The Irish Journal of Adult and Community Education: The Adult Learner

AI Policy for Authors of *The Adult Learner*

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the acceptable use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools by authors contributing to *The Irish Journal of Adult and Community Education: The Adult Learner*. It ensures transparency, accountability, and integrity in scholarly publishing.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all authors submitting original research, case studies, book and policy reviews, or other content to the journal. It covers AI tools used in drafting, data analysis, language editing, translation, image creation, and other research-related tasks.

3. Permitted Use of AI Tools

Authors may use AI tools for the following purposes **with proper disclosure**:

- Language editing and grammar correction (e.g., Grammarly, DeepL, ChatGPT for rephrasing)
- Data analysis or statistical modelling (e.g., AI-powered software like IBM SPSS, MATLAB)
- Generating visualizations from data
- Preliminary literature searches.

4. Prohibited Use of AI Tools

Authors must **not** use AI tools for:

- Generating or fabricating research data
- Writing the manuscript. As with general plagiarism policy, content must be referenced and copying content of more than a few words is not appropriate
- Creating or manipulating images in ways that could misrepresent results
- Producing citations without verifying the sources.

5. Disclosure Requirements

Any use of AI tools in the preparation of the manuscript must be clearly disclosed in the submission statement shared with prospective authors.

> "We used [tool name and version] for [specific purpose]. The final content was reviewed and approved by the authors."

Failure to disclose AI use may be considered a breach of publishing ethics.

6. Authorship and AI

AI tools cannot be credited as authors. Authorship is reserved for individuals who meet established criteria (e.g., ICMJE or journal-specific guidelines), including the ability to take responsibility for the work.

7. Data Privacy and Ethics

Authors must ensure that the use of AI tools complies with data privacy regulations and ethical research standards. Sensitive, confidential, or proprietary data must not be entered into public AI tools.

8. Responsibility

Authors are fully responsible for all content in their submissions, including content generated or assisted by AI. This includes ensuring factual accuracy, originality, and adherence to ethical standards.

9. Policy Violations

Misuse of AI or failure to disclose its use may result in:

- Rejection of the manuscript
- Retraction of published articles
- Notification to affiliated institutions
- The Editorial Board reserves the right to reject any article submission on the basis of suspected misuse or failure to disclose the use of AI.

10. Research, Writing and Authorship

The use of AI may be a helpful tool. However, core aspects of your knowledge and capacity as a researcher, practitioner or educator should not be lessened by overuse of AI. Use opportunities like engaging with *The Adult Learner* to build your understanding, improve your practice, and inspire your creativity. Learning should be lifelong and lifewide.

11. Effective Date

This policy is effective as of October 2025 and may be revised in response to developments in AI and publishing standards.