

## **Guidelines to authors on the use of AI tools in the preparation of manuscripts for the African Humanities Series**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is widely regarded as having great potential to improve the quality and quantity of scholarly output and to allow researchers to work more efficiently. However, particularly in arts and humanities scholarly writing, authors need to develop their own unique voice rather than present work adjusted by AI-driven programmes to conform to what is considered a typical writing style for the discipline. The African Humanities Series (AHS) is conceived as a platform for rigorous African scholarship that upholds African thinkers' perspectives, scholarly registers, and modes of thinking. The series' larger mission is to insert distinctly African voices and perspectives into the global knowledge landscape, where Africa remains underrepresented. The use of AI tools in the preparation of manuscripts undermines this mission, resulting in work that is indistinguishable from the mass of machine-assisted writing churned out across the world. Mindful of some authors' concerns about editing and polishing their work, we provide individualised human editorial support designed to retain authors' distinctive voices. Where necessary, mentors are assigned to work alongside the author in developing the final manuscript. This gives authors the opportunity to develop and refine their personal writing style.

Authors preparing manuscripts for consideration for the African Humanities Series should comply with the following requirements regarding the use of AI:

1. *Presence of AI-assisted content.* We discourage the use of AI tools to improve language or phrasing, as these often flatten authors' distinctive authentic voices, resulting in dull, monochromatic writing. As indicated, AHS has human editorial support to ensure polished, well-crafted, authentic prose
2. *Inclusion of AI-generated content.* We do not permit the inclusion of any AI-generated images, data or text in the final manuscript and require authors to provide a written declaration confirming that the work is original and entirely their own. We have procedures to assess whether AI-generated content is present in the submitted manuscript.
3. *Author's responsibility.* Authors are entirely responsible for the authenticity and accuracy of the content of their manuscript. Authors will be held liable for any breaches of publishing ethics.
4. If there is any AI-assisted content in the manuscript, we ask authors to indicate in the submission which AI-based programmes have been used and for what purposes.

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