

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AUTHORSHIP GOVERNANCE IN VIETNAMESE SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS: LEGAL CHALLENGES AND POLICY OPTIONS

INTELIGÊNCIA ARTIFICIAL GENERATIVA E GOVERNANÇA DE AUTORIA EM REVISTAS CIENTÍFICAS VIETNAMITAS: DESAFIOS LEGAIS E OPÇÕES DE POLÍTICA

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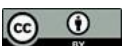
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Abstract

This article examines how generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is reshaping authorship governance in Vietnamese scientific journals, with attention to its interaction with Vietnam's intellectual property framework and norms of academic integrity. Using a legal-policy and conceptual approach, it reviews key aspects of the 2022 Intellectual Property Law, emerging proposals for AI regulation, and existing integrity rules, together with recent findings on plagiarism and ChatGPT use among Vietnamese students. Under Vietnamese law, authorship is limited to individuals who directly create a work, and named persons are presumed right holders; yet GenAI can generate or revise scientific text without legal personhood, complicating attribution while leaving formal presumptions intact. Persistent issues—plagiarism, “name lending,” and uneven enforcement—are further entangled when GenAI is used for drafting, paraphrasing, or stylistic imitation. Large-scale training on Vietnamese-language materials also raises concerns about unlicensed use of articles, theses, and unpublished manuscripts, with possible effects on priority and scientific credit. The article contends that Vietnamese journals and regulators should align international AI standards with domestic law, reinforce disclosure and authorship rules, adopt safeguards against opaque reuse and scraping, clarify the

Resumo

Este artigo examina como a inteligência artificial generativa (IAG) está remodelando a governança da autoria em periódicos científicos vietnamitas, com atenção à sua interação com o arcabouço de propriedade intelectual do Vietnã e as normas de integridade acadêmica. Utilizando uma abordagem jurídico-política e conceitual, revisa aspectos-chave da Lei de Propriedade Intelectual de 2022, propostas emergentes para a regulamentação da IA e regras de integridade existentes, juntamente com descobertas recentes sobre plágio e o uso do ChatGPT entre estudantes vietnamitas. De acordo com a lei vietnamita, a autoria é limitada a indivíduos que criam diretamente uma obra, e presume-se que as pessoas nomeadas sejam as detentoras dos direitos; no entanto, a IAG pode gerar ou revisar textos científicos sem personalidade jurídica, o que complica a atribuição, embora mantenha intactas as presunções formais. Questões persistentes — plágio, “empréstimo de nome” e aplicação desigual das leis — são ainda mais complexas quando a IAG é usada para redigir, parafrasear ou imitar o estilo. O treinamento em larga escala com materiais em língua vietnamita também levanta preocupações sobre o uso não autorizado de artigos, teses e manuscritos não publicados, com possíveis efeitos sobre a prioridade e o crédito científico. O artigo



responsibilities of human authors and GenAI providers, and encourage empirical research on GenAI use in Vietnam.

Keywords: Generative Artificial Intelligence. Authorship. Copyright. Academic Integrity. Scientific Journals.

defende que as revistas científicas e os órgãos reguladores vietnamitas devem alinhar os padrões internacionais de IA com a legislação nacional, reforçar as regras de divulgação e autoria, adotar salvaguardas contra a reutilização e a extração de dados não autorizadas, esclarecer as responsabilidades dos autores humanos e dos fornecedores de IA generativa e incentivar a pesquisa empírica sobre o uso de IA generativa no Vietnã.

Palavras-chave: Inteligência Artificial Generativa. Autoria. Direitos Autorais. Integridade Acadêmica. Revistas Científicas.

1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, large language models and other generative AI (GenAI) systems have rapidly entered academic workflows, from literature searches and translation to drafting and revising manuscripts. In Vietnam, the second edition of the Vietnam AI Handbook highlights the rise of large language models since 2018 and the release of ChatGPT as a turning point in the use of AI for natural-language tasks (Privacy Compliance, 2024). Internationally, survey data from Nature indicate that a significant share of researchers already use ChatGPT or similar tools for writing assistance, literature review and code generation (Owens, 2023).

