

Holistic Education Review

Policy on Artificial Intelligence and AI-Assisted Technologies

The HER Approach

The Holistic Education Review (HER) recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies are becoming increasingly present in scholarship, education, creative practice, and publishing. These technologies offer possibilities for expanding access, supporting creativity, facilitating communication, and engaging new forms of inquiry. They also raise important questions about authorship, knowledge, creativity, relationships, equity, privacy, intellectual property, and the integrity of scholarly and educational work.

As a journal committed to enhancing and broadening the scholarship of holistic education, lifting up diverse and emerging voices of holistic education practice, and connecting the holistic education community, HER seeks to approach AI with both openness and discernment.

In sum, HER encourages thoughtful and responsible engagement with these technologies while centering human agency, relationality, creativity, wellbeing, and respect for diverse ways of knowing.

For HER, scholarship is not simply the production and transmission of information. It can also be an expression of lived experience, relationship, reflection, imagination, embodied knowledge, cultural context, and a person's ongoing process of learning and transformation. AI tools should therefore support—not replace—the human, relational, creative, and intellectual dimensions of scholarly work.

HER Commitments:

- Manuscripts submitted to HER are confidential.
- Human agency and responsibility: Humans remain responsible for the ideas, judgments, interpretations, and work they contribute to scholarship and publishing.
- Wholeness: Scholarly work may engage intellectual, emotional, embodied, relational, creative, ecological, and spiritual dimensions of human experience. AI use should not diminish these dimensions.
- Relationality: Knowledge emerges through relationships—with other people, communities, cultures, places, histories, and the more-than-human world. AI should not obscure or replace these relationships.
- Diversity and inclusion: AI should be used in ways that respect diverse voices, cultures, languages, identities, epistemologies, and educational traditions rather than homogenizing or marginalizing them.
- Transparency: Meaningful uses of AI should be disclosed so that readers, authors, reviewers, editors, and the broader community can understand how published work came to be.
- Critical discernment: AI-generated material should not be assumed to be accurate, neutral, complete, or unbiased. Its use requires reflection, verification, and critical engagement.

- Creativity and emergence: AI may be a tool for exploration and creative inquiry, but the human capacity to imagine, create, interpret, and make meaning remains central to holistic education.
- Care and integrity: AI use should safeguard privacy, confidentiality, intellectual property, human dignity, and the integrity of scholarly communities.

AI Use by Authors

Authors may use AI and AI-assisted technologies in ways that support their scholarly and creative processes, provided that they maintain meaningful human oversight and remain fully responsible for the submitted work.

Potentially appropriate uses include:

- brainstorming or exploring ideas;
- identifying possible questions or lines of inquiry;
- organizing or structuring an author's own material;
- assisting with language, clarity, grammar, and readability;
- translating an author's own work;
- supporting accessibility, including transcription, captioning, or other accessibility-related functions;
- exploring alternative ways of expressing an idea;
- assisting with certain forms of data analysis or research methodology when appropriately documented;
- assisting with the development of conceptual diagrams or other illustrative materials.

AI should not replace the author's intellectual, creative, interpretive, or experiential contribution.

In particular, authors should ensure that the final work reflects their own thinking, analysis, interpretation, voice, experience, and understanding. This is especially important for scholarship involving personal narrative, reflective practice, arts-based inquiry, contemplative practice, Indigenous or culturally situated knowledge, autoethnography, or other forms of scholarship in which voice, positionality, relationship, and lived experience are integral to the work.

Authors should consider not only whether AI-generated material is accurate, but also whether its use has unintentionally:

- altered their scholarly or personal voice;
- flattened cultural or contextual distinctions;
- removed meaningful ambiguity or complexity;
- reproduced dominant assumptions or biases;
- appropriated or obscured another person's or community's knowledge;
- transformed experiential or relational knowledge into generalized or decontextualized language.

Human Responsibility and Verification

Authors remain responsible for all material submitted to HER, regardless of whether it was produced with the assistance of AI.

