Editorial: The Imperative of Upholding Academic Integrity in the Face of Artificial Intelligence Challenges

Saldy Yusuf

Editor in Chief, Indonesian Contemporary Nursing Journal

Effective scholarly communication, whether oral or written, is inherently challenging. Scientific discourse relies on objective facts rather than subjective opinions. Hence, it necessitates grounding in evidence derived from research, ensuring the arguments presented are objective and supported by factual findings. Generating scholarly information, even in a single sentence, is a laborious process, demanding considerable time, financial resources, and substantial energy. In some instances, continuous or multi-year research is imperative.

Nevertheless, technological advancements have revolutionized this landscape. Writing can now be expedited through the use of available artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, ranging from free versions to premium services. For example, Jenni AI functions akin to a "magical assistant," generating text on requested topics. ELICIT AI excels in grid synthesis, ResearchPal automates literature reviews, and others provide various functionalities. This poses a temptation to researchers, making AI a double-edged sword in the realm of publication integrity.

Fundamentally, artificial intelligence serves as a tool aiding authors in research, synthesis, tabulation, and even citation. However, beneath its capabilities, AI has morphed into a "robotic assistant for writers," capable of fulfilling writing orders with diverse variations and across multiple languages. The integration of AI in scholarly publishing has sparked debates among academics. Currently, there is no golden standard governing the use of AI in publishing, leading to the acceptance of some articles authored by AI, such as ChatGPT, while simultaneously rejecting works of senior authors for being perceived as AI-generated. A study has confirmed the low accuracy of ChatGPT in reference writing, underscoring the need for vigilance (Salvagno et al., 2023).

The presence of artificial intelligence, exemplified by technologies like ChatGPT, resembles a double-edged sword that can tempt researchers' integrity. The use of AI has the potential to contaminate research integrity, leading to partial or total academic dishonesty and ethical dilemmas, ultimately distorting the dissemination of knowledge. Therefore, critical thinking remains crucial in AI utilization (Salvagno et al., 2023).

Several mitigation measures can be initiated within Research Ethics Committees. Ethical committees should evolve beyond detecting risks related to experimental animals or research participants, addressing the widespread

use of AI in academic writing. Ethical committees must undertake mitigation efforts, employing early detection, education, warnings, and sanctions for AI practices violating integrity norms. At the journal management level, editors should revise writing guidelines, incorporating clear statements regarding authorship concerning AI use, given that issues related to accuracy, originality, academic integrity, and ethical concerns surrounding AI remain contentious. From the author's perspective, as a manifestation of academic integrity, disclosure of AI usage in scientific writing is imperative (Hosseini et al., 2023), and a final check should be conducted on manuscripts utilizing AI (İmre, 2023).

References

Hosseini, M., Resnik, D. B., & Holmes, K. (2023). The ethics of disclosing the use of artificial intelligence tools in writing scholarly manuscripts. *Research Ethics*, *19*(4). 449-465. https://doi.org/10.1177/17470161231180449

İmre, O. (2023). Artificial Intelligence and Article Writing. *European Journal of Therapeutics*, *29*(4), 988-989. https://doi.org/10.58600/eurjther1706

Salvagno, M., Taccone, F. S., & Gerli, A. G. (2023). Can artificial intelligence help for scientific writing? *Critical Care*, *27*(1). 1-5. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13054-023-04380-2