with the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act (EU AI Act) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- **Accountability:** De Gruyter Brill's AI Policy warns authors that they are "fully and solely" responsible for their work and must proof their work for inaccuracies and bias resulting from the use of AI tools. Furthermore, the publisher mentions that authors will be liable for a breach of publication ethics if they fail to do so.
- **Peer Review:** De Gruyter Brill prohibits the input of any manuscript, in part or in whole, in AI systems for peer review purposes as it may compromise an author's confidentiality, proprietary rights, and data privacy rights. Examples of AI systems include ChatGPT and Grammarly.

---

[81] *History of De Gruyter Brill*, De Gruyter Brill, https://www.degruyterbrill.com/publishing/about-us/about-de-gruyter-brill/our-history.
[82] *Scilit Rankings (2025)*, Scilit https://www.scilit.com/rankings.
[83] *AI-Policy for Authors*, De Gruyter Brill, https://www.degruyterbrill.com/publishing/for-authors/author-policies/artificial-intelligence.

6. Summary of AI Policies

The AI policies of each of the five academic publishers in this small-scale empirical review tackled similar objectives, addressing mandatory disclosure of AI use, identifying a selection of prohibited uses of AI in the research and writing process, defining the use of AI for peer review and editorial purposes, outlining author accountability for the originality and integrity of the work, and discussing authorship concerns. However, several differences regarding the breadth, depth, and consistency of these policy themes were apparent. The differences in each AI policy are explored in more detail in Part II.

Figure 1 provides an aggregated, high-level visualization of the common themes exhibited in the AI Policies of Oxford University Press, IEEE, Frontiers, Taylor & Francis, and De Gruyter Brill. The "✓" and "✖" symbols indicates that a scholarly publisher's AI policy either sufficiently or insufficiently addressed the stated AI-related theme.

As Figure 1 illustrates, the lack of standardization in the policies' substance may be a source of confusion for authors and peer reviewers who are associated with more than one publisher. Another issue is that the date of enactment of these policies are, in most cases, unknown, which makes tracking of policy themes and compliance updates difficult and all the more important for documentation purposes.

Common Themes in AI Policies	Oxford UP	IEEE	Frontiers	Taylor & Francis	De Gruyter Brill
AI cannot be an author or co-author	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓
Authors cannot upload an unpublished work, in whole or in part, into an AI system	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖
Peer reviewers cannot upload an unpublished work, in whole or in part, into an external AI system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Authors can use AI tools for grammar, editing, and language improvement	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓
Peer Reviewers can use AI tools for grammar, editing, and language improvement	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖
Peer Reviewers can use AI tools for peer review analysis and summarization	✖	✖	✓	✖	✖
An AI disclosure statement must be made within	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

the body of the work					
Disclosure of AI use must be made directly to editorial contact	✓	✖	✖	✓	✖
Authors must include citations to AI use within the body of work	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖

Figure 1: Overview of AI Policy Themes of Major Academic Publishers

C. Organizations Advancing Excellence in Publishing Ethics: the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers (STM)

The scholarly publishing and scholarly communications community have international organizations and associations that convene to develop shared practices, standards, guidelines, and policies on ethical publishing practices. Two of the most influential organizations—the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers (STM)—currently lead the dialogue on ethical practices in the scholarly publishing industry.[84] These communities of practice are composed of members from academia, the scholarly publishing industry, nonprofits, and individuals. The following section describes each organization, the role they play in shaping the discourse around generative AI use in scholarly publishing, and any formal policies or guidance they have created in response to generative AI. This section also explains the contributors responsible for creating AI-related scholarly publishing policy directives in order to better understand the extent and balance of participation from the global scholarly publishing ecosystem.

1. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

[84] The European Association of Science Editors (EASE) and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) are other organizations that have contributed to ethical standards in publishing and as these standards relate to AI use. *See Recommendations on the Use of AI in Scholarly Communications*, EASE (Sept. 25, 2024), https://ease.org.uk/2024/09/recommendations-on-the-use-of-ai-in-scholarly-communication/; *see Chatbots, Generative AI, and Scholarly Manuscripts*, WAME (May 31, 2023), https://wame.org/page3.php?id=106.

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) was informally established in 1997 by a group of scholarly journal editors and professors who had encountered publishing misconduct and wanted to discuss whether it was common practice and how to address the issue.[85] By 1999, the "Guidelines on good publication practice"[86] was published to advise the scholarly publishing community, and by 2004, COPE drafted a "Code of Conduct for Editors."[87] Over time, the organization was formalized into a charitable entity, several large scholarly publishers joined as members, and COPE continued to develop guidance on other topics, such as how to handle author disputes, plagiarism, authorship, principles of transparency, sharing information between editors-in-chief, and paper mills. The organization is based in the United Kingdom, however, the membership base is international in scope with over 97 countries represented.[88] Figure 2 below illustrates the geographical distribution of COPE contributors with Europe and North America having the highest concentrations of participants.

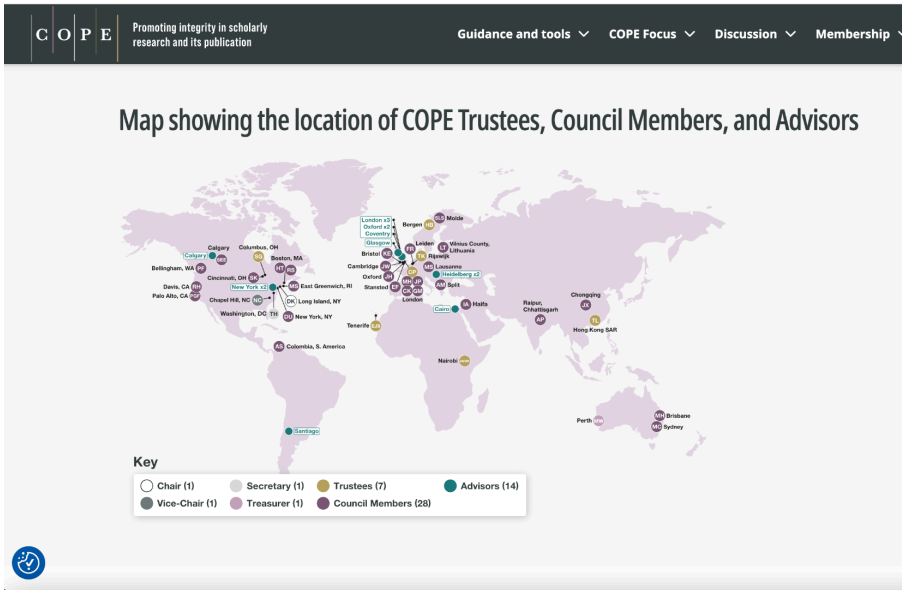


Figure 2: Map Showing the Location of COPE Trustees, Council Members, and Advisors
Source: COPE (*publicationethics.org*)

COPE is currently run by a combination of volunteers, staff, and freelancers who work together to achieve the principal objective: "to educate and advance knowledge in methods of safeguarding the integrity of the scholarly record for the benefit of the

[85] *Our Story*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/about/what-we-do/our-story.
[86] *History of the COPE Code of Conduct and Core Practices*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/about/what-we-do/our-story/history-code-conduct.
[87] *Id.*
[88] *Our Story*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/about/what-we-do/our-story (Between 2019 and 2021, COPE exceeded 12,500 members from 103 countries.)

public."[89] The organization is governed by a Trustee Board, which is responsible for strategic, financial, legal, and business operations. The Trustee Board is elected by the general membership of COPE, and, as of 2025, consisted of individuals with varied professional backgrounds, including an editor-in-chief of a medical journal, a managing editor of the American Chemical Society, the executive editor from the Ethics & Integrity team at Oxford University Press, the executive editor for the American Urological Association, the Head of Research Integrity at Springer Nature, a principal research scientist with the Institute of Marine Research in Norway, a research development and impact specialist from the University of Hong Kong, a former associate vice president for research compliance at Ohio State University, and a professor from Spain.[90]

The roster of participants on the COPE Council and the Executive Office, who govern the operational activities of the organization and serve on subcommittees,[91] include editors-in-chief, entrepreneurs, editors, publication directors, a health research scientist, business consultants, faculty members, research scientists, department chairs, and members of research integrity teams. The publishers represented on these subcommittees include Frontiers, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Karger Publishers, PLOS, Wiley, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, and Bon View Publishing, to name a few.[92] Although COPE subcommittees are well-represented by larger publishers and scholarly associations, especially those with a scientific bent, there are only a few, if any at all, participants from university presses, libraries, institutional repositories, open archives, research institutes, law reviews, and university research offices. These underrepresented and unrepresented entities have valuable perspectives on scholarly publishing narratives and experiences regarding ethical issues affecting their unique practice areas that may not yet be taken into account for AI policy guidance purposes. One must also consider how policy contributions from for-profit versus non-profit entities differ and how COPE's governing mechanisms prevent any conflicts of interest.

COPE has only one formal position statement on AI, which was first drafted in February 2023 and was last updated in August 2024.[93] This position statement, entitled "Authorship and AI tools," outlines that "AI tools cannot be listed as an author of a paper" because they cannot take responsibility for a submitted work; AI tools cannot disclose conflicts of interest or confirm the absence thereof; and AI tools cannot manage copyright and license agreements.[94] COPE notes that its position aligns with recommendations made by the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) and the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network among others.[95] COPE

---

[89] *Governance*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/about/governance.
[90] *Id.*
[91] *Subcommittees and working groups*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/about/governance/subcommittees-and-working-groups.
[92] *Id.*
[93] *Authorship and AI tools*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/guidance/cope-position/authorship-and-ai-tools.
[94] *Id.*
[95] *Id.*

also notes authors must be transparent in disclosing AI use, including which tool was used and how the tool was used, in specific instances, such as the writing of a manuscript, image or graphic production, or in the collection or analysis of data.[96] Moreover, disclosure must be made in the "Materials and Methods" section or "a similar section" of a paper.[97] Authors are also responsible for their work, including work created by an AI tool, and therefore are liable for any breach of publication ethics.

COPE's position statement on AI shares many similarities with the AI policies of Oxford University Press, IEEE, Frontiers, Taylor & Francis, and De Gruyter Brill; however, none of these publishers referenced COPE's position statement. There was also a general lack of standardization between each of these five policies when compared to COPE's guidance despite the fact that some publishers had representatives serving on COPE's committees. This signals that publishers may not view COPE's statement as being sufficiently comprehensive or timely despite the organization's reputation for leading dialogue on publication ethics. Alternatively, COPE members may be at odds with defining AI-related publishing ethics standards or may be waiting until AI practices in scholarly publishing further develop until taking a more formal stance on the topic. Either way, COPE's lack of ongoing engagement on AI and publishing ethics and its "wait and see" approach raises questions as to what expertise, data, tools, and resources the COPE community needs to productively move the conversation forward.

2. The International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers (STM)

The International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers (STM) is another organization, similar to COPE, that "advances trusted research for the benefit of society."[98] STM was created during the 1968 congress of the International Publishers Association (IPA) in Amsterdam when a group of science publishers, led by Pergamon Press, felt that their interests were not being fairly represented by the IPA.[99] STM was formally organized by North Holland Publishing Company, Elsevier Science, and Wiley & Sons, and were later joined by Springer Verlag, McGraw Hill, and Pitman—some of the most influential publishers in the world today.[100] The first manager of STM was an international copyright expert, which enabled STM to become a leading voice on copyright issues within the global publishing community.[101]

As a global trade association, STM represents small publishing houses, university presses, society publishers, and large commercial publishers, as well as technology companies that provide support and services to the scholarly publishing community.[102] Compared to COPE, which has over 12,500 individual members,[103] STM's 160 members

---

[96] *Id.*
[97] *Id.*
[98] *Home*, STM, https://stm-assoc.org/.
[99] Lex Lefebvre, *The Story of STM*, 7 SERIALS 53 (Mar. 1994).
[100] *Id.*
[101] *Id.*
[102] *Who We Are*, STM, https://stm-assoc.org/who-we-are/.
[103] *Our Story*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/about/what-we-do/our-story.

are organizations from 21 different countries[104] for which STM advocates internationally on issues related to intellectual property, scholarly communications, innovation, and technology trends.[105] STM's main objective is to amplify the dissemination of research in the fields of science, technology, and medicine and to support the authors, publishers, and technology companies involved in this process.[106] STM convenes its members "to pool ideas, resources, experiences, and innovations to advance open, trusted research—together."[107] Collectively, STM's community identifies issues that affect the research community and forecasts issues that might be on the horizon. STM's governance operates through committees of STM members who tackle strategic focus areas, such as research integrity, and once draft reports are completed, they are released to the community for feedback and comment.[108]

As one of the first contributors to the narrative on AI in scholarly publishing, STM released a white paper in April 2021 entitled "AI Ethics in Scholarly Communication," created by a working group in 2019 who formed to determine how STM member publishers are engaging with "the ethical and trustworthy development, deployment, and application of artificial intelligence."[109] According to the white paper, scholarly publishers provided content and information to train AI, used AI to support internal workflows, such as identifying peer reviewers and detecting plagiarism, and used external-facing, AI-deployed tools and services, such as recommending related content to readers and providing analytics insights into research trends.[110]

In December 2023, STM published another white paper, entitled "Generative AI in Scholarly Communications," which detailed ethical and practical guidelines for using generative AI in the publication process.[111] The audience for this white paper included five groups: authors, editorial teams, peer reviewers, vendors or third-party service providers, and readers.[112] The 2023 white paper was written in response to the new opportunities and threats emerging from AI use in scholarly publishing that were not readily apparent at the time of the earlier publication. The 2023 white paper summarized the STM community's concerns:

