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Wenli Gao, Guoying Liu, Michael Bailou Huang and Hong Yao

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As Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, particularly generative AI, become increasingly prevalent, their adoption in academic settings has also grown. Researchers are using these tools for tasks such as grammar correction, statistical analysis, and manuscript preparation. However, this shift raises concerns regarding bias, copyright, reproducibility, and research transparency. This article investigates the current state of transparency around generative AI use in Library and Information Science (LIS) journals. Using a list of LIS journals compiled by Nixon, the authors reviewed publishing guidelines and policies to identify any statements or requirements related to the use of generative AI in manuscript submission, peer review, or editing. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the findings, including frequency and percentage by publisher. The study also examined whether journals with AI-related policies differ in impact factor from those without. Finally, the article discusses the ethical considerations, benefits, and the need for standardized declarations of generative AI use in LIS publishing.

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AI in Scholarly Publishing: A Study on LIS Journals' Guidelines and Policies

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ABSTRACT

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, particularly generative AI, become increasingly prevalent, their adoption in academic settings has also grown. Researchers are using these tools for tasks such as grammar correction, statistical analysis, and manuscript preparation. However, this shift raises concerns regarding bias, copyright, reproducibility, and research transparency. This article investigates the current state of transparency around generative AI use in Library and Information Science (LIS) journals. Using a list of LIS journals compiled by Nixon, the authors reviewed publishing guidelines and policies to identify any statements or requirements related to the use of generative AI in manuscript submission, peer review, or editing. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the findings, including frequency and percentage by publisher. The study also examined whether journals with AI-related policies differ in impact factor from those without. Finally, the article discusses the ethical considerations, benefits, and the need for standardized declarations of generative AI use in LIS publishing.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Statement, Publishing Guidelines, Publishing Policies, Publishing Ethics, Scholarly Publishing

INTRODUCTION

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies such as generative AI became more common, its use in academic settings also gained more popularity. Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer (ChatGPT) is an AI-powered chatbot developed by OpenAI. It has many benefits for scholarly publishing. However, ChatGPT and related technologies have been identified as disruptive innovations with the potential to revolutionize academia and scholarly publishing (Haque et al., 2022). ChatGPT can only benefit authors when used responsibly. There are certainly ethical issues with using ChatGPT for scholarly publishing. First of all, authorship is a major concern. There are questions about the ownership of the work generated by ChatGPT (Schönberger, 2018). Besides, there may be copyright concerns as well. When using ChatGPT, users may find it challenging to ensure that quotes, data, or other materials from external sources comply with copyright laws and

receive proper attribution (Gillotte, 2019). When the language models are trained on a massive amount of data from unknown sources, it is almost impossible to track the original source. As a result, plagiarism may arise from using ChatGPT. It is not limited to copyrighted text, but also includes paraphrasing, methods, graphics, ideas, and any other product of intelligence that belongs to another person (Gasparyan et al., 2017). With the issues raised above, it is necessary to examine the current state of transparency regarding the use of generative AI in scholarly publishing.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Established in 2015, OpenAI is a research laboratory focused on the development of AI products that benefit all of humanity (OpenAI, 2022). The November 2022 release of ChatGPT-3 introduced realistic conversations regarding the benefits and concerns about its role in society. Scholarly publishing, in particular, has been debated with both excitement and anxiety. Benefits of ChatGPT for scholarly publishing include the reduction of repetitive or tedious tasks such as correcting grammatical errors (Hosseini et al., 2023), translating or revising imperfect English (Jiao et al., 2023), and avoiding making biased judgements if trained properly (Stokel-Walker and Van Noorden, 2023). It can support the dissemination and diffusion of new research ideas through the creation of better metadata, indexing, and summaries of research findings (Lund and Wang, 2023). ChatGPT can also benefit authors when used responsibly by composing descriptions of findings and structuring based on the requirements from different publications. Authors could ask ChatGPT to "revise to improve clarity" (Gilat and Cole, 2023). The scholarly publishing community also expressed concerns about the use of ChatGPT (De Waard, 2023; Davis, 2023; Carpenter, 2023; Kendrick, 2023). Ethical issues with using ChatGPT for scholarly publishing include authorship, copyright, plagiarism (Yanisky-Ravid, 2017; Baeza-Yates, 2022), and citation practice (Santini, 2018). Researchers also worried about its impact on academic job expectations, tenure, and promotion (Miller et al., 2011; Kaltenbrunner et al., 2022).

