Towards a reporting standard for AI disclosure: Survey questions

Preparatory reading attached

We have compiled an overview of existing approaches to AI disclosure. You will find it in the next pages of this document. We encourage that all participants in the discussion have read these 4 pages, as a preparation for your discussion. This will ensure that the discussion is focused and that your responses will meaningfully address the needs of this first consultation round, namely to map the needs and format of an AI disclosure standard. It will focus thoughts on the structure or format that would best allow authors to report AI contributions at different stages of the research and writing process, capturing well the distribution of tasks between humans and AI systems across different stages of the research workflow.

Consultation questions

A REPORTING STANDARD FOR AI DISCLOSURE: WHAT DO WE NEED?

The preparatory reading argues that AI disclosure is relevant and it fulfills valuable functions, and that it is desirable to standardise *how* AI is disclosed. The first question asks what these desired functions of (an) AI disclosure (standard) imply for its requirements.

(1) What qualities/features should we expect of a reporting standard for AI disclosure? In other words, based on which criteria will we evaluate an AI disclosure standard to be "good"? The preparatory reading mentions 6 features: (1) easy-to-make, (2) structured format, (3) machine-readability, (4) description-flexibility, (5) ability to disclose multiple tools/uses in a work, and (6) cross-discipline-usability. Feel free to elaborate, prioritise or add missing qualities, or leave this blank if you agree. Any technical or practical requirements (e.g., metadata, interoperability) you expect, can be added here.

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(2) Which structured format of an AI disclosure (standard) do we need? In other words: How should authors report the contribution of AI to their work? What structural elements should an AI disclosure (standard) consist of and how should this information be organized? Please describe the structure/format you believe is necessary for a disclosure standard to fulfil the qualities from question (1).

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(3) Are there any thoughts about AI disclosure, the preparatory reading or the process of this focus track you would like to share with us? This question is optional. Feel free to leave it blank.

Submitting your input

Please write your input clearly and concisely. You may leave questions 1 and/or 3 blank.

Submit your answers to the webform at https://council.science/aidisclosure.

If you have problems accessing the webform or submitting your answers, please contact Bert Seghers at office@enrio.eu.

By submitting your responses, you agree that a third-party AI software may be used to support analysis once data have been anonymised.

Preparatory reading on criteria for and approaches to AI disclosure

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This overview is solely the responsibility of the authors and should not be interpreted as policy or an official statement of the partner organisations involved in this initiative.

Why do we disclose AI in research?

Following the launch of ChatGPT, academic researchers quickly identified the potential for GenAI tools to support in academic research (Cotton, 2023), as well as the potential academic integrity concerns that must be considered when using GenAI in the research process (Bjelobaba et al., 2025). In this context, the longstanding expectation that researchers acknowledge work that is not their own and describe their methods transparently becomes especially relevant. These standards of research integrity make it logical that researchers are also transparent about their use of AI in their work — it's a matter of honesty and transparency, comparable to how we disclose author contributions, funding sources, conflicts of interests and acknowledgements.

But still, it is valuable to consider the question: what *are the ultimate goals and functions of AI disclosure?*

- AI disclosure matters as it helps others understand, review, and reproduce the research. Readers benefit from AI disclosure to better understand how the research, its results and the article came to be. Editors and peer reviewers may flag concerns of inappropriate AI use reported in disclosures, offering meaningful feedback for manuscript improvements.
- If an issue or concern is discovered with a certain model/tool, or the scientific community (in a discipline) agrees about the inadmissibility of a certain AI use, a proper AI disclosure will enable readers to understand the implications for (reliability of) this research work. Examples might include model bias or methodological design in a discipline.
- If concerns of ethics infringements or integrity breaches related to AI use arise, the AI disclosure informs research integrity committees or ethics boards how AI was used.
- As a byproduct, there is an additional "peer learning" benefit for the scientific community, as researchers can learn from peers which AI tools and workflows are useful in their discipline. This inspiration may be particularly helpful for students and early career researchers.

These functions of AI disclosure[1] can inform what we should expect from an AI disclosure standard.

Why is harmonising AI disclosure approaches important?

Given the broad applicability of AI to all dimensions of the research and publication process, disclosure of AI (use) is the next, urgent frontier in disclosure and reporting.

