

## RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI-GENERATED CONTENT IN VIETNAMESE SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING: EVIDENCE FROM JOURNAL POLICIES AND EDITORIAL PRACTICES

### *USO RESPONSÁVEL DE CONTEÚDO GERADO POR IA EM PUBLICAÇÕES ACADÊMICAS VIETNAMITAS: EVIDÊNCIAS DE POLÍTICAS DE PERIÓDICOS E PRÁTICAS EDITORIAIS*

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#### **Abstract**

The rapid diffusion of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools—especially large language models (LLMs)—is reshaping scholarly publishing worldwide. While these tools can support language editing, translation, and workflow efficiency, they also raise integrity risks, including fabricated citations, unverifiable claims, undisclosed ghostwriting, confidentiality breaches in peer review, and contested ownership of AI-assisted outputs. Vietnam’s journal ecosystem is currently navigating internationalization pressures (e.g., indexing and visibility goals) alongside uneven editorial capacity and fragmented policy infrastructure, making it a critical setting for examining responsible governance of AI-generated content (AIGC). This study reports an exploratory policy-and-practice mapping across five Vietnam-affiliated publishing contexts (university-based open access journals, an internationally co-published journal, a defense-related journal, and law/social-science publishing). Using structured qualitative content analysis, we identify shared norms (e.g., “AI cannot be an author,” accountability remains human) but also substantial variation in disclosure requirements, treatment of AI-generated images and references, restrictions on reviewer use of AI tools, and clarity of enforcement mechanisms. Building on these findings and international literature, we propose a Vietnam-tailored governance framework that combines (i) risk-tiered allowable uses, (ii) mandatory disclosure and provenance documentation, (iii) human-in-the-loop editorial controls, and (iv) capacity-building measures aligned with open science principles. The paper contributes practical templates (disclosure language, policy clauses, and a workflow-

#### **Resumo**

*A rápida difusão das ferramentas de inteligência artificial generativa (GenAI) — especialmente os grandes modelos de linguagem (LLMs) — está remodelando as publicações acadêmicas em todo o mundo. Embora essas ferramentas possam auxiliar na edição de linguagem, tradução e eficiência do fluxo de trabalho, elas também aumentam os riscos à integridade, incluindo citações falsificadas, alegações não verificáveis, ghostwriting não divulgado, violações de confidencialidade na revisão por pares e contestação da propriedade dos resultados assistidos por IA.*

*O ecossistema de periódicos do Vietnã está atualmente enfrentando pressões de internacionalização (por exemplo, metas de indexação e visibilidade), juntamente com uma capacidade editorial desigual e uma infraestrutura política fragmentada, tornando-o um cenário crítico para examinar a governança responsável do conteúdo gerado por IA (AIGC). Este estudo relata um mapeamento exploratório de políticas e práticas em cinco contextos editoriais afiliados ao Vietnã (revistas de acesso aberto baseadas em universidades, uma revista coeditada internacionalmente, uma revista relacionada à defesa e publicações de direito/ciências sociais). Usando análise de conteúdo qualitativa estruturada, identificamos normas compartilhadas (por exemplo, “a IA não pode ser autora”, a responsabilidade continua sendo humana), mas também variações substanciais nos requisitos de divulgação, tratamento de imagens e referências geradas por IA, restrições ao uso de ferramentas de IA por revisores e clareza dos mecanismos de aplicação. Com base nessas descobertas e na literatura internacional, propomos uma estrutura de governança adaptada ao Vietnã que*



integrated checklist) to support journals, editors, and research institutions seeking credible, implementable AI governance.

**Keywords:** Generative AI. AIGC. Scholarly Publishing. Journal Policy. Peer Review. Research Integrity. Vietnam. Open Science Governance.

