



# Royal Australian Historical Society

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## **The Use of AI for Writing Journals: A Tool for Enhancement, Not Replacement**

History has shown that changes in technology can be painful for those familiar and comfortable with the old. To be a Luddite is, of course, a historically grounded concept. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionised various sectors, from healthcare to finance, and its influence is increasingly being felt in the realm of writing and journalism. AI's capabilities in generating text, analysing data, and even mimicking human writing styles have sparked debates about its role in writing journals. While there are valid concerns about originality and ethical implications, it is the position of this journal that it is crucial to view AI as a powerful tool that can enhance the writing process rather than replace human creativity and critical thinking. To be explicit, it can, of course, be used as any other tool of historical research can be. The author still bears the onus.

### **Enhancing Efficiency and Productivity**

One of the most significant advantages of using AI in journal writing is the enhancement of efficiency and productivity. AI can quickly analyse vast amounts of data, identify patterns, and generate summaries, which can save writers considerable time. For researchers and journalists, this means spending less time on data collection and preliminary analysis, allowing them to focus on deeper insights and narrative development.

AI tools like natural language processing (NLP) algorithms can assist in drafting content by suggesting relevant information, correcting grammatical errors, and even proposing stylistic improvements. For instance, Grammarly uses AI to provide real-time writing suggestions, helping writers produce clearer and more polished texts. These tools can be particularly beneficial for non-native English speakers, enabling them to communicate their ideas more effectively.

### **AI as a Collaborative Partner**

Despite its advantages, it is essential to recognise that AI is not infallible. AI systems can make mistakes, ranging from minor grammatical errors to more significant contextual misunderstandings. These mistakes can stem from limitations in AI training data, biases encoded in algorithms, or simply the complex nature of human language that AI has yet to fully grasp.

Consequently, while AI can significantly aid the writing process, it cannot replace the need for human oversight. Authors must carefully proofread and review AI-generated content to ensure accuracy and coherence. This responsibility underscores an essential point: the author ultimately owns the content and any mistakes within it. Relying solely on AI without diligent review can lead to the dissemination of incorrect or misleading information, which can undermine the credibility of the journal and the author.

## **Ethical Considerations and Originality**

The integration of AI in journal writing also raises important ethical considerations. The potential for AI to generate content that is derivative or lacks originality is a significant concern. While AI can assist in generating text based on existing data, it does not possess the inherent creativity and intuition of a human writer. Therefore, it is crucial for authors to use AI as a tool for inspiration and support rather than as a primary source of content creation.

Ensuring originality in journal writing requires authors to infuse their unique perspectives, insights, and critical thinking into their work. AI can help by providing a foundation or enhancing certain aspects of the writing process, but the essence of the content should remain a product of human intellect and creativity. This approach not only preserves the integrity of the writing but also ensures that the work resonates on a deeper level with readers.

## **The Future of AI in Journal Writing**

Looking ahead, the role of AI in journal writing is likely to continue evolving. Advances in AI technology will undoubtedly improve its capabilities, making it an even more valuable tool for writers. However, the fundamental principle that AI should enhance rather than replace human effort will remain paramount.

Educational institutions and journalistic organisations should emphasise the importance of digital literacy, ensuring that writers are equipped with the skills to effectively use AI tools while maintaining ethical standards and personal accountability. Training programs can focus on teaching writers how to critically evaluate AI-generated content, integrate it with their own insights, and uphold the highest standards of accuracy and originality.

In conclusion, AI has the potential to significantly enhance the efficiency, productivity, and quality of journal writing. However, it is crucial to recognise that AI is a tool, not a replacement for human creativity and critical thinking. Authors must take ownership of their work, diligently proofread AI-generated content, and ensure that their unique perspectives shine through. By leveraging AI responsibly, writers can create compelling and accurate journals that uphold the integrity and credibility of their work.

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