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OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF CHATGPT IN SCIENTIFIC WRITING: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

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Abstract:

Scientific writing is crucial for researchers to communicate their ideas and research outputs to the scholarly community. However, writing scientific papers needs a high level of expertise in the field of study and proficiency in the language. To assist researchers in the writing process many automated writing tools powered by artificial intelligence have emerged. One such tool introduced recently is ChatGPTwhichis incredibly powerful in generating human-like text based on the input provided. It has shown promising results in generating text in various areas, however, there is limited empirical research on the effectiveness and limitations of ChatGPT in scientific writing. Therefore, the rationale for this study is to investigate the potential of ChatGPT as an automated writing tool for scientific writing. The study aims to explore the accuracy and efficiency of ChatGPT in scientific writing, identify its strengths and limitations, and provide insights into its potential applications in scientific writing. The study also aims to contribute to the literature on automated writing tools and their impact on scientific communication.

Key words: Generative AI, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Large Language Models (LLM), Chatbot, ChatGPT

1. INTRODUCTION:

Over the last several years, the progress made in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transformed the way people approach various tasks. In the contemporary Alboom in the field of education, Natural Language Processing (NLP) has emerge as one of the major application areas(Veres, 2022). With an aim to provide opportunities to language learners to improve their proficiency in a second or foreign language (L2), developers and researchers have been working to provide an interface for meaningful conversations with computers since the beginning of 1980(Bibauw et al., 2019). The use of Large Language Models (LLMs) especially the Generative Pre-Trained Transformer (GPT) have been recognised as a prospective area of interest because of their ability to generate human-like text(Nakaura & Naganawa, 2023). Powered by AI technology the creation of chatbotshas become a subject of interest for scholars exploring their usefulness in education(Hwang & Chang, 2021)'(Følstad & Brandtzæg, 2017). Chatbots are software applications which provide a conversational user interfaceand are able to mimic human conversation to a certain extent(Garcia Brustenga et al., 2018). Chatbotis a combination of two words: "chat" and "bot" used for conversation and robot respectively. This technology has also been referred to asconversational agents, dialog systems, digital agents, and virtual assistants(Chocarro et al., 2023). The first Chatbotcalled



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ELIZA was developed in the 1960s by Joseph Weizenbaum, a professor at MIT(Ina, 2022). Though Chatbots have a long history of their existence their popularity among users is visible only in recent years(Ina, 2022),(Smutny & Schreiberova, 2020).

As a result of the advances in AI, precisely in the field of natural language processing, the Chatbots available nowadays understand complex conversations and respond to users' commandswith depth, empathy, and even humor(Chocarro et al., 2023). Consequently the usages of Chatbots for educational purposes have consistently arisen,(Hwang & Chang, 2021)'(Yang et al., 2022)'(Smutny & Schreiberova, 2020)'(Essel et al., 2022) mainly to engage students by providing a personalized learning experience in a cost-effective way(Kuhail et al., 2023). With an impressive ability to understand formal languages(Wu et al., 2022)these models have demonstrated remarkable performancein a range of tasks related to natural language(Chowdhery et al., 2022) which includes language learning(Yang et al., 2022)'(Huang et al., 2022)'(Kim et al., 2022), programming(Kuo & Chen, n.d.),enhancing digital literacy,(Sriwisathiyakun & Dhamanitayakul, 2022) to keep the students engaging during online teaching(Hew et al., 2023)'(Jasin et al., 2023)and, even to enhancing teachers' efficacy (Song et al., 2022). The availability of Chatbots to help teachers in delivering writing instructions is also evidenced.(Lin & Chang, 2020)

However, the release of a new Chatbot named ChatGPTby Open AI in November 2022 has garnered a lot of attention worldwide and was acknowledged as a groundbreaking AI service that could provide humanity with an entirely new level of assistance in a range of tasks related to language. Unlike traditional language models which were programmed to use statistical techniques and able to predict the next word in a sentence, ChatGPT uses transformer-based models which enable it to perform remarkably by generating human-like text based on a vast amount of data(Alberts et al., 2023). Chatbots have been revolutionizing education by engaging the learners with personalized learning activities and by supporting the educators(Kuhail et al., 2023).