*combina (i) usos permitidos por nível de risco, (ii) divulgação obrigatória e documentação de proveniência, (iii) controles editoriais com intervenção humana e (iv) medidas de capacitação alinhadas com os princípios da ciência aberta. O artigo contribui com modelos práticos (linguagem de divulgação, cláusulas de política e uma lista de verificação integrada ao fluxo de trabalho) para apoiar revistas, editores e instituições de pesquisa que buscam uma governança de IA confiável e implementável.*

**Palavras-chave:** IA generativa. AIGC. Publicação acadêmica. Política de revistas. Revisão por pares. Integridade da pesquisa. Vietnã. Governança da ciência aberta.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Generative AI systems have moved from experimental tools to widely accessible infrastructure for writing, summarizing, translating, coding, and drafting content at scale. In scholarly communication, this shift is not merely technical; it changes the economics and epistemics of publishing. Manuscripts can be produced faster, linguistic barriers can be reduced, and editorial processes may become more automated. Yet these benefits arrive with high-stakes risks: LLM outputs can appear authoritative while remaining incorrect or incomplete (Alkaiissi & McFarlane, 2023), citations may be fabricated or misattributed (Mugaanyi *et al.*, 2024), and AI-generated prose can conceal a lack of original contribution. These concerns intersect with longstanding issues in research integrity and publishing governance—retractions, paper mills, predatory publishing incentives, and metric-driven evaluation cultures (Fang *et al.*, 2012; Hicks *et al.*, 2015; Shen & Björk, 2015; Shamseer *et al.*, 2017).

In response, major publishers and editorial communities have begun codifying “minimum rules” for AI use. A growing baseline consensus is visible across disciplines: AI tools should not be listed as authors because authorship implies accountability, conflict-of-interest disclosure, and responsibility for the integrity of the work (Garcia, 2024; Kaebnick *et al.*, 2023; Thorp, 2023). Another emerging norm is transparency: when generative AI supports writing, authors should disclose the tool and purpose, while retaining full responsibility for the manuscript (Resnik, 2025; Tang, 2024). However, transparency is not a simple remedy. Disclosure can introduce social signaling effects—

reviewers may over-penalize legitimate language support, or interpret disclosure as a proxy for low rigor. Thus, governance must balance clarity and proportionality: rules should prevent deception and protect integrity without discouraging ethically appropriate uses, such as translation support in multilingual research environments.

Vietnam presents a distinctive and understudied setting for this policy challenge. The country's scholarly publishing ecosystem includes (i) university-based journals operating on open-source platforms, (ii) society and institute journals, (iii) state-licensed journals with sector-specific missions, and (iv) internationally co-published titles. This diversity is productive, but it also creates policy fragmentation: journal guidelines vary widely in detail, enforcement language, and alignment with global editorial standards. Meanwhile, pressure to publish internationally can amplify incentives for shortcut practices—especially where editorial resources and reviewer pools are constrained. In such a context, the arrival of generative AI is best understood not as a single “ethics problem,” but as a governance stress test: it exposes how journals define authorship, manage transparency, evaluate originality, protect confidential materials, and handle disputes (Dwivedi *et al.*, 2023; Hosseini & Horbach, 2023; Kousha *et al.*, 2024).

Despite the relevance, empirical evidence on how Vietnamese journals are currently governing AIGC remains limited. Existing global studies have examined how journals instruct authors regarding AI tool use and disclosure, highlighting heterogeneity and uneven specificity (Ganjavi *et al.*, 2024). Yet national contexts matter: regulatory environments, language barriers, platform infrastructure, and professional norms all shape what is feasible and legitimate. Vietnam therefore requires a tailored approach grounded in local publishing realities, rather than direct transplantation of policies designed for large commercial publishers.

This study addresses three gaps. First, it offers an evidence-based mapping of journal policy clauses and observable editorial practices within Vietnam-affiliated publishing. Second, it interprets these findings through an open science-aware governance lens, linking transparency requirements to reproducibility and trust infrastructures (Nosek *et al.*, 2015; Tennant *et al.*, 2017; Wilkinson *et al.*, 2016). Third, it proposes implementable policy templates and a workflow-integrated governance model that journals can adopt even under resource constraints.