Authors must independently verify:

- factual claims;

- quotations;
- citations and references;
- interpretations of sources;
- translations;
- descriptions of people, communities, cultures, and traditions;
- data and research findings;
- claims generated or suggested by AI.

AI systems can produce inaccurate, incomplete, fabricated, or biased information, including nonexistent references and misleading interpretations of legitimate sources.

AI-generated output should therefore be treated as material requiring critical discernment rather than as an authoritative source.

Authors should not represent AI-generated information as having been independently researched, observed, experienced, or verified when it has not.

Authorship

AI tools cannot be listed as authors or co-authors of work published in HER.

Authorship entails human responsibility for the work, including the ability to understand, evaluate, revise, approve, and stand behind the work.

Authors remain responsible for ensuring that:

- all listed authors have made an appropriate intellectual contribution;
- authorship accurately represents those contributions;
- the work is original;
- appropriate permissions and attributions have been obtained; and
- the published work does not infringe the rights of others.

AI should never be used to fabricate or manipulate research evidence, observations, data, or other materials in ways that misrepresent what was actually observed or produced through the research process.

Disclosure of Substantive AI Use

HER values transparency while recognizing that AI-assisted technologies are increasingly embedded within ordinary writing and accessibility tools.

Routine uses such as basic spelling, punctuation, and grammar correction do not require disclosure.

Authors should disclose substantive use of generative AI or AI-assisted technologies that contributes to the development, organization, translation, interpretation, or expression of the published work.

Examples include:

- generating or substantially restructuring prose;
- synthesizing literature;

- developing substantial ideas or arguments;
- translating substantial portions of a manuscript;
- generating or substantially modifying images or artwork;
- generating substantial portions of code or analytical processes;
- using AI as part of the research methodology.

The disclosure should identify: (1) the AI tool or service used; (2) the purpose for which it was used; and (3) the nature and extent of human review, interpretation, and revision.

A disclosure might take the following form:

AI Use Disclosure: During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used [NAME OF TOOL] to [DESCRIBE USE]. The author(s) critically reviewed and revised the resulting material and remain fully responsible for the content, interpretation, and integrity of the published work.

Where AI is part of the research methodology itself, its use should also be described within the relevant methodological section of the manuscript.

AI and Images, Art, and Creative Work

HER recognizes creative expression as an important dimension of holistic education and scholarship.

AI may be used to support certain forms of illustrative, artistic, or creative work when the use is consistent with applicable intellectual property, privacy, and ethical standards.

Authors are responsible for ensuring that AI-assisted images and artwork:

- accurately represent what they are intended to represent;
- do not misrepresent people, communities, events, or research findings;
- do not improperly reproduce copyrighted or otherwise protected work;
- do not violate a person's privacy or right of publicity;
- do not falsely represent AI-generated material as an independently created photograph, observation, or artistic work.

Substantive use of generative AI to create or significantly alter an image or artwork should be disclosed, ordinarily in the image caption and/or the manuscript's AI disclosure statement.

Privacy, Confidentiality, and Intellectual Property

Authors, reviewers, and editors should carefully consider and when appropriate, retain the privacy, confidentiality, and intellectual property implications of any AI tool before entering information into it.

Sensitive, confidential, unpublished, personally identifiable, or otherwise protected information should not be entered into an AI system unless the user has verified that doing so is appropriate and that the system provides adequate protections.

Users should be particularly cautious when working with:

- interview transcripts;
- student work;
- participant information;
- unpublished research;
- personal narratives;

- community knowledge;
- Indigenous or culturally protected knowledge;
- confidential correspondence;
- manuscripts under consideration for publication.

The fact that an AI system is described as “private” does not by itself establish that information is adequately protected. Users should review relevant privacy policies and terms of service.

AI Use in Peer Review

Manuscripts submitted to HER are confidential. DO NOT give any AI in part or in whole an unpublished manuscript.

Peer review is a relational and intellectual practice grounded in trust, care, critical engagement, and respect for authors and their work.