Vietnam is simultaneously reforming its legal and policy framework for intellectual property and digital technologies. The 2022 amendments to the Intellectual Property Law introduced important changes to authorship, ownership and enforcement rules (Bross & Partners, 2022; DFDL, 2023; Vu & Do, 2022). In parallel, policymakers are drafting a dedicated AI law and have begun to articulate a human-centric, risk-based approach to governing AI systems (Nguyen & Do, 2025; Privacy Compliance, 2024; Vietnam Digital Communications Association & VNA, 2025). These developments shape how GenAI can legally and legitimately be deployed in research and publishing.

At the same time, Vietnam's higher-education system has long struggled with academic integrity issues. Empirical studies document widespread plagiarism, including copying of graduation reports and assignments, and point to relatively weak institutional enforcement mechanisms (Sa & Nguyen, 2016; Tran U.T. *et al.*, 2018; Uc *et al.*, 2021). Universities have responded with their own integrity regulations and codes, but practices

remain uneven, as seen in policies at institutions such as the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, VinUniversity and Fulbright University Vietnam (UEH, 2024; VinUniversity, 2023; Fulbright University Vietnam, 2024).

Scientific journals in Vietnam are also progressively aligning with international publication-ethics frameworks. Journals such as the Vietnam Journal of Earth Sciences and the Vietnam Journal of Education base their ethics policies on guidelines from organisations like COPE, WAME and the ICMJE, while adding local rules on plagiarism and authorship (Vietnam Journal of Earth Sciences, 2023; Vietnam Journal of Education, 2024; COPE, 2023; Zielinski *et al.*, 2023; ICMJE, 2024). Notably, the Vietnam Journal of Education has issued explicit principles on the use of GenAI tools, restricting AI-generated core content while allowing limited language editing.

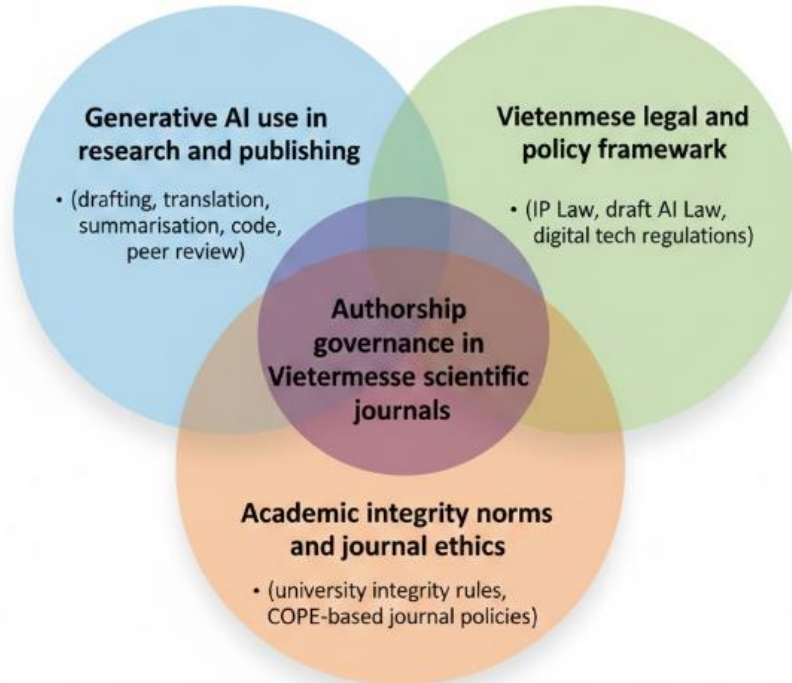
Recent work on student use of ChatGPT suggests that GenAI is already embedded in Vietnamese academic practice. A study of students' plagiarism awareness and behaviour found that many use ChatGPT as a learning tool, with some openly acknowledging AI support and others deliberately concealing it (Tran K.V. *et al.*, 2025). More broadly, GenAI is increasingly promoted as a “productivity tool” in academic writing and research, raising questions about how responsibility and authorship should be allocated when AI contributes to scholarly texts (Khalifa & Albadawy, 2024).

Against this backdrop, this article examines how GenAI is reshaping authorship governance in Vietnamese scientific journals. It asks how AI-assisted writing interacts with the legal definition of the author in Vietnam's Intellectual Property Law, how it affects existing patterns of misconduct and priority disputes, and what policy and technical responses are appropriate in the Vietnamese context. By integrating legal-policy analysis with insights from integrity research and publishing ethics, the article seeks to provide a framework for journals and regulators that goes beyond simply banning AI from the author list.

