

2.B - Focus Track (Part 1)

Towards a Global Reporting Standard for AI Disclosure in Research



Bert Seghers



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Mike Perkins



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WCRI Focus Tracks

1 st WCRI (2007)	Lisbon
2 nd WCRI (2010)	Singapore Statement on RI (Global principles/CoC of Research Integrity)
3 rd WCRI (2013)	Montreal Statement on RI in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations
4 th WCRI (2015)	Rio de Janeiro (Focus Track on the concept of “RI Country Reports”)
5 th WCRI (2017)	Amsterdam Agenda for empirical assessment of efforts, and research on RI
6 th WCRI (2019)	Hong Kong Principles for assessing researchers (aligned with RI)
7 th WCRI (2022)	Cape Town Statement on fostering RI through Fairness and Equity
8 th WCRI (2024)	Athens Statement on RI for scientific policy advice
9 th WCRI (2026)	

WCRI Focus Tracks

9th WCRI (2026) **Vancouver Standard** for AI Disclosure in Research



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Why AI disclosure?

Culture of integrity

Methodological
transparency

Honesty:
acknowledge work
that's not yours

Today

Fast update of AI

AI disclosure expected

—— *but* ——

Stigma and fear

AI under-disclosure

Future

Shared expectations
on AI disclosure

Normalisation

Agentic AI



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Scope

Towards a Global Reporting Standard for AI Disclosure in Research

Make AI disclosure expectations *explicit*

- *What/when to disclose?* → Thresholds
- *Where?* → In main content or separate statement?
- *How to disclose?* → Structure, format
- *How to signal responsibility & accountability?*
- ...



All AI tools and agents



For peer-reviewed articles



Language: EN (development)

6 UN languages

More translations



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A participatory process

Developing a shared understanding

“Harmonisation”

Listening & understanding

Political alignment effort

across sectors, disciplines, continents

Adaptive! Responsive!

3 consultation rounds

Involving *all* stakeholders

- 1: Needs? Structure/format?
- 2: Key questions: What, where, how?
- 3: Feedback on a draft

+ Focus Track @



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People & contributors

All invited stakeholders

STM *inviting* Publishers

C O P E *inviting* Editors

Science academies Early career researchers

International unions Young academies More...



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inviting



Mike

Leads



Marie

100 x

Feedback circle

Core team

Nata, Kiera, Sergio
Lorelei, Felix, Nina

*Participatory
sessions*



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Focus Track participants

Core team

-  **Kari D. Weaver**, Ontario Council of University Libraries, [AI Disclosure Framework](#) — *Content lead*
-  **Mike Perkins**, British University Vietnam, [AI Assessment Scale](#)
-  **Nata Tsibulyak**, Berdyansk State Pedagogical University, [GAIDeT](#) (Generative AI Delegation Taxonomy)
-  **Kiera McNeice**, Cambridge University Press, [STM report on AI use classifications](#)
-  **Sergio Santamarina**, National University José Clemente Paz, [AI Transparency Declaration](#)
-  **Lorelei Lingard**, Western University, [Academic expert on AI disclosure](#)
-  **Bert Seghers**, Flemish Commission for Research Integrity, ENRIO President — *Process lead*
-  **Felix Dijkstal**, International Science Council — *Process support*
-  **Marie-Madeleine Trottmann & Nina Sartorio**, ENRIO — *Process support*



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Timeline

Kari & Bert proposed topic
Programme Committee decided
Ambassadors, preparations

April 2025
Summer 2025
Oct-Nov 2025

December 2025

Consultation Round 1 (needs, structure)

28 February 2026

March-April 2026

Core team processes Round 1 & prepares Round 2

3-6 May 2026

13(?) May 2026



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Consultation Round 2 (what, where, how)

August 2026

Core team processes Round 2 & prepares Standard

September 2026

October 2025

Consultation Round 3 (feedback)

November 2026

Core team finalises the Standard
Publication of the Standard

December 2026

Updates,
Quick
feedback

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Round 1 Criteria

Our proposal

Disclosure (standard) should:

- Be easy to understand and easy to create
- Have a consistent structure, so disclosures are easily comparable and reproducible
- Be machine-readable and machine-generatable (by AI agents)
- Allow flexibility to describe the nature and extent of AI use
- Accommodate the use of multiple AI tools and uses in a single work
- Enable use across disciplines and artefact/output types



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Round 1 Format approaches

(A) Visual Marker (badge/graphic)



Peters, 2024



Spike (2025) Attribution 4 AI

(B) Form-free inline inclusion

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



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Round 1 Format approaches

(C) IBM AI Attribution Toolkit

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

He et al., 2025

(D) Structured Use/Flexible Description

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.

Weaver, 2024



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Round 1 Consultation

The Questions

What **qualities/features** to expect of a reporting standard for AI disclosure?

Which **structured format** of an AI disclosure (standard) do we need?

Are there **any other thoughts** about AI disclosure, the preparatory reading, or the process of this focus track you would like to share with us?



