

UC Santa Cruz

Publishing Tips Series Season 2

Title

Season 2, Week 4 - Can I use AI for my article?

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3268z60r>

Author

Stuit, Martha

Publication Date

2025-11-13

Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



Publishing Tips Series – Season 2, Week 4

November 13, 2025

This is the fourth week of the Publishing Tips Series, Season 2, and this second season runs from October 23 to December 4, 2025. This week's installment covers **"Can I use AI for my article?"** Here are this week's takeaways:

- Authorship and copyright are not currently available to AI-generated content.
- Journals' policies and ethics may also guide your use of AI.

Spotify link to listen

[Season 2, Week 4 podcast episode](#) (same content as the following text-based version, only in audio format)

Can I Use AI for My Article?

(This installment was written in the fall of 2025, and generative artificial intelligence continues to rapidly change.)

"Users should remember that AI is a tool and not an accountable author or reviewer," write Hong Zhou and Marie Soulière in their [summary](#) of the Committee on Publication Ethics' webinar for The Scholarly Kitchen.

But isn't AI being used in many things now? It may seem like generative artificial intelligence (AI) is everywhere, but it cannot be used for everything. In publishing, AI raises issues around authorship, policy, copyright, and ethics.

This week's tip will briefly discuss each of these areas, but please know whether and how to incorporate AI is an ongoing question! This tip also cannot fully answer the question of "Can I use AI for my article?" for you because the answer will depend on the details of your specific situation, reasons for using AI, and what the output contains and is used for.

Note that authors also worry about their publications being used to train AI, but this issue is not covered in this installment/episode, though you may read more about it in [this zine](#) from the Authors Alliance.

Authorship

In Season 2, Week 3, we talked about authorship, including who is an author. Paired with this week's AI topic, you may be wondering whether AI can be an author. The above quote from Zhou and Soulière indicates that AI cannot be an author, as does [COPE's statement on Authorship and AI tools](#) and another [article about code and AI](#). So what is an author who uses AI to do? The general rule of thumb is to disclose any AI use, usually in the methods/materials section of your article, for transparency. It is good to keep in mind that authors bear the responsibility for the content of their work, including AI-generated portions.

Policy

Many journals are implementing AI policies, which clarify what authors can and cannot do with AI. As an author, check the journal's website for an AI policy and follow those guidelines closely. Such policies may require disclosure, as mentioned earlier, and some even have a specific statement to include with your article if you have used AI in some way (see the statement in the ["Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing"](#) guidance from the journal we looked at in Week 2, *Fungal Ecology*). If you do not see an AI policy and/or are unsure about whether your AI use is acceptable, reach out to the journal, either on their main contact address or to the managing editor, to inquire.

Copyright

At this point, this answer won't surprise you! Like how AI cannot be an author, AI-generated content also cannot currently be copyrighted. AI-generated content can contain copyrighted material that was part of the training data, so it is good to watch out for whether it is too similar to something else. In other words, U.S. law and the courts say that authors need to be humans. Still, human authors are usually involved with the AI-generated material, so this nuance means that the author would hold copyright over any modifications. This issue will likely evolve as authors do creative things with AI and cases are decided in the courts, so this point about AI content not having copyright could change in the future.

Ethics

AI raises many ethical questions. One question that relates to researching, writing, and publishing is whether to upload your work or that of others into an AI tool, which will depend on if you have the rights to do so. In addition to IRB guidelines about how to conduct your research to maintain confidentiality in a human study, your decisions may also depend on how your discipline is approaching and using AI. Talking with your advisor and peers may help you decide how to proceed, in addition to identifying if you have the rights to input something into AI.

Putting it into practice

Each week we will have a few things to read or try. For this week:

1. For more in-depth answers about AI for authors, read the [Authors Alliance FAQ about generative AI](#).
2. Since authors may have concerns about their publications being used to train AI, which is not covered in this installment/episode, read more about it in [this zine](#) by the Authors Alliance.

A shout out to thank Christie Hurrell and Brianna Calomino of the University of Calgary for sharing their slides that helped inform this week's installment/episode!

More questions? Contact the Library at research@library.ucsc.edu or [sign up](#) for a one-on-one Zoom meeting about publishing.

Next week's tip is about the tough but common (and emotional!) peer review outcome of **rejection**.

Martha Stuit

Scholarly Communication Librarian, [Author Services](#), UCSC University Library