The discussion proceeds as follows. Section 2 outlines the legal and policy context in Vietnam. Section 3 describes patterns of GenAI use in Vietnamese education and research. Section 4 analyses key challenges to authorship management in journals. Section 5 proposes policy and technical responses. Section 6 concludes and points to future research.

2 LEGAL AND POLICY CONTEXT IN VIETNAM

Figure 1. Conceptual framework: Generative AI, legal–policy context and academic integrity in Vietnamese scientific publishing



Source: Authors

2.1 Intellectual property law and the notion of the author

Vietnam's current approach to authorship is anchored in the amended Intellectual Property Law. The 2022 revision clarifies that the author of a work is the person who directly creates it, while those who merely provide funding, materials or technical support are not considered authors (Bross & Partners, 2022; DFDL, 2023). It also reinforces the presumption that persons or organisations named as authors or right holders on a work are presumed to hold the relevant rights unless proven otherwise (Vu & Do, 2022).

Although the law does not explicitly mention AI, legal analysis and practice assume that AI systems lack legal personality and cannot be authors or primary right holders (DFDL, 2023; Tilleke & Gibbins, 2023). This position is broadly consistent with international publication guidelines: COPE, WAME and the ICMJE all state that AI tools cannot meet core authorship criteria such as taking public responsibility for the work and managing conflicts of interest (COPE, 2023; Zielinski *et al.*, 2023; ICMJE, 2024).

However, when GenAI systems are deeply involved in drafting and revising manuscripts, the gap widens between this formal legal definition and actual creative

practice. In such cases, human authors remain the only legally recognised creators, even if AI generates or heavily shapes much of the text.

2.2 Emerging AI regulation and responsible-use principles

Alongside IP reform, Vietnam is developing a broader AI governance framework. The forthcoming AI law, as analysed by Nguyen and Do (2025), takes inspiration from the EU AI Act and proposes a risk-based approach that differentiates between low-, medium- and high-risk AI applications. The *Vietnam AI Handbook* situates this law within a wider strategy to promote trustworthy AI and digital innovation (Privacy Compliance, 2024).

Responsible-use principles are also being articulated in sector-specific codes. In digital communication, for example, a code endorsed by the Vietnam Digital Communications Association and the Vietnam News Agency emphasises transparency, protection of intellectual property, respect for human dignity and accountability when deploying AI systems (Vietnam Digital Communications Association & VNA, 2025). Although these documents are not focused on research publishing, they signal a policy direction that stresses human oversight and legal compliance in AI use.

2.3 Academic integrity regulations and journal ethics

At the institutional level, Vietnamese universities have adopted integrity regulations that define plagiarism, fabrication and authorship violations and describe corresponding sanctions. The University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, VinUniversity and Fulbright University Vietnam all have detailed policies that apply to coursework, theses and research outputs (UEH, 2024; VinUniversity, 2023; Fulbright University Vietnam, 2024). These rules are, however, fragmented, and empirical studies show that enforcement is often uneven (Sa & Nguyen, 2016; Tran U.T. *et al.*, 2018; Uc *et al.*, 2021).

Scientific journals complement these frameworks with their own ethics policies. The *Vietnam Journal of Earth Sciences* explicitly commits to COPE guidelines, uses similarity-checking tools and defines responsibilities for authors, editors and reviewers (Vietnam Journal of Earth Sciences, 2023). The *Vietnam Journal of Education* goes further by issuing specific principles on generative AI: it prohibits AI use for drafting

article text, generating results or producing statistical descriptions, while allowing AI-assisted language polishing (Vietnam Journal of Education, 2024). Such policies situate Vietnamese journals within global debates on AI and authorship (COPE, 2023; Zielinski *et al.*, 2023).