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Round 1 Feedback

The Needs

- Balance transparency
- Avoid excessive reporting burdens (proportional to AI use level)
- Ensure relevance across disciplines
- Define the primary purpose of disclosure
- Maintain emphasis on human responsibility/oversight



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Round 1 Feedback

The Structure

Should be easily understood and implemented

Establish structured, consistent categories of research tasks/processes

Preserve some level of flexible description

Can accommodate the use of multiple AI tools/agents in a single disclosure



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Participatory discussion



Warm-up

“All AI use should be disclosed”

When authors used AI (in some way) in their research work or manuscript preparation, they should be transparent about it in their article, irrespective of how substantive that use is.

Raise your hand if you agree



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Participatory discussion



Warm-up

“AI use should never be disclosed”

Regardless how much authors used AI, they remain fully responsible and accountable for the content of their work. Why bother about disclosure?

Raise your hand if you agree



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Participatory discussion

Theme of the position game

Thresholds

Some AI use should be disclosed, some not.

Where is the line / border / threshold?

Which AI use should be disclosed, which not?



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Participatory discussion

Position game

Position yourself:

Strong
agree

Rather
agree

No opinion
It depends
It's complicated

Rather
disagree

Strong
disagree

Please move during discussion!

Basic principles

To enable good discussion with 100 participants

Limit your interventions

- $\leq 2\times$
- $\leq 25 \text{ sec}$

Respect (disagree = ok)

Listen and understand

Explain



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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

*“A chemical engineer should be expected to disclose
AI use for language-polishing of the manuscript.”*

Even language-polishing AI can subtly reshape meaning, tone, or emphasis; disclosure ensures transparency about all external contributions and allows readers to fully assess how the manuscript was produced.

Language-polishing is a routine, low-impact activity comparable to spellcheck or professional editing; requiring disclosure adds unnecessary burden and risks cluttering publications with trivial, non-informative details.

Strong
agree

Rather
agree

No opinion
It depends
It's complicated

Rather
disagree

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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

*“A philosopher should be expected to disclose
AI use for language-polishing of the manuscript.”*

In philosophy, where nuance, wording, and argumentation are central, even language-polishing can shape meaning; disclosure respects the discipline’s epistemic standards and the reader’s right to know.

Language-polishing does not alter the underlying arguments; requiring disclosure treats routine editorial support as intellectually significant and risks normalizing over-reporting by low-quality statements.



Strong
agree

Rather
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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

“AI use that replaces expert human judgment should always be disclosed, regardless of whether it affects the study’s outcomes, and regardless of how carefully the authors reviewed and validated the AI’s output.”

Replacing expert judgment changes the epistemic basis of the work; disclosure ensures transparency about methods, risks, and reliance on automated decision-making.

If outputs are rigorously reviewed and validated, the method’s origin is irrelevant; mandatory disclosure overemphasizes process and adds unnecessary reporting burden.

Strong
agree

Rather
agree

No opinion
It depends
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Rather
disagree

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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

*“AI use requires disclosure **only** when it introduces risks that peer reviewers cannot reasonably detect.*

If potential flaws, hallucinations, biases, or inaccuracies are detectable through standard peer review, AI disclosure is unnecessary.”



Focuses disclosure on meaningful, non-detectable risks (cf. COI), preventing unnecessary reporting and preserving peer review as the primary mechanism for quality assessment.

Peer review cannot reliably detect many AI influences. Limiting disclosure risks hidden methodological dependence and weakens transparency about how research was produced.

Strong
agree

Rather
agree

No opinion
It depends
It's complicated

Rather
disagree

Strong
disagree



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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

“This disclosure is sufficient.” “ChatGPT 5o created a first draft of this manuscript on Oct 29, 2025. Initial prompting oriented it to the tone and genre of this special series, after which the author uploaded a PowerPoint file from a workshop they had given on the topic and requested that it be shaped into an installment for the series. They then interacted with ChatGPT around sections of its draft; e.g., correcting its summary of the main idea, redirecting it to replicate precise language in the PowerPoint and requesting edits of sections. Once a workable draft was achieved through these interactions, the author exported it into Word and edited substantially to remove repetition, add refinements (such as additional examples) and reorganize sections. Following constructive peer review commentary, they interacted again with ChatGPT on 27 Jan, 2026 to brainstorm more precise labels for the two axes in Figure 1. They selected the best of the options suggested, refined this language, verified the theoretical literature underpinning it, revised the language throughout the paper to reflect this refinement, and recreated Figure 1 with ChatGPT help. The author takes full responsibility for all material in the paper. The full chatlogs are available upon request.”



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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

“This disclosure is necessary.”

“We used ChatGPT (Edu) 5.0 for idea generation and drafting of the initial content in the evolution of AI section. All content was reviewed and ultimately re-written by the team. We also used AI to perform a synthetic peer review of the draft manuscript to identify potential errors, omissions, and areas that needed to be strengthened. This feedback informed our final revision.”