With these benefits and concerns, the scholarly publishing community calls for a balance between generative AI and scholarly publishing (Weerts, 2024). Journals started to define a policy to guide the use of generative AI. *Nature* advises researchers who use these tools to document their use in the methods or acknowledgement sections of manuscripts (Nature, 2023). *JAMA* and the JAMA Network journals have updated their relevant policies in the journals' instructions for authors (JAMA, 2023). Other journals and organizations are quickly following these trends. The Committee on Publishing Ethics (COPE) released its position statement on authorship and AI tools, stating that AI tools cannot be listed as an author of a paper, and affirming authors who use such tools must be transparent in disclosing (COPE, 2023). As publishers catch up on updating their AI policies, researchers have begun to investigate academic publisher guidelines on AI usage. Perkins and Roe (2024) examined how these tools interact with issues of authorship, academic integrity, and research methodologies. Their study underscored the need for an informed, flexible approach to policy formulation that can adapt to the evolving landscape of AI technology. Tang et al. (2024) explored the current state of transparency regarding generative AI use in nursing academic journals, emphasizing the need for explicitly declaring the use of generative AI by authors in manuscripts. To date, there is no comprehensive review of AI policies in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS). The authors aim to bridge this gap by examining the guidelines and policies regarding the use of generative AI policies in LIS journals.

METHODOLOGY

Tang et al. (2024) examined the author guidelines from a selection of nursing academic journals to explore the transparency of generative AI usage in manuscript submissions. Following their methodology, this study reviewed the related policies and guidelines of journals in the LIS field. In their study on popular research topics in the LIS field, Liu and Le (2019) selected journals based on the LIS journal lists developed by Judith Nixon (2014). The LIS journals included in this study were also selected from Nixon's list, which combines several variables, including expert opinion surveys, acceptance and circulation rates, h-indexes, impact factors, and journals with librarian articles. The authors believed that Nixon's LIS journal list, which includes 62 LIS journals evaluated by librarians and developed for librarians, is specifically intended for librarian-authors who wish to enrich the literature in librarianship and report research findings.

After narrowing down the 62 titles, the authors excluded 17 titles that were either not indexed in the Web of Science database or not related to the LIS field, such as the *Journal of Agriculture and Food Information*, and *Journal of Engineering Education*. Table 1 includes the list of journals selected for this study.

Table 1

Journal Titles Included in the Study

	Journal Title
1	*Archival Science*
2	*Aslib Journal of Information Management*
3	*Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science*
4	*Collection Management*
5	*College & Research Libraries*
6	*College & Undergraduate Libraries*
7	*Data Technologies and Applications*
8	*Government Information Quarterly*
9	*Health Information and Libraries Journal*
10	*Information Development*
11	*Information Processing & Management*
12	*Information Research*
13	*Information Sciences*

14 *Information Technology & Libraries*

15 *Interlending & Document Supply*

16 *International Journal of Information Management*

17 *International Journal on Digital Libraries*

18 *Journal of Academic Librarianship*

19 *Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship*

20 *Journal of Documentation*

21 *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*

22 *Journal of Information Science*

23 *Journal of Information Technology*

24 *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*

25 *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*

26 *Journal of the Medical Library Association*

27 *Law Library Journal*

28 *Libraries & the Cultural Record*

29 *Library & Information Science Research*

30 *Library Collections, Acquisitions, and Technical Services*

31 *Library Hi Tech*

32 *Library Journal*

33 *Library Resources & Technical Services*

34 *Library Trends*

35 *Libri*

36 *Online Information Review*

37 *Portal*

38 *Reference & User Services Quarterly*

39	*Reference Services Review*
40	*Restaurator*
41	*Serials Review*
42	*The Electronic Library*
43	*The Information Society*
44	*The Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*
45	*The Library Quarterly*

Since 2014 when the Nixon's list was published, several titles have been renamed. For example, *Aslib Proceedings* was renamed to *Aslib Journal of Information Management* in 2014. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* renamed to *The Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology* in 2014; and *Program: Electronic Library and Information Systems* renamed to *Data Technologies and Applications* in 2017. All journal titles included in Table 1 have been verified and updated using Ulrich's International Periodical Directory and individual titles' websites in January 2024.

