AI in Academia: A Review of the Evolving Guidelines on AI Use and Disclosure in Top Scholarly Journals

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Background

Technological advancements continuously transform the transmission and processing of knowledge. Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a rapidly evolving technology that has the potential to alter research and academic activities. It is important to establish guidelines for AI use in research to avoid harmful abuse of this technology in the academic process. However, there is no current universal guideline in academic medicine for the use of AI programs. We present a review of published guidelines for authors from top psychiatric and medical research journals.

Methods

Reviewed 50 academic journals, based on Impact factor, the top 25 journals overall, and the top 25 psychiatry-specific journals. Parent Journals were only included once (e.g. Nature). Reviewed publicly available AI guidelines on the below rubric.
1. Does the journal have guidelines for authors on the use of AI or LLMs
2. Use of AI during the research process
3. Use of AI use in manuscript preparation
4. Use of AI use in the editing process
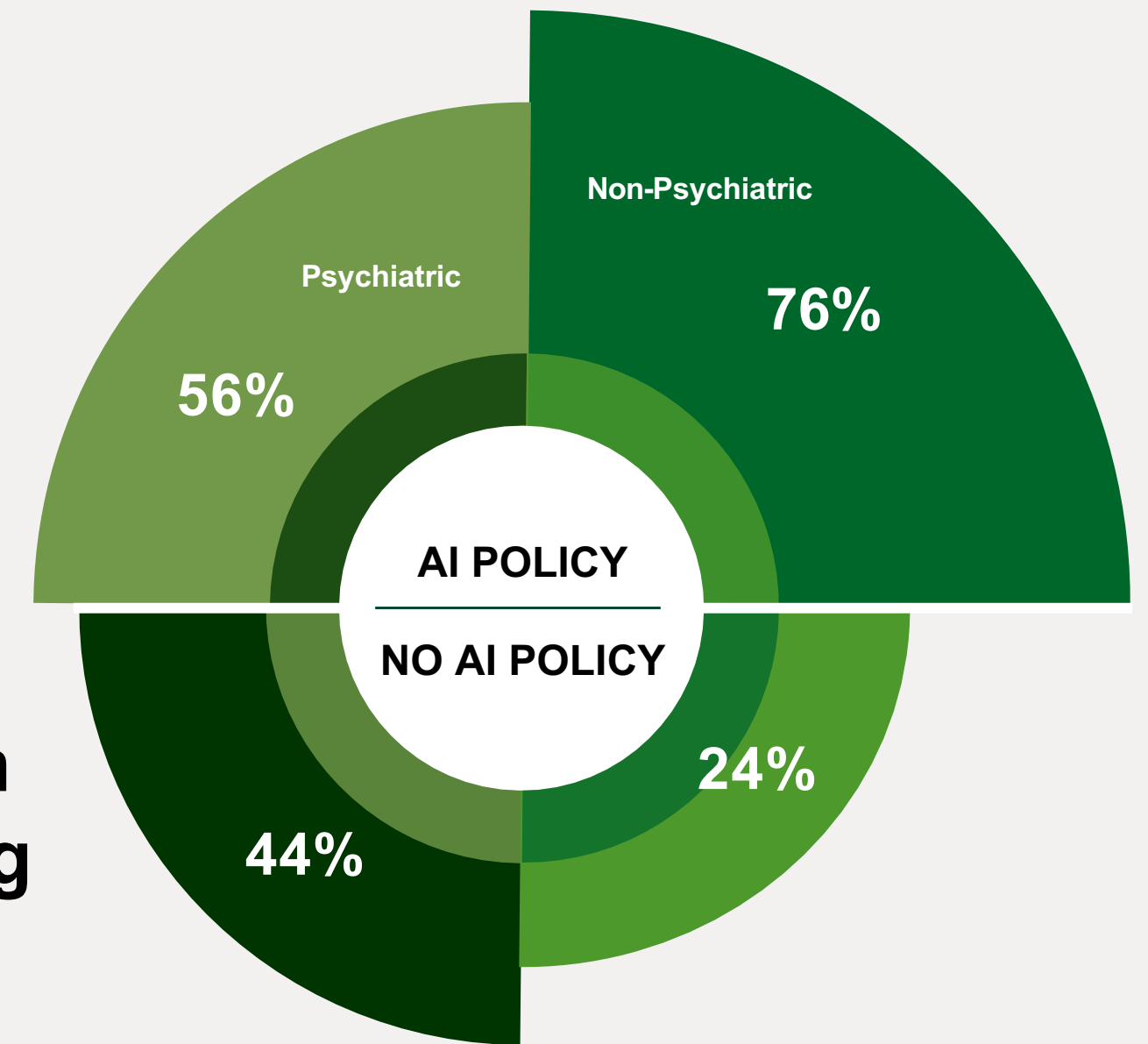5. Use of AI use in information gathering

Discussion

- Psychiatry journals need to advance efforts to develop clear and nuanced guidance for the use of generative AI tools in research and publications.
- Based on available guidelines, generative AI programs can be an acceptable tool for preparing academic submissions to some major impact journals.
- Room for additional detail remains for many research journal policy statements on the use of generative AI tools. Many policies do not explicitly endorse or reject the use of generative AI tools in the process of research data gathering.

Disclosure

QR contains
- References
- AI transcript
- List of current AI policies

Psychiatry journals are behind in establishing AI policy statements compared to other top-impact journals
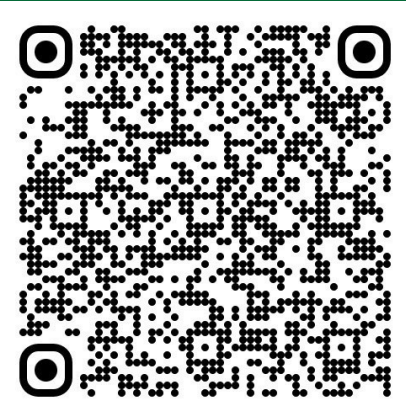
Many policies do not explicitly endorse or reject the use of generative **AI tools in the process of research data gathering**

Call for the **development of clear nuanced guidance** for the use of generative AI in research and academic writing

Psychiatric 56%
Non-Psychiatric 76%

AI POLICY
NO AI POLICY

24%
44%

Summary of AI Policies - Combined Psychiatry and Non-Psychiatry

Research Process
64% - 0% - 36%
Allowed - Not Allowed - No Mention

Manuscript Preparation
32% - 16% - 50%
Allowed - Not Allowed - No Mention

Editing Process
42% - 0% - 36%
Allowed - Not Allowed - No Mention

Information Gathering
16% - 24% - 60%
Allowed - Not Allowed - No Mention