Table 1. Key Vietnamese legal and policy instruments relevant to GenAI and authorship

Instrument / Policy	Year	Scope	Relevance to GenAI and authorship governance
Intellectual Property Law (as amended in 2022)	2022	Copyright, related rights	Defines “author” as the person who directly creates the work; establishes presumption that named persons are right holders; currently silent on AI as a legal subject.
Draft Law on Artificial Intelligence	2025	Digital technology, AI systems	Proposes a human-centric, risk-based approach to AI; sets general obligations for providers and users that may apply to training on scholarly works and AI-generated outputs.
Law on Digital Technology Industry	2025	Digital platforms, online services	Introduces requirements for safe and transparent digital technologies; provides a basis for regulating AI providers and online content reuse.
University academic integrity regulations	2018	Higher education and research	Define plagiarism, fabrication and authorship misconduct; enforcement practices affect how GenAI is used in theses and publications.
Journal-level ethics policies (e.g. VJE, VJES)	2020	Scientific publishing	Adapt COPE/WAME/ICMJE standards; some journals explicitly restrict GenAI use for core content while allowing language editing.

Source: Authors

3 PATTERNS OF GENAI USE IN VIETNAMESE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Empirical evidence on GenAI use in Vietnam is still limited, but existing studies and international trends provide a preliminary picture. Tran K.V. *et al.* (2025) report that many Vietnamese students use ChatGPT to understand course material, generate ideas and draft assignments, with varying degrees of transparency about AI involvement. These findings echo earlier work on plagiarism and integrity, which found that students often view copying or “borrowing” text as a pragmatic response to heavy workloads and unclear expectations (Sa & Nguyen, 2016; Tran U.T. *et al.*, 2018; Uc *et al.*, 2021).

Globally, researchers use GenAI for a range of tasks, including generating code, summarising literature and polishing language (Owens, 2023; Khalifa & Albadawy, 2024). It is reasonable to assume that Vietnamese academics, especially those publishing in English, are adopting similar practices, for example by using GenAI to translate Vietnamese drafts into English or to improve grammar and style.

At the same time, university integrity codes in Vietnam rarely address GenAI directly, focusing instead on traditional forms of cheating and plagiarism (UEH, 2024; VinUniversity, 2023; Fulbright University Vietnam, 2024). This mismatch between rapidly evolving practice and relatively static rules creates grey zones where AI-assisted writing may be common but poorly regulated.

For scientific journals, these patterns imply that manuscripts increasingly arrive with some degree of AI input, even when this is not disclosed. Editors and reviewers may themselves experiment with AI-assisted peer review, for instance by using GenAI to draft reports or check language (Zielinski *et al.*, 2023). Such practices can have important implications for authorship attribution and responsibility.

Table 2. Typical uses of GenAI in Vietnamese academic practice and associated risks

Type of GenAI use	Typical users	Main purpose	Key risks for authorship and integrity
Translation and language polishing (VN → EN)	Researchers, PhD students	Improving English fluency of manuscripts	Undisclosed AI involvement; over-reliance on AI phrasing; hidden paraphrasing of existing English-language works.
Drafting text based on prompts	Early-career researchers, students	Producing introductions, literature reviews, even full drafts	Ghost-writing; unclear contribution; AI-mediated plagiarism or style imitation of other authors.
Summarising literature	Students, researchers	Quick overview of prior work	Omission of key Vietnamese studies; hallucinated citations; distorted assessment of novelty and priority.
Generating code, statistical scripts or tables	Quantitative researchers	Speeding up data analysis and reporting	Undetected errors in code; misinterpreted results; responsibility gaps when errors are blamed on the tool.
AI-assisted peer review (informal use by reviewers)	Reviewers and editors	Drafting review reports, checking language	Leakage of confidential manuscript content; AI training on non-public data; potential bias in AI-generated critiques.

Source: Authors

4 GENAI-RELATED CHALLENGES FOR AUTHORSHIP MANAGEMENT IN VIETNAMESE JOURNALS

4.1 Blurring the boundary between “author” and “tool”

Under Vietnamese IP law, the author is the person who directly creates the work (Bross & Partners, 2022; DFDL, 2023). GenAI complicates this straightforward notion.

When a researcher uses an LLM to produce entire paragraphs or sections and merely edits the output, it becomes unclear how much intellectual labour is genuinely human. From a legal standpoint, the human remains the author, but the substantive expression may be largely AI-generated.

In practice, three common scenarios can be distinguished: AI-drafted but human-approved texts; hybrid writing where humans and AI alternate contributions; and AI-based ghost-writing combined with “name lending” to senior scholars. All three are difficult to evaluate using traditional contribution-based authorship criteria and threaten to weaken the presumption that named authors are the main creators (Tran U.T. *et al.*, 2018; Uc *et al.*, 2021).