The authors checked the websites of the 45 journal titles, gathered and reviewed all statements and policies related to AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) within the journals and their publishers. For those journals with multiple formats, such as print, online, and microform, the authors checked the online form only. All data were collected in the week of January 8-12, 2024, and verified in the following week.

The authors then looked up the impact factor for these titles and recorded the most current impact factor available in Clarivate's Journal Citation Report. Basic information about the journals, such as publisher, country, and open access information were also recorded. Publisher information was cleaned to ensure normalization, for example, Elsevier and Elsevier Limited were grouped together as Elsevier, Taylor Francis and Routledge were grouped as Taylor Francis, and Wiley-Blackwell Publishing and John Wiley & Sons, Inc. were grouped as Wiley. For non-English title, its English translation is used in this study, for example, the English title *The Swedish School of Library and Information Science* is used for the journal *Hoegskolan i Boraas * Bibliotekshoegskolan*. The author guidelines or instructions to authors for each of these identified LIS journals were collected. A thorough review of these guidelines was conducted to determine if there is any disclosure of generative AI and LLMs use statement requirements, and where they are. Descriptive statistics, including frequency and percentages, were used to summarize the findings. The authors also examined if there is any difference in impact factor between journals with and without an AI statement using independent sample t-test.

RESULTS

A total of 45 LIS journals were included in this study. Twenty (44%) of the journals were published in the UK, and 17 (38%) were published in the US. The rest were from Canada (7%), Germany (7%), the Netherlands (2%), and Sweden (2%). See Figure 1.

Figure 1

Number of Journal Titles by Country

Number of Journal Titles by Country

■ Canada ■ Germany ■ Netherlands ■ Sweden ■ UK ■ US
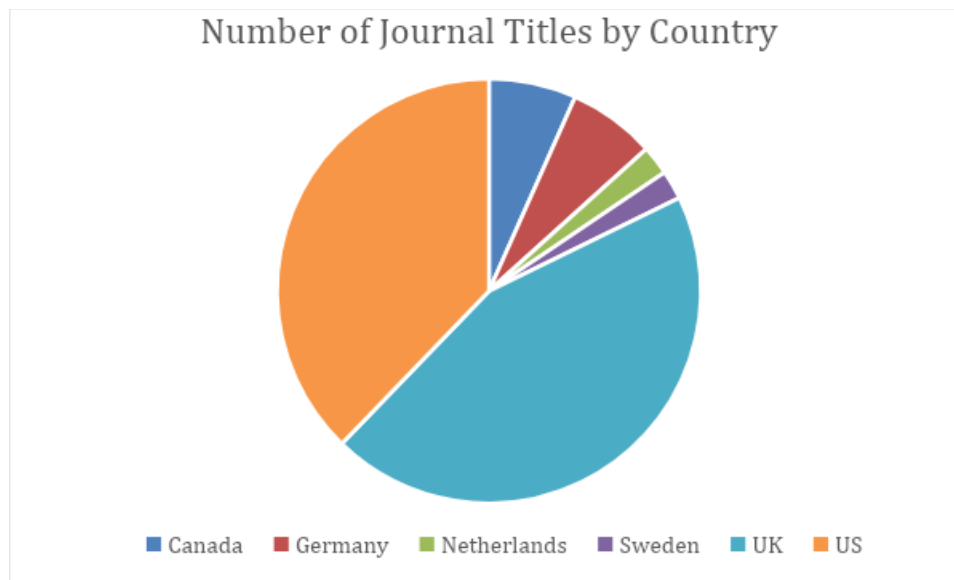
Among the 45 journal titles, 31 (69%) have issued statements regarding the utilization of generative AI tools. The statements found in the journal titles analyzed in this article adhere to the guidelines set forth by their respective publishers. Consequently, the policy analysis in this paper is conducted at the publisher level. Table 2 shows the availability of AI policy statements by publishers.

