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How to work with generative AI in scientific writing: Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- Review your department's, the target journal's, and any funding agency's AI policy before starting writing (if applicable)
- Discuss the use of AI-based tools and the form and extent of declaration with co-authors and your supervisor
- Work with tools that provide the right level of data privacy in any phase of writing
- Select tools with capabilities that fit your use case(s)
- Be transparent and document your AI use for the declaration
- Check the accuracy of the output of the AI-based tools meticulously
- Declare the use of all AI-based tools in the required section (e.g., Acknowledgements, Methods, Appendix)
- Sign the Declaration of Originality after choosing the right option with your supervisor

Don'ts

- Upload unpublished research to cloud services not approved by ETH Zurich (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude AI) for the sake of data privacy
- Upload others' work (e.g., lecture notes, research papers, licensed journal articles, assignments) to AI-based tools without their express consent
- Believe the output without verifying its accuracy
- Copy-paste the output of large language models to avoid unintentional plagiarism
- Replace your effort with AI use
- List an AI-based tool as an author or as a scientific source
- Use AI-based tools when other tools can yield the same or better results
- Trust AI detection software: they are not reliable

More information

- Website AI in Teaching and Learning
- Website Plagiarism and generative artificial intelligence
- Self-learning Moodle course on AI-based tools for scientific writing and research

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