> GenAI can improve the quality of published material, break language barriers, and realize speed and efficiency improvements for all stakeholders in the publishing process. It can also blur the line between machines and researchers, fact and fiction

---

[104] *STM advances trusted research*, STM, https://stm-assoc.org/.
[105] *Who We Are*, *supra* note 102.
[106] *Id.*
[107] *Id.*
[108] *STM's Strategic Areas of Activity*, STM, https://stm-assoc.org/what-we-do/strategic-areas/.
[109] *AI Ethics in Scholarly Communication [White Paper]*, STM (2021), https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/stm.offloadmedia/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/10032954/2021_05_11_STM_AI_White_Paper_April2021-1.pdf.
[110] *Id.*
[111] *Generative AI in Scholarly Communications [White Paper]*, STM (2023), https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/stm.offloadmedia/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/10031822/STM-GENERATIVE-AI-PAPER-2023-1.pdf.
[112] *Id.*

> (in the form of so-called hallucinations), and allows people to fake research results and outputs on an unprecedented scale. An additional challenge is that current integrity-checking tools are not adapted to GenAI, and it may be difficult to develop that capability.
>
> Serious questions exist regarding intellectual property rights, confidentiality, privacy, and security. For example, concerns have been raised about whether intellectual property rights were respected in the building and training of the LLMs that underlie GenAI tools. . . . Litigation regarding the use of copyrighted works in training data for these tools is ongoing. Significant questions have arisen regarding how the submission of information to GenAI tools, e.g., in the form of prompts, respects laws and conventions around confidentiality and security.[113]

STM's white paper contained detailed and specific reasoning along with each recommendation. For example, rather than just stating that editors should not use generative AI to perform integrity checks to examine articles and monographs for copyright infringement and plagiarism, STM's white paper provides an in-depth explanation:

> Publicly available GenAI platforms, such as ChatGPT, should not be used for these tasks. Uploading submitted content to these platforms can result in confidentiality, privacy, and copyright breaches and infringements because there is no way to ensure that these systems comply with publishers' norms and standards.
>
> Some publishers are developing bespoke tools that address these issues and ensure that intellectual property and privacy are protected. These and other commercially available tools may be appropriate for editorial use as long as such controls are in place. The owner of a journal (for example, a publisher or society) is responsible for commercial relationships with specialized GenAI services and making such services available to editorial teams. Checks will need to be done to ensure that these services have implemented appropriate measures to respect copyright laws and security, privacy, and confidentiality requirements. Terms and conditions will also need to have been agreed upon between the journal owner and the specialized service.[114]

As illustrated above, STM distinguishes between publicly available generative AI tools and specialized, in-house generative AI tools, which are for internal use only and protect the privacy of generative AI inputs from public visibility. STM also notes that scholarly publishers are creating their own in-house AI tools to avoid concerns with confidentiality, privacy, and intellectual property. Of the five publishers examined in this article, Frontiers is one such example.[115]

---

[113] *Id.*

[114] *Id.*

[115] Frontiers states that they "provide an internal AI tool within the [peer] review forum, operating in a secure, closed environment . . . [that] helps . . . summariz[e] manuscript content, highlight areas for analysis, and assist in drafting constructive feedback - while fully preserving author privacy." *Editorial policies and publication ethics*, FRONTIERS, https://www.frontiersin.org/guidelines/policies-and-publication-ethics.

In general, STM's guidance for authors, editorial teams, and peer reviewers were consistent with the AI Policies of Oxford University Press, IEEE, Frontiers, Taylor & Francis, and De Gruyter Brill. Figure 3 shows a graphic created by STM to illustrate permitted and unpermitted AI use by authors, including whether disclosure of that use is necessary. These types of graphics are important and effective, clearly outlining the different scenarios and permissibility for generative AI use that can become muddled and confusing in text-only AI Policies.

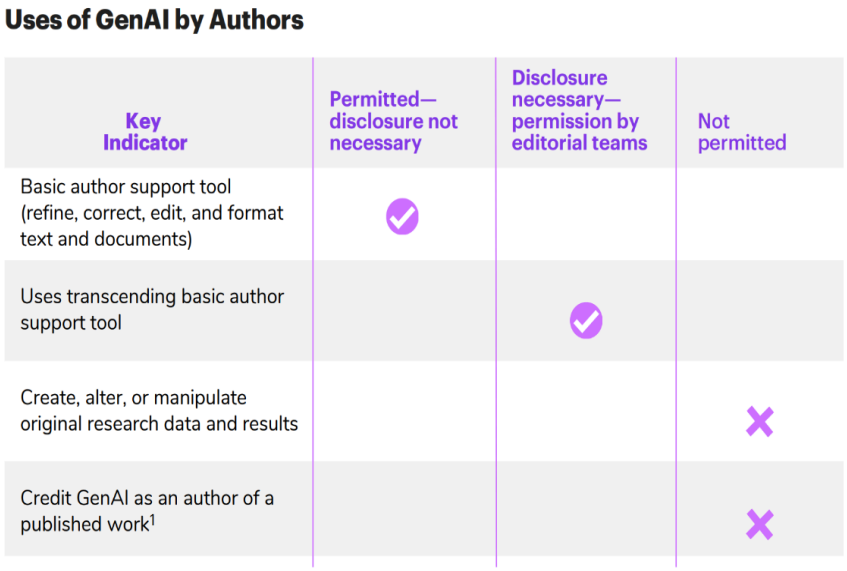


Figure 3: Diagram of STM's Permissible and Impermissible Uses of Generative AI by Authors
Source: STM White Paper on Generative AI in Scholarly Communications (2023)

STM's white paper also included three important copyright considerations that were not discussed in the other five publishers' AI policies. First, any third-party copyrighted content that an author obtained permission for in advance of publication, such as a block quote, might be later infringed if that content is uploaded to a generative AI system. Second, using generative AI to translate a copyrighted work would infringe upon an author's derivative rights. Third, since publicly-available generative AI tools reuse inputs for training LLM models, this training data "may not contain the licensing messages or conditions" that were inherent in the original copyrighted work.[116] To mitigate these risks, STM recommends using generative AI systems that guarantee confidentiality in

[116] *Id.*

their terms of use, obtaining all rights necessary for downstream uses, or anonymizing data before using it in AI systems.

Third-party vendors and readers are also addressed in STM's white paper, which is a perspective not addressed by the five publishers' AI Policies explored in this article. STM recommends that when contracting with third-party vendors for editorial services, publishers should check the terms and conditions of the contract to ensure that proper safeguards are in place to protect proprietary rights, privacy, and confidentiality. Readers are advised not to upload published manuscripts into generative AI tools. STM also recommends that scholarly publishers educate readers, peer reviewers, and authors about generative AI use in publishing and best practices.

In September 2025, STM published a new report: "Recommendations for a Classification of AI Use in Academic Manuscript Preparation," which was developed by STM's Task and Finish group on AI Labelling Terminology for Research Content Declaration.[117] Eleven members served on this task group, and over half of the representatives were from large commercial publishers, such as Taylor & Francis, Wiley, Elsevier, IEEE, Cambridge University Press, and Springer Nature.[118] In the report, STM expressed that "publisher guidelines have not kept pace" with educating the public about AI use in scholarly publishing, which has led to a lack of consistent standards in the scholarly publishing and scholarly communications ecosystem.[119] The most recent report "offers a clear framework to help publishers define, evaluate, and guide the transparent use of AI in manuscript preparation."[120]

The 2025 STM report does not prescribe a specific policy, but instead lays a basic foundation for publishers to develop their own AI policies by outlining clear definitions and terminologies related to AI use and disclosure in manuscript preparation. Before outlining recommendations, STM clarifies that their report does not aim to provide an unambiguous definition of artificial intelligence, which often causes confusion in the scholarly community as to what is considered an AI tool worthy of disclosure.[121] The report also does not classify uses of AI in research processes, such as collecting or analyzing raw data, or recommend or harmonize publisher policies around AI use and disclosure since expectations and standards around this topic may vary in different fields.[122]

STM's Recommended Classification of AI Activities include nine specified uses:

> (1) refinement, correction, editing, or formatting the manuscript to improve clarity of language;

---

[117] *New STM Draft Report: Classifying AI Use in Manuscript Preparation*, STM (2025), https://stm-assoc.org/new-stm-draft-report-classifying-ai-use-in-manuscript-preparation/.

[118] *Recommendations for a Classification of AI Use in Academic Manuscript Preparation*, STM (2025), https://stm-assoc.org/document/recommendations-for-a-classification-of-ai-use-in-academic-manuscript-preparation/.

[119] *Id.*

[120] *Id.*

[121] For example, opinions vary as to whether traditional spell-checkers or statistical software count as AI tools.

[122] *Id.*

(2) writing or drafting manuscript content;
(3) translation of manuscript text for the purpose of publishing;
(4) refining or formatting of data reported in the manuscript;
(5) generation, refinement, correction, editing or formatting of images, diagrams or other figures for illustrative purposes only;
(6) generation, refinement, correction, editing or formatting of visualizations of research data or results;
(7) refinement or formatting of code reported in the submitted manuscript;
(8) assisting with gathering references; and
(9) presentation of any kind of content generated by AI tools as though it were original research data/results from non-machine sources.[123]

For each of these nine uses, STM provides a description of the activity, gives examples of the activity, and also explains what the activity does not include. Figure 4 illustrates how STM captured this information in a visually readable format with clear headings, examples, and explanations.

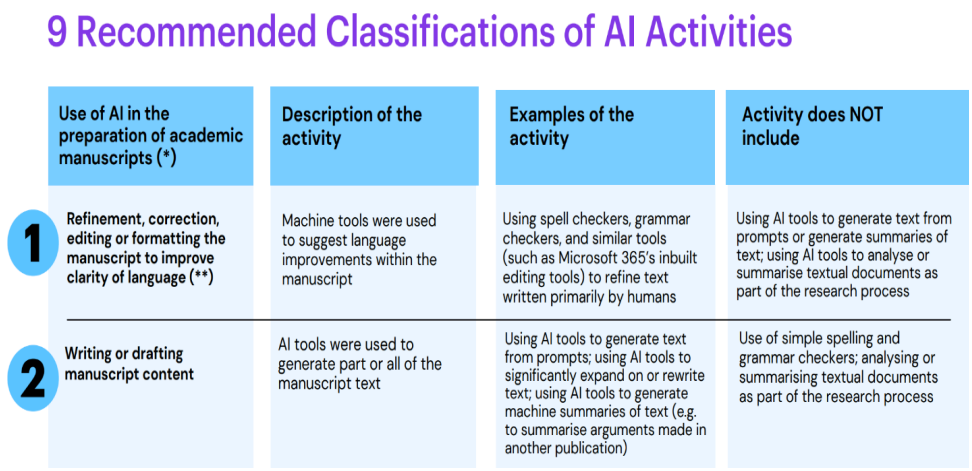


Figure 4: Diagram of STM's Recommended Classifications of AI Activities (#6-8)
Source: STM's Recommendations for a Classification of AI Use in Academic Preparation

This classification system is an important resource for publishers who may get questions from authors on AI uses that may not have yet been addressed by existing publisher AI policies. While STM's classification list is not exhaustive given the evolving nature of AI systems, it provides the documentation architecture necessary for keeping track of emerging AI uses in scholarly publishing and establishes certainty by

[123] *Id.*

introducing clear definitions and terminologies that are necessary for developing policy guidance.

D. Ever-evolving Scholarly Publishing AI Policies

This brief overview of publisher practices as it relates to AI-authored works and publication ethics provides a few different insights. First, the scholarly publishing community acknowledges that current guidelines and policies related to AI will change periodically given the dynamic, rapidly advancing nature of the technology.[124] Therefore, in five years, a similar review of scholarly publisher AI policies may look entirely different and address new challenges that the academic community has not yet envisioned. Second, scholarly publishers are gatekeepers of the scholarly record, and therefore, have an important role to play in educating authors, peer reviewers, editors, and third party vendors about permissible uses of AI in scholarly publishing to maintain the integrity and excellence of scholarly communications.[125] As a result, the design, frequency, and communication method of AI policies is just as important as the content of the policy itself. Third, through international organizations like COPE and STM, publishers and scholars are collaborating worldwide to provide clarity and certainty on publication ethics related to AI use, although some organizations are advancing more productively than others.[126] Fourth, although broad themes emerged across publishers' policies, there was little, if any, standardization. Moreover, despite collaborative efforts in the scholarly publishing ecosystem to define standards in AI publishing ethics, the

[124] *Chatbots, Generative AI, and Scholarly Manuscripts*, WAME (2024), https://wame.org/page3.php?id=106 ("In this rapidly evolving field, we will continue to modify these recommendations as the software and its applications develop."); *Generative AI in Scholarly Communications*, STM (2023), https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/stm.offloadmedia/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/10031822/STM-GENERATIVE-AI-PAPER-2023-1.pdf ("Developments in GenAI are highly dynamic and changing with unprecedented speed. For this reason, predicting how this technology will progress is difficult. This document reflects STM recommendations for best practices in the use of GenAI in the publication process that are based on the state of the technology at the time of its completion . . . [and] STM expects to update these recommendations regularly because of the highly dynamic nature of these technologies."); *AI-Policy for Authors*, *supra* note 83 ("Generative AI is evolving quickly, and we will be regularly reviewing and updating these guidelines, to enable our authors to use AI tools in a secure and ethical manner."); *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50 ("As the landscape around AI and its technical capabilities continues to evolve, these guidelines will be further updated in response to new developments.").

[125] *Generative AI in Scholarly Communications*, STM (2023), https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/stm.offloadmedia/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/10031822/STM-GENERATIVE-AI-PAPER-2023-1.pdf.

