AI policy

Related policies:

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- [Publication policies - AOSIS](#) – 11. Copyright and Licensing Notice

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1. Statement

1.1 You must describe your use of AI or AI-powered tools, whether generative or not, in the methodology section of your work[1] if you use them <u>in conducting your research</u> but <u>not</u> when you use them for reporting on the research that you have conducted. You must document your use of AI and AI-powered tools <u>in conducting your research</u> in the methodology section.

1.2 AI and AI-powered tools are not authors[2].

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[1] 'Works' in terms of this policy include, but are not limited to, abstracts, books, book reviews, brief reports, case studies or case series, conference proceedings, conference reports, country profiles, CPD articles, creative pieces, editorials, essays, letters, monographs, notes, opinion papers, original research articles, patient studies, review articles etc. Furthermore, a 'work' in terms of this policy also remains a work whether it is submitted to a journal or as a standalone work such as a book, book chapter, or monograph.

[2] AOSIS subscribes to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' (ICMJE's) definition of what it means to be an author:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND [not OR]
2. Drafting of the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; AND [not OR]
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND [not OR]
4. Agreement to be 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.

Source: [CP-ACPJ220177 1.19 (icmje.org)](#)

1.3 Authors remain responsible for adhering to relevant copyright and intellectual property laws and best practices when they use AI or AI-powered tools whether in conducting research or reporting on the research conducted.

1.4 No falsified literature, references, methodology, data, analyses, claims, conclusions, or recommendations are allowed.

1.5 Authors must adhere to relevant ethics codes. (See related policy 5. Ethics above.)

1.6 AOSIS may deploy measures to detect and monitor the use of AI and AI-powered tools and communicate any concerns that may arise to authors and the editorial team members.

1.7 To understand the difference between, firstly, using AI and AI-powered tools <u>in conducting your research</u> and, secondly, using AI and AI-powered tools <u>in reporting on the research that you have conducted</u>, see the sections 3 and 4 of this policy, respectively.

2. Guiding principle

2.1 The part of a work that should carry the most weight is the <u>contribution</u> it makes to the existing body of knowledge and not the words the work is expressed in – that is, the originality and relevance of the work determine its value.

2.2 This contribution (that is, its originality and relevance) must be considered in the context of the entire work. If every part of the work does not cohere with the contribution that the work makes, those parts must be removed. A perfectly (re)spun literature review may not align with an original research paper's contribution, for example.

2.3 Determining the existence and extent of a contribution remains, collectively, the responsibility of the editor-in-chief, the editorial board, managing/section/assistant editors and the reviewers, regardless of the selected review model, and, ultimately, the author. What constitutes a contribution in one field may not be comparable to what constitutes a contribution in another. The same individuals that make up each field, however, contested or not, are responsible for determining collectively what this means.

2.4 Any plagiarised, falsified, or fabricated work/data, even if no software detects it, will not make a new contribution to the body of knowledge. Mechanisms for protection against a lack of new contribution, apart from an academically honest author, is careful editorial consideration, together with a thorough peer-review process, which may be complemented by using AI technology-based tools. Authors remain responsible and accountable for any irregularities that may constitute misconduct related to their work that become evident once it is published (e.g., plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification).

2.5 References <u>must</u> be included and used if they are relevant to the contribution that the work makes, and all references included must be verified by the authors because AI and AI-powered tools may fabricate or recombine references inaccurately.

3. Using AI and AI-powered tools in conducting your research

3.1 You may use generative <u>AI and AI-powered tools</u> to generate your <u>datasets or artefacts if investigating datasets or artefacts</u> that are created by such tools is the objective of your study, but you must make it clear <u>that</u> you have done so, <u>why</u> you have done so, and <u>how</u> you have done so in the methodology section of your work. Examples of the types of generative AI-generated data or artefacts include but are <u>not limited to</u>:

    3.1.1 <u>Text-based AI-generated data or artefacts</u>: If you want to compare a human-written speech to an AI written speech, you can use and include extracts of such text-based AI-powered writing in your work.

    3.1.2 <u>Image-based AI-generated data or artefacts</u>: If you are analysing images generated by AI or AI-powered software, you can include examples of such images in your work.

    3.1.3 <u>Video-based AI-generated data or artefacts</u>: This is, of course, more difficult to include in a work. Transcriptions will likely be used if any audio is quoted while screenshots will likely be used if stills are to be included in the work. In this case, apply the statement found in 'Image-based AI-generated data'.

    3.1.4 <u>Sound-based AI-generated data or artefacts</u>: This is, of course, more difficult to include in a work. Transcriptions will likely be used. In this case, apply the statement found in 'Text-based AI-generated data'.

    3.1.5 <u>Modelling-type AI-generated data or artefacts</u>: These types of data could be generated, for example, to predict molecular behaviour within an organism, the evolution of large weather systems across a planet, the behaviour of financial systems, or the spread of infectious diseases within and between populations.

    3.1.6 <u>Other types of AI-generated data or artefacts</u>: Additional AI-generated data and artefact types will likely come into existence. Using them will be subject to suitability within a discipline, proper contextualisation within a work, and adherence to related ethical standards and good practice.

    3.1.7 <u>Concrete examples of tools for creating, analysing, or validating of AI-generated data or artefacts</u>: For a list of different AI and AI-powered tools, whether generative or not, see Addendum A. This list can change from time to time as new AI and AI-powered tools emerge and old ones fall out of use. The examples in this list are also not exhaustive. These examples are also not listed to promote any particular AI or AI-powered tool.