## 2 RELATED WORK

### 2.1 AIGC opportunities and integrity risks in scholarly communication

Generative AI can support scholarly work in legitimate ways: language polishing, translation, accessibility improvements, and preliminary structuring of text. These uses are especially valuable for researchers working in non-dominant academic languages and for journals seeking to improve readability without extensive copyediting budgets. However, the same tools can generate “plausible nonsense,” hallucinated facts, and fabricated references (Alkaiissi & McFarlane, 2023; Mugaanyi *et al.*, 2024). At scale, AIGC may increase submission volume, strain peer review capacity, and intensify reviewer fatigue (Hosseini & Horbach, 2023). This matters because peer review—imperfect as it is—remains central to quality assurance and trust signals in scholarly publishing.

LLM use can also shift misconduct patterns. Traditional plagiarism detection focuses on text similarity, but AI-generated paraphrase can evade similarity-based screening. Conversely, emerging AI-detection tools carry bias risks, including disproportionate flagging of non-native English writing (Liang *et al.*, 2023). This creates a fairness challenge: governance based solely on detection may amplify inequities and harm legitimate authors, while still failing to catch sophisticated misuse.

### 2.2 Policy responses and disclosure norms

Policy responses have tended to converge around three pillars: (i) authorship and accountability (AI is not an author), (ii) disclosure (describe tool use), and (iii) limits (prohibit AI generation of data/images or peer review content, depending on venue) (Garcia, 2024; Kaebnick *et al.*, 2023; Resnik, 2025; Thorp, 2023). Yet there is no single global model. Some journals allow AI for language editing without disclosure, treating it as analogous to grammar tools; others require explicit disclosure for any generative use. Studies of publisher instructions show uneven detail: some provide clear criteria for what must be disclosed (tool name, purpose, location in manuscript), while others remain vague (Ganjavi *et al.*, 2024).

A crucial emerging frontier is peer review. Some guidance discourages or prohibits reviewers from using public LLM tools, mainly due to confidentiality risks (uploading manuscripts to third-party systems) and because AI-generated reviews can be shallow or formulaic (Hosseini & Horbach, 2023). Empirical work on LLM-assisted reviewing suggests mixed outcomes: efficiency gains may coexist with new biases and altered evaluative norms, raising questions about what “responsible assistance” means in review reports (ACM study on LLM-assisted reviewing, 2025).

### 2.3 Open science as a governance backbone

Open science frameworks highlight transparency, reproducibility, and verifiability, offering useful scaffolding for AIGC governance. Data sharing and open methods can help detect inconsistencies and discourage AI-enabled fabrication (Piwowar & Vision, 2013; Piwowar *et al.*, 2018; Wilkinson *et al.*, 2016). Open peer review proposals further emphasize accountability and traceability, though adoption remains uneven (Ross-Hellauer, 2017). Importantly, open science reforms also caution against simplistic metric-based governance—where policy becomes a compliance ritual rather than a genuine integrity infrastructure (Hicks *et al.*, 2015; Vuong, 2020).

## 3 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

We conceptualize responsible AIGC governance as a chain of interactions among technology adoption, publishing stages, risk emergence, and governance mechanisms. The framework integrates open science logic (traceability and verification) with risk-tiered policy design.

**Figure 1**

*AIGC Governance Framework for Vietnamese Scholarly Publishing.*



This framework emphasizes that AIGC risk is not restricted to authorship. It can enter at multiple points: authors drafting text, reviewers generating reports, editors summarizing decisions, or production teams manipulating images. Accordingly, governance should be workflow-embedded rather than confined to author guidelines alone.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Research design**

This study uses an exploratory mixed document-analysis approach, combining (i) structured policy clause review and (ii) limited practice evidence from published “AI declaration” statements visible in journal articles. The design is suitable for rapidly evolving policy environments, where the objective is to map governance variation and derive actionable frameworks rather than estimate national prevalence.