Reviewers must not upload a submitted manuscript, or any substantive portion of it, into a generative AI system.

AI may be used in limited supportive ways that do not involve sharing confidential manuscript content—for example, to improve the language or organization of a reviewer’s independently developed comments. Or to review potentially missing sources in the scholarship.

AI should not be used to:

- evaluate a manuscript on the reviewer’s behalf;
- generate a substantive peer-review report;
- determine whether a manuscript should be accepted or rejected;
- replace the reviewer’s own reading and interpretation;
- make judgments about an author’s competence, credibility, identity, or scholarly worth.

The reviewer remains responsible for the substance, fairness, care, and integrity of the review. Substantive use of AI in preparing a review should be disclosed to the editor.

AI Use by Editors

HER editors may use AI-assisted technologies for limited administrative or supportive purposes, provided that confidentiality, privacy, and human judgment are maintained.

Editors must not upload submitted manuscripts or confidential manuscript material into generative AI systems.

AI must not replace editorial judgment or make decisions concerning:

- whether a manuscript fits HER’s mission and scope;
- whether a manuscript merits peer review;
- editorial revisions;
- acceptance or rejection;
- the interpretation of reviewer feedback;
- questions of scholarly quality, significance, originality, or contribution;

- concerns involving authors, reviewers, or communities.

Editorial decisions remain human decisions.

Because HER seeks to nurture a diverse and evolving field, editorial judgment requires attention to context, voice, emerging scholarship, diverse ways of knowing, and forms of contribution that may not be readily recognized by automated systems.

AI may assist with appropriate administrative tasks, but it should not become a substitute for the relational and discernment-based work of editing.

Equity, Bias, and Diverse Ways of Knowing

HER recognizes that AI systems are developed from data, languages, cultural materials, and knowledge systems that are unevenly represented.

AI systems may therefore reproduce or amplify:

- cultural assumptions;
- racial, gender, linguistic, geographic, or socioeconomic biases;
- dominant academic conventions;
- colonial patterns of knowledge production;
- inequities in whose knowledge is recognized or represented.

Authors, reviewers, and editors should approach AI with critical awareness of these limitations.

In particular, HER encourages users to consider whose knowledge is represented in an AI-generated response, whose knowledge may be absent, and whether AI use inadvertently privileges dominant forms of academic expression over emerging, local, Indigenous, embodied, experiential, contemplative, artistic, or otherwise marginalized forms of knowledge.

AI should not be used to determine the legitimacy or value of a community's knowledge solely on the basis of its representation within an AI system.

AI, Voice, and the Integrity of Holistic Scholarship

HER values scholarship as an expression of the whole person and of relationships among people, communities, knowledge, and the wider world. For this reason, authors are encouraged to consider AI use not only in terms of efficiency or accuracy, but also in terms of presence, voice, meaning, relationship, and integrity.

When using AI to revise or generate language, authors should ask:

- Does this still sound like me?
- Does this accurately express what I mean?
- Has anything meaningful been lost, flattened, or transformed?
- Does the language retain the cultural and relational context of the work?
- Does the writing reflect my own experience and understanding?
- Whose assumptions or ways of knowing are being introduced?
- Am I using AI to support my thinking, or allowing it to think in my place?

These questions are particularly important when scholarship draws upon lived experience, contemplative practice, embodied knowledge, creativity, spirituality, community wisdom, or other dimensions of holistic inquiry.

A Living Policy

AI technologies and their uses are evolving rapidly. HER therefore understands this policy as a living document.

The journal will periodically revisit this policy in conversation with developments in technology, scholarly publishing, educational practice, and the holistic education community.

As we navigate these changes, HER seeks to model the same qualities it values in holistic education: curiosity, critical reflection, openness to emergence, care for relationships, respect for difference, and a commitment to the wellbeing and flourishing of people and the wider community of life.

AI Disclosure for the HER AI Policy. ChatGPT was used to review both HER documentation and the Elsevier AI policy to help create the initial policy draft which was then thoroughly edited and reviewed by members of the HER Editorial team.