IFTR Guidance for Use of Generative AI
(correct as of July 2026)

Generative AI is a fast-growing and fast-changing field. The different publications that we support each provide guidance on the use of Generative AI.

- Guidance on the use of Generative AI for manuscripts submitted to *Theatre Research International*.
- Guidance on the use of Generative AI for manuscripts submitted to Brill's Themes in Theatre: New Directions in International Theatre and Performance.
- Guidance on the use of Generative AI for manuscripts submitted to Bloomsbury's Theatre + Performance: Negotiating Culture and Politics.

Our guidance is reviewed and revised annually, or in response to new developments in the field.

This document aims to explain clearly to the authors and readers who submit to the New Scholars Prize and Helsinki Prize competition what constitutes acceptable use of Generative AI.

Please note that this policy refers only to work submitted to the New Scholars Prize and Helsinki Prize competition and that staff and students should check their own institution's regulations for AI compliance for PhD theses and other publications.

These guidelines are based upon those of Taylor and Francis, the publisher of TRI (https://taylorandfrancis.com/our-policies/ai-policy/). We have also consulted COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) and Wiley as further examples of good practice. Links to both are at the bottom of the page.

IFTR Information for those submitting to the New Scholars Prize and Helsinki Prize competition.

- Acceptable uses of Generative AI are limited to language improvement, and interactive online searches.
- This means that Generative AI or Large Language Models (LLMs) may be used to aid with translation across languages, support grammar and spelling, and provide information on the readability of the text.
- Authors may also use AI to help with phrasing of ideas and arguments, provided that any text generated is rigorously checked and reworked as necessary.
- Generative AI and LLMs may be used to assist in literature searches, and to identify useful artistic and critical sources.
- Where AI is used as an aid for translation, it should be to support or supplement the author's working knowledge of both languages. For example, an author might use AI to identify an appropriate synonym for a term, or to check comprehension of a term, using their own knowledge of the language as a guide. It is not acceptable to include passages of text translated by AI without any due checks, as this may be inaccurate. Translations generated through machine learning should be refined and reworked.

Published translations should always be used where available, or, the author offer their own translation and reference it as such, perhaps also providing the original for comparison.

- Generative AI should **not** be used to write paragraphs of text, to provide analyses of dramatic texts, performances, or to summarise critical and theoretical materials if those are going to be included for publication.
- Generative AI should not be listed as an author when submitting work to IFTR. Scholars are responsible for checking that any AI tools used do not require such acknowledgements. If an author is intending to use an AI tool, they should ensure that the tool is appropriate and robust for their proposed use, and that the terms applicable to such tool provide sufficient safeguards and protections, for example around intellectual property rights, confidentiality and security.
- Authors must clearly acknowledge any use of Generative AI through a statement that includes: the full name of the tool used (with version number), how it was used, and the reason for use.

Checklist for Authors

You may wish to use these questions to help you to reflect on your use of Generative AI:

- Did I rigorously revise any text that was edited or translated or rephrased by Generative AI?
- Did I critically evaluate and validate any information I received through Generative AI?
- Have I taken care to protect my own personal data and intellectual property and that of others?

Readers

The readers for the New Scholars Prize and Helsinki Prize competition will never upload unpublished materials (text, images, tables, or other data) into Generative AI.

Useful Websites

https://taylorandfrancis.com/our-policies/ai-policy/
https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2026/01/13/guest-post-ai-use-from-policies-to-reality/
https://publicationethics.org/#main-content
https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/publish/article/ai-guidelines/