[126] *Recommendations for a Classification of AI Use in Academic Manuscript Preparation*, STM (2025), https://stm-assoc.org/document/recommendations-for-a-classification-of-ai-use-in-academic-manuscript-preparation/ ("Publisher guidelines have not kept pace with these technological developments, leading to uncertainty amongst: authors, about their obligations to declare their use of AI assistance; peer reviewers, about acceptable AI use and declarations in manuscripts; and readers, about AI- vs. human-generated content in publications."); Staiman, *supra* note 28.

pace of developing a robust, standardized policy has been glacial when compared to the rapid uptake of scholars using AI to produce publishable research.[127]

II. MAJOR THEMES IN SCHOLARLY PUBLISHERS AI POLICIES

Part I examined the AI ethics policies of five large, influential scholarly publishers—Oxford University Press, IEEE, Frontiers, Taylor & Francis, and De Gruyter Brill—along with policy recommendations from COPE and STM, two international nonprofits dedicated to advancing ethical and trustworthy standards in research and scholarly publishing. Part II identifies major themes from these policy examples, while also highlighting gaps and areas for improvement. Part III sets forth the ideal elements of an AI policy for scholarly publishers and provides recommendations for policy communication and design.

The important themes emerging from this small sample of AI policies include:

- Author Accountability, Disclosure, and Transparency
- The Use of Private AI Tools vs. Public AI Tools
- Unintended Rights Transfers with AI Platforms
- Copyright, Authorship, and AI

Each theme is discussed further below, and recommendations follow. It is important to note that the only theme that all five AI policies shared was the requirement that authors must disclose AI use. But that's where the commonality ended: each publisher had their own additional requirements as to what details were required in the disclosure, such as when the disclosure should be made in the publishing process. In aggregate, the only consistent element among each of the five AI policies was inconsistency. But should all publisher AI policies be standardized?

A. Author Accountability, Disclosure, and Transparency in the Shadow of AI Hallucinations

1. Accountability Guidelines

Four of the five scholarly publishers (Oxford University Press, Frontiers, Taylor & Francis, and De Gruyter Brill) highlighted author accountability in their AI policies.[128] Oxford University Press stated specific examples of what actions authors will be accountable for: (1) the "accuracy" of the scholarly work in light of AI hallucinations, fake citations, and insufficient attribution within AI-generated content; and (2) the "integrity" of the work in light of unintended bias and assumptions inherent to LLM tools that may have been trained on incomplete or outdated data.[129] Oxford University Press,

---

[127] Weixen Liang et al., *supra* note 10; Akram, *supra* note 9.
[128] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50; *Submission and Peer Review Policies*, *supra* note 59; *AI Policy, supra* note 76; *AI-Policy for Authors*, *supra* note 83.
[129] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50.

along with Taylor & Francis and Frontiers, also stressed the importance of checking the "originality" of the work in light of inadvertent plagiarism from AI-generated content. Although this can be achieved by using plagiarism-detecting software, if plagiarized content is reworded and contextualized without references and citations, then it would be very difficult for publishers to detect, correct, and substantiate.[130] Frontiers asks that authors specifically check quotes, citations, and references that were generated by an AI tool and to check AI-generated figures to confirm that the data is represented accurately. Other publishers like Taylor & Francis, by contrast, altogether prohibit the use of AI to create figures.[131]

The baseline recommendation for author accountability sections in publisher's AI policies should be to require authors to review specific instances of acceptable AI outputs for accuracy and to disclose acceptable AI use transparently.[132] Providing a checklist of items for authors to review would be helpful. Publishers should also provide further context on the importance of author accountability regarding AI use in the scholarly record, explaining that generative AI tools are statistical models that learn to generate new data by analyzing existing data,[133] and therefore, AI-generated outputs are not factual and may sometimes result in inaccuracies, hallucinations, or bias.[134] Examples of prohibited AI use and prohibited AI-generated outputs should be stated clearly in policy documents to prevent confusion and unnecessary fact-checking steps for authors. Likewise, acceptable AI outputs—whether figures, graphics, texts, or quotations—should also be clearly listed and defined by the publisher, especially since publishers inconsistently defined what was an acceptable output and what was not. It would also be helpful if publishers provided a range of examples to describe what "accountability" means with regards to originality, validity, accuracy, and integrity. Short hypothetical scenarios with questions and answers might be good vehicles for explaining this content.

2. Disclosure and Transparency

To entrench norms around author accountability, publishers require authors to disclose the use of AI or AI-generated content in their scholarly work. All five scholarly publishers required this disclosure—the only element that the five AI policies shared in common. However, the details as to what, when, where, and how disclosure should be made varied between the five publishers.

Oxford University Press has the most comprehensive disclosure standard, requiring authors (1) to disclose the use, or proposed use, of an AI tool "in detail" to the Acquisitions Editor in the early stages of submitting a research product; (2) to include a disclosure statement in the Acknowledgement and other relevant sections in a manuscript; and (3) to acknowledge AI use "in-text and/or in footnotes or endnotes, following the appropriate referencing convention."

---

[130] Sebastian Farquhar et al., *Detecting hallucinations in large language models using semantic entropy*, NATURE (June 19, 2024), https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-024-07421-0.
[131] *AI Policy*, *supra* note 76.
[132] *Id.*
[133] Adam Zewe, *Explained: Generative AI*, MIT NEWS (Nov. 9, 2023), https://news.mit.edu/2023/explained-generative-ai-1109.
[134] *What are AI Hallucinations?* IBM, https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/ai-hallucinations.

Similarly, Taylor & Francis' disclosure requirement was thorough, requiring authors to disclose "any use" of a Generative AI tool in the Methods or Acknowledgements section of a journal article or the preface or introduction of a book. Frontiers requires disclosure only when an author uses AI-generated or AI-edited text or visual content in their work, which should be placed in both the Acknowledgements and Methods section, if applicable. De Gruyter Brill clarifies that the use of AI for copyediting and proofreading does not need to be disclosed, but still requires authors to include a disclosure statement in the Acknowledgements section when an author uses AI tools for the design or methodology of a study or when any AI output has "significantly contributed" to the author's manuscript. Although not mandatory, IEEE recommends authors disclose the use of AI tools for grammar and editing, but does require authors to disclose the use of AI-generated content, including text, images, code, and figures, in the Acknowledgements section.

Publishers had different requirements for what should be included in the disclosure statement. Oxford University Press, Taylor & Francis, and Frontiers had similar requirements, including the name, version, model, and source of the AI tool. Oxford University Press and Taylor & Francis also required authors to disclose a description of how the AI tool was used and the reason for its use. Oxford University Press required additional information, including the specific location of the AI use in the text and the steps taken to validate the accuracy of the AI tool's output. IEEE requires authors to include the name of the AI tool, to identify the sections of the scholarly work where AI was used, and to explain how the AI tool was used to generate content. De Gruyter Brill does not specify exact requirements to be included in its disclosure statement.

One aspect of the disclosure statement that was less clear was the timing of disclosure. While three of the five publishers—Frontiers, De Gruyter Brill, and IEEE—require disclosure at the time of publication, Taylor & Francis and Oxford University Press require disclosure "at the earliest stage possible," whether at the proposal or writing stage so that editorial staff have the opportunity to vet an author's proposed use of an AI tool.

The variations in these AI disclosure rules put the onus on the author to know the policies of multiple publishers, potentially overcomplicating the submissions process and jeopardizing an author's opportunity to timely publish their work. Situations may arise when authors are forced to prematurely abandon research already completed if an editor becomes uncomfortable with the type or amount of AI used if discovered at the end of the writing or review stage. Moreover, without knowing these varying publisher requirements, authors may not accurately document their AI use as they complete their research and writing, which sometimes takes many months to complete. The timing aspect of these disclosures are therefore one of the most crucial aspects of disclosure principles that have real-world consequences for scholars. It is recommended that scholarly publishers clarify the timing of when disclosures should be given before a work is evaluated for publication.

The fact that all five publishers require AI disclosures are indicators that the scholarly publishing community is serious about fostering transparency and building trust when it comes to AI use. However, several studies show that disclosing AI use actually

harms trust. For example, one study looked at whether advertisements with AI disclosures were considered more trustworthy by consumers than those without AI disclosures.[135] Over 300 online participants participated in the study, which concluded that AI disclosures led consumers to develop negative beliefs about the appropriateness of the AI-generated content, leading to decreased trust in both the advertisement and the organization.[136] Another study analyzed thirteen experiments where AI disclosures were made in a variety of tasks, including communications, analytics, and artistry. The study concluded that AI disclosure "substantially diminishe[d] trust across various professional settings from academia to business management."[137] Also noteworthy was the study's finding that "framing the disclosure in different ways, knowing about AI usage prior to disclosure, or making AI disclosure mandatory or voluntary [did] not prevent trust erosion."[138] These contrary views regarding the efficacy of AI disclosures in building trust should be weighed carefully by the scholarly publishing ecosystem, who are gatekeepers for vetting the integrity of the scholarly record.

3. Author Liability

Author accountability is a crucial aspect of scholarly publisher AI policies because publishing hallucinated content has real world consequences that have the potential to levy enormous risks for scholarly publishers and the general public.[139] We know that AI has generated fake legal precedents in lawsuits[140] and can make life-threatening medical recommendations.[141] One study showed that ChatGPT, citing guidance from two medical organizations, recommended a prescription dosage that was 1,000 times lower than what a patient needed to be medically treated effectively. Not only was the dosage incorrect,

---

[135] Britta Koning & Hilde A. M. Voorveld, *Disclaimer! This Content Is AI-Generated: How AI-Disclosures Influence Trust in Advertisements and Organizations*, 25 J. OF INTERACTIVE ADVERTISING 240 (Sept. 30, 2025), https://awspntest.apa.org/record/2026-72213-001.

[136] *Id.*

[137] Oliver Schilke & Martin Reimann, *The transparency dilemma: How AI disclosure erodes trust*, 188 ORG. BEHAVIOR & HUM. DECISION PROCESSES 104405 (May 2025), https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0749597825000172.

[138] *Id.*

[139] Chanley Howell, *AI Hallucinations are Creating Real-World Risks for Businesses*, NAT'L. L. REV. (Sept. 24, 2025), https://natlawreview.com/article/ai-hallucinations-are-creating-real-world-risks-businesses (noting that Google's Bard (now Gemini) chatbot claimed that the James Webb Space Telescope took the first picture of an exoplanet—an inaccurate statement that caused Google's stock to drop 8-9% after the live chatbot demo).

[140] Sara Merken, *New York lawyers sanctioned for using fake ChatGPT cases in legal brief*, REUTERS (June 26, 2023), https://www.reuters.com/legal/new-york-lawyers-sanctioned-using-fake-chatgpt-cases-legal-brief-2023-06-22/.

[141] Karen Blum, *Watch out for fake, AI-generated medical information*, ASS'N. OF HEALTH CARE JOURNALISTS (Dec. 27, 2023), https://healthjournalism.org/blog/2023/12/watch-out-for-fake-ai-generated-medical-information/; Jocelyn Gravel et al., *Learning to Fake It: Limited Responses and Fabricated References Provided by ChatGPT for Medical Questions*, 1 MAYO CLINIC PROCEEDINGS: DIG. HEALTH 226 (Sept. 2023), https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2949761223000366.

but the citations used to support ChatGPT's recommendations were nonexistent.[142] The question academic publishers face is reputational. If AI-hallucinations appear in academic publications, how will this impact the reliability and reputation of scholarly publishers?

Author liability is one way scholarly publishers can enforce author accountability for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of their work when AI has been used in the process. But how can scholarly publishers enforce standards and hold authors liable for misconduct? Can ethical misconduct be reliably identified? What type of repercussions exist in the scholarly publishing ecosystem when an author breaches publication ethics? These are emerging questions that the scholarly publishing community must address.

Liability, or some general punitive statement, for author accountability was mentioned in three of the five AI policies. For example, Oxford University Press' AI policy warns:

> Authors are therefore liable for any breach of publication or research ethics from their use of Gen AI tools. This includes inaccuracy, so-called "hallucination" (where the Gen AI tool simply makes things up, including plausible-sounding citations), a lack of full attribution and referencing, inadvertent plagiarism, and bias.[143]

De Gruyter Brill's AI policy also states that authors are liable for breach of publication ethics when they fail to verify the accuracy of their work and warns that authors will be solely and fully responsible for any inaccuracies, suggesting that the producer of the AI tool will evade secondary liability for any ethical breach or harms stemming from that breach.[144] Taylor & Francis refrains from using liability language, instead calling out unethical conduct that would be subject to "editorial investigation."[145] Taylor & Francis, however, provided no further explanation about what an investigation might entail. Frontiers and IEEE do not reference liability in their policies.[146]

Despite warnings about author liability for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of a scholarly work when using AI, none of the five publishers discussed internationally-accepted AI-related ethical standards in the "accountability" sections of their AI policies, not even those developed by COPE and STM.[147] It is thus

---

[142] Giri Viswanathan, *ChatGPT struggles to answer medical questions, new research finds*, CNN HEALTH (Dec. 10, 2023, 8:49AM), https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/10/health/chatgpt-medical-questions.

[143] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50.

[144] *AI-Policy for Authors*, *supra* note 83.

[145] *AI Policy, supra* note 76. (Conduct includes "text or code generation without rigorous revision, synthetic data generation to substitute missing data without robust methodology, and generation of any type of content which is inaccurate including abstracts or supplemental materials.").

[146] *Submission and Peer Review Policies*, *supra* note 59; *Policies and Publication Ethics, supra* note 67.

[147] *Authorship and AI tools, supra* note 93. COPE, which sets standards in publication ethics worldwide, references liability for any breach of publication ethics related to the use of an AI tool

recommended that publishers give authors more information and resources as to what AI-related publication ethics standards are at play here. Authors should have a clear understanding of what AI use creates liability and how any investigatory process might work, including the repercussions for a breach. For example, only one publisher—Oxford University Press—notes specific instances that would put authors at risk of a breach and highlights "AI hallucinations" as one of those examples.

