

27 June 2023

THE USE OF GENERATIVE AI IN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

As stated in "The Use of Generative AI at Kagoshima University" that was announced to staff and students on 9 May 2023, generative AI can be a useful tool if used appropriately, but it also poses a number of problems and risks, so here we are supplementing the general precautions with those specifically for research activities including writing research papers, dissertations and theses.

1. Cyber security

In the course of conducting research, it is possible that unpublished research results and data may be stored on the Internet cloud and shared among research groups, or that generative AI and translation sites may be used to support your research. In such cases, there is always the concern that information may be partially or completely leaked or compromised unintentionally.

2. Use in writing research papers, dissertations and theses

The author of a paper should ensure transparency and provide information on how generative AI was used. When writing a paper for an academic journal, authors need to check the submission rules governing the use of generative AI.

For example, Nature's submission guidelines include:

Corresponding author(s) should be identified with an asterisk. Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, do not currently satisfy our authorship criteria. Notably an attribution of authorship carries with it accountability for the work, which cannot be effectively applied to LLMs. Use of an LLM should be properly documented in the Methods section (and if a Methods section is not available, in a suitable alternative part) of the manuscript.