### **4.2 Case selection and data sources**

We purposively selected five Vietnam-affiliated publishing contexts to represent diversity in governance capacity and institutional missions:

- A university-based journal with explicit AI-assisted technology policy.
- A defense/sector-related journal that provides a standardized “Declaration of Generative AI” clause.
- A law/social-science journal with detailed restrictions on AI-generated content and references.
- An internationally co-published Vietnam-affiliated journal reflecting global publisher guidance on AI use.
- A multidisciplinary open access journal where published articles include explicit “Declaration of generative AI” statements, indicating an emerging editorial practice.

For each case, we extracted policy text (author guidelines, ethics statements, reviewer guidance where available) and coded relevant clauses.

### 4.3 Coding scheme and analytic procedure

We implemented a structured coding scheme (Table 1) capturing policy stance and operational detail. Two passes of coding were performed: first for clause identification, second for cross-case comparison and thematic synthesis.

**Table 1**

*Policy coding scheme (used for document analysis)*

Dimension	Operational question	Example indicators
Authorship rule	Is AI explicitly prohibited as (co-)author?	“AI cannot be listed as an author”
Permitted uses	What AI uses are allowed?	Language editing; translation; idea structuring
Disclosure requirement	Is disclosure required, and where?	Methods / Acknowledgements / dedicated statement
Citation policy	Can AI tools be cited as sources/authors?	Prohibition on citing ChatGPT as an author
Peer review restriction	Are reviewers/editors restricted from AI tool use?	Prohibition due to confidentiality
Images/data manipulation	Are AI-generated images/data allowed?	Prohibition or conditional allowance
Enforcement & sanctions	Are consequences specified?	Desk rejection; retraction; reporting

### 4.4 Limitations and trustworthiness

This is an exploratory study relying on publicly accessible documents. Policies change quickly, and journals may implement internal rules not reflected online. Findings should therefore be read as a governance snapshot and a basis for scalable future research rather than a definitive national audit.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 A fragmented but converging policy landscape

Across cases, we observe partial convergence on core principles: human accountability remains central and AI tools are not granted authorship status (Garcia,

2024; Kaebnick *et al.*, 2023; Thorp, 2023). Beyond this baseline, policies diverge markedly in how they treat disclosure, references, and peer review.

One notable pattern is template borrowing. Some policies closely resemble standardized publisher language that requires a dedicated “Declaration of Generative AI” section placed before references, specifying tool name and purpose. This is consistent with broader global trends identified by Ganjavi *et al.* (2024): journals adopt “minimum compliance language” but vary in specificity and enforcement detail. In Vietnam-affiliated journals, template borrowing appears to accelerate policy adoption, but may also import assumptions that do not fully match local realities—especially around resource availability for verification and detection.

## 5.2. Disclosure requirements: from minimal to demanding

We identify three disclosure models:

- Model A: Disclosure required only for substantive generative use, often placed in acknowledgements or methods. This model treats basic grammar assistance as exempt, aligning with the view that not all assistance is ethically salient.
- Model B: Mandatory dedicated declaration section (“Declaration of Generative AI ...”), requiring tool name and reason, and asserting author responsibility.
- Model C: Strong restriction with disclosure-plus-non-recognition, where journals state that AI-generated content is not accepted as scholarly content or as a valid reference source, while still demanding authors describe any AI technologies used.

These differences matter because disclosure is not merely symbolic. It shapes editorial workflow: where disclosure is required, editors can triage manuscripts more effectively, and journals can maintain audit trails for later disputes (Resnik, 2025; Tang, 2024). However, disclosure without operational follow-through (e.g., no stated checks, no reviewer guidance) risks becoming performative compliance.

## 5.3 Peer review: the governance “blind spot”

Peer review is repeatedly identified in the literature as a high-risk site for LLM misuse because it involves confidentiality, evaluative judgment, and reputational

consequences (Hosseini & Horbach, 2023; Kousha *et al.*, 2024). In our cases, explicit reviewer/editor restrictions appear in some policies but are absent in others. Where absent, the policy implicitly assumes that peer review remains human-only—an assumption increasingly unrealistic given evidence that many reviewers experiment with AI tools.