4. Repercussions for Ethical Misconduct: Myth or Fact?

When authors breach AI-related publishing ethics, what happens next? It is unclear: none of the five publisher's AI policies explain the repercussions or the actions that follow once misconduct occurs. According to COPE, editorial offices should develop guidelines to respond promptly to suspected ethical breaches by authors, reviewers, and editors.[148] COPE suggests that editorial offices do the following: (1) designate a contact person for receiving ethical inquiries and complaints; (2) promptly correct the misconduct; (3) communicate the misconduct to an author's institution, employee, or funding agency; (4) create an appeals process; (5) develop a process to investigate and manage editor, reviewer, and staff misconduct; and (6) if needed, seek independent legal advice.[149] COPE does not recommend punitive actions, but rather recommends an educational approach to remediating ethical problems and even encourages editors to be lenient for authors from countries "where ethical norms are not well entrenched."[150] According to COPE, an author's institution should be contacted only when the author exhibits repeated patterns of misconduct.[151] When institutions get involved, COPE also warns about the potential for uncooperative or biased institutional review committees.[152]

The fact that repercussions for scholarly misconduct are non-punitive and may not even be a concern for academic institutions sheds doubt about whether AI-related concerns will be taken seriously by the scholarly publishing community and whether the current approach will successfully deter bad behavior. The fact that ethical misconduct can be treated with a vast degree of discretion from country to country is also concerning—instead, ethical norms related to AI use in scholarly publishing should be upheld as an international standard.

Even though the repercussions for AI-related ethical misconduct remain a mystery and have yet to be clearly communicated to academic authors, liability for AI hallucinations and falsifications may carry significant downstream legal risks for scholarly publishers and academic authors beyond a breach of publishing ethics,

---

in a scholarly manuscript, yet the five publishers did not refer to COPE's policy in their author accountability sections.

[148] *Develop guidelines for promptly responding to suspected ethical breaches by authors, reviewers, and editors*, COPE, https://publicationethics.org/guidance/guideline/ethics-toolkit-successful-editorial-office/develop-guidelines-responding-suspected-ethical-breaches.

[149] *Id.*

[150] *Consequence for dual submission*, COPE (2017), https://publicationethics.org/guidance/case/consequence-dual-submission.

[151] *Id.*

[152] *Institutional investigation of authorship dispute*, COPE (2016), https://publicationethics.org/guidance/case/institutional-investigation-authorship-dispute.

including the potential for defamation, libel, fraud, and even potential tort and negligence claims.[153] While lawsuits dealing with contractual breaches of publishing ethics are not common, there have been cases where universities have sued professors for fraud and tortious interference with a business relationship for publishing plagiarized articles that led to the professor's reappointment and awarding of a research grant.[154] Universities have also been sued by federal regulators for violating regulations, such as the False Claims Act, for submitting falsified research to federal agencies that awarded hundreds of millions in grants to support research and clinic programs.[155] Hallucinations produced by AI may present more avenues of risk for the research ecosystem, from publishers to universities to the medical patients who may be relying on research outcomes to their physical and mental detriment.[156] As a result, scholarly publisher AI policies may require even stricter standards or outright AI bans, especially for health and science-related disciplines.

5. The Trouble With Identifying Ethical Misconduct

When AI-related unethical behavior is suspected, how do editorial offices and scholarly publishers identify and verify bad conduct? Although none of the five publishers articulated in their AI policies how they would evaluate scholarly works for AI-generated content or what tools they would use, publishers are mulling over this question. In a COPE podcast from September 2025, COPE members from two large publishers—Wiley and Frontiers—discussed the tools that publishers can use to detect AI use and their potential limitations.[157] In the podcast, the Director of AI Products &

---

[153] Eugene Volokh, (2023) *Large Libel Models? Liability for AI Output*, J. OF FREE SPEECH L. https://www.journaloffreespeechlaw.org/volokh4.pdf; James Andrews, *What Starbuck v. Google Reveals About AI Liability*. THE REGULATORY REV. (Dec. 22, 2025), https://www.theregreview.org/2025/12/22/andrews-what-starbuck-v-google-reveals-about-ai-liability/.

[154] Ju Yoen Lee, *Korean court cases regarding research and publication ethics from 2009 to 2020*, SCI. EDITING (Feb. 20, 2021), https://www.escienceediting.org/journal/view.php?doi=10.6087/kcse.236#.

[155] Press Release, *Duke University Agrees to Pay U.S. $112.5 Million to Settle False Claims Act Allegations Related to Scientific Research Misconduct*, U.S. DEPT. OF. JUST. (Mar. 25, 2019), https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/duke-university-agrees-pay-us-1125-million-settle-false-claims-act-allegations-related.

[156] M. Ashwin et al., *Fake it till you make it? AI hallucinations and ethical dilemmas in Anesthesia research and practice*, 41 J. OF ANESTHESIOLOGY CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY 381 (June 2025), https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12237199/ (noting that AI tools invented fictional medications, such as "hyperactivated antibiotics" and gave a detailed, yet incorrect response with a fictitious citing when asked about liver involvement in a late-stage disease.); Bolaji David Oladokun et al., *Hallucitation in Scientific Writing: Exploring Evidence from ChatGPT Versions 3.5 and 4o in Responses to Selected Questions in Librarianship,* 19 J. OF WEB LIBRARIANSHIP 62 (Apr. 20, 2025), https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19322909.2025.2482093.

[157] *Beyond detection: Responsible use of AI across peer review and authorship podcast*, COPE (2025), https://publicationethics.org/news-opinion/ethics-ai-peer-review-podcast.

Strategy at Wiley stated that over 50 tools exist to detect AI-generated text, such as Grammarly, Turnitin, Winston AI Original AI, detectGPT, and Scramble, and there are similar, although fewer tools for AI-generated image detection.[158] Springer Nature—a major scholarly publisher—also created two in-house AI detection tools, called "Geppetto" and "SnappShot."[159]

The podcast speakers also gave suggestions about how to discuss suspected AI misuse with authors—the general recommendation being that editors should "query" instead of "accuse."[160] Another recommendation was made that manuscripts should not be rejected outright based on suspicions of AI use without appropriate author disclosures unless there is conclusive evidence of serious misconduct,[161] and that editors should "proceed proportionately based on the evidence that is available."[162] This cautious stance is reasonable since numerous studies have shown that AI detector tools are not accurate.[163] Although AI companies are researching better ways to develop provenance techniques for AI-generated text, the low rate of accuracy makes these tools unreliable for scholarly publishers to use to identify AI-related ethical misconduct. Since unethical behavior can neither be confidently detected nor proven, to what degree will authors and peer reviewers take AI policies seriously? This signals that scholarly publishers need to rebuild trust in the scholarly community in other ways, such as creating and communicating clear AI policies that not only describe the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable use, but that encourage the practice of AI disclosure in a way that fosters openness and transparency, rather than merely compliance with a rule that seems to have potential punitive consequences.[164]

---

[158] *Id.*

[159] *Springer Nature unveils two new AI tools to protect research integrity*, SPRINGER NATURE (June 2024), https://group.springernature.com/gp/group/media/press-releases/new-research-integrity-tools-using-ai/27200740.

[160] *Id.*

[161] Serious misconduct might include repeated submissions of AI-generated manuscripts by paper mill companies.

[162] *Id.*

[163] *AI Detectors Don't Work. Here's What to Do Instead*, MIT MGMT., https://mitsloanedtech.mit.edu/ai/teach/ai-detectors-dont-work/; Benj Edwards, *Why AI writing detectors don't work*, ARSTECHNICA (July 14, 2023), https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2023/07/why-ai-detectors-think-the-us-constitution-was-written-by-ai/; Jason Nelson, *OpenAI Quietly Shuts Down Its AI Detection Tool*, EMERGE (July 24, 2023), https://decrypt.co/149826/openai-quietly-shutters-its-ai-detection-tool.

[164] *Beyond detection: Responsible use of AI across peer review and authorship podcast*, *supra* note 157.

B. The Use of Private AI Tools vs. Public AI Tools

An emerging development in publisher-created AI policies is the distinction publishers are making between the use of proprietary or private AI tools and publicly available AI tools in different scholarly publishing processes, such as peer review and language editing. Although publicly available AI tools, such as ChatGPT, are useful for increasing productivity and improving writing style, we know that they come with the risk of hallucinations, bias, inaccuracies, limited logical reasoning abilities, privacy and copyright concerns, the inability to self-correct, and overconfidence. In fact, scholars suggest that ChatGPT and other publicly available AI tools should only be used by experts who can vet the veracity of AI-generated content in order to prevent overreliance and errors from creeping into the scholarly record.[165] Does this mean that private, in-house AI tools present less risk to authors and scholarly publishers?

In 2023, STM stated that in-house tools or privately-owned commercial products were permissible as long as the author disclosed its use and the publisher conducted an adequate review of the AI tool to ensure that measures were taken to protect the security, privacy, copyright, and confidentiality of an author's work.[166] Out of the five publisher AI policies, two publishers—Frontiers and Oxford University Press—mentioned proprietary or in-house tools. Frontiers even provides its peer reviewers with a customized version that operates in a "secure, closed environment" that "helps by summarizing manuscript content, highlighting areas for analysis, and assisting in drafting constructive feedback—while fully preserving author privacy."[167] Oxford University Press refers authors to AI tools provided by their institutions that offer "clear content protection policies" and the ability to opt-out of data training and reuse.[168] COPE Council Members have stated that other publishers are looking into similar internal tools that can control for privacy, confidentiality, and security risks, but they also stress that peer review should be conducted by a "peer" rather than a machine.[169] The provision of internal AI tools to peer reviewers, developed by scholarly publishers, should raise concerns about user data and surveillance related to how AI-assisted peer review is conducted on publisher-hosted platforms—which may unearth new issues that might undermine or question the expertise, thoroughness, logic, bias or subjectivity of peer reviewers and, more importantly, the decisions to accept or reject a manuscript that were made as a result of AI-mediated peer reviews and related processes. On the other hand, it may provide much-needed transparency to these important decisions.

---

[165] Amos Azaria et al., *ChatGPT is a Remarkable Tool—For Experts*, 6 DATA INTELLIGENCE 240 (Feb. 1, 2024), https://direct.mit.edu/dint/article/6/1/240/118046/ChatGPT-is-a-Remarkable-Tool-For-Experts.

[166] *Generative AI in Scholarly Communications [White Paper]*, *supra* note 111.

[167] *Policies and Publication Ethics*, *supra* note 67.

[168] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50.

[169] *Beyond detection: Responsible use of AI across peer review and authorship podcast, supra* note 157.

The baseline recommendation for providing guidance in AI policies about the use of private vs. public AI tools is to clearly define the prohibited and acceptable uses for both categories of tools (and emerging ones), including the risks and limitations of doing so. STM's 2023 Generative AI white paper provides a good starting point.[170] In the white paper, STM recommended that authors could use publicly available generative AI platforms, like ChatGPT, to refine, correct, format, and edit documents; however, peer reviewers, on the other hand, were prohibited from these same activities since "confidentiality and privacy are more important at the review stage."[171] STM also recognized that publicly available generative AI platforms should not be used to perform "integrity checks," which include scans for copyright infringement, unauthorized reuse, paraphrasing, and plagiarism since these uses might breach confidentiality, privacy, and copyright.[172]

According to STM's white paper, in-house tools or privately-contracted commercial products were permissible as long as the author disclosed its use and the publisher conducted an adequate review of the AI tool to ensure that measures were taken to protect the security, privacy, copyright, and confidentiality of an author's work. Transparent disclosure is crucial here for three reasons: (1) publishers and editorial offices will better understand the new and emerging ways that researchers are using AI in their research; (2) researchers may be inspired by another researcher's creative AI use; and (3) required AI disclosures normalize the process of discussing AI use in research, making it much less likely for researchers to hide their behavior, which may inadvertently foster distrust.[173] If internal AI tools are provided for peer review, then publishers should supply flow charts that indicate the specific points in the process when peer reviewers are allowed to use such a tool to prevent the availability of the technology from simply superseding a peer reviewer's critical thinking and decision-making value.[174]

C. Unintended Rights Transfers with AI Platforms

Another important theme in AI policies is that publishers are warning the scholarly publishing community about the risk of unintended rights transfers when using AI platforms. Do authors—who have the most to lose here—understand what they may be giving up when they sign up to use a new AI tool or enter proprietary or private information into an AI chatbot? Terms and conditions, which many once viewed as "the most boring thing on the internet," are now being flagged as critical areas that authors should pay attention to before using an AI tool.[175]

The risks of ignoring or glossing over terms and conditions in the age of AI was a rude wakeup call for many creators when, in July 2025, WeTransfer—one of the most

---

[170] *Generative AI in Scholarly Communications [White Paper]*, *supra* note 111.
[171] *Id.*
[172] *Id.*
[173] *Beyond detection: Responsible use of AI across peer review and authorship podcast, supra* note 157.
[174] Amos Azaria et al., *supra* note 165.
[175] Chas Newkey-Burden, *Why AI means it's more important than ever to check terms and conditions*. THE WEEK (Aug. 4, 2025), https://theweek.com/tech/ai--terms-and-conditions (noting that, in 2014, a group of Londoners agreed to trade their first-born child in exchange for free wifi when they accessed a hotspot in Canary Wharf).

popular file-sharing platforms in the creative industry—updated its terms of service that granted the company extensive rights to content uploaded by users: "hidden in the legal fine print [was] . . . not only the right to host or display files, but to reproduce, modify, commercialize, and even use them to train machine learning models."[176] Much of the content shared on WeTransfer was "sensitive, proprietary, or unreleased."[177] There was a swift backlash from the public, and as a result, WeTransfer was pressured to retract the most controversial elements in its terms and reassure its users that "it does not use customer data to train AI, nor does it sell or share content with third parties."[178]

There are obvious analogies to be drawn here between users of WeTransfer and the unwitting authors and peer reviewers who use AI platforms for research, language editing, and idea generation in the scholarly publishing process—where sensitive, proprietary, and unpublished content that may be protected by intellectual property or third-party rights are now vulnerable to platform overreach. Reuse rights are also problematic for publishers, not just authors. If an author enters original work into an AI platform, the author's ability to reuse any derivative work generated by the AI tool may prevent a publisher from later accepting the work for publication. The same is true if an author's original work is inadvertently scooped by another scholar using an AI tool when the author's inputs are stored and used for AI training. Given the economic and private rights involved, this issue is an important one for publishers to address and authors to understand.

