

# Policy on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Scholarly Publishing

Approved January 18, 2024

## PREAMBLE

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is a technology that creates text, images, and video by synthesizing data from millions of sources. ChatGPT is one example of a generative AI tool. Generative AI can summarize complex information quickly and produce a clear, coherent narrative or image, thus simplifying content creation. However, because this technology draws on all available data sources regardless of the accuracy of that data, its responses may be misleading, outdated or even factually incorrect.

Recognizing that authors and reviewers now have easy access to generative AI tools, the editorial board of the *Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene* (CJDH) has drafted the following policy on the responsible use of generative AI in scholarly publishing.

## AUTHORS AND GENERATIVE AI

One of the biggest concerns over the use of generative AI in scholarly publishing relates to the question of authorship.

Authors of manuscripts submitted to CJDH have, for years, been required to sign a declaration confirming that they meet the journal's three criteria for authorship, as defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE, [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)). These criteria are as follows:

1. The individual has contributed to study conception and design, or data acquisition or data analysis AND
2. The individual has contributed to writing or critically reviewing the article AND
3. The individual approves and can take responsibility for the final version of the article submitted for publication.

If an individual uses a generative AI tool to write a manuscript that is then submitted to CJDH for publication consideration, that individual cannot be credited, by definition, as an “author” of the manuscript. Nor can the generative AI tool be credited as an author because such technologies cannot be held accountable for the content that they produce.

### *Unacceptable uses of generative AI*

In short, generative AI technologies may not be used by CJDH authors to:

- Write full manuscripts (original research articles, review articles, short communications, case reports)
- Write opinion pieces or editorials (these forms of writing are necessarily subjective and involve the expression of an individual's personal or professional opinion)

### *Acceptable uses of generative AI*

Generative AI technologies may be used by CJDH authors for the following purposes:

- Translating text from one language to another
- Drafting plain language summaries of the author's own abstracts
- Producing images to support the author's own research
- Drafting social media posts or promotional materials about one's research

*Remember: Generative AI tools cannot produce accurate or complete references and citations because their output is a compilation of data from millions of sources. As “large language models,” they cannot attribute statements to individual sources.*

Authors must disclose in their covering letter to the scientific editor how/if AI was used to generate any text or images. This disclosure will be published at the end of the article, before the reference list, should the manuscript be accepted for publication.

# Policy on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Scholarly Publishing

Approved January 18, 2024

## Sample Disclosure Statement

*During the preparation of this manuscript, the author(s) used [TOOL and VERSION] to produce [XXX]. Before adding [XXX] to the submission, the author(s) reviewed and corrected it, as required, and take full responsibility for its content.*

## REVIEWERS AND GENERATIVE AI

The journal's *Reviewer Guidelines* state: "Manuscripts under review should be treated as confidential documents both during and after the completion of peer review." For reasons of confidentiality alone, it would be unethical for a reviewer to upload a manuscript to ChatGPT or another generative AI tool for evaluation.

In addition, CJDH seeks out subject matter specialists to evaluate the quality of submitted manuscripts based on their internationally recognized expertise in the field. Their professional opinions are highly valued and essential to maintaining the scientific rigour and integrity of the journal. Generative AI tools are not subject matter experts, nor are they capable of taking responsibility for the critiques produced.

### *Unacceptable uses of generative AI*

Generative AI technologies may not be used by CJDH reviewers to assess manuscripts submitted for peer review.

### *Acceptable uses of generative AI*

There are currently no acceptable uses of generative AI by peer reviewers.