

AI editorial policy and guidance

Updated on 17 December 2024

With the quickly emerging use of artificial intelligence in publishing, we are sending out this clarification to all our suppliers and contributors on our policy on authorship and how to interpret it in relation to authorship questions around artificial intelligence.

Use of Generative AI Models, such as ChatGPT, is bound by the [Springer Nature AI principles](#). These principles, by which Macmillan Education abides, set out the key values that underlie our relationships with authors and editors. Please click on the following link to read [Macmillan Education's AI Policy](#).

These values inform our publishing activities in general, not just in the application of AI, emphasising as they do the principles of transparency, accountability and human oversight that govern the relationship between a publisher and a contributor.

When preparing or submitting a manuscript, it is the author who is ultimately accountable for the work and who guarantees the accuracy and originality of the contribution. For example, if the author wishes to include some third-party copyright material in a manuscript, they would seek approval from their editor at Macmillan Education, who would obtain permission to reuse that material on behalf of the author as shown in the warranty clause below:

Example contract warranty clause

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Generative AI Models, which power tools such as ChatGPT, do not currently satisfy our authorship criteria and therefore cannot be credited as authors. Notably, as mentioned previously, an attribution

of authorship carries with it accountability for the work, which cannot be effectively applied to Generative AI. We therefore ask that the use of Generative AI be properly documented in the Introduction or Acknowledgements section of the manuscript, if appropriate.

We will insert appropriate wording in all author and supplier briefs and contracts to help clarify this. If as a supplier, you do receive a submission with Generative AI listed as an author, please ask the submitting/corresponding author to remove the Generative AI attribution from the author list and instead describe the role of Generative AI in the Acknowledgements or Introduction (or other appropriate) section of the manuscript.

We will continue to monitor and further engage in discussion around this developing area and inform you of any updates.

Below are examples of how generative AI can support the authoring and editorial process in line with our AI Editorial Policy, as well as instances where its use would contravene policy:

OK

- Use case:** Use a Generative AI Model (such as Chat GPT) to generate a Reading or Listening text, which you will then fact check for accuracy, edit, etc.
Policy: Please acknowledge your use of AI in this context. AI generated content cannot be copyrighted, so we will provide appropriate wording to make it clear to customers that AI has been used.
- Use case:** Use a Generative AI Model (such as Chat GPT) to generate questions for an activity, which you will then fact check for accuracy, edit, etc.
Policy: Please acknowledge your use of AI in this context. AI generated content cannot be copyrighted, so we will provide appropriate wording to make it clear to customers that AI has been used.
- Use case:** Use AI to aid you in your own writing by asking it to reduce word count, translate, copy edit or otherwise by using it as an editorial assistant.
Policy: You do not need to acknowledge editorial uses of AI. If unsure of whether your specific use case falls into this category, please contact your Commissioning Editor.

Not OK

- Use case:** Use AI to generate images to include in the book you are working on.
Policy: Our AI Policy prohibits the use of AI in image generation when the generated image would be included in published material. This is a fast-developing area of AI, so please check our Editorial policy for updates.
- Use case:** Use AI as an editorial assistant by asking it to transform a story, article, lesson or similar taken from a book, website or other application.
Policy: This would be against our policy as we would consider it copyright infringement.
The guiding principle is that you do not use third-party material in a Generative AI Model to adapt or convert it or feed 3rd party or copyright material that is not your own into a Generative AI Model as the material will be used to train the model.