Table 2

AI Policy Statements by Publishers

Publisher	Count	Percent	AI Policy Statement
Emerald	8	18%	Yes
Elsevier	6	13%	Yes
Taylor & Francis	6	13%	Yes
Sage	4	9%	Yes
American Library Association	2	4%	No
De Gruyter Saur	2	4%	Yes
Springer	2	4%	No
The Johns Hopkins University Press	2	4%	Yes
University of Toronto Press	2	4%	Yes
Wiley	2	4%	Yes
American Association of Law Libraries	1	2%	No
Association of College and Research Libraries	1	2%	No
The Swedish School of Library and Information Science	1	2%	No
Library and Information Technology Association	1	2%	No
Library Journals, LLC	1	2%	No
University of Chicago Press	1	2%	No
University of Pittsburgh * University Library System	1	2%	Yes
University of Texas Press	1	2%	No
University of Western Ontario * Western Libraries	1	2%	No
Total	45	100%	

The Appendix, Publishers and AI Policies, in the end of this paper lists all publishers with AI policy statements, and their AI related policies or the sections containing AI policy statements,

along with the URLs to the web pages containing this information. The authors conducted an analysis of the contents included in these statements and presented the results in the subsequent sections of this paper.

The authors also investigate the availability of AI policies in open-access journals. Out of the 45 journals examined in this study, seven are freely accessible to the public. Among these, only one, the *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, has an AI policy statement, representing only 14.3% of open-access journals. In contrast, among the remaining 38 non-open-access journals, 30 have AI policies, accounting for 78.9% of the non-open-access journals.

AI POLICY STATEMENTS FOR AUTHORS

Authorship

The publishers of all the 31 journals which include AI policy statements ban the authorship of AI due to the accountability requirements for authors.

Elsevier (2024) declares: "Authors should not list AI and AI-assisted technologies as an author or co-author, nor cite AI as an author" (para. 4) in the section of the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in scientific writing under the duties of author of the publishing ethics. In its "AI-based tools and technologies for content generation" policy under the Editorial Policies for Authorship, Taylor & Francis includes the following language: "Authors must be aware that using AI-based tools and technologies for article content generation, e.g. large language models, generative AI, and chatbots (e.g. ChatGPT), is not in line with our authorship criteria" (Informa UK, 2024, para. 1). Under its journals' author guidelines, for example, the journal *Data Technologies and Applications*, Emerald (2023) points out that "Large Language Models cannot be credited with authorship as they are incapable of conceptualizing a research design without human direction and cannot be accountable for the integrity, originality, and validity of the published work" (para. 8).

University publishers also have similar policies regarding the authorship of AI. Johns Hopkins University Press (2023) issued a document of "Generative AI Policy for Authors" on July 24, 2023, which contains "AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) tools do not qualify as authors and cannot be listed as such on any publication. The Press will not accept any work that is substantially written by an AI or LLM tool" (para. 2). University of Toronto Press (2024) asserts "Artificial intelligence (AI) tools do not meet University of Toronto Press's definition for authorship, given the level of accountability required" (para. 1) in the Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools.

The Use of AI in Writing

Among the 31 journals with AI policies, 18 (58%) published by Elsevier, Emerald and Sage post specific guidelines for authors to use Generative AI and related technologies in the writing process to improve readability and language. It is also declared that authors shall be responsible for the accuracy, appropriateness, and validity of the contents in their papers.

Elsevier includes a section of the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in scientific writing under the publishing ethics. It asserts that "where authors use generative

artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased" (Elsevier, 2024, para, 2).

Emerald (2024) provides detailed guidelines for authors to use the AI tools usage in preparing manuscripts in the generative AI usage key principles. The publisher does not permit authors copywrite any part of the article, the generation or reporting of results, and in-text reporting of statistics using a generative AI tool or LLM. However, using these tools to copyedit an article to improve language and readability is permissible.

In the section of "Use of Large Language Models and generative AI tools in writing your submission" for authors in its editorial policies, Sage (2024) recognizes the value of these tools in academic writing, for example, helping preparing manuscripts, providing initial ideas for a structure, and helping summarizing, paraphrasing, language polishing, etc. It also requires authors to be aware of the limitations of these tools and to be responsible for ensuring the accuracy, appropriateness, validity, and other aspects of the content in their submissions.

The Use of AI in Images

Elsevier and Emerald have specific languages regarding the use of AI generated images. The two publishers account for 14 journals, 45% of all titles included in our studies. Elsevier (2024a) specifies the policy for the use of generative AI and AI-assisted tools in creating and altering images, including what actions are not permitted and what kind of adjustments are allowed in submissions, along with exceptions. Authors are required to adhere to the AI tools' usage policies and correct content attribution. Generative AI tools are not allowed to produce artwork, but they might be permitted for cover art if prior permission is obtained. Emerald (2024) bans the images created by AI tools or LLMs for submission and publication.