This gap is consequential: even if author-side governance is strong, reviewer-side leakage (uploading manuscripts into public AI systems) can compromise confidentiality and intellectual property. It can also distort review quality if LLMs generate generic critiques or biased evaluations. Emerging empirical studies on LLM-assisted reviewing suggest that “AI help” can alter evaluative tone and decision signals, raising governance questions about acceptable assistance and disclosure by reviewers (ACM, 2025).

#### 5.4. Editorial practice signals: AI declarations in published articles

Beyond policy text, we observe that some Vietnam-affiliated journals already publish articles containing explicit “Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing” statements. This is significant for two reasons. First, it indicates that disclosure norms are entering the publication record, creating a traceable provenance layer aligned with open science transparency. Second, it shifts AIGC governance from “policy on paper” to “auditable practice”: readers can see declared tool use and interpret results accordingly.

#### 5.5. Cross-case comparison

**Table 2**

*Cross-case comparison of AIGC governance clauses (summary)*

Case type	AI author prohibited	as disclosure required	Dedicated declaration section	AI-generated references allowed	Reviewer AI use restricted	Sanctions described
University-based journal	Yes	Yes	Sometimes	Usually discouraged	Sometimes	Limited
Defense/sector journal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Discouraged	Yes	Unclear
Law/social-science journal	Yes	Yes	Not always	Explicitly not recognized	Not always	Some
International co-published	Yes	Conditional	Often conditional	Discouraged	Not always visible	Clearer

Case type	AI as author prohibited	Disclosure required	Dedicated declaration section	AI-generated references allowed	Reviewer AI use restricted	Sanctions described
Multidisciplinary OA practice	Implied	Observed in articles	Observed in articles	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified

Overall, Vietnam-affiliated governance is best characterized as “conservative convergence with operational unevenness.” Journals tend to adopt protective norms, but implementation clarity varies—especially for peer review and enforcement.

## 6 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Why governance bottlenecks persist

The policy variation observed is not simply a matter of editorial preference; it reflects structural bottlenecks:

- Capacity asymmetry. Large publishers can operationalize policies using dedicated integrity teams and standardized workflows. Many Vietnam-based journals rely on small editorial teams and volunteer reviewers, limiting the feasibility of complex compliance processes.
- Technology-policy mismatch. Detection tools are imperfect and can generate false positives, including biases against non-native English writing (Liang *et al.*, 2023). Over-reliance on detection can therefore harm fairness while still missing sophisticated misuse.
- Legal ambiguity and risk sensitivity. AI tool use intersects with confidentiality, copyright, and data governance. Without national-level guidance tailored to scholarly publishing, journals may adopt overly restrictive clauses or vague statements to reduce liability exposure.
- Metric-driven incentives. Where performance indicators emphasize quantity or indexed publication, authors may see AI tools as a means to “scale output,” increasing the need for credible governance and evaluation reform (Hicks *et al.*, 2015; Vuong, 2019, 2020).

## 6.2 Toward a Vietnam-tailored, risk-tiered governance approach

We propose that Vietnam's journals adopt a risk-tiered governance model rather than a binary "allow vs prohibit" rule. The rationale is pragmatic: some uses (translation, grammar) can reduce inequity and improve accessibility, while other uses (generating core argumentation or peer review reports) threaten integrity and confidentiality.

A risk-tiered model also aligns with open science infrastructures: where claims are supported by shared data, code, and transparent methods, the damage caused by superficial AI-generated prose is reduced because the work remains checkable (Nosek *et al.*, 2015; Piwowar *et al.*, 2018; Wilkinson *et al.*, 2016). Conversely, where research is not verifiable, AIGC increases the risk of "plausible but uncheckable" scholarship.