Three of the five scholarly publishers—Oxford University Press, Taylor & Francis, and De Gruyter Brill—put authors on notice about this risk of unintended rights transfers hidden in the terms and conditions of AI tools.[179] Oxford University Press, for example, advises authors to "carefully review the terms of service" since generative AI tools "may retain and be trained on the information you enter or upload as a prompt, which may inform the AI's future outputs and inadvertently lead to plagiarism of your work."[180] Oxford University Press also advises authors to avoid using AI tools that do not give them the option to opt-out of extensive grants of rights and to opt-out when possible.[181] Similarly, De Gruyter Brill warns authors: "[a]s a default, you should assume that everything you enter into an AI system can be stored, processed, and used for training."[182] De Gruyter Brill also advises authors to choose AI tools that enable an author to "disable the storage of data for training, turn off the memory or tracking history, and delete your chat history."[183] Taylor & Francis states that "[a]t present, generative AI tools are often used on third-party platforms that may not offer sufficient standards of confidentiality,

---

[176] *A Clause Too Far: Why WeTransfer's Terms of Service Update Sparked Outrage—And What It Means for Trust in AI*, WIRE (July 16, 2025), https://wire.com/en/blog/wetransfers-terms-of-service-update.
[177] *Id.*
[178] *Id.*
[179] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50; *AI-Policy for Authors*, *supra* note 83.
[180] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50.
[181] *Id.*
[182] *AI-Policy for Authors*, *supra* note 83.
[183] *Id.*

data security, or copyright protection" and may therefore "reuse the input or output data from user interactions . . . which could infringe on the rights of authors and publishers, among others."[184]

Because terms and conditions are typically long and complicated, full of technical and legal jargon that most people would find difficult to understand, scholarly publishers should consider providing guidance to authors on how to read the Terms and Conditions on AI platforms and help authors locate and understand key words, definitions, and phrases related to training rights, use restrictions, and responsibility for outputs, among other recommendations.[185]

D. Copyright, Authorship, and AI

1. What Does Authorship Mean?

Another theme in publisher AI policies is the question of authorship and AI. Can AI tools be listed as authors? How do scholarly publishers define authorship? How does copyright law interact with AI authorship?

Four of the five publishers—Taylor & Francis, Oxford University Press, De Gruyter Brill, and Frontiers—agreed that AI tools cannot be listed as authors. However, different reasons were given by each publisher, some more basic and superficial than others. Taylor & Francis notes that AI tools are unable to assume responsibility for the submitted content, manage copyright and license agreements, take accountability for content, consent to publication through a publishing agreement, and give contractual assurances about the integrity of a work.[186] De Gruyter Brill explained that AI tools "cannot take responsibility for the submitted work and therefore cannot be considered as authors."[187] Oxford University Press stated that "Gen AI does not qualify as an author and should not be used to undertake primary authorial responsibilities, such as generating arguments and scientific insights, writing analysis, or drawing conclusions."[188] Frontiers explains "[a]uthors should not list a generative AI technology as a co-author or author of any submitted manuscript . . . [as these technologies] cannot be held accountable for all aspects of a manuscript and consequently do not meet the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICJME) criteria for authorship."[189] IEEE did not discuss AI authorship.[190]

Frontiers was the only publisher to provide authors with context on what authorship means by referencing ICJME's four criteria:

---

[184] *AI Policy, supra* note 76.
[185] Peter Cramer, *3 Items to Check When Evaluating AI Terms and Conditions*, PROKRAUER (Oct. 10, 2023), https://www.proskauer.com/pub/3-items-to-check-when-evaluating-ai-terms-and-conditions.
[186] *AI Policy*, *supra* note 76.
[187] *AI-Policy for Authors*, *supra* note 83.
[188] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50.
[189] *Policies and Publication Ethics*, *supra* note 67; *Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors*, *supra* note 66.
[190] *Submission and Peer Review Policies*, *supra* note 59.

> (1) "substantial conceptions of the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND (2) drafting the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; AND (3) final approval of the version to be published; AND (4) agreement to be held accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.[191]

Given that the other publishers did not reference any criteria or define authorship, there is no shared understanding as to what authorship actually means among publishers. Authors who publish in Frontiers will understand authorship to be defined by the ICJME standards; however, they may also think about authorship using the CRediT Taxonomy, which Frontiers also links to in its publishing policies.[192] This taxonomy, which was approved as a NISO standard, can be used to describe key contributions to the development of a research output.[193] For example, someone who prepares a data visualization or supervises a research project can receive authorship status, despite not actually contributing to the writing and developing of a research product.[194] One scholar suggests that COPE's criteria for authorship, which requires an element of "responsibility" or "answerability" for a scholarly work, is wrong.[195] Instead, the scholar argues that although AI cannot answer questions about a given work, "answerability" is not required for authorship in the sciences.[196] The scholar also reminds us that "criteria for authorship are themselves not entirely settled (and differ from discipline to discipline.)"[197] Amidst this debate and confusion over what it means to be an author in the age of AI, the definition of authorship under copyright law is completely absent from all five publisher policies.

2. The Need to Be Human

Authorship defined under copyright law is an altogether different story—with which, sadly, many authors may be unfamiliar.[198] The Copyright Act protects "original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression, now known or later developed, from which they can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or

---

[191] *Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors*, *supra* note 66.
[192] *Id.*; *Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT)*, https://credit.niso.org/.
[193] *Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT)*, *supra* note 192.
[194] *Id.*
[195] Neil Levy, *Responsibility is not required for authorship*, 51 J. OF MEDICAL ETHICS 230 (Mar. 6, 2024), https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38749650/.
[196] *Id.*
[197] *Id.*
[198] Christian Freed, *On Guard: Self-Published Authors Must Know Their Rights*, INDEP. BOOK PUBLISHERS ASS'N. PUBSPOT (Oct. 1, 2022), https://pubspot.ibpa-online.org/article/on-guard-self-published-authors-must-know-their-rights#:~:text=It%20is%20important%20to%20note,forth%20in%20the%20publishing%20world (noting that many authors and publishers fail to understand the laws that protect them.).

with the aid of a machine or device."[199] Under copyright law, humans are required for authorship, and the US Copyright Office will only register works that are created by humans.[200] This principle has been repeatedly upheld by courts. In 1884, the court in *Burrow-Giles Lithographic Co. v. Sarony* emphasized that the "fruits of intellectual labor" must be from that of human effort.[201] Over 134 years later, in 2018, the Ninth Circuit in *Naruto v. Slater* recognized that animals—including monkeys who take selfies—are excluded from being authors under copyright law.[202]

Advances in technology have raised challenging questions about authorship, especially when the technology plays a role in the creation or co-creation of an original work. When an AI tool autonomously creates a work, the resulting output is not copyrightable, and the AI tool is not an author by copyright law standards. Both the federal district court and federal court of appeals in *Thaler v. Perlmutter* underlined this principle, holding that an AI-generated image could not be registered with the U.S. Copyright Office.[203] The court in *Thaler* also confirmed that only humans—not AI tools—can be authors of copyrighted works.[204]

We also know that works that are created with the assistance of technology can still be copyrighted, but the level of humanness that is used in that process of creation matters greatly in order to qualify for copyright status. The U.S. Copyright Office explains:

> For a work created using AI, like those created without it, a determination of copyrightability requires fact-specific consideration of the work and the circumstances of its creation. Where AI merely assists an author in the creative process, its use does not change the copyrightability of the output. At the other extreme, if content is entirely generated by AI, it cannot be protected by copyright.[205] Between these boundaries, various forms and combinations of human contributions can be involved in producing AI outputs.[206]

This guidance clarifies that copyright status extends only to AI-generated works where there has been meaningful human contributions: "[c]opyright law has long adapted to new technology and can enable case-by-case determinations as to whether AI-generated outputs reflect sufficient human contribution to warrant copyright protection."[207] Yet, these case-by-case determinations may prove to be difficult. The Copyright Office further explains: "the use of a machine as a tool does not negate copyright protection, but

---

[199] 17 U.S.C. §102(a).

[200] U.S. Copyright Office, *Copyrightable Authorship: What Can Be Registered?* (Jan. 28, 2021), https://www.copyright.gov/comp3/chap300/ch300-copyrightable-authorship.pdf.

[201] 111 U.S. 53, 58 (1884).

[202] 888 F.3d 418, 426 (9th Cir. 2018).

[203] *See Thaler v. Perlmutter*, No. 22-cv-01564 (BAH), 2023 WL 5333236 (D.D.C. Aug. 18, 2023); *Thaler v. Perlmutter*, No. 23-5233 (D.C. 2025).

[204] *Id.*

[205] *See Thaler v. Perlmutter*, 687 F. Supp. 3d 140, 149–50 (D.D.C. 2023).

[206] *Copyright and Artificial Intelligence, Part 2: Copyrightability*, U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE (Jan. 2025), https://www.copyright.gov/ai/Copyright-and-Artificial-Intelligence-Part-2-Copyrightability-Report.pdf.

[207] *Id.*

the resulting work is copyrightable only if it contains sufficient human-authored expressive elements."[208] What is considered "sufficient" is a subjective inquiry and will likely form the basis of a large, forthcoming body of case law on the matter.

None of the five scholarly publishers discussed these complicated copyright questions in their AI policies. Recent developments in case law and copyright guidance were also not referenced, but this is unsurprising given the international scope of the publishers' audiences and the insufficient use of U.S. law to tackle these complex questions on an international, comparative law scale. Nevertheless, at a minimum, scholarly publishers should understand how copyright and AI intersect and provide resources that guide authors where to find further information about how their rights may be affected when using generative AI to produce a scholarly work.

E. Emerging Developments

This section briefly describes two emerging developments in scholarly publishing AI policies where further research is needed: (1) the use of AI in peer review processes; and (2) the use of AI for translations.

1. The Use of AI in Peer Review

COPE Council Members note that the most controversial use of AI in scholarly publishing is for peer review.[209] Thus far, little guidance has been developed in the scholarly publishing community on the contours of acceptable and unacceptable use for this purpose. Scholarly publishers are finding it easier to simply prohibit the use of AI in peer review entirely rather than communicate nuanced messaging in AI policies that might confuse peer reviewers.[210] Without guidance, peer reviewers may not be aware that they should not upload manuscripts to an AI platform, which could lead to a breach in confidentiality of the author's work, the loss of private or proprietary information, the exposure of sensitive information, and the jeopardizing of intellectual property rights.[211]

All five scholarly publishers prohibit peer reviewers from uploading manuscripts into AI tools, although Frontiers allows peer reviewers to use an internal tool that it created for peer review purposes. Taylor & Francis was the only scholarly publisher to permit peer reviewers to use generative AI for language editing. The use of proprietary, internal AI tools for peer review may be an option that other publishers are considering given the slow and ineffective nature of the process, which has led to a crisis of sorts in scholarly publishing.[212] In fact, one study showed that the use of AI reduced the time to

---

[208] *Id.*

[209] *Beyond detection: Responsible use of AI across peer review and authorship podcast*, *supra* note 157.

[210] *Id.*

[211] *Author use of Artificial Intelligence*, *supra* note 50.

[212] David Adam, *The peer-review crisis: how to fix an overloaded system*, NATURE (Aug. 6, 2025), https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-02457-2.

conduct peer review by 30%.[213] Similarly, another study showed that these efficiency gains can revitalize the scholarly record and prevent research from going stale.[214] At the same time, there are serious challenges with using AI in peer review processes: research shows that the AI use in peer review can also have a destabilizing effect on academic identities and researcher expertise by "simply reinforc[ing] existing biases."[215] Furthermore, "reviews can be biased, incorrect, or incomplete.[216]

As scholarly publishers continue to weigh the pros and cons with AI use in peer review or find other ways to proactively protect the confidentiality and copyrightability of unpublished scholarly work, it is recommended that AI policies reflect the need for "peers" in this process: "human character [in] research . . . is much more about curiosity, exploration and fascination than it is about solving data-in-data-out problems."[217]

2. The Use of AI for Translations

The use of AI for translations, whether by peer reviewers, readers, or editors, is an emerging consideration for scholarly publishers. Only two publishers out of the five—Taylor & Francis and Oxford University Press—supported the use of AI for translation purposes. De Gruyter Brill, IEEE, and Frontiers did not provide information on this topic.

STM lists translation as a key AI activity in its classification system[218] and also notes the copyright implications in its Generative AI white paper: "translating a copyrighted work creates a derivative work, and making or authorizing a translation is the exclusive right of the copyright holder."[219] While translating a copyrighted work would not necessarily be an issue for the author, it would present challenges for peer reviewers, readers, or editors who are not native-speakers of the language used by the author to write the scholarly work. Pursuant to copyright law, permission would be needed before an entire work could be translated when evaluated for publication, unless for accessibility purposes. But is this a practical solution?