4.2 Amplifying existing misconduct

Vietnamese academic culture already faces challenges such as plagiarism, inappropriate authorship and limited enforcement of integrity rules (Sa & Nguyen, 2016; Uc *et al.*, 2021). GenAI amplifies these problems in at least two ways. First, it enables “intelligent paraphrasing”: users can feed in source text and request a new version that preserves ideas but changes surface wording enough to evade standard similarity checks (Khalifa & Albadawy, 2024). Second, GenAI can be used for ghost-writing, allowing a single individual to produce apparently sophisticated manuscripts that are then shared among co-authors, sometimes with minimal real contribution.

Such uses undermine the goals of university and journal integrity policies and create new forms of misconduct that are harder to detect (UEH, 2024; Vietnam Journal of Education, 2024; Vietnam Journal of Earth Sciences, 2023). They also complicate priority claims, since AI-mediated paraphrasing can obscure the line between genuine novelty and recycled ideas.

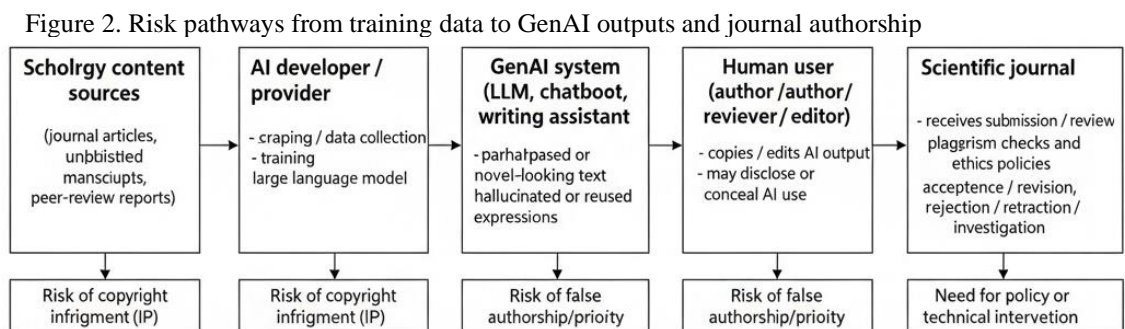
4.3 Training data, copyright and hidden appropriation

GenAI systems depend on large corpora of training data, often scraped from the web or licensed in bulk. When these datasets include Vietnamese-language academic content—journal articles, theses, preprints or even peer-review reports—without proper permission, both copyright and confidentiality may be compromised (Privacy

Compliance, 2024; Tilleke & Gibbins, 2023). For example, an AI model trained on unpublished manuscripts stored on cloud services could later reproduce or paraphrase their contents in response to prompts from third-party users.

This raises difficult questions for priority and authorship. If a researcher’s draft has been absorbed into training data and the model generates similar formulations for another user, the original author may find it hard to demonstrate misappropriation. Legal analyses warn that such scenarios fall into a grey area of copyright law and may require new regulatory tools and contractual safeguards (Tilleke & Gibbins, 2023; Nguyen & Do, 2025).

Figure 2 in the article maps these risk pathways from training data to GenAI outputs and journal authorship, highlighting points where copyright infringement and misattribution are most likely to occur.



Source: Authors

Note:

– Risk of copyright infringement arises mainly between Scholarly content sources and AI developer / provider (unlicensed scraping and training), and again between the GenAI system and the Human user when protected expressions are reproduced without attribution.

– Risk of misattribution and disputed priority arises chiefly between the GenAI system, the Human user and the Scientific journal, when AI-mediated paraphrasing, ghost-writing or hallucinated citations are treated as original work.

– Policy and technical interventions are needed at each stage: transparency and licensing obligations for AI developers, safeguards and user warnings in GenAI systems, AI literacy and integrity rules for Human users, and robust authorship policies, similarity checks and investigative procedures in Scientific journals.

4.4 Priority rights and the scientific “race”

Priority of publication is crucial for researchers competing for recognition, grants and promotions. For Vietnamese scientists seeking to publish internationally, delays in peer review or language editing can already erode their competitive position; GenAI adds several new wrinkles.