3.2 You may use AI or AI-powered tools, whether generative or not, to <u>present something you might not otherwise be able to present</u>, but you must make it clear <u>that</u> you have done so, <u>why</u> you have done so, and <u>how</u> you have done so the methodology section of your work. (This has particular relevance to clause 3.1.2 in this policy.)

3.3 You may use AI or AI-powered tools, whether generative or not, <u>in conducting your research</u> because such use can influence the results or findings of a study – whether the data were created or analysed using such tools or even if the entire protocol were designed and executed by such tools. You must report <u>why</u> and <u>how</u> you used AI and AI-powered tools in the methodology section of your work. Reporting on the research that you have conducted is different: it can speed up writing and clarify expression (see 4. Using AI and AI-powered tools in reporting on the research that you have conducted). This relates to the contribution of and to a work (see 2. Guiding principle).

3.4 You may use AI and AI-powered tools to <u>analyse your data or artefacts</u> or to validate your results; for example, if you conducted a chi-square test and then used AI or AI-powered tools to test your own analyses. You must state why and how you did this in the <u>methodology section</u> of your work.

3.5 You must describe <u>how</u> and <u>why</u> you used AI and AI-powered tools in the <u>generation, collection, analysis, or validation of your data or artefacts</u> in the methodology section of your work in the same way you would when using other tools for generation, collection, analysis, or validation in other circumstances. In other words, you must describe how your data or artefacts were generated, collected, analysed, or validated as you would with any dataset or artefact using any tool or set of tools.

3.6 It is <u>crucial</u> that you indicate in your methodology section which <u>version number</u> of the AI or AI-powered tool you used as well as the <u>day</u>, <u>month</u>, and <u>year</u> you used it. Since these technologies change and improve so rapidly, the results generated by a particular tool may be vastly different from one week to the next even if you are using the same dataset or artefact. This thus has implications for reproducibility or replication.

4. Using AI and AI-powered tools in reporting on the research that you have conducted

4.1 You may use AI and AI-powered tools to assist you in reporting on the research that you have conducted – that is, in writing, editing, revising, and proofreading your work.

4.2 You do not have to describe how you have used AI or AI-powered tools to assist you in reporting on the research that you have already done – in other words, when writing, revising, editing and proofing your manuscript.

4.3 Regardless of the extent to which you use AI or AI-powered tools to assist you in reporting on your research, you remain responsible for

    4.3.1 the accuracy and completeness of the words you choose to submit as your own; and

    4.3.2 the originality of the content that you choose to submit as your own (see clause 1.3 in this policy).

4.4 AOSIS does not ask you to describe how or why you used AI or AI-powered tools to assist you <u>in reporting on the research you have conducted</u> in order to protect you and other authors from bias.

5. Considerations for review

5.1 If you are a reviewer and you use AI or AI-powered tools to assist you in your review, you must describe how and why you used it in your peer review report to the editor of the relevant journal.

6. References

6.1 International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). 2023. Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals. *Revised version.* Available online:
https://www.icmje.org/news-and-editorials/icmje-recommendations_annotated_may23.pdf (Accessed: 10 October 2023)

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Addendum A: Examples of the kinds of AI and AI-powered tools

Virtual writing assistants and companions:

- Grammarly
- Antidote
- DeepL Write

Translation software:

- DeepL Translate

Video creation software:

- Synthesia

Sound creation and manipulation software:

- Descript

Systematic review tools:

- Rayyan

Spinners and rewriting tools:

- AISEO
- SpinBot
- Chugzi
- QuillBot
- Jasper
- WordAI
- Publer
- ChatGPT
- Prepostseo

Note: These examples are for illustrative purposes only. AOSIS in no way endorses or promotes any of these tools or products for any purpose.

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Addendum B: AI Policy Summary

Also available at: https://aosis.co.za/legal-centre/publication-policies/ under no. **14. AI policy summary**

Authorship and Responsibility

- AI and AI-powered tools are not authors.
- Authors are accountable for complying with applicable copyright and intellectual property laws.
- Authors will be held accountable for any shortcomings or misconduct that become evident during and after publication.

Editorial Oversight

- The editorial team and reviewers are collectively responsible for evaluating a work's contribution to its field.
- AOSIS may employ measures to detect and monitor the use of AI and AI-powered tools in submissions.
- AOSIS and the editorial team may use AI-based tools for evaluation in the peer-review process.
- The editor-in-chief has the final say on what constitutes an acceptable use of AI and AI-powered tools in a submission.

Contribution and Ethics

- The primary focus should be the contribution a work makes to existing knowledge. All parts of a work must align with this contribution.
- Authors are responsible for the integrity of their work, including avoiding plagiarism, fabrication, or falsification.
- Authors must verify all references.

AI and Research Methodology

- If AI or AI-powered tools are used in conducting research, this must be detailed in the methodology section.
- For the difference between using AI in conducting and reporting research, refer to Sections 3 and 4 of the full policy.

Using AI in Conducting Research

- Authors may use AI for generating datasets or artefacts under specific circumstances but must clearly state this in the methodology section.
- Authors must describe how and why AI tools were used in their research.

- Version details of AI tools must be included for reproducibility.
- Any use of AI must adhere to relevant ethical codes.

Using AI in Reporting Research

- AI may be used for writing, revising, editing, and proofreading.
- Authors remain responsible for the accuracy and originality of the submitted work.
- AI-assisted writing may be subject to additional scrutiny to ensure it meets quality standards.

Peer Review

- Reviewers using AI to assist in their review must disclose this in their evaluation report.
- Reviewers are subject to the same ethical standards and disclosure requirements as authors.

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