



## 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.

In November 2022, OpenAI released a new open source, natural language processing tool called “ChatGPT,” designed to simulate human conversation in response to prompts or questions and has been shown that usage of this type of AI technology is on the increase. 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* 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 clear description of the content created and the name of the manufacturer/model/version must be included. (Note: this does not include basic tools for checking grammar/spelling.)
- If these 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 to create content in the manuscript submission in the Acknowledgments section.

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.

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