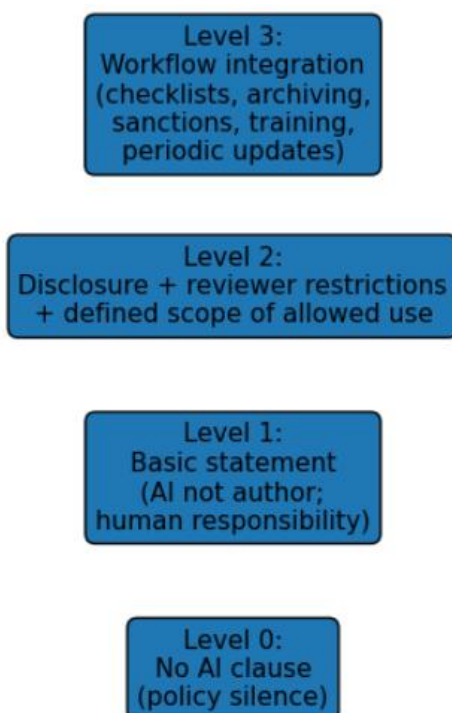
## 7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR VIETNAM

### 7.1 Recommended governance roadmap

Figure 2 provides an analytical lens for understanding the heterogeneous and transitional nature of AIGC governance in Vietnamese academic journal publishing. The four-level policy maturity model reveals that most Vietnamese journals currently operate between Level 0 (policy silence) and Level 1 (basic acknowledgment), with only a limited number approaching Level 2 practices. This distribution reflects both the rapid diffusion of generative AI tools among researchers and the lag in institutional policy development. At Level 0, policy silence remains common, particularly among domestic journals that prioritize procedural compliance over ethical governance. In these cases, the absence of explicit AIGC clauses does not imply non-use; rather, it creates a regulatory vacuum in which authors and editors rely on informal norms or personal judgment. In the Vietnamese context, where publication pressure and international indexing incentives are increasing, such ambiguity heightens the risk of inconsistent editorial decisions and undetected misuse of AIGC. Level 1 represents an emerging baseline in Vietnam, often influenced by international publishing norms. Journals at this stage typically clarify that AI systems cannot be listed as authors and that human authors bear full responsibility for the content. While this acknowledgment signals ethical awareness, it remains largely declarative. Without operational guidance on disclosure, scope of use, or enforcement,

Level 1 policies provide limited protection against academic integrity risks, particularly in multilingual writing and translation practices where AIGC use is widespread. A smaller subset of Vietnamese journals has begun to approach Level 2, introducing disclosure requirements and restricting the use of AIGC by reviewers. This development is significant, as it aligns domestic practices with international expectations and marks a shift from symbolic compliance to procedural governance. However, implementation challenges persist due to uneven editorial capacity, limited access to AIGC detection tools, and the absence of standardized national guidelines. As a result, Level 2 practices in Vietnam remain fragmented and heavily dependent on individual editorial leadership rather than institutionalized norms. Level 3, characterized by full workflow integration and human-in-the-loop governance, remains largely aspirational in the Vietnamese setting. Achieving this level would require not only policy formulation but also sustained investment in editor training, disclosure archiving systems, sanction mechanisms, and periodic policy updates. Importantly, Figure 2 suggests that advancing toward Level 3 should be viewed as a gradual capacity-building process rather than an immediate compliance target, particularly for journals operating with limited resources.

Overall, Figure 2 underscores that AIGC governance in Vietnam is not a binary issue of adoption or prohibition, but a question of policy maturity and institutional readiness. The model offers a practical framework for benchmarking current practices, identifying policy gaps, and designing phased governance strategies tailored to the Vietnamese scholarly ecosystem. By situating AIGC governance within a maturity continuum, this study contributes to a more nuanced and context-sensitive understanding of responsible AI integration in academic publishing.

**Figure 2***Policy maturity model for AIGC Governance***Table 3***Risk-tiered AIGC governance matrix*

Use case	Risk tier	Journal rule	Minimum controls
Spelling/grammar correction	Low	Allowed	No disclosure required (optional)
Translation of author's own text	Low–Medium	Allowed	Encourage disclosure if substantial rewriting occurs
Literature searching/summarizing	Medium	Allowed with disclosure	Require verification of cited sources; forbid citing AI as author
Drafting parts of manuscript text	Medium–High	Conditional	Mandatory disclosure + human verification + citation audit
Generating data, results, or statistical outputs	High	Prohibited unless methodologically justified	Require method disclosure; require data/code availability
Creating or altering scientific images/figures	High	Strongly restricted	Require provenance; forbid deceptive manipulation
Writing peer-review reports	High	Prohibited or strictly controlled	Reviewer declaration; confidentiality safeguards

