

Citation and Acknowledgement of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

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In Summary

Citing an AI tool is appropriate when new content has been generated and such generated content is allowed in academic work; acknowledging is appropriate for any use of AI tools.

Librarians and instructors can model ethical AI use in acknowledging how tools are used in research, writing, and in educational spaces.

Many publishers provide guidance for how to disclose and credit the use of AI tools in research and writing.

As AI continues to play a significant role in higher education, proper citation and acknowledgment are essential for maintaining transparency and academic honesty – and the librarian is vital to advise and assist in this process.

Research Guide



AI Acknowledgement

Microsoft Copilot (Central Michigan University license) was used to draft a slideshow on May 7, 2025, from an original text outline composed by Rebecca Hill Renirie. The content was edited extensively for several publications in 2025 and 2026, most recently revised and condensed for poster presentation on May 7, 2026.



Citing AI-Generated Content

Any content generated by an AI tool should be cited.

Appropriate for academic work.

Useful for when the course requires or encourages students to begin with AI prompts, or if it teaches ethical AI use (e.g., an assignment where students must generate AI content and then manually check it for accuracy).

APA Style

McAdoo, T., Denny, S., & Lee, C. (2025, September 9). Citing generative AI in APA Style: Part 1—Reference formats. *APA Style Blog*. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/cite-generative-ai-references>

In Text

When prompted with "Discuss appropriate and ethical uses of generative AI in the evidence synthesis research methodology", Gemini (Google, 2026) responded that "GenAI is most effective when used as a "decision support" tool rather than a "decision maker.""

References

Google. (2026, April 13). *Responsible AI in evidence synthesis* [Generative AI chat]. Gemini 3 Flash. <https://gemini.google.com/share/e82355c031b1>

MLA Style

Modern Language Association of America. "How do I cite generative AI in MLA style? (Updated and Revised)." *MLA Style Center*, 13 Aug. 2025. style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai-updated-revised/.

In Text

When considering the use of generative AI in evidence synthesis, "GenAI is most effective when used as a "decision support" tool rather than a "decision maker." ("Responsible AI").

Works Cited List

"Responsible AI in evidence synthesis" prompt. *Gemini*, version 3 Flash, Google, 13 Apr. 2026, gemini.google.com/share/e82355c031b1.

Acknowledging AI Use in Research and Writing

A more comprehensive and transparent statement to disclose how and why AI was used, or not used, in research and writing.

Appropriate for academic work, syllabi and other course material, and scholarly research.

Generally includes:

- Name, version, and/or link to AI tool(s)
- What AI was or will be used to do in the research lifecycle (e.g., brainstorming)
- What AI was or will be used to do in the writing process (e.g., drafting, grammar)
- What AI was or will NOT be used to do, sometimes with reference to institutional policies.

Could also include:

- Date AI tool(s) used
- Prompts(s) and/or a link to the chat, which would include the original prompts and follow-up modifications
- Original output
- Any modifications made manually to the original.

Epecially important if use of the AI tools led to new insights, ideas, themes or discoveries in the data.

Student Work Statement

Syllabus Statement

Elsevier

Template

I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s) and link] to [specific use of generative artificial intelligence]. I entered the following prompts on [date]: [list of prompts]. The output from these prompts was used to [explain use]. A copy of the original output is attached with my assignment.

Example

I acknowledge the use of ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>) to generate materials for background research and self-study for this assignment. I entered the following prompts on 7 April 2023:

Write a 250-word summary about the history of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Add two references.

The original output was adapted and modified for the final response. A copy of the original output is attached with my assignment.

Thompson Rivers University Library. (2025, September 16).

Artificial intelligence: A guide for students.

<https://libguides.tru.ca/artificialintelligence/citing>

"We may use artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (such as Copilot, Gemini, etc.) in some circumstances in this course as they support the course learning objectives. The specifics of when, where and how these tools are permitted will be included with each assignment, along with guidance for attribution. Any use of these tools other than where indicated is a violation of this course's expectations and will be addressed through UW–Madison's [academic misconduct policy](#), specifically UWS 14.03(1)(b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise."

If using this option, it is important to explain the steps students should follow – for example, how to [cite](#) work and whether students should turn in, or at least retain, chat transcripts. Encourage students to contact you with questions or concerns.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Teaching, Learning and Mentoring. (2026). *AI statements for course syllabi*.

<https://ctlm.wisc.edu/generativeai/ai-statements-for-course-syllabi/#allow-ai-in-certain-circumstances>

Did you use generative AI to write this manuscript?

Generative AI is not an author. These tools should only be used to improve language and readability, with caution. If you used generative AI or AI-assisted technology, include the following statement directly before the references at the end of your manuscript.

Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process

During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.

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