



AFS Policy on Authorship Criteria & Use of AI Technology

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to help authors improve the preparation and quality of their manuscripts and published articles is escalating. This, in turn reinforces the decision to update the “AFS Author’s Guide” to recognize the need for a policy that addresses the use of AI in AFS publications.

AFS has decided to adopt an *AFS Authorship Criteria* policy for our technical publications which prohibits the usage of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, in the authorship of submitted manuscripts. These LLMs do not currently satisfy AFS authorship criteria. This policy prohibits naming of such “tools” as a “credited author on a research paper” because “attribution of authorship carries with it, accountability for the work, and AI tools cannot take such responsibility. The US Copyright Office has stated that works created by generative AI are not eligible for copyright protection because copyright is reserved for “the fruits of intellectual labor’ that “are founded in the creative powers of the [human] mind.”

Author Responsibilities

- The submission of content created by AI, language models, machine learning, or similar technologies are prohibited unless it is a part of the formal research design/experimental analysis. It is not permitted without a clear description of the content created and the name of the manufacturer/model/version must be included. This will allow peer reviewers and the AFS team to make an informed publishing decision regarding your paper submission.
- If AI tools are used to create content or assist with manuscript preparation, authors must take responsibility for the integrity of the content generated by these tools. Authors must report the use of AI technology in the manuscript submission by adding one (or both) of the following disclosure statements to the Acknowledgments section of your manuscript submission.
 1. **Author Disclosure Statement:** *In generating manuscript content/text, the author(s) used the following AI-Technology/Tools: insert AI name. The specific content generated by these AI tools is clearly indicated and described on the following pages insert page/section. After using this tool, the author(s) reviewed and edited the manuscript content and take(s) full responsibility for the content of this manuscript.*
 2. **Author Disclosure Statement:** *To improve readability of the manuscript, the author(s) used the following AI-Technology/Tools: insert AI name. The specific content was used non-generatively to edit the document for grammar, punctuation, and improved sentence structure. After using this AI tool, the author(s) reviewed and edited the manuscript content and take(s) full responsibility for the content of this manuscript.*

AFS will continue to review and evolve editorial and publication policies in response to these developments with the aim of maintaining the highest standards of transparency and scientific integrity.