In spite of a burgeoning impact, ChatGPT has raised many concerns over its use in scientific writing. Hence there is an urgent need to address this issue with empirical evidence so that the scholars could be educated to use this technology judiciously.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

While integration of technology in education has been common, off late the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in academia has emerged as a debatable topic. The introduction of ChatGPT has sparked numerous concerns, particularly regarding its impact on academic integrity. Kasneci and others have the opinion that use of large language model in education has many advantages but a responsible approach is very essential. Privacy, security, regulatory compliance, environmental impact, and specifically ethical considerations needs to be addressed on priority basis to ensure its effective integration in education. Further research can address the concerns and teach the use of the technology in a responsible way(Kasneci et al., 2023). Holzingerand others find the beginning of AI often depends on digitization and digital transformation of data. The world of big data and the ever advancing computing power are central driving factors for AI's current and future development. Although the future may differ from what is projected today, the significance of AI is inevitable. The focus should be for an AI ecosystem for the benefit of humanity(Holzinger et al., 2023). Based on a set of simulated data, Macdonaldand otherstried to demonstrate how effective ChatGPT



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would be in assisting research article writing. Their study suggests that ChatGPT has the potential to assist researchers to a great extent in studies, performing analyses, and in writing research articles which will accelerate the research process. However, to ensure accuracy and reliability in the output, human oversight is imperative at each stage of the research journey(Macdonald et al., 2023).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The aimof this study is mainlyto understand the opportunities and limitations of ChatGPT in scientific writing. To achieve this aim following objectives are determined.

- To understand the significance of Large Language Models (LLM) in scientific writings.
- To explore the potential of ChatGPT as an assistive tool for scientific writings
- To focus on the ethical aspects associated with using ChatGPT in scientific writing,
- To educate the scholars on the usability in scientific writing by contributing to the literature.

4. METHODOLOGY:

Keeping in view theaim and objectives of this study, efforts were made to investigate the published literature to understand the significance of Large Language Models (LLM) in scientific writings and to explore the potential of ChatGPT as an assistive tool. Then a series of questions related to aspects of scientific writing and of the domain of Library and Information Science were prepared and asked to ChatGPT through various prompts to find out the effectiveness of this tool in scientific writing.

The responses provided by the chat model were recorded and cross checked with reliable sources to verify the accuracy. Further the contents generated against nearly similar queries were compared to ascertain the consistency of the model in content generation. The responses are presented verbatim except some minor omission of lengthy answers in view to keep it precise.

5. POTENTIAL OFCHATGPT IN SCIENTIFIC WRITING: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION:

Despite the noteworthy performance of ChatGPT as reflected in literature, some potential drawbackshave also been reported on its use for scientific writing. Some of the major uproar it garnered are over its use as a co-author, ethical angle of its use, accuracy of the content generated, and even its appropriateness for scientific writing.

In view of this, to determine the usability of ChatGPTin scientific writinga series of questions that required in-depth knowledge to answer were asked through various prompts. These questions were framed keeping in mind theimportant elements of scientific writing, of which some were related to judge the suitability of ChatGPT in research assistance and the other were to ascertain the authenticity and consistency of information generated by the model. The responses by ChatGPT are exhibited in the following section.

Prompt 1: Wish to write a research paper on Doctoral Education in Library and



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Information Science in India. Could you help me to suggest a title?

Figure 1

ChatGPT

"Certainly, I can suggest a few possible titles for your research paper on Doctoral Education in Library and Information Science in India:

"Doctoral Education in Library and Information Science in India: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities"

"Mapping the Landscape of Doctoral Education in Library and Information Science in India"

"Doctoral Education in Library and Information Science in India: A Historical Analysis and Future Directions"

"Exploring the Quality of Doctoral Education in Library and Information Science in India: Perspectives and Implications"

"Doctoral Education in Library and Information Science in India: An Assessment of Curriculum, Research Productivity, and Career Prospects"

Prompt2:Wish to write on "Mapping the Landscape of Doctoral Education in Library and Information Science in India". Can you retrieve the required data for this?

