

Editorial

The current issue (39-4) has contributions in various topics related to engineering education including: Virtual Reality, Chemical Engineering, Engineering Design, Social Aspects, First-Year Engineering, Entrepreneurial Mind Set, Industrial Automation, Data Mining, Student Performance, Active Learning, Fluid Mechanics, Critical Thinking, PBL, Augmented Reality, Online Education, Outreach, Transportation Engineering, Hybrid Learning, COVID-19, Plagiarism, Intelligent Systems, Clinical Immersion, Biomedical Engineering, Graduate Advising, Self-Awareness, Oral Presentation, and Communication Tools.

The authors are from institutions in China, USA, Croatia, Serbia, Chile, Malaysia, Spain, Morocco, Colombia, and Taiwan. I would like to thank all the authors for their valuable contributions.

The AI language model Chat GPT (Generative Pre-Trained Transformer) has gained popularity in various areas including education. Some think it is a helpful tool and others see it as a dangerous tool with an adverse effect on education. I suppose any tool could be useful and could be harmful. However, *abusus non tollit usum* (misuse does not cancel use).

I thought it would be interesting to see what Chat GPT has to say about its own advantages and disadvantages. Here is an abridged response to asking that question:

Advantages

Large Knowledge Base, Language Flexibility (it handles multiple languages, Speed and Efficiency, 24/7 Availability, and Personalization.

Disadvantages

Limited Understanding: While Chat GPT has a large knowledge base, it may still lack a deep understanding of certain topics or contexts, leading to inaccurate or irrelevant responses.

Lack of Emotional Intelligence. Dependence on Training Data: Security and Privacy Concerns: Chat GPT collects data on user interactions, which may raise privacy concerns, especially if the information is sensitive or personal. Ethical Considerations: Chat GPT can be used to manipulate or deceive individuals, raising ethical concerns about its use in certain contexts.

The outcome seemed promising, then the tool was asked: any comments about the IJEE?

The abridged answer:

The International Journal of Engineering Education (IJEE) is a reputable journal that publishes research articles, case studies, and other types of content related to engineering education. The journal has been in publication since 1985 and is indexed in several databases, including Scopus and Web of Science.

Some Advantages

Credibility: IJEE is a well-established journal with a reputation for publishing high-quality research. Publishing in IJEE can lend credibility to an author's research and enhance their academic reputation.

Peer-review: IJEE employs a rigorous peer-review process, which ensures that the research published is of high quality and meets academic standards.

Accessibility: IJEE is available online, making it accessible to a global audience of researchers and educators.

Multidisciplinary approach: IJEE covers a wide range of engineering education topics, making it a valuable resource for educators and researchers across different disciplines.

Career Advancement: Publishing in IJEE can help advance the career of researchers and educators by increasing their visibility and impact in their field.

The exercise and its outcome were encouraging to make further enquires. Once again here is an abridged answer about online and printed academic journals:

Advantages of Online Journals:

Greater accessibility, Timeliness, Possibility of Interactivity, Ease of Searchability.

Disadvantages of Online Journals:

Dependence on technology, Security concerns, Quality control issues.

Advantages of Printed Journals:

Tangibility: Credibility: Printed journals have a long history of being regarded as credible sources of information, which can enhance their perceived value.

Reliability: Printed journals do not depend on technology or internet access, making them more reliable in certain contexts.

Disadvantages of Printed Journals:

Accessibility: Timeliness: Printed journals may take longer to publish and distribute.

Cost: Printed journals can be expensive to produce and distribute, leading to higher subscription costs.

The question to follow was: Do people still like printed academic journals?

AI said (abridged):

Yes, people still like printed academic journals. While online academic journals have become increasingly popular due to their accessibility and convenience, there are still many researchers and scholars who prefer printed journals.

Overall, while online academic journals have their benefits, there are still a significant number of individuals who value and appreciate the unique qualities of printed academic journals.

This led to the question: Do authors value printed journals?

The answer was:

The preference of authors between printed and online academic journals can vary depending on a variety of factors, such as their research field, personal preferences, and accessibility to different publishing options.

There are authors who value the traditional publishing format of print journals. Some authors believe that publishing their research in print journals adds a level of prestige and credibility to their work.

Out of curiosity, what does AI predict for the future of printed academic journals?

The future of printed academic journals is uncertain, and it is difficult to predict whether they will continue to be a significant part of scholarly communication. However, there are some trends and factors that may impact the future of printed academic journals:

Digital transformation: The trend towards digital transformation in academia is expected to continue.

Environmental concerns: Printing and distributing academic journals can be expensive, and many publishers are looking for ways to cut costs.

Reader preferences: there are still many readers who prefer the tactile experience of reading printed journals. As a result, printed journals may continue to be published for those who prefer them.

Overall, it is likely that the future of printed academic journals will be influenced by a variety of factors, including digital transformation, environmental concerns, cost-effectiveness, and reader preferences. While it is difficult to predict the exact future of printed academic journals, it is clear that the scholarly publishing industry is undergoing significant changes, and it is important for publishers to adapt to these changes in order to remain relevant and competitive.

Now, is it good for an academic journal to have both print and online versions?

AI wrote (abridged):

Yes, it is generally beneficial for an academic journal to have both print and online versions. Having a print version allows the journal to reach a traditional academic audience who prefer to read and reference print materials. On the other hand, having an online version allows the journal to reach a wider audience and to be more accessible to researchers and students who may not have access to print materials. Additionally, having both print and online versions can offer readers more options and flexibility in how they access the journal. Overall, having both print and online versions can help academic journals to better serve their readership and achieve their goals of disseminating high-quality research and scholarship.

AI Writing Check is a free service developed by Quill.org and CommonLit.org to enable checking whether a text was written by ChatGPT. They estimate, based on testing with 15k essays, that this tool is accurate 80-90% of the time. The results of checking the above "interview" indicated that it was written by a human, perhaps due to the abbreviation and combination made to responses. However, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of AI. The only contributions I made was to ask the questions and to summarize and combine answers. Perhaps in another editorial I will provide comments on AI opinions.

I hope the readers find the outcome of Chat GPT interview reported above to be entertaining and to some extent illuminating. I hope also, they find the papers included in this issue to be useful and interesting.

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