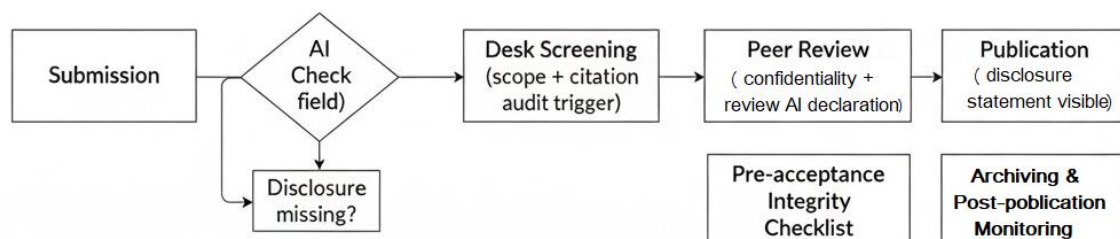
**Table 4***Template disclosure statement (authors)*

Component	Template text
Section title	“Declaration of Generative AI Use”
Tool identification	“During the preparation of this manuscript, the authors used [Tool/Model name, version if known]...”
Purpose	“...to support [language editing/translation/structuring]...”
Human oversight	“All outputs were reviewed and edited by the authors, who take full responsibility for accuracy and integrity.”
Boundaries	“The tool was not used to generate research data, interpret results, or produce conclusions.”

### 7.4 Editorial safeguards and capacity building

Vietnam-affiliated journals can implement low-cost safeguards that do not require sophisticated detection systems:

- **Disclosure-first enforcement:** treat missing disclosure as a correctable compliance issue initially; escalate only when deception is suspected (Resnik, 2025).
- **Citation audits for high-risk submissions:** targeted checks on references and factual claims in manuscripts with declared AI drafting.
- **Reviewer confidentiality rule:** prohibit uploading manuscripts into public AI tools; require reviewers to disclose any AI assistance (Hosseini & Horbach, 2023).
- **Training modules:** short guidance for authors, editors, and reviewers on acceptable uses, verification practices, and data privacy risks (Kousha *et al.*, 2024).
- **Open science alignment:** encourage data and code sharing where feasible to strengthen verifiability (Wilkinson *et al.*, 2016).

**Figure 3***Editorial workflow integrating AI Governance*

## 8 CONCLUSION

This paper examined responsible AIGC governance in Vietnam-affiliated scholarly publishing through an exploratory mapping of journal policies and observed editorial practices. The evidence indicates partial convergence around international baseline norms—particularly the rejection of AI authorship and the emphasis on human accountability—yet significant fragmentation in disclosure rules, peer review safeguards, and enforcement clarity. These gaps are not minor technicalities: they shape whether journals can credibly manage confidentiality risks, prevent undisclosed ghostwriting, and maintain trust when AIGC becomes routine.

The study contributes a practical, Vietnam-tailored governance framework grounded in risk-tiering and workflow integration. Rather than recommending blanket bans, we argue for proportional governance: low-risk uses (language correction, translation) can reduce inequality, while high-risk uses (peer review drafting, data and image fabrication) require strict prohibition or rigorous methodological justification. We provide implementable templates—disclosure statements, coding dimensions, and an editorial workflow checklist—to support journals working under resource constraints.

Several limitations should guide future research. First, policy environments evolve rapidly; longitudinal monitoring is needed to track how Vietnamese journals update guidance as international norms shift. Second, broader sampling across disciplines and platforms would enable stronger generalization. Third, interviews with editors and reviewers could clarify how policies are implemented in practice, including informal use of AI tools. Future work should therefore combine large-scale policy audits with ethnographic and survey methods to evaluate governance feasibility, author compliance, and reviewer behavior in real editorial systems.

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**Authors' Contribution**

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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