Figure 2

ChatGPT

"As an AI language model, I can provide guidance on how to retrieve the required data for your research paper on "Mapping the Landscape of Doctoral Education in Library and Information Science in India", but I cannot access or retrieve the data for you.

To begin with, you can conduct a comprehensive literature review of existing research on doctoral education in LIS in India. You can search for relevant academic journals, conference proceedings, and books, as well as online databases such as JSTOR, Google Scholar, and ERIC.

Some specific search terms you can use for your literature review include:

Doctoral education in LIS in India PhD programs in LIS in India LIS research in India LIS doctoral theses in India LIS faculty in India

Prompt 3: Try to get the data from Shodhganga

Figure 3

ChatGPT

"Shodhganga is a digital repository of Indian theses and dissertations and it can be a useful resource for retrieving data related to doctoral education in Library and Information Science in India.

To retrieve data from Shodhganga, you can follow these steps:

Visit the Shodhganga website (https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/).

In the search bar, enter keywords related to your search topic

Use the filter on the left hand side to narrow down your search.

Browse through the search results to identify relevant theses and dissertations

Click on the title to view its abstract and full text

Analyze the data provided in the thesis such as the research methodology, findings, and conclusions to extract information relevant to your research paper."



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Prompt 4: Write an abstract for this topic

Figure 4

ChatGPT

"This paper presents a comprehensive analysis of the doctoral education in Library and Information Science (LIS) in India. The study aims to map the landscape of doctoral education in LIS by examining the trends, challenges, and opportunities in this field. The research methodology includes a systematic literature review of relevant academic journals, conference proceedings, and books, as well as an analysis of publicly available data on doctoral programs and outcomes. The findings reveal that while there has been a significant growth in the number of doctoral programs in LIS in India, there are still several challenges that need to be addressed, such as the lack of qualified faculty, inadequate funding, and limited research collaboration. The study also highlights the potential opportunities for further research and development in the field, such as interdisciplinary research and international collaborations. The paper concludes with recommendations for improving the quality and relevance of doctoral education in LIS in India, which can contribute to the growth and advancement of the field."

Prompt 5: Write review of literature for this

Figure 5

ChatGPT

"Doctoral education in Library and Information Science (LIS) has gained significant attention in recent years, both in India and around the world. Several studies have examined the trends, challenges, and opportunities in doctoral education in LIS, with a focus on different aspects such as curriculum, research methodology, faculty, and student

One notable study by Singh and Chauhan (2019) analyzed the status of doctoral education in LIS in India, using data from the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). The study found that the majority of the institutions offering doctoral programs in LIS were located in the southern and western regions of India, and that there was a significant variation in the quality of research output and academic infrastructure among these institutions.

Another study by Garg and Kumar (2018) examined the research trends in LIS doctoral theses in India, using a content analysis approach. The study found that the majority of the theses focused on topics related to information organization, information retrieval, and digital libraries, and that there was a need for more research on emerging areas such as social media and data analytics.

In addition, several studies have highlighted the challenges and opportunities in doctoral education in LIS in India. For instance, Singh and Kumar (2018) identified the lack of qualified faculty, insufficient research funding, and limited research collaboration as some of the major challenges facing doctoral education in LIS in India. They suggested that addressing these challenges would require a multi-faceted approach, including the development of research-oriented culture, enhanced funding opportunities, and international collaborations.

Similarly, Agarwal (2020) identified the potential opportunities for doctoral education in LIS in India, such as the integration of interdisciplinary perspectives, the adoption of innovative research methodologies, and the development of research skills among doctoral students.

Prompt 6: Give reference of these sources

Figure 6

"Sure, here are the references for the sources mentioned in the literature review:

Singh, A. K., & Chauhan, S. K. (2019). Status of doctoral education in library and information science in India: An analysis of National Institutional Ranking Framework. DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology, 39(6), 339-344.

Garg, K. C., & Kumar, P. (2018). Research trends in LIS doctoral theses in India: A content analysis. Collection Building, 37(1), 1-8.

Singh, R., & Kumar, A. (2018). Doctoral education in library and information science in India: challenges and opportunities. Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science, 23(3), 1-16.