First, if an AI system has been trained on a Vietnamese preprint or conference paper and later generates similar content in response to a foreign user’s prompt, the original Vietnamese authors may find their ideas reflected in an article that reaches a high-impact journal sooner. Given the difficulty of tracing AI outputs back to specific training data, establishing priority in such scenarios may be nearly impossible.

Second, when authors rely heavily on GenAI to summarise literature, they may inadvertently misrepresent prior work—for example, by omitting key domestic studies that the AI under-indexes or by accepting hallucinated claims about novelty. This can lead to exaggerated originality claims and disputes over whether a Vietnamese article truly presents a “first” contribution.

Third, if Vietnamese journals themselves start using GenAI to screen submissions or generate review summaries, they must guard against subtle biases in how the AI evaluates novelty and importance, which could affect priority indirectly.

Taken together, these issues mean that GenAI can both obscure and distort the record of who discovered what, and when, in the Vietnamese scientific community.

5 POLICY AND TECHNICAL RESPONSES FOR VIETNAM

Addressing these challenges requires coordinated action by legislators, regulators, universities and journal editors. This section sets out possible directions, with an emphasis on measures that are realistic in the Vietnamese context. Table 3 summarizes the key GenAI-related challenges for authorship governance and outlines the corresponding proposed responses in Vietnam.

5.1 Aligning journal policies with global guidelines and Vietnamese law

Internationally, publishing organisations agree on a few core principles: AI tools cannot be listed as authors, their use should be transparently disclosed, and human authors remain fully responsible for the content of their work (COPE, 2023; Zielinski *et al.*, 2023; ICMJE, 2024). Vietnamese journals can adopt these principles while grounding them in the national IP framework (Bross & Partners, 2022; DFDL, 2023; Vu & Do, 2022).

In practice, this means requiring authors to include an AI-use statement, prohibiting AI-generated core scientific content where appropriate, and making clear that undisclosed or deceptive use of GenAI may constitute misconduct (Vietnam Journal of Earth Sciences, 2023; Vietnam Journal of Education, 2024). Such measures would bring journal policies into closer alignment with both global norms and domestic law..

Table 3. Key GenAI-related challenges for authorship governance and proposed responses in Vietnam

Challenge	Legal / policy level response	Institutional (university) response	Journal-level / technical response
Blurred boundary between “author” and “tool”	Clarify human-only authorship in IP and AI laws	Update integrity policies to cover GenAI use in theses and papers	Require AI use statements; prohibit listing AI as an author
AI-mediated plagiarism and ghost-writing	Recognise GenAI-related plagiarism explicitly in guidance	Integrate AI literacy into research methods and writing courses	Combine similarity checks with manual review; sanction deceptive AI use
Hidden appropriation via training data	Impose transparency obligations on AI providers	Raise awareness about risks of uploading drafts to AI tools	Use DRM/anti-scraping; watermark content; investigate complaints
Unclear priority rights due to AI training and outputs	Provide mechanisms for addressing AI-related IP disputes	Encourage early preprints and documentation of ideas	Develop procedures to handle priority disputes involving GenAI

Source: Authors

5.2 Strengthening academic integrity and AI literacy in universities

Universities need to update integrity policies and educational programmes to address GenAI explicitly. Existing codes at institutions such as UEH, VinUniversity and Fulbright University provide a foundation but rarely distinguish between AI-mediated and traditional forms of plagiarism (UEH, 2024; VinUniversity, 2023; Fulbright University Vietnam, 2024). Building on empirical findings about student behaviour,

particularly regarding ChatGPT (Tran K.V. *et al.*, 2025; Uc *et al.*, 2021), universities can develop guidance on acceptable uses of GenAI in assignments, theses and publications.

AI literacy should become part of research-methods and academic-writing courses, covering not only how to use tools effectively but also how to evaluate their outputs critically and cite or acknowledge them appropriately (Khalifa & Albadawy, 2024). Such training can help shift GenAI from a shortcut associated with cheating to a transparent tool used within clear ethical boundaries.

5.3 Technical safeguards for journals: from plagiarism checks to anti-scraping

Journals and publishers can complement policy measures with technical safeguards. First, they can refine similarity-checking workflows to recognise that low similarity scores do not guarantee originality in the GenAI era (Vietnam Journal of Earth Sciences, 2023; Vietnam Journal of Education, 2024). Second, they can adopt anti-scraping measures and digital-rights-management tools to make unlicensed mass extraction of content more difficult, in line with recommendations from legal practitioners (Tilleke & Gibbins, 2023).