---

[213] Maciej J. Mrowinski et al., *Artificial intelligence in peer review: how can evolutionary computation support journal editors?*, 12 PLoS ONE 12(9):e0184711 (Sept. 20, 2017), https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184711.

[214] Ahmed Saad et al., *Exploring the potential of ChatGPT in the peer review process: An observational study,*18 Diabetes Metabolic Syndrome 102946 (Feb. 2024), https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38330745/.

[215] Alessandro Checco et al., *AI-assisted peer review*, 8 Hum. Soc. Sci. Commc'n. 1 (2021), https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-020-00703-8?utm_source=researchgate.net&utm_medium=article; Gemma Derrick, The Evaluator's eye: Impact Assessment and Academic Peer Review (Springer 2018); Jennifer Chubb et al., *Speeding up to keep up: exploring the use of AI in the research process*, 37 AI & Soc. 1439 (Oct. 15, 2022), https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-021-01259-0.

[216] Kunming Cheng et al., *Generative artificial intelligence is infiltrating peer review process*, 28 Critical Care 149 (May 7, 2024), https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11077838/.

[217] Chubb et al., *supra* note 215.

[218] *New STM Draft Report: Classifying AI Use in Manuscript Preparation*, STM (2025), https://stm-assoc.org/new-stm-draft-report-classifying-ai-use-in-manuscript-preparation/.

[219] *Generative AI in Scholarly Communications [White Paper]*, *supra* note 111.

Copyright is not the only concern here—AI translations may not fully capture the essence of an author's work: "[m]achine translations may do perfect jobs in cross-language transfers with definite terminologies, those of repetitive nature, as well as those of daily usages, etc. But when it comes to the broad issues about human spirits, cultures, and humanities, the scenario becomes quite different."[220] Given concerns over copyright and accuracy, scholarly publishers and the copyright community should consider the implications of using AI tools to translate a copyrighted work and provide practical solutions that avoid risks of copyright infringement or bias and error that may occur when a work is incorrectly translated. Permission could be granted in publishing agreements, or policy makers could consider advocating for the recognition of a fair use exception for research purposes even when the entire scholarly work is translated.

III. THE IDEAL AI POLICY FOR SCHOLARLY PUBLISHERS

This article has analyzed five AI policies from some of the largest, most influential scholarly publishers in the world. Surprisingly, there were significant differences in policy details, despite the fact that several publishers were represented collectively on international committees (COPE and STM) dedicated to finding solutions to ethical challenges presented by AI to the scholarly publishing ecosystem. While there have been calls to standardize these AI policies, standardization may not actually be feasible or acceptable depending on the discipline involved and the research communities who have governance authority in defining those standards. Instead, scholarly publishers should focus on key elements, which are listed below, add significant detail to their current policy standards, which are vague in many instances, and put more effort into the design and communication of these policies to the research community as they rapidly evolve.

The following list includes key elements for creating the ideal AI policy for scholarly publishers. While this list is not comprehensive, it provides a starting point for publishers to see where current AI policies may be causing confusion.

- **AI terms should be defined.** For example, what is an AI tool? How does this differ from an AI platform? What is the difference between a public AI tool vs. a private AI tool? Is there a difference between a generative AI tool and a general AI tool? Providing a link to a terminology section would be helpful.
- **Examples of AI tools should be listed along with whether or not their use is acceptable.** Is Grammarly considered an AI tool? Is Microsoft Word's spellcheck feature considered an AI tool? Can AI-assisted tools be used and, if so, by whom?
- **The audience for using an AI tool for a particular activity must be defined clearly.** What AI tools are peer reviewers allowed to use (or not use)? What AI tools are authors allowed to use (or not use)? What AI tools are editors allowed to use (or not use)? What AI tools are readers allowed to use (or not use)?
- **AI activities should be properly and thoroughly classified and described.** What type of AI use might occur in the preparation or publication of a scholarly manuscript? Does

---

[220] Xianmin Luo, *Artificial intelligence and the crisis of translation*, 5 ASIA PACIFIC TRANSLATION & INTN'L. STUDIES 1 (Apr. 8, 2018), https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23306343.2018.1456440.

"x" count as an AI activity? STM's classification system is an excellent resource of currently identified AI activities, which should be provided as a reference to scholars, peer reviewers, and editors.[221]

- **Give examples of AI use and misuse whenever possible to prevent vague readings of policy language.** What types of activities is this AI policy principle referring to, and conversely, what is it not referring to? What about AI tools to collect and process data?
- **Communicate that the AI policy is constantly evolving due to rapid changes in the technology, how the policy is changing over time, and who to contact for questions and advice.** When was this AI policy first drafted? What version is the current AI policy? Are there links to prior versions? Who is making changes to the AI policy? How do I contact them?
- **Clarify details regarding disclosure requirements.** When, how, to whom, and where should authors disclose AI use? What should not be disclosed? What disclosures are required? What disclosures are recommended? Should AI prompts be disclosed? When and how should scholars document their AI use?
- **Clarify that AI use will not necessarily disqualify authors from being published.** To prevent authors from hiding their AI use, publishers should explain that AI use does not equal misconduct and that many AI uses are acceptable. What AI uses are acceptable?
- **Explain the consequences of AI misconduct and how that misconduct will be surfaced and evaluated.** How will the publisher determine when AI has been used inappropriately? What AI detection tools will be used? What happens when an author or peer reviewer uses AI inappropriately? Will an investigation happen, and if so, what would that entail? What repercussions will an author or peer reviewer face if they are suspected of using AI inappropriately?
- **Give guidance on how authors can verify their work for accuracy, validity, and originality.** What AI tools are recommended for these uses? What AI tools are not recommended? How do I compare AI tools for my needs? Does the publisher provide a detailed checklist for verification purposes?
- **Develop guidance on the use of AI for translations.** Can AI be used to translate a copyrighted work for peer review or editorial decision-making? Has the publisher included provisions in the publishing agreement that allows for translations of entire manuscripts for editorial purposes?
- **Develop guidance on the use of AI for peer review.** Can a public AI tool be used to make peer review summaries and decisions? Can an internal AI tool be used? Can AI tools be used to improve the language and editing of peer review summaries?
- **AI Policies should link to helpful resources, such as STM's AI classification model and Generative AI white paper.**

Scholarly publishers should also consider the design and communication of their AI policies. Because of the intricacies and nuances involved in these policies and the potential risk of overburdening weary authors due to the increasing influx of changing and expanding policy information, it is recommended that visual diagrams be used to communicate these details. Furthermore, scholarly publishers should regularly provide updates to their consumer base to notify them of changes to AI policies as well as important requirements for which they may be held accountable or liable.

---

[221] *New STM Draft Report: Classifying AI Use in Manuscript Preparation*, STM (2025), https://stm-assoc.org/new-stm-draft-report-classifying-ai-use-in-manuscript-preparation/.

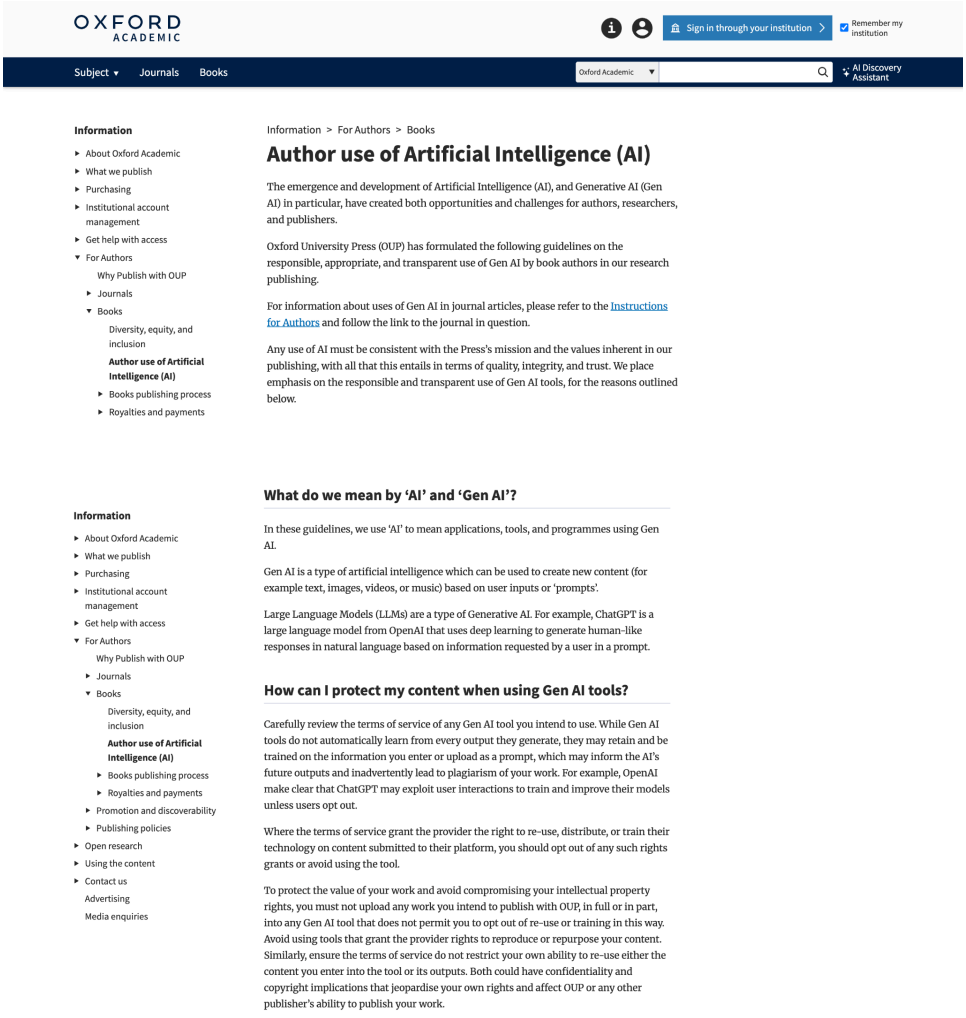
CONCLUSION

Scholarly publishers are facing enormous challenges in keeping up with AI-related changes in research and publishing and how these challenges impact authors, editors, and peer reviewers. The five AI policies from Oxford University Press, IEEE, Frontiers, Taylor & Francis, and De Gruyter Brill provide a narrow view into the larger scholarly publishing ecosystem about these pressing AI-related challenges and how publishers are responding. As these five AI policies illustrate, there are no international standards that all five publishers are following, and there is significant subjectivity as to what is required of authors and peer reviewers in terms of AI disclosures as well as the level of detail that publishers communicate to their consumer base. The lack of standards is unconcerning for now, given the rapid development of the technology and its evolving impact on the world; however, general policy principles that reinforce the authenticity, integrity, and originality of an author's work should be consistent and emphasized by publishers.

This article highlights emerging areas of concern for scholarly publishers, such as AI use for translations and peer review, and provides recommendations to improve the current design, communication, and substance of scholarly publisher AI policies. The significance and implications of AI policies stretch well beyond academia and affect all consumers of information—both public and private. Given the noted risks to confidentiality, privacy, data security, copyright, and other proprietary rights, these AI policies offer some level of risk mitigation and should be an important investment for scholarly publishers and the scholarly community in terms of resources, reflection, and expertise. Trust in the scholarly record as well as the reputation of scholarly publishers is at stake. While outright bans on AI use in research and scholarly publishing may be quick and easy fixes, they are unsustainable as the technology becomes more ubiquitous and its use continues to be difficult to control and identify. Instead, the goal of scholarly publishers should be to shape the overarching cultural norms related to AI use and publishing ethics by collaborating on ways to rebuild trust in publishing with AI use, communicating policy principles clearly and often, and encouraging transparency and disclosure.

APPENDIX: PUBLISHER AI POLICIES
(Accessed December 2025)

A. Oxford University Press ("Author use of Artificial Intelligence")



OXFORD ACADEMIC

Sign in through your institution | Remember my institution

Subject ▾ | Journals | Books | Oxford Academic ▾ | AI Discovery Assistant

Information

- About Oxford Academic
- What we publish
- Purchasing
- Institutional account management
- Get help with access
- For Authors
  - Why Publish with OUP
  - Journals
  - Books
    - Diversity, equity, and inclusion
    - **Author use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
    - Books publishing process
    - Royalties and payments

Information > For Authors > Books

Author use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The emergence and development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Generative AI (Gen AI) in particular, have created both opportunities and challenges for authors, researchers, and publishers.

Oxford University Press (OUP) has formulated the following guidelines on the responsible, appropriate, and transparent use of Gen AI by book authors in our research publishing.

For information about uses of Gen AI in journal articles, please refer to the Instructions for Authors and follow the link to the journal in question.

Any use of AI must be consistent with the Press's mission and the values inherent in our publishing, with all that this entails in terms of quality, integrity, and trust. We place emphasis on the responsible and transparent use of Gen AI tools, for the reasons outlined below.

Information

- About Oxford Academic
- What we publish
- Purchasing
- Institutional account management
- Get help with access
- For Authors
  - Why Publish with OUP
  - Journals
  - Books
    - Diversity, equity, and inclusion
    - **Author use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
    - Books publishing process
    - Royalties and payments
  - Promotion and discoverability
  - Publishing policies
- Open research
- Using the content
- Contact us

Advertising

Media enquiries

What do we mean by 'AI' and 'Gen AI'?

In these guidelines, we use 'AI' to mean applications, tools, and programmes using Gen AI.

Gen AI is a type of artificial intelligence which can be used to create new content (for example text, images, videos, or music) based on user inputs or 'prompts'.

Large Language Models (LLMs) are a type of Generative AI. For example, ChatGPT is a large language model from OpenAI that uses deep learning to generate human-like responses in natural language based on information requested by a user in a prompt.

How can I protect my content when using Gen AI tools?