Agarwal, S. (2020). Doctoral research in library and information science in India: Opportunities and challenges. DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology, 40(6), 347-352."



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Prompt 1 to prompt 6 depicts the conversation with ChatGPT on the elements critical for most of the scientific writing. The aim was primarily to understand the suitability of ChatGPT as a research assistance tool.

The queries focus on framing an idea/topic into a research title, writing abstract, and review of literature, Citations and references for the content generated, and data collection. It is found that ChatGPThas suggested some impressive titles related to the area of study. Even successfully written the review of literature and provided the citations and references for the content. To verify the existence of the source of information provided it was crosschecked with the actual source. Upon verification it was found that none of these articles actually exists as per the bibliographical information provided which is a gross violation of academic integrity and can lead to unintentional plagiarism. As depicted in figure 2 and figure 3, it also failed to assist in data collection.

To evaluate the reliability of data generated by ChatGPT from the point of view of scientific writing, especially the factual information, ChatGPT was asked to write essay on some broad areas of Library and Information Science domain and the response of ChatGPT is depicted in the following section.

Prompt 7:Indian Library Association

Figure 7

ChatGPT

"The Indian Library Association (ILA) is a professional organization for librarians and information professionals in India. It was founded in 1933 and has a membership of over 10,000 members from various parts of the country. The ILA is affiliated with various international library associations, such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference (APLIC). It also collaborates with various national library organizations, such as the National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LISI) and the National Virtual Library of India (NVLI), to promote library and information services in India.

In response to prompt 7, it produced very generalized content with many factual errors viz the paragraph describes its affiliation and collaboration with various national and international associations and organisations especially with N-LIST which is a consortia model. All the incorrect information is underlined in red.

Prompt 8: Write an essay on history of Library and Information Science education in India

Figure 8



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ChatGPT

Library and Information Science (LIS) education in India has a long and rich history dating back to the early 20th century. The first library science course was introduced in India in 1911 at the University of Calcutta

In 1<u>924, the University of Madras established the first degree program</u> in library science in India, followed by the <u>University of Delhi in 1931, In 1946, the Indian Library Association (ILA)</u> <u>was established</u> to promote the development of library services and the education of librarians in India.

In 1960, the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) was established at the Indian Statistical Institute in Bangalore to promote research and training in documentation and information science. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) started recognizing LIS courses as technical courses, and several institutions started offering courses in information technology and computer applications in libraries and information centers.

Prompt 9: Write an essay on the growth and development of Library and Information

Science education in India before independence

Figure 9

ChatGP1

"Library and Information Science (LIS) is a field that deals with the study of various aspects of library and information management, including organization, retrieval, preservation, and dissemination of information. The development of LIS education in India before independence can be traced back to the late 19th century when the first library schools were established in the country.

The earliest recorded LIS education in India <u>dates back to 1896, when the Madras Library</u> Association established the first library school in the country.

In 1911, the Imperial Library, now the National Library of India, established a training school for librarians in Calcutta. The school offered a one-year training program to those interested in pursuing a career in librarianship.

In 1924, the University of London established a diploma course in librarianship and information science, which was offered to students in India through correspondence.

In 1929, the University of Calcutta established a Department of Library Science, which offered a one-year diploma course in librarianship.

In 1930, the University of Madras established a Department of Library Science, which offered a diploma course in librarianship.

Prompt 10: Madras Library Association

Figure 10

ChatGP1

"The Madras Library Association is an organization based in Chennai (formerly known as Madras), India, that aims to promote library and information services, as well as the professional development of librarians and information professionals.

The association was established in 1910 and has been active in the field of library and information science for over a century.

The association is <u>affiliated with the Indian Library Association (ILA) and the Tamil Nadu</u>
<u>Library Association (TNLA),</u> and collaborates with various other library and information organizations in India and abroad."

The response to prompt 8 is depicted in Figure 8 which is again full of errors. Surprisingly the year of establishment of the Indian Library Association given in the response is again not factual and most importantly differs from the first response. In response to the first prompt while the year of establishment of ILA was given as 1933, in the second response it has been



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noted as the year 1946. This clearly shows the inconsistency in the historical data provided by ChatGPT. The chronicles of Library and Information Science education in India are also found to be nonfactual.

