

Spectrum Journals – Editorial Policies: AI, ChatGPT, and Large Language Models (LLMs)

This policy provides guidance on the responsible, transparent, and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, including but not limited to ChatGPT and other Large Language Models (LLMs), in the preparation, submission, peer review, and editorial handling of manuscripts submitted to the journal.

The journal recognizes the growing role of AI tools in research and scholarly communication, while emphasizing that human authors remain fully accountable for the integrity, originality, and accuracy of all published content.

1. Policy for Authors

1.1. Permitted Uses of AI

Authors may use AI tools only as assistive tools, for example:

- Language editing and grammar correction
- Improving readability and structure
- Summarizing text written by the authors
- Formatting references (with manual verification)

Such use must not alter the scientific meaning or interpretation of the work.

1.2. Prohibited Uses of AI

AI tools must not be used for:

- Generating original research data, results, or images
- Fabricating references, citations, or datasets
- Writing substantial portions of the manuscript without human intellectual contribution
- Manipulating images, figures, or data in a misleading way
- Automatically generating responses to peer review without author oversight

1.3. Authorship and AI

- AI tools cannot be listed as authors or co-authors.
- AI tools cannot take responsibility for the work, approve the final version, or respond to reviewer comments.

Authorship must comply fully with the journal's authorship criteria in line with ICMJE guidelines.

1.4. Mandatory Disclosure of AI Use

Authors must disclose any use of AI tools at the time of submission.

Disclosure Statement (sample/example):

"The authors used [tool name, version] for language editing and/or text refinement. The authors reviewed and edited the content and take full responsibility for the final manuscript."

Disclosure should be included in:

- A dedicated "AI and Technology Use" statement, or
- The Acknowledgements or Methods section, where appropriate.

Failure to disclose AI use may be treated as a breach of publication ethics.

2. Policy for Reviewers

2.1. Use of AI in Peer Review

- Reviewers must not upload manuscripts (in full or part) to AI tools that store, reuse, or train on content, due to confidentiality concerns.
- AI tools may be used only for limited language support, if confidentiality is not compromised.

2.2. Reviewer Accountability

- Peer review reports must reflect the reviewer's own scholarly judgment.
- Reviewers remain fully responsible for the accuracy, tone, and fairness of their comments.
- Automated or AI-generated reviews without critical human input are not acceptable.

3. Policy for Editors

- Editorial decisions must never be delegated to AI tools.
- AI tools may be used by editors for:
 - Administrative support
 - Language clarity checks
 - Initial similarity or integrity screening (with caution)

Editors must apply human judgment, particularly in cases involving:

- Research integrity concerns
- Ethical disputes
- Alleged AI misuse or misconduct

References:

- [Authorship and AI tools | COPE: Committee on Publication Ethics](#)
- [Artificial intelligence and authorship | COPE: Committee on Publication Ethics](#)
- [Artificial intelligence \(AI\) in decision making | COPE: Committee on Publication Ethics](#)