Carefully review the terms of service of any Gen AI tool you intend to use. While Gen AI tools do not automatically learn from every output they generate, they may retain and be trained on the information you enter or upload as a prompt, which may inform the AI's future outputs and inadvertently lead to plagiarism of your work. For example, OpenAI make clear that ChatGPT may exploit user interactions to train and improve their models unless users opt out.

Where the terms of service grant the provider the right to re-use, distribute, or train their technology on content submitted to their platform, you should opt out of any such rights grants or avoid using the tool.

To protect the value of your work and avoid compromising your intellectual property rights, you must not upload any work you intend to publish with OUP, in full or in part, into any Gen AI tool that does not permit you to opt out of re-use or training in this way. Avoid using tools that grant the provider rights to reproduce or repurpose your content. Similarly, ensure the terms of service do not restrict your own ability to re-use either the content you enter into the tool or its outputs. Both could have confidentiality and copyright implications that jeopardise your own rights and affect OUP or any other publisher's ability to publish your work.

Information

- About Oxford Academic
- What we publish
- Purchasing
- Institutional account management
- Get help with access
- For Authors
  - Why Publish with OUP
  - Journals
  - Books
    - Diversity, equity, and inclusion
    - **Author use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
    - Books publishing process
    - Royalties and payments
  - Promotion and discoverability
  - Publishing policies
- Open research
- Using the content

Information

- About Oxford Academic
- What we publish
- Purchasing
- Institutional account management
- Get help with access
- For Authors
  - Why Publish with OUP
  - Journals
  - Books
    - Diversity, equity, and inclusion
    - **Author use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
    - Books publishing process
    - Royalties and payments
  - Promotion and discoverability
  - Publishing policies
- Open research
- Using the content
- Contact us

Advertising

Media enquiries

Many institutions provide their student and research communities with enterprise or professional versions of Gen AI tools, where these exist. This type of tool will usually offer a clear content protection policy and allow you to opt out of data training and re-use. Such tools usually operate within a controlled and restricted ecosystem, meaning they will access and generate responses based on a predefined dataset, rather than ingesting and claiming rights over any entered or uploaded content. They can, in most cases, safely be used to support the preparation of your work, for example in providing alt-text for images, flagging errors in grammar and spelling, vetting translations, checking references, generating abstracts and keywords, or creating a list of index headwords.

If you have questions or concerns, please discuss this at the earliest opportunity with your Acquisitions Editor.

Gen AI usage guidelines (subject to change)

As the landscape around AI and its technical capabilities continues to evolve, these guidelines will be further updated in response to new developments. Please be sure to check back for the latest guidance throughout your research, writing, and submission process.

Our guidelines for the use of Gen AI in research publishing are informed by three principles:

1. Authorship

Gen AI does not qualify as an author and should not be used to undertake primary authorial responsibilities, such as generating arguments and scientific insights, writing analysis, or drawing conclusions.

Authors must receive written permission from OUP to deliver Gen AI-created content (including the collection and analysis of data or the production of graphical elements of the text) as part of their submission. As an author, you will be obliged to replace this material with human-generated content should OUP require.

If you are writing about AI and wish to include an example of AI-created work, please discuss with your Acquisitions Editor in the first instance. Any such inclusions must be disclosed in detail and clearly acknowledged in the published work, along with the steps taken to vet those outputs.

2. Accountability

Authors remain fully accountable for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of their works, including any Gen AI-created content these works may contain.

Authors are therefore liable for any breach of publication or research ethics from their use of Gen AI tools. This includes inaccuracy, so-called 'hallucination' (where the Gen AI tool simply makes things up, including plausible-sounding citations), a lack of full attribution and referencing, inadvertent plagiarism, and bias.

The statistical and predictive nature of Gen AI tools, their human design and programming, and their training on data sets that include bias, may mean their outputs reproduce such biases, for example in word choices, recommendations, methodological assumptions, and unintentional exclusions. It is critically important that you actively evaluate any Gen AI-created content for these issues.

Note, too, that many current Gen AI tools were trained on datasets which only come up to a particular year, with attendant knowledge gaps.

Information

- About Oxford Academic
- What we publish
- Purchasing
- Institutional account management
- Get help with access
- For Authors
  - Why Publish with OUP
  - Journals
  - Books
    - Diversity, equity, and inclusion
    - **Author use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
    - Books publishing process
    - Royalties and payments
  - Promotion and discoverability
  - Publishing policies
- Open research
- Using the content
- Contact us

Advertising

Media enquiries

Any use of Gen AI tools must be consistent with the Press's mission and publishing values, with all that entails in terms of quality, integrity, and trust.

Authors must also ensure the appropriate attribution of any content where its creation has been supported by using Gen AI tools (see Disclosure, below).

3. Disclosure

The use, or proposed use, of any Gen AI tool in content generation or preparation must be disclosed in detail to your Acquisitions Editor at the earliest stage of discussion, whether proposal submission, research, or manuscript writing.

- At proposal stage, and when planning research, you should discuss proposed uses and the outputs your final manuscript is likely to contain.
- At manuscript submission, you must provide a detailed statement, specifying the location in the text of each use, the tool used and in which version, the manner of its use, the justification for using the tool, and the steps you have taken to validate the accuracy of its outputs. Download our AI Use Declaration form here.
- You may also wish to add a note to the acknowledgements or to the relevant section(s) of the book, laying this information out with transparency for the reader.

Any use of Gen AI tools within your chapter, article, or book, must also be clearly acknowledged in- text and/or in footnotes or endnotes, following the appropriate referencing convention.

Editorial boards and advising scholars

As a scholar providing guidance to OUP on the scope, approach, contributors, and other aspects of a publishing project, you must submit only material that represents your own expertise and oversight.

Any information you may have gathered in the idea creation stages of the process by using Gen AI tools must be considered in balance with your knowledge of the field. All recommendations should reflect your personal judgement.

Information

- About Oxford Academic
- What we publish
- Purchasing
- Institutional account management
- Get help with access
- For Authors
  - Why Publish with OUP
  - Journals
  - Books
    - Diversity, equity, and inclusion
    - **Author use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
    - Books publishing process
    - Royalties and payments

Materials for submission to OUP must not be uploaded into any Gen AI tool without a clear content protection policy, as above (see 'How can I Protect my Content' section).

If you have questions or concerns about this, please discuss with your Acquisitions Editor at the earliest opportunity.

Peer review

All materials provided for peer review are confidential. OUP selects peer reviewers for their expertise in the field and requires them to evaluate content based on their expert judgement alone.

It is prohibited to upload project proposals and manuscripts, in part or in whole, into a Gen AI tool for any purpose. Doing so may violate copyright, confidentiality, privacy, and data security obligations.

If the reviewer suspects an author of materials under review may have violated OUP's policy on the use of Gen AI tools, as outlined here, they should report it to their editorial contact at OUP as part of their evaluation.

B. IEEE ("Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Generated Text")

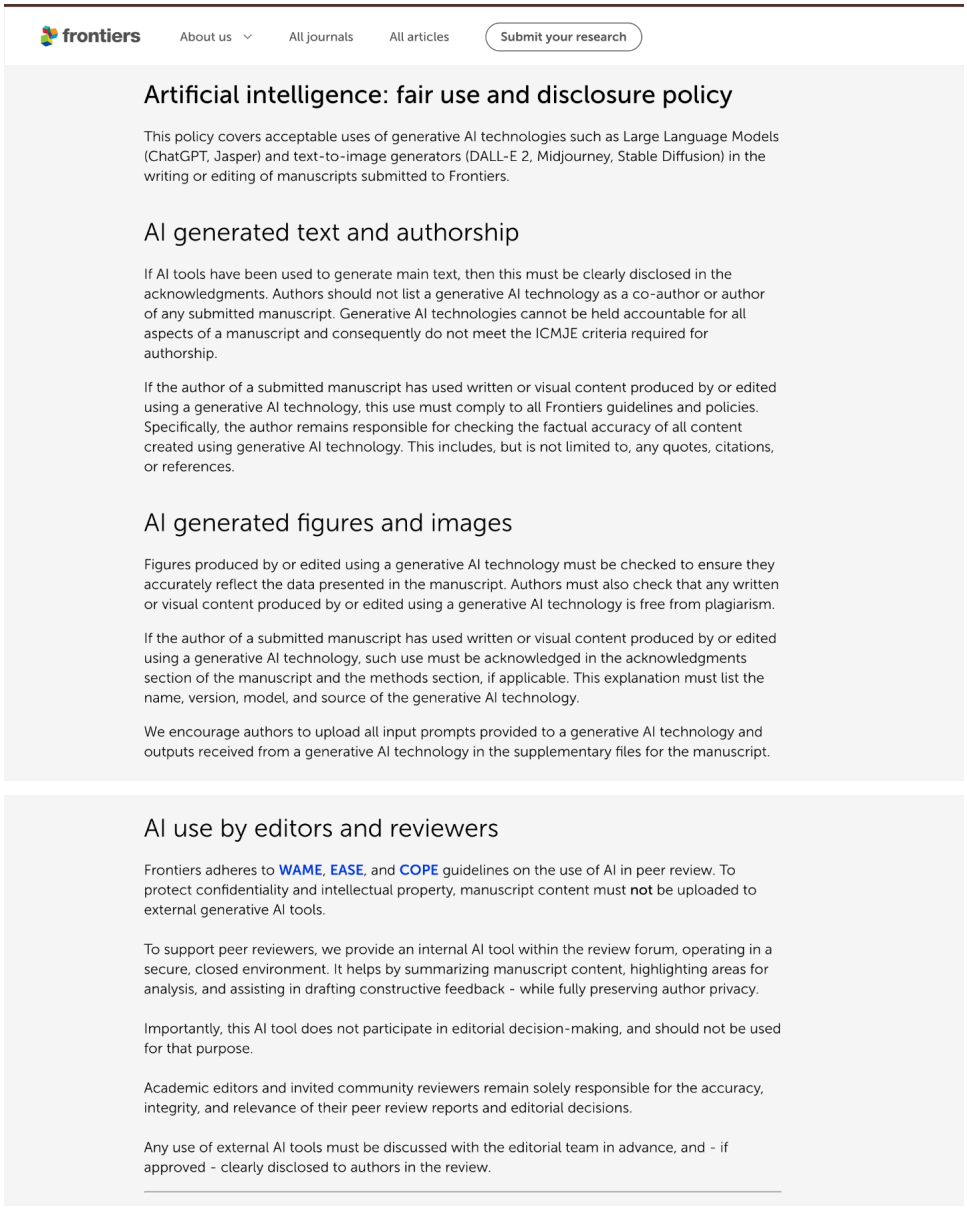
Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Generated Text

The use of content generated by artificial intelligence (AI) in an article (including but not limited to text, figures, images, and code) shall be disclosed in the acknowledgments section of any article submitted to an IEEE publication. The AI system used shall be identified, and specific sections of the article that use AI-generated content shall be identified and accompanied by a brief explanation regarding the level at which the AI system was used to generate the content.

The use of AI systems for editing and grammar enhancement is common practice and, as such, is generally outside the intent of the above policy. In this case, disclosure as noted above is not required, but recommended.

Information or content contained in or about a manuscript under review shall not be processed through a public platform (directly or indirectly) for AI generation of content for a review. Doing so is considered a breach of confidentiality because AI systems generally learn from any input.

C. Frontiers ("Artificial intelligence: fair use and disclosure policy")



frontiers About us All journals All articles Submit your research

Artificial intelligence: fair use and disclosure policy

This policy covers acceptable uses of generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, Jasper) and text-to-image generators (DALL-E 2, Midjourney, Stable Diffusion) in the writing or editing of manuscripts submitted to Frontiers.

AI generated text and authorship

If AI tools have been used to generate main text, then this must be clearly disclosed in the acknowledgments. Authors should not list a generative AI technology as a co-author or author of any submitted manuscript. Generative AI technologies cannot be held accountable for all aspects of a manuscript and consequently do not meet the ICMJE criteria required for authorship.

If the author of a submitted manuscript has used written or visual content produced by or edited using a generative AI technology, this use must comply to all Frontiers guidelines and policies. Specifically, the author remains responsible for checking the factual accuracy of all content created using generative AI technology. This includes, but is not limited to, any quotes, citations, or references.

AI generated figures and images

Figures produced by or edited using a generative AI technology must be checked to ensure they accurately reflect the data presented in the manuscript. Authors must also check that any written or visual content produced by or edited using a generative AI technology is free from plagiarism.

If the author of a submitted manuscript has used written or visual content produced by or edited using a generative AI technology, such use must be acknowledged in the acknowledgments section of the manuscript and the methods section, if applicable. This explanation must list the name, version, model, and source of the generative AI technology.

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.

AI use by editors and reviewers

Frontiers adheres to WAME, EASE, and COPE guidelines on the use of AI in peer review. To protect confidentiality and intellectual property, manuscript content must **not** be uploaded to external generative AI tools.

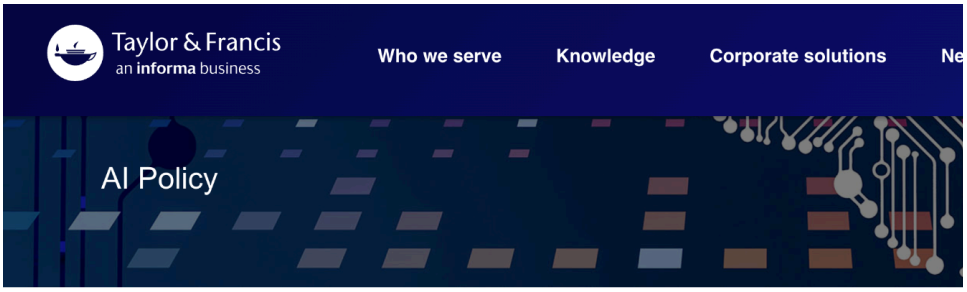
To support peer reviewers, we provide an internal AI tool within the review forum, operating in a secure, closed environment. It helps by summarizing manuscript content, highlighting areas for analysis, and assisting in drafting constructive feedback - while fully preserving author privacy.