Inconsistent and nonfactual information provided by ChatGPT prompted the ninth prompt. Here also all the information provided by ChatGPT is again erroneous and inconsistent with the response provided against the previous prompt. As, all scientific developments are built on past knowledge, in scientific writing proper mention of the work upon which the study is built is paramount. This validates the fitness of the new work into the existing web of knowledge in the domain. The primary mechanism for this is the citation and reference that helps readers to verify the novelty of the research and to assess the strength of its output.(Mack, 2018) A well-referenced content justifies the authors' argument in the proper context and as a result can support its novelty and its value(Penders, 2018), this prompted prompts 11,12 and 13.

Prompt 11: Give list of references used for the above content

Figure 11

ChatGPT

"I'm sorry, as an AI language model, I don't have access to the specific sources used to generate the essay on the history of Library and Information Science education in India. However, I can suggest some general sources that can provide more information on this topic."

Prompt 12: Then how to check the authenticity? Some of the information provided by you are seems to be incorrect.

Figure 12

ChatGPT

As an AI language model, I strive to provide accurate and reliable information to the best of my knowledge and based on the data I was trained on. However, I understand that there may be errors or inconsistencies in the information provided, as my training data is limited and may not include all the latest developments in a particular field.

To verify the authenticity of the information provided in any essay or article, it is always best to consult multiple sources and cross-check the information. You can also check the credibility of the sources used in the essay, such as the author's credentials, the publication, and the date of publication. It is also helpful to look for other academic and scholarly works on the same topic and compare the information provided.

If you come across any errors or inaccuracies in the information provided by me, please let me know, and I will do my best to correct them.

Prompt 13:To check the credibility of the sources used I would be in need of the exact list of documents you referred.

Figure 13



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ChatGPT

"I apologize for the confusion earlier. As an AI language model, I don't have a specific list of references for the essay on the history of Library and Information Science education in India that I provided earlier, as the content was generated based on my language model training and general knowledge."

As shown in Figures11,12 and, 13 it is quite evident that ChatGPT fails to validate its contents by providing proper citations and references which is very crucial in scientific writing.

6. SUMMARY OF INCORRECT INFORMATION:

Keeping aside theoretical information, data accompanied by chronological details were meticulously verifiedthrough reliable sources to check the accuracy of the information provided. Where several instances came to the notice wherein ChatGPT has provided inaccurate answers. The outcomes of this crosschecking are detailed in Table 1, which summaries the findings of the accuracy assessment.

Table 1

Serial No.	Incorrect Information provided by ChatGPT	Prompt No.	Correct Answer	
1	"The first library science	8	The first library science course was	
	course was introduced in India		introduced in India in 1911by W. A.	
	in 1911 at the University of		Bordenat Baroda	
	Calcutta"		(Asundi & Karisiddappa, 2007)	
2	"In 1924, the University of	8	The University of Madras introduced	
	Madras established the first		summer school in the year 1929,	
	degree program"		Certificate course in the year 1931,	
			Diploma course in the year 1937	
			(University of Madras, n.d.)	
3	"University of Delhi	8	Department of Library and Information	
	introduced the first degree		Science instituted in 1946 at University	
	program in Library Science in		of Delhi https://dlis.du.ac.in/history.html	
	1931"			
4	"In 1946, the Indian Library	8	ILA was formed in 1933	
	Association (ILA) was		https://ilaindia.co.in/vision-mission	
	established"			
5	"In 1960, the Documentation	8	(DRTC) was established in 1962	
	Research and Training Centre		https://drtc.isibang.ac.in/	
	(DRTC) was established"			
6	"LIS education in India dates	9	The first library science course was	
	back to 1896, when the		introduced in India in 1911by WA	
	Madras Library Association		Bordenat Baroda	
	established the first library		(Asundi & Karisiddappa, 2007)	
	school in the country".		Madras Library Association was founded	
			on 31st January 1928	
			https://www.madras	
			<u>libraryassociation.com/p/home.html</u>	



