

Journal Policy on the Use of AI Tools by Authors and Reviewers

Introduction

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as large language models (LLMs) or multimodal models, continue to develop and evolve, including in their application for research and scientific publishing. Those tools can produce diverse forms of content, spanning text generation, image synthesis, audio, and synthetic data. Some examples include ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, Claude, NovelAI, Jasper AI, DALL-E, Midjourney, Runway, etc.

The Editorial Board of *Studia Regionalne i Lokalne* recognises that there are certain risks associated with the current generation of Generative AI tools, for example:

1. **Inaccuracy and bias:** Generative AI tools are of a statistical nature (as opposed to factual) and, as such, can introduce inaccuracies, falsities (so-called hallucinations) or bias, which can be hard to detect, verify, and correct.
2. **Lack of attribution:** Generative AI is often lacking the standard practice of the global scholarly community of correctly and precisely attributing ideas, quotes, or citations.
3. **Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Risks:** At present, Generative AI tools are often used on third-party platforms that may not offer sufficient standards of confidentiality, data security, or copyright protection.
4. **Unintended uses:** Generative AI providers may reuse the input or output data from user interactions (e.g. for AI training). This practice could potentially infringe on the rights of authors and publishers, amongst others.

For this reason, we have developed guidelines for authors and reviewers of *Studia Regionalne i Lokalne* on the use of AI tools in the preparation of articles and reviews.

Authors

All authors are accountable for the originality, validity, and integrity of the content of their submissions. In choosing to use Generative AI tools, journal authors are expected to do so responsibly and in accordance with our journal [guidelines for authors](#) and principles of [publishing ethics](#). This includes reviewing the outputs of any Generative AI tools and confirming content accuracy.

Authors may responsibly use AI tools when preparing articles but always in accordance with the following principles: high standards of data security, confidentiality, and copyright protection. Permitted forms of use include:

- Idea generation and idea exploration
- Language improvement
- Interactive online search with LLM-enhanced search engines
- Literature classification
- Coding assistance

Authors are responsible for ensuring that the content of their submissions meets the required standards of rigorous scientific and scholarly assessment, research and validation, and is created by the author.

Generative AI tools must not be listed as an author, because such tools are unable to assume responsibility for the submitted content or manage copyright and licensing agreements.

Authors must clearly acknowledge any use of Generative AI tools in the appropriate section of the article submission form. The statement should include: the full name of the tool used (with version number), how it was used, and the reason for use. If an author is intending to use an AI tool, they should ensure that the tool is appropriate and robust for their proposed use, and that the terms applicable to such tool provide sufficient safeguards and protections, for example around intellectual property rights, confidentiality and security.

Authors should not submit manuscripts where Generative AI tools have been used in ways that replace core researcher and author responsibilities, for example:

- text or code generation without rigorous revision
- synthetic data generation to substitute missing data without robust methodology
- generation of any types of content which is inaccurate including abstracts or supplemental materials
- creation and manipulation of images (photos)

These types of cases may be subject to editorial investigation.

Reviewers and editors

Taking into account the highest standards of editorial integrity and transparency, as well as confidentiality, data security, and data protection requirements, reviewers and editors must not upload files, images, or information from unpublished manuscripts into Generative AI tools. Generative AI may only be used to assist with improving review language, but reviewers will always remain responsible for ensuring the accuracy and integrity of their reviews.