Importantly, this AI tool does not participate in editorial decision-making, and should not be used for that purpose.

Academic editors and invited community reviewers remain solely responsible for the accuracy, integrity, and relevance of their peer review reports and editorial decisions.

Any use of external AI tools must be discussed with the editorial team in advance, and - if approved - clearly disclosed to authors in the review.

D. Taylor & Francis ("AI Policy")



Introduction

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as large language models (LLMs) or multimodal models, continue to develop and evolve, including in their application for businesses and consumers.

Taylor & Francis welcomes the new opportunities offered by Generative AI tools, particularly in: enhancing idea generation and exploration, supporting authors to express content in a non-native language, and accelerating the research and dissemination process.

Taylor & Francis is offering guidance to authors, editors, and reviewers on the use of such tools, which may evolve given the swift development of the AI field.

Generative AI tools can produce diverse forms of content, spanning text generation, image synthesis, audio, and synthetic data. Some examples include ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, Claude, NovelAI, Jasper AI, DALL-E, Midjourney, Runway, etc.

While Generative AI has immense capabilities to enhance creativity for authors, there are certain risks associated with the current generation of Generative AI tools.

Some of the risks associated with the way Generative AI tools work today are:

1. **Inaccuracy and bias**: Generative AI tools are of a statistical nature (as opposed to factual) and, as such, can introduce inaccuracies, falsities (so-called hallucinations) or bias, which can be hard to detect, verify, and correct.
2. **Lack of attribution**: Generative AI is often lacking the standard practice of the global scholarly community of correctly and precisely attributing ideas, quotes, or citations.

3. **Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Risks**: At present, Generative AI tools are often used on third-party platforms that may not offer sufficient standards of confidentiality, data security, or copyright protection.
4. **Unintended uses**: Generative AI providers may reuse the input or output data from user interactions (e.g. for AI training). This practice could potentially infringe on the rights of authors and publishers, amongst others.

Authors

Authors are accountable for the originality, validity, and integrity of the content of their submissions. In choosing to use Generative AI tools, journal authors are expected to do so responsibly and in accordance with our journal editorial policies on authorship and principles of publishing ethics and book authors in accordance with our book publishing guidelines. This includes reviewing the outputs of any Generative AI tools and confirming content accuracy.

Taylor & Francis supports the **responsible use** of Generative AI tools that **respect high standards of data security, confidentiality, and copyright protection** in cases such as:

- Idea generation and idea exploration
- Language improvement
- Interactive online search with LLM-enhanced search engines
- Literature classification
- Coding assistance

Authors are responsible for ensuring that the content of their submissions meets the required standards of rigorous scientific and scholarly assessment, research and validation, and is created by the author. Note that some journals may not allow use of Generative AI tools beyond language improvement, therefore authors are advised to consult with the editor of the journal prior to submission.

Generative AI tools must not be listed as an author, because such tools are unable to assume responsibility for the submitted content or manage copyright and licensing agreements. Authorship requires taking accountability for content, consenting to publication via a publishing agreement, and giving contractual assurances about the integrity of the work, among other principles. These are uniquely human responsibilities that cannot be undertaken by Generative AI tools.

Authors must clearly acknowledge within the article or book any use of Generative AI tools through a statement which includes: the full name of the tool used (with version number), how it was used, and the reason for use. For article submissions, this statement must be included in the Methods or Acknowledgments section. Book authors must disclose their intent to employ Generative AI tools at the earliest possible stage to their editorial contacts for approval – either at the proposal phase if known, or if necessary, during the manuscript writing phase. If approved, the book author must then include the statement in the preface or introduction of the book. This level of transparency ensures that editors can assess whether Generative AI tools have been used and whether they have been used responsibly. Taylor & Francis will retain its discretion over publication of the work, to ensure that integrity and guidelines have been upheld.

If an author is intending to use an AI tool, they should ensure that the tool is appropriate and robust for their proposed use, and that the terms applicable to such tool provide sufficient safeguards and protections, for example around intellectual property rights, confidentiality and security.

Authors should not submit manuscripts where Generative AI tools have been used in ways that replace core researcher and author responsibilities, for example:

- text or code generation without rigorous revision
- synthetic data generation to substitute missing data without robust methodology
- generation of any types of content which is inaccurate including abstracts or supplemental materials

These types of cases may be subject to editorial investigation.

Taylor & Francis currently does not permit the use of Generative AI in the creation and manipulation of images and figures, or original research data for use in our publications. The term “images and figures” includes pictures, charts, data tables, medical imagery, snippets of images, computer code, and formulas. The term “manipulation” includes augmenting, concealing, moving, removing, or introducing a specific feature within an image or figure. For additional information on Taylor & Francis’ image policy for journals, please see Images and figures.

Utilising Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in any part of the research process should always be undertaken with human oversight and transparency. Research ethics guidelines are still being updated regarding current Generative AI technologies. Taylor & Francis will continue to update our editorial guidelines as the technology and research ethics guidelines evolve.

Editors and Peer Reviewers

Taylor & Francis strives for the highest standards of editorial integrity and transparency. Editors’ and peer reviewers’ use of manuscripts in Generative AI systems may pose a risk to confidentiality, proprietary rights and data, including personally identifiable information. Therefore, editors and peer reviewers **must not upload files, images or information from unpublished manuscripts** into Generative AI tools. Failure to comply with this policy may infringe upon the rightsholder’s intellectual property.

Editors

Editors are the shepherds of quality and responsible research content. Therefore, editors must keep submission and peer review details confidential.

Use of manuscripts in Generative AI systems may give rise to risks around confidentiality, infringement of proprietary rights and data, and other risks. Therefore, editors must not upload unpublished manuscripts, including any associated files, images or information into Generative AI tools.

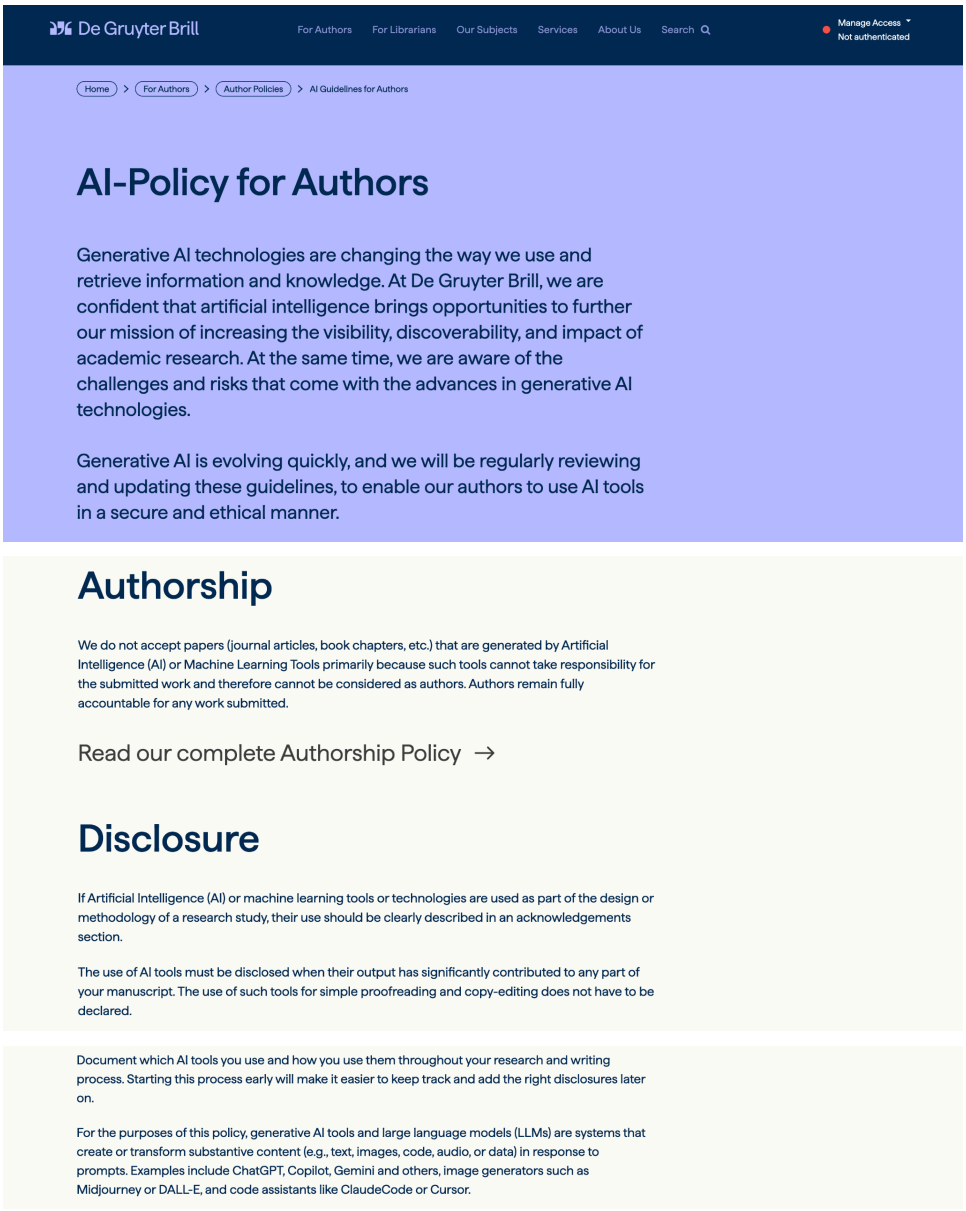
Editors should check with their Taylor & Francis contact prior to using any Generative AI tools, unless they have already been informed that the tool and proposed use of the tool is authorised. Journal Editors should refer to our Editor Resource page for more information on our code of conduct.

Peer reviewers

Peer reviewers are chosen experts in their fields and should not be using Generative AI for analysis or to summarise submitted articles or portions thereof in the creation of their reviews. As such, peer reviewers must not upload unpublished manuscripts or project proposals, including any associated files, images or information, into Generative AI tools.

Generative AI may only be utilised to assist with improving review language, but peer reviewers will at all times remain responsible for ensuring the accuracy and integrity of their reviews.

E. De Gruyter Brill ("AI-Policy for Authors")



De Gruyter Brill

For Authors For Librarians Our Subjects Services About Us Search

Manage Access
Not authenticated

Home > For Authors > Author Policies > AI Guidelines for Authors

AI-Policy for Authors

Generative AI technologies are changing the way we use and retrieve information and knowledge. At De Gruyter Brill, we are confident that artificial intelligence brings opportunities to further our mission of increasing the visibility, discoverability, and impact of academic research. At the same time, we are aware of the challenges and risks that come with the advances in generative AI technologies.

Generative AI is evolving quickly, and we will be regularly reviewing and updating these guidelines, to enable our authors to use AI tools in a secure and ethical manner.

Authorship

We do not accept papers (journal articles, book chapters, etc.) that are generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Machine Learning Tools primarily because such tools cannot take responsibility for the submitted work and therefore cannot be considered as authors. Authors remain fully accountable for any work submitted.

Read our complete Authorship Policy →

Disclosure

If Artificial Intelligence (AI) or machine learning tools or technologies are used as part of the design or methodology of a research study, their use should be clearly described in an acknowledgements section.

The use of AI tools must be disclosed when their output has significantly contributed to any part of your manuscript. The use of such tools for simple proofreading and copy-editing does not have to be declared.

Document which AI tools you use and how you use them throughout your research and writing process. Starting this process early will make it easier to keep track and add the right disclosures later on.

For the purposes of this policy, generative AI tools and large language models (LLMs) are systems that create or transform substantive content (e.g., text, images, code, audio, or data) in response to prompts. Examples include ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini and others, image generators such as Midjourney or DALL-E, and code assistants like ClaudeCode or Cursor.

AI Generated Images

We do not permit the use of Generative AI tools to create or in any way to manipulate images or figures, or research data in submitted manuscripts. The creation or alteration of experimental images using AI is considered unethical and is strictly prohibited.

Rights, Privacy and Accuracy

As a default, you should assume that everything you enter into an AI system can be stored, processed, and used for training. There are differences between individual tools and sometimes there is a possibility to minimize data processing through settings, but in general, make sure you do not input personal, confidential, or sensitive data.

If possible, choose tools where you can:

— Disable the storage of data for training

— Turn off the memory or tracking history

— Delete your chat history

Copyright

Do not input any copyrighted material into any AI systems. Copyrighted texts may only be fed into AI if the rights owner has granted you the right to do so, and / or if you can make sure that it is not saved and / or used for further AI training.

Always read the terms and conditions of the tools that you choose to use and don't use any dubious tools.

Privacy & Confidentiality

Always keep applicable data privacy legislation in mind when interacting with any AI tool and inputting any information. If you are in Europe, for instance, refer to the EU AI Act and the GDPR compliance guidelines.

Accuracy

AI can make mistakes. Proof generated output thoroughly for any inaccuracies or biases. Always make sure to fact-check results. As an author you are solely and fully responsible for the work you submit to us, including any parts produced by an AI tool, and are thus liable for any breach of publication ethics.

Peer Review

The manuscript or any parts thereof should not be entered into AI systems, such as Chat GPT, Grammarly, etc. Verifying how these platforms handle data is impossible; thus, any uploads may compromise the authors' confidentiality, proprietary or data privacy rights, which does not comply with our publishing standards.

Peer review requires critical thinking and nuanced assessment, tasks that fall beyond the capabilities of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies (prone to generate incorrect, incomplete, or biased conclusions). Therefore, the responsibility for peer review lies exclusively with humans.