

## Regional Research Symposium on PBL (RRSPBL 2026) November 19–21, 2026 | Pune, India

### Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage – RRSPBL

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to significantly influence how scholarly work is conceptualized, conducted, and communicated, including in author, reviewer, and editorial roles. These tools are new and rapidly evolving, and the research community is still learning how they can be used responsibly in education-focused research and practice. AI therefore presents both opportunities and challenges for submissions to the Regional Research Symposium on Problem-Based Learning (RRSPBL). An overarching premise of this policy is the symposium's respect for each submission as the intellectual property of its human authors and contributors.

#### Role of human authors

RRSPBL views scholarly communication as a fundamentally human endeavor. Generative AI should be employed as a tool that supports human researchers and practitioners, rather than as a replacement for them. Human authors are expected to compose and critically curate the text of their submissions, make all substantive intellectual contributions, and remain fully accountable for the ideas, interpretations, and claims presented.

Generative AI tools must not be used to plagiarize, misrepresent, fabricate, or falsify information in any RRSPBL submission. Authors are responsible for the validity, accuracy, originality, and factuality of all content they submit, including content that may have been initially produced or assisted by AI tools. To be explicit, authors bear full responsibility for the entire content of their submission.

#### Potential uses of AI in RRSPBL submissions

Based on our current understanding, we recognize three broad categories of potential AI use:

##### 1. Copyediting and language support

- Use of AI tools to support grammar checking, spelling, punctuation, and minor wording suggestions (similar to human copyediting). Examples include spelling/grammar tools embedded in word processors, or dedicated proofreading tools.
- In such cases, authors must still review, revise, and take ownership of the final wording.

##### 2. Content generation and manuscript development

- Generative AI can produce text, images, code, or other content on behalf of human writers.
- Because AI outputs may contain inaccuracies, "hallucinations," biased content, or unacknowledged reuse of existing text, authors must not rely on AI to

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generate the core scholarly argument, research findings, interpretations, or conclusions.

- If AI is used to assist with idea generation, outlines, or draft paragraphs, authors must substantially revise and integrate these into their own reasoning and writing, and remain fully responsible for checking factual accuracy and originality.

### 3. Data generation and analysis

- AI may be used in data-related tasks, such as simulation, automated coding, transcription, pattern detection, or analytic support in research involving qualitative and quantitative data.
- In such cases, authors must ensure that their use of AI complies with applicable institutional policies, ethical review requirements, and any relevant regulations for human participants (e.g., consent, data protection, and privacy).
- Authors must be able to explain and justify how AI tools were used, including limitations, potential biases, and how outputs were verified or triangulated.

### Required disclosure section

To support transparency and research integrity, RRSPBL requires a dedicated disclosure for AI use:

- Every submission that uses AI tools **beyond basic copyediting** (e.g., beyond standard spell-check or grammar tools) must include a separate section titled **“Statement on Artificial Intelligence”** immediately before the References section (or equivalent).
- In this section, authors should clearly describe:
  - Whether AI tools were used at all.
  - Which tools were used (e.g., specific generative AI systems, analytic tools).
  - For what purposes they were used (e.g., data generation, data analysis, coding of qualitative data, development of survey items, drafting or revising sections of the manuscript, creation of images or figures).
  - How human authors verified and interpreted AI outputs, including any steps taken to check for errors, biases, or hallucinated content.

AI use for research purposes (e.g., data analysis, coding, modeling) must also be described in the **Methods** or **Design** section, so that readers can understand and evaluate the analytic approach.

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Further, It is mandatory that AI-generated content constitute no more than 20% of the submitted work, and that the overall similarity index remains below 10%, as reported by the plagiarism-detection software.

**Note:** Authors remain fully responsible for any errors of fact, methodological misrepresentation, inappropriate use of participant data, or violations of publication ethics or copyright that may arise from the use of AI tools.

### Ethical and institutional compliance

By submitting to RRSPBL, authors acknowledge that they have adhered to appropriate ethical guidelines and approvals for any human-subjects work or educational data used in the study, including consideration of institutional or national policies regarding AI use in research. This includes, where applicable:

- Ensuring informed consent and privacy when AI tools are used on student or participant data.
- Avoiding upload of sensitive, personally identifiable, or confidential data into third-party AI systems without appropriate safeguards and approvals.
- Aligning AI use with institutional review board (IRB) or ethics committee decisions, and with institutional policies on AI in teaching, learning, and research.

At the point of submission, authors will be asked to confirm the following (or similar) statement:

“By submitting this manuscript, I confirm that I have adhered to appropriate ethical guidelines and approvals for the research conducted in this study, including taking into consideration any institutional or regulatory requirements concerning the use of AI in educational and human subjects research.”

### Adapted from

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