Third, national or disciplinary consortia could develop shared databases of anonymised manuscripts and published articles to support more sophisticated detection of AI-mediated paraphrasing and citation anomalies. Such infrastructures would align with broader efforts to promote responsible AI and protect intellectual property in Vietnam (Privacy Compliance, 2024; Vietnam Digital Communications Association & VNA, 2025).

5.4 Clarifying responsibility and sanctions

A recurring theme in global guidance is that humans—not machines—must remain accountable for research integrity. Vietnamese regulations and journal policies can reinforce this in several ways:

- State clearly that authors cannot blame GenAI for plagiarism, fabricated references or misleading conclusions. Using an AI tool that is known to hallucinate without proper verification can itself be considered negligence or misconduct.

- Treat deliberate misuse of GenAI—for example, instructing a model to paraphrase a specific article without attribution or to generate fake data—as an aggravating factor when deciding sanctions.
- Encourage institutions and funding bodies to recognise serious GenAI-related misconduct (e.g. AI-fabricated data leading to published papers) as grounds for disciplinary action, not just journal-level retraction.

At the same time, responsibility should not fall only on individual authors.

Policymakers could:

- Require GenAI providers operating in Vietnam to be transparent about training data sources and to give users options to prevent sensitive inputs from being used for training.
- Encourage providers to implement safeguards against obvious plagiarism prompts (such as requests to rewrite named articles without citation) and to warn users when outputs may infringe copyright or misrepresent sources.

These dual expectations—on authors and on technology providers—would better reflect the distributed nature of responsibility in the GenAI ecosystem.

5.5 Towards a coordinated national framework

Finally, Vietnam may benefit from a more coordinated national approach to AI and authorship in scholarly publishing, building on the country’s broader AI strategy.

Possible elements include:

- A set of **national guidelines on GenAI in research and publishing**, jointly issued by the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Information and Communications, aligning IP law, AI law and academic integrity principles.
- A **national registry or reporting mechanism** for serious cases of AI-related academic misconduct, to avoid situations where authors sanctioned by one journal or institution simply move to another.
- Support for **capacity building** in journal editing and research management, including training on AI tools, copyright in the digital environment, and investigations of complex authorship disputes.

Such measures would complement bottom-up initiatives by individual journals and universities, and ensure that GenAI is integrated into Vietnam's research system in a way that protects both scientific integrity and authors' rights.

6 CONCLUSION

Generative AI has arrived in Vietnamese science at a moment when the country is both expanding its research output and reforming its legal infrastructure for intellectual property and digital technologies. The 2022 amendments to the IP law, the forthcoming AI law and sectoral codes of responsible AI use all point towards a human-centric, rights-respecting approach.

Yet the everyday realities of academic work are more messy. Studies show that Vietnamese students, and likely many researchers, are already integrating ChatGPT and similar tools into their learning and writing practices, with mixed levels of transparency. Journals are beginning to respond, as seen in the Vietnam Journal of Education's explicit AI policy, but practices remain fragmented.

This article has argued that GenAI complicates authorship management in Vietnamese scientific journals in four main ways: by blurring the boundary between creator and tool; by amplifying existing problems of plagiarism and improper authorship; by raising new questions about training data, copyright and hidden appropriation; and by undermining the clarity of priority rights. Addressing these issues requires more than simply banning AI from the author list or asking for generic disclosure.

Instead, Vietnam needs an integrated approach that:

- aligns journal policies with both global best practice and domestic IP law;
- strengthens academic integrity and AI literacy across universities;
- deploys technical safeguards for journal content and review processes; and
- clarifies the respective responsibilities of human authors, institutions and GenAI providers.

Future research could build on this conceptual analysis by collecting empirical data on GenAI use among Vietnamese authors and editors, mapping how journal policies evolve over time, and examining concrete cases of AI-related authorship disputes. Such work would not only inform Vietnamese policy but also contribute to global debates on

how to govern authorship in an era where human and machine creativity are increasingly entangled.

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All authors contributed equally to the development of this article.

Data availability

All datasets relevant to this study's findings are fully available within the article.

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