Strong
agree

Rather
agree

No opinion
It depends
It's complicated

Rather
disagree

Strong
disagree



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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

“This disclosure is sufficient.”

“Methodologically, we used generative AI to augment human experts’ thematic analysis of project reports; this facilitated rapid identification of themes across heterogeneous projects and may be a useful approach for others. AI has limitations, such as “hallucination,” the confabulation of seemingly realistic false conclusions. These were screened for by authors familiar with projects and reports verifying the output. No hallucinations were observed, though some themes were inappropriately assigned.”



Strong
agree

Rather
agree

No opinion
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It’s complicated

Rather
disagree

Strong
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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

“Researchers should disclose AI-assisted idea generation, even when none of those ideas are ultimately used/included in the final manuscript.”

Early AI interactions can shape thinking indirectly; disclosure ensures transparency about influences on the research process.

Discarded ideas have no impact on the final work; requiring disclosure adds burden without meaningful benefit.



Strong
agree

Rather
agree

No opinion
It depends
It's complicated

Rather
disagree

Strong
disagree



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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

“This disclosure is sufficient.” “The authors declare the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) in the research and writing process. According to the Generative Artificial Intelligence–Driven Education Taxonomy (GAIDeT, 2025), optimization of less than 10% of code, the proofreading and editing of 25% of manuscript, translation of questionnaires included in the Multimedia Appendices, and reformatting of certain sentences were delegated to GAI tools under full human supervision. The GAI tools used were Copilot (Microsoft) and ChatGPT (OpenAI). The suggestions made by the GAI tools were verified, modified, and approved by the authors, who bear responsibility for results in this study.”



Strong
agree

Rather
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No opinion
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Rather
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Strong
disagree



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Position game

Position yourself

Please move during discussion!

“This disclosure is necessary.”

“AI was used to transcribe audio of the interviews into text (rev.com). AI was used to organize the de-identified titles/roles of the participants into the 4 categories given in Supplemental Digital Appendix 2. Otherwise, AI was not used to assist the thematic analysis nor writing of the manuscript text.”



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Summary by Kari

Key takeaways of the position game on Thresholds

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Key Questions You Raised

- Why single out AI as a specific tool?
- What if we lose authenticity through a lack of disclosure?
- Can you know in advance the risk of AI use in research?
- You are responsible for your work and what tools you use. Can we align with existing expectations around authorship?



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Key Questions You Raised

- How long are disclosures actually going to get and what would help them contain the information useful to me as a reader?
- Should disclosure be left to the discretion of the author?
- What happens if we start thinking about AI in the planning and the robustness of the research?
- Should AI be analogous to a positionality statement?



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The Needs You Identified

- Must be sensitive to the differences between AI tools
- Semantics vary across disciplines, we should be sensitive to these differences
- Disclosure should connect to the norms we already have for human authorship
- It should be descriptive, but not too descriptive
- Consideration of how disclosure fits into length requirements in manuscripts



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The Purpose of Disclosure

The principles of research integrity, transparency and accountability do not change.

Researchers should reflect on responsible AI use. A disclosure standard can foster such reflection.



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Key Questions for Discussion: Round 2

When should AI use be disclosed? (Thresholds)

Where should it be disclosed? (Placement)



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How should it be structured? (Taxonomy)

18 controlled categories that cover:

- All tasks in the research life cycle that might influence results or reporting
- Disclosure in peer-reviewed research articles
- All kinds of AI agents and tools



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How do we signal human responsibility and accountability?

- Should there be a general responsibility statement?
- How should we document validation and oversight?



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Thank you for participating!

Please Join us tomorrow where we will engage
in consultation on the changing methods

**Want to be part of the feedback circle?
Share your address (QR code) with Bert**



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Our current draft proposal

Based on Round 1 results and internal discussion, the core team proposes a qualitative threshold:

AI use should always be disclosed if it substantively shapes or replaces human judgement, or has another substantive influence on research processes or reporting. To determine whether an influence is “substantive”, researchers should consider whether a disciplinary peer - whether a reviewer or reader - would reasonably need to know about the use of AI to understand how the research was conducted, or to assess the reliability or validity of the published work.

In particular, researchers should consider:

- (1) Any cases where human judgement was shaped or influenced by AI outputs, or was delegated to an AI tool, with respect to decisions that would typically be made by (expert) human researchers;
- (2) The extent to which AI use influenced the research process or reported content, for example in study design, data generation, data processing, analysis, or interpretation of the results, OR in generating or shaping text, figures, code, or other material included in the publication, in a way that affects meaning, interpretation, or results;
- (3) The cumulative influence of multiple or repeated uses of AI tools.

Disclosure is generally not required for purely technical or minor AI uses that do not affect meaning, interpretation or substance (such as spellchecking, grammar correction, polishing, or reference formatting).

The above defines a *minimum requirement only*. Researchers may provide more detailed disclosures if they wish to do so.

Thank you for participating!

See you tomorrow for Focus Track 4.C

Let's keep in touch 😊

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