17 AI and authorship, citation practices

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Role:

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Context:

Education, particularly courses that focus on writing and that discuss the practice of citation and authorship

Tool(s) used:

ChatGPT

My idea

Have a conversation with students about whether AI tools can be considered "authors," and the role of citation in scholarly work. Invite students to create a text in collaboration with ChatGPT or the like, and have a conversation in class or in a reflection pieces about whether they consider it a co-author, and why; what is the purpose of citing others' work and does that apply in this case; and what it means to build on the work of an AI compared to building on the previous work of people (and also how AI itself builds on the work of people!)

What I aim to achieve

Reflection on what it means to build on the work of others, what are the purposes of citation, whether current citation practices fulfill those purposes. This can support student learning about academic integrity as well.

Where the inspiration comes from

Policies from scholarly journals about whether ChatGPT can be listed as a co-author. Also from conversations with colleagues about how to attribute or cite such tools.

Robot toy image by Andrea De Santis (Unsplash license).

For more information on Idea 17: Editorial in Nature journal (January 2023) about their policies on AI and authorship, and Science Journals: Editorial Policies for guidelines for authors.