Disclosure of the AI Usage

To ensure transparency, all publishers of the 31 journals with AI policies require the disclosure of the use of AI in manuscripts.

Taylor & Francis asks authors to acknowledge and document appropriately in the authored work if AI tools are used in content generation (Informa UK, 2024). Wiley (2023) requires authors to describe the details in the Methods or Acknowledgements section if Artificial Intelligence Generated Content (AIGC) tools are used to develop any part of a manuscript. University of Toronto Press (2024) points out that "authors who use AI tools as part of their research must declare and describe such use as part of methodologies, as would be required for the use of any other technology and tools used in research" (para. 2).

The *Journal of the Medical Library Association,* published by the University of Pittsburgh * University Library System (n.d.), discourages authors from submitting generative AI-created content. For manuscripts with AI generated contents, authors are required to disclose activities of using generative AI to: (1) write text; (2) generate data, images, figures or citations; (3) generate ideas used in the manuscript; and (4) translate text other than authors' own words. It specifies that disclosure is made in the methods section and among the references, with detailed

usage information of AI systems. The publisher also provides a disclosure example for authors' reference.

Sage (2024) further requires authors to clearly indicate the use of AI tools in the manuscript, to provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, and to acknowledge the limitations of these tools in the manuscript.

Johns Hopkins University Press (2024) requires authors disclose the use of AI or LLMs in their submission in two ways: (1) acknowledging the use using a general statement at the beginning of an article or other work, and (2) citing any use in text, images, graphs, tables, or other parts of the intellectual work.

Elsevier (2024) provides detailed disclosure instructions for authors to follow. Authors are required to add a statement at the end of the manuscripts as a new section entitled "Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process" (para. 4). A statement template is also provided.

In terms of what is exempted from disclosure, Emerald (2023) indicates that authors do not need to disclose the use of standard tools to improve spelling and grammar.

AI Policies for Editors and Peer Reviewers

While most of the AI policies target authors, some publishers include statements for editors and peer reviewers as well, such as Elsevier, Sage and Taylor & Francis which publish 16 journals, representing over half of the total titles having AI policies in the study.

To ensure the confidentiality of submission and peer review details, these publishers ask their journal editors and peer reviewers not upload a submitted manuscript or any part of it, or their letters or reports into systems or tools that may store or use the information for their own purposes, including the generative AI tools or LLMs systems, even if for improving language and readability (Elsevier, 2024b; Elsevier, 2024c; Informa UK, 2024a; Informa UK, 2024b; Sage, 2024).

Journal Impact Factor vs AI Policy Statement

The mean impact factors of those journals with and without statements about the use of generative AI in the writing process were 3.12 and 0.91, respectively. The result from an independent sample t-test indicates a significant difference in impact factors between journals with and without an AI statement (P=0.004). See Table 3 for t-test results.

Table 3

t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances

	With AI statement	Without AI Statement
Mean	3.120719	0.912
Variance	15.48525	0.413593
Observations	32	13
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	

df	35
t Stat	3.075599
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.00203
t Critical one-tail	1.689572
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.004061
t Critical two-tail	2.030108

CONCLUSIONS

This study provides an overview of the current landscape of the guidelines and policies regarding the use of generative AI tools in LIS journals. Among the 45 journal titles investigated, 31 (69%) have an AI statement in their publication guidelines, indicating that publishers are starting to adjust their policies in recognition of the quick development of Generative AI and related areas. Currently, most AI policy statements target authors, including authorship, the use of AI in writing, and the use of AI in images. In practice, all 31 journals that have AI policies require authors to declare the use of AI in their manuscripts. Some publishers, representing 16 journals in this study, have policies for editors and peer reviewers as well to ensure confidentiality of submission and peer review details. Editors and peer reviewers are forbidden from uploading a manuscript or any part of it, or their letters or reports to AI tools or LLM systems. Furthermore, this study revealed a lack of AI policy statements in open-access journals. It is crucial for these journals to adopt such policies to ensure their quality and combat predatory practices in the academic publishing landscape. In conclusion, there is a need for standardization of generative AI declarations in LIS journals to ensure the quality and responsible implementation of AI technologies in scholarly publishing.

