Defining the boundaries of using Artificial Intelligence in publishing

Academic publishing is nowadays encountering a new challenge: defining the boundaries of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This topic has also been discussed within our editorial board, and we have been refining our policies accordingly. The following is a concise update on the current status of the concern, which encompasses two key aspects.

Firstly, we are aware of the exhilarating preference of AI tools in the writing of academic papers. Our policy has therefore been updated to clearly articulate the ethical use of AI. To be more precise , the use of AI tools to generate content is prohibited. However, we do encourage authors to utilize various AI tools for language, spelling and grammar enhancement that might better readability. On the other hand, authors must ensure that the substantive content of their proposals remain entirely their own original work. Experienced reviewers are capable of detecting AI-generated content, and we use AI detection tools -- although their limitations are acknowledged.

Secondly, the use of AI as a reviewer is gaining attention. Some journals are increasingly employing large language models (LLMs) to check for common errors or inconsistencies in texts. However, we cannot rely solely on LLMs for peer review due to their limitations in understanding the key arguments of the research and their critical evaluation. It is a fact that these tools can assist editors in identifying common issues and expediting the review process, but the involvement of human reviewers still remains essential. Ideally, in the long run, such AI tools will complement human reviewers and enhance the overall efficiency and accuracy of papers.

The situation is evolving, and we will continue to observe how these technologies impact academic publishing.

Let us, now, conclude with a poem generated by ChatGPT based on the content of this foreword:

In the realm where knowledge grows,
A new challenge swiftly flows.
AI's touch on papers bright,
Sparks debate in scholar's light.

Policies and ethics blend,
Guidelines set where rules extend.
Human minds and tools combined,
Seeking balance, intertwined.

Reviewers watch with keen eye,
While AI aids and questions why.
A dance of intellect and machine,
In the world of academic sheen.

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Dr. Enis KARAARSLAN
Editor in Chief

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