

Handout: How to deal with generative AI output in scientific publications

Please note:

The handout is based on the sources listed at the end of the document. For subject- and institute-specific regulations, you should always consult with your supervisor before publishing your own work.

Use case 1:

I want to use generative AI output in my own publication.

Legal situation:

Generative AI output is not protected by copyright (Germany and EU). However, sometimes models are trained illegally on copyrighted works.

There is no general legal requirement to label generative AI output, but individual instances may deviate from this.

Deepfakes:

Deepfakes (image, audio, and video) must be labelled.

Before publishing:

- Read the AI tool's terms of use.
- Read the guidelines of the publisher.
- Check for the guidelines and regulations of your home university and employer.
- Check the AI output to see if it contains copyright-protected material. (As generative AI tools generate content based on probabilities, this is rare, but it cannot be completely excluded.) Tip: Write in the prompt that the sources should be listed and check them.
- In general, cite the original source instead of the AI tool.

→ **If use of the output is permitted, then label it as a direct quotation.**

Use case 2:

I modified generative AI output and want to use it in my own publication.

Legal situation:

In the interest of good scientific practice, the origin of content and ideas must be transparent. If content or ideas are not your own, they must be referenced.

While good scientific practice is not legally binding, it is often required by the regulations of scientific organizations.

Intranet: Rules of good scientific practice

<https://intranet.fz-juelich.de/en/about-us/wissenschaftlichepraxis>

DFG recommendations:

If you use generative models in your own work, you should indicate this in the publication.

Describe:

- Which models were used?
- What were they used for?
- To what extent were they used?

Before publishing:

- Check the tool's terms of use and guidelines & regulations of the publisher, your home university, and your employer.
- Comply with the DFG recommendations.
- In general, cite the original source instead of the AI tool.

→ **If use of the modified output is permitted, then label it as an indirect quotation.**

Citation recommendation:

- Title = Prompt
- Name and version of the tool
- Provider
- Date
- URL

Documentation:

1. List the tools you used and detail for what (see example).
2. Store your chat history.
3. Store your metadata (title = prompt, name of tool, version, provider, date, URL) in your reference database.
4. Add your documentation to the appendix of your publication (according to standards).

Example

Model	Version	Provider	URL	Usage	Chapter	Notes
DeepL Translator	No information	DeepL SE	https://www.deepl.com/translator	Translation of text	Complete work	
BlaBlador	No information	Helmholtz AI Jülich	https://helmholtz-blablador.fz-juelich.de/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sum up the latest developments in my research fieldLiterature search	Introduction	

Based on: https://www.uni-bremen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/sites/qm/Leitfaden_KI_De_Eng_1.pdf

Bibliography

(retrieved 02/2025)

Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels

<https://www.boersenverein.de/beratung-service/recht/kuenstliche-intelligenz/>

Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202401689

Press Release No. 39 | September 21, 2023

AI and ChatGPT in Science and the Humanities – DFG Formulates Guidelines for Dealing with Generative Models for Text and Image Creation

<https://www.dfg.de/en/service/press/press-releases/2023/press-release-no-39>

Didaktische und rechtliche Perspektiven auf KI-gestütztes Schreiben in der Hochschulbildung

<https://hss-opus.ub.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/opus4/frontdoor/index/index/docId/9734>

Leitfaden «Aus KI zitieren» - Umgang mit auf Künstlicher Intelligenz basierenden Tools

https://www.uni-bremen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/sites/qm/Leitfaden_KI_De_Eng_1.pdf