AI is set to reshape scholarly publishing in profound ways, influencing how research is created, reviewed, disseminated, and consumed. AI-powered tools can streamline literature reviews, data analysis, and hypothesis generation, accelerating research workflows. Translation and summarization tools can break down language barriers, making research more globally accessible. While AI can help detect fraud, it might also facilitate data fabrication or generate misleading research, necessitating robust systems to guard against AI-enabled misconduct. AI's future in scholarly publishing is a double-edged sword: it promises greater efficiency and accessibility but raises critical questions about ethics, control, and the human elements of scholarship. Navigating this impact requires a thoughtful balance of innovation and responsibility. Ultimately, the future of AI in scholarly publishing relies on careful human oversight. By embracing AI as a collaborative partner rather than a replacement for human scholarship, the academic community can cultivate a publishing landscape that is faster, fairer, and more dynamic.

Future research may explore AI integration in scholarly publishing across several dimensions. One focus could be developing tools to detect AI usage in manuscripts, distinguishing legitimate uses (like language editing or data analysis) from potential misconduct (such as undisclosed AI-generated content). Researchers might investigate techniques to identify AI-generated text, even as models grow more sophisticated. Another critical area involves building AI governance frameworks to ensure ethical, safe, and responsible use. This could include policies for AI disclosure, guidelines for acceptable assistance, and mechanisms to audit tools for fairness, accuracy, and bias. Scholars could examine how these frameworks affect research integrity and

public trust. Researchers could assess how AI impacts review quality, turnaround times, and reviewer workload, exploring ways to optimize human-AI collaboration for a more efficient and rigorous scholarly publishing process. By exploring these avenues, future research can help shape a publishing ecosystem where AI enhances scholarly communication while upholding academic integrity, equity, and human oversight.

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APPENDIX: PUBLISHERS AND AI POLICIES

Publisher	AI Policy/Section	AI Policy URL
De Gruyter Saur	Authorship and Contributorship	https://www.degruyter.com/publishing/for-authors/for-journal-authors/publishing-ethics
Elsevier	Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/international-journal-of-information-management/publish/guide-for-authors
Elsevier	The use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in scientific writing; & The use of generative AI and AI-assisted tools in figures, images and artwork	https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies-and-standards/publishing-ethics#4-duties-of-authors
Elsevier	The use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the journal editorial process	https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies-and-standards/publishing-ethics#2-duties-of-editors
Elsevier	The use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the journal peer review process	https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies-and-standards/publishing-ethics#3-duties-of-reviewers
Emerald	Generative AI usage key principles	https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/journal/dta?distinct_id=%24device%3A18cf447c183c48-05149c93da12d1-4c657b58-1fa400-18cf447c183c48&_gl=1*10o6jfa*_ga*MTMyNDIyNDI5Mi4xNzA0OTA1Mzkz*_ga_45RWY1YP1V*MTcwNDkxMTQ0NC4yLjEuMTcwNDkxMTk5NC4wLjAuMA..&_ga=2.174953122.1870403507.1704905393-1324224292.1704905393#author-guidelines
Sage	Use of Large Language Models and generative AI tools in writing your submission	https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/chatgpt-and-generative-ai-0
Sage	Guidance for editors and reviewers	https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/chatgpt-and-generative-ai-0
Taylor & Francis	AI-based tools and technologies for content generation	https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/editorial-policies/defining-authorship-research-paper/

Taylor & Francis	Journal Editor Code of Conduct	https://editorresources.taylorandfrancis.com/welcome-to-tf/policies-guidelines/editor-code-of-conduct/
Taylor & Francis	Ethical guidelines for peer reviewers	https://editorresources.taylorandfrancis.com/reviewer-guidelines/
The Johns Hopkins University Press	Use of AI tools in author submissions; Generative AI Policy for Authors	https://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/portal-libraries-and-academy
University of Pittsburgh * University Library System	Generative AI Submission	https://jmla.mlanet.org/ojs/jmla/AIsubmissionpolicy
University of Toronto Press	Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools	https://utpjournals.press/resources/editorial-policies#_ai
Wiley	Artificial Intelligence Generated Content	https://authorservices.wiley.com/ethics-guidelines/index.html

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