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7	In 1911, the Imperial Library, now the National Library of India, established a training	9	No evidence found
	school for librarians in Calcutta		
8	"In 1924, the University of London established a diploma course in librarianship and information science, which was offered to students in India through correspondence"	9	No evidence found
9	"In 1929, the University of Calcutta established a Department of Library Science, which offered a oneyear diploma course in librarianship"	9	The first Diploma Library Training started in January, 1945 by University of Calcutta https://www.caluniv.ac.in/academic/LibrarySc.html
10	"In 1930, the University of Madras established a Department of Library Science, which offered a diploma course in librarianship"	9	In 1937, the Certificate Course was converted into Diploma Course University of Madras (University of Madras, n.d.)
11	"Madras Library association was established in 1910"	10	Madras Library Association was founded on 31st January 1928 https://www.madras libraryassociation.com/p/home.html

7. SUMMARY OF INCONSISTENCY IN PROVIDED INFORMATION

Table 2

S.N.	Inconsistent Information	Information Provided	Figure No.
1	Establishment of ILA	1933	7
		1946	8
2	Introduction of the first library	1911	8
	science course in India	1896	9
3	Institution which introduced the	University of Calcutta	8
	first library science course	Madras Library Association	9
4	Madras Library Association	Opened the first library science	9
		course in 1896	10
		Established in 1910	

Accuracy of information especially historical data is important in scientific writing. However, Table 2 reveals inconsistencies in the responses provided by ChatGPT. It is apparent that a thorough evaluation is necessary to rectify disparities while using content generated by ChatGPT.



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8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:

Powered by AI, ChatGPT has been considered as a promising field of interest for education and has garnered much attention across the globe since its launch. It has also raised increasing concern in the scholarly world on its use for scientific writing, focusing largely on its impact from the point of view of quality, reliability, and integrity. The apprehension is primarily that research papers written by ChatGPT would degrade the quality, spread misinformation, dilute ethical values and promote plagiarism.

From the findings, it is clear that at present ChatGPT has few strengths and several limitations from the perspective of scientific writing. While its efficiency in language especially English language can be beneficial to researchers from non-English speaking countries, its lack of contextual understanding, limited creativity, inconsistency in providing information, absence of reasoning, and logical thinking need to be carefully considered. The quality of the text generated by ChatGPT will also be largely dependent on the input data and the skill of the user in using the tool. As a language model, it has the potential to significantly contribute to constructive writing rather than providing theresearch methodology for a particular study. Though for optimization of capacities and capabilities of the researchers, many academic writing tools are being used commonly by researchers, blended writing with Chatbots like ChatGPT has been raising many ethical concerns. So its use for scientific writing has the possibility to be viewed as unethical or dishonest when proper guidelines will be in placeby competent authorities.

The use of ChatGPT in scientific writing has already raised several ethical considerations that researchers must consider. One of the most important considerations is to ensure academic integrity or transparency as text generated by ChatGPT lacks proper citation and attribution to its source. Another ethical consideration is to ensure that the use of ChatGPT does not result in plagiarism or the misrepresentation of scientific findings. To ensure this human mind is required to carefully review and edit any text generated by ChatGPT without compromising its accuracy.

ChatGPT has promised a revolution in the educational sector but its usability in scholarly publication is still in its infancy. To address the issues raised by scholars more and more research is required urgently as there is limited empirical research on the effectiveness and limitations of ChatGPT in scientific writing. This will enable the researchers to take an informed decision about its use and ensure that academic integrity and transparency is maintained by carefully considering the strengths and limitations of this model. This study provides valuable insights into the use of this tool and highlights the need for further research to fully understand the impact of automated writing tools on scientific communication and publishing. Future studies could explore additional factors that influence the quality of the output generated by ChatGPT, and how these tools may be used in combination with traditional writing methods to improve scientific writing outcomes. Additionally, studies could examine the impact of using automated writing tools on academic integrity and transparency. Although in a very short period of time, research on the impact of ChatGPT on education is emerging and increasingly growing, there is an exiguity of literature on its impact on scientific writing. Overall, the impact of ChatGPT on scientific communication and publishing is a complex issue that requires further research and evaluation.



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