- A reporting standard will allow disclosures and articles (and other scholarly work/artefacts) to be compared against each other, independent of disciplinary conventions. Meaningful comparison is useful for editors, research evaluators and even ethics boards.
- Having a common standard for AI disclosure helps to align and communicate expectations across the research ecosystem. It helps publishers/journals, institutions and standards organizations to tell their authors and members what is expected. When researchers understand the expected format, they know which information to bring together, removing uncertainty and making it more straightforward to disclose AI. Inconsistency in disclosure requirements is confusing for scholars, editors, reviewers, and funders.
- Standardising AI disclosure will destigmatise the use of AI in research. When all authors are expected to disclose AI in the same way, they should have no fear that an honest disclosure will

[1] And others goals or functions you can think of but we forgot. You can add these in question 3.

negatively impact them. A common standard signals acceptance of AI use within research and increases the ease and consistency of honest reporting. Hence, the mere presence of a standard will drive the uptake of transparent AI use disclosure, which in turn supports research integrity.

These goals of AI disclosure standardisation[1] can inform what we are precisely looking for.

Format before content

Disclosure has two components. One is the **content** of the disclosure: "what" is disclosed. The other is the **format** of the disclosure: "how" this information is structured and presented. While ultimately consensus must be reached on both, it is important to address the *"how"* first. Agreeing clearly on the format will help guide discussions of the content.

What is the threshold for disclosing AI? While some believe that disclosure should only be required if AI was used for writing the final product, others believe disclosure should be required if AI was used in any fashion through the research or writing process. At this stage, the target for a common reporting standard *format* should aim to broadly encompass all views, in line with transparency and honesty expectations.

Desirable qualities/features

Based on the goals and functions of AI disclosure (and a reporting standard for it) identified on the previous page, we think that the format of any future AI Disclosure Reporting Standard should …

1. `(easy)` … be easy to understand and easy to make (write)
2. `(struc)` … have a consistent structure, so disclosures are easily comparable and reproducible
3. `(machi)` … be machine-readable and machine-generatable (by AI agents)
4. `(flexi)` … allow an appropriate level of flexibility to describe the nature and extent of AI use
5. `(multi)` … accommodate the use of multiple AI tools and uses in a single work
6. `(cross)` … enable the standard to be used across disciplines and artefact/output types (but discipline-agnostic does not mean discipline-insensitive)

On the next pages, we will score every approach to AI disclosure based on these six criteria, with a five-step scale of faces.

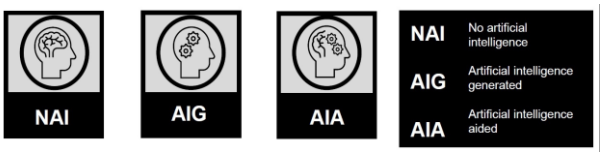
(1) What qualities/features should we expect of a reporting standard for AI disclosure?

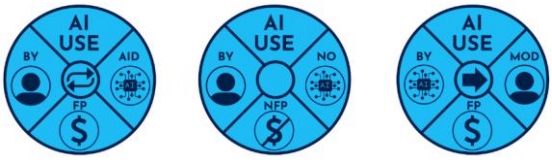
Four approaches to AI disclosure

Multiple reporting guidelines for AI use have been proposed across the literature — most of them for use in specific disciplines. The reporting guidelines that can be used across scientific disciplines can be discerned in four types of approaches.

1. Visual marker (badge/graphic)

A visual marker—such as a badge or icon—has been proposed as a straightforward way to show clearly and easily how much AI contributed to a research output. Frameworks like AIAS (Perkins et al., 2024), AI usage logos (Peters, 2024), and the Attribution 4 AI icon set (Spike, 2025) use simple graphics to distinguish between human-created, AI-assisted, and AI-generated work. Standardized visuals can help creators communicate AI involvement at a glance, support transparency, and strengthen trust. They are often designed from a pedagogical, rather than a research, perspective.





While visual markers match most desired features, a single badge cannot capture detailed information — such as the specific ways AI was used or the involvement of multiple AI tools — so this disclosure approach has a limited depth and flexibility.

2. Form-free inline inclusion of disclosure statement

Many journals and publishers—such as APA (2025), IEEE (2025), Springer Nature (2025), SAGE (2025), and Taylor & Francis (2025)—currently ask authors to include AI disclosures within the text of an article or other research output. These disclosures most often appear in the methods section or acknowledgements. Some publishers also request additional information in the cover letter submitted to the editor.

AI Contribution Disclosure
The authors, YS, NT, and SN, used ChatGPT-4 for translation, proofreading and editing.

Suchikova et al. 2025

Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process
During the preparation of this work the author used ChatGPT 4o in order to compile related information, organize, and especially in drafting this paper in English. After using this tool/service, the author reviewed and edited the content as needed and takes full responsibility for the content of the publication.

Juan Gorraiz, 2025

The expected structure of these disclosures varies widely across publishers (Perkins & Roe), 2024). As a result, disclosures are difficult to compare, reproduce, or generate automatically. Although this approach is easy for readers to understand, it can create challenges for researchers, who may be unsure how to phrase the disclosure or how to meet different requirements across journals and publishers.

3. The AI Attribution Toolkit from IBM Research

The AI Attribution Toolkit (AIA) developed by He et al. (2025) with the IBM Research Lab is a generic AI disclosure framework for many artefacts, and particularly useful for single images. A wizard guides users through disclosing AI use. (There are other, discipline-specific examples comparable to the IBM toolkit.)

Assisted by AI (AIA PAI CeNc Hin R DreamStudio v1.0)

AI Attribution Toolkit

Acknowledgments
This work was produced without AI assistance (AIA No AI 1.0).
Following the CRediT taxonomy, the authors made the following contributions …

He, Houde & Weisz, 2025

In its current form, the toolkit supports only one AI tool per disclosure, and users must repeat the structure for each part generated or assisted by AI. Its consistent format makes disclosures comparable, reproducible, and compatible with machine-reading across disciplines. However, the way it represents human contributions may not align well with future agentic research systems. Its brief format—while suitable for commercial settings—may not scale effectively for more complex academic or research applications.

4. Frameworks balancing structured use case with flexible descriptions

A fourth established approach combines a structured set of use cases with flexible, descriptive explanations. Examples are the Artificial Intelligence Disclosure (AID) Framework by Weaver (2024) and GAIDeT — the Generative AI Delegation Taxonomy — introduced by Suchikova, Tsybuliak, da Silva & Nazarovets (2025). This approach offers a modular structure that helps users describe how AI was involved at different stages of the research or writing process.

AI Disclosure Statement

Artificial Intelligence Tool: ChatGPT v.4o and Microsoft Copilot (University of Waterloo institutional instance); *Conceptualization*: ChatGPT was used to revise research questions; *Data Collection Methods*: ChatGPT was used to create the first draft of the survey instrument; *Data Analysis*: Microsoft Copilot was used to verify identified themes coded from open ended survey responses; *Privacy and Security*: no identifiable data was shared with ChatGPT during the design of this study, only the University of Waterloo institutional instance of Microsoft Copilot was used to analyze any anonymized research data in compliance with University of Waterloo privacy and security policies; *Writing—Review & Editing*: ChatGPT was used in the literature review to provide sentence-level revisions and metaphor options; *Project Administration*: ChatGPT was used to establish a list of tasks and timelines for the study.

Example in Weaver, 2024

Disclosure of Delegation to Generative AI,

The authors declare the use of generative AI in the research and writing process. According to the GAIDeT taxonomy (2025), the following tasks were delegated to GAI tools under full human supervision: *Defining the research objective; Analysis of market trends and/or patent environment; Research design; Selection of research methods; Process automation; Data analysis; Formulation of conclusions; Translation; Bias analysis and potential discrimination assessment; Monitoring compliance with ethical standards; Quality assessment; Identification of limitations.* Responsibility for the final manuscript lies entirely with the authors. GAI tools are not listed as authors and do not bear responsibility for the final outcomes.

Example in Suchikova et al. 2025

Its consistent format supports comparability across disciplines and artefact types, and it is compatible with machine-reading and automated workflows. Because it allows granular attribution for multiple tools and multiple phases — such as conceptualization, editing, or visualization — it can capture complex patterns of AI use. The framework is designed to work across academic, professional, and creative contexts, giving it potential scalability. However, its flexibility and potential level of detail may require effort from researchers and institutions to implement consistently and reliably.

(2) Which format or structure of an AI disclosure (standard) do we need?

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