

Collaborative Discussion 2: Legal and Ethical views on ANN applications

Discussion Topic

- Read/listen to the article by Hutson (2021) in Nature on Robo-writers. This week, post your thoughts on the risks and benefits of the use of AI writers at different levels, from administrative work to creative writing.
- You should demonstrate that you understand the topic covered and ensure you use references to academic literature (journals, books, reports, etc.).

Learning Outcomes

- Apply and critically appraise machine learning techniques to real-world problems, particularly where technical risk and uncertainty is involved.

Initial Post

by Anastasia Rizzo - Wednesday, 12 July 2023, 10:43 PM

Number of replies: 2

The topic of generative AI is currently my primary focus. I understand that many individuals may find it challenging to grasp the inner workings of this technology, perceiving it as a complex and hidden layer. Consequently, their concerns, scepticism, and negative sentiments arise. It's understandable because not everyone has the ability to change their well-established and familiar reality. However, I firmly believe that each successive generation should strive for improvement over the previous one; otherwise, progress loses its purpose. Therefore, the development of technology becomes necessary. Personally, I am highly enthusiastic and optimistic about the advancements in AI, perceiving them as opportunities.

One such breakthrough in this field is AI writers, which offer undeniable benefits in numerous ways. Several companies have already started leveraging AI writers to generate written content for their business requirements. For instance, Forbes has partnered with Narrative Science, a startup that employs natural language processing and machine learning to produce personalised, data-driven reports. These reports have

proven to be more engaging and accurate compared to content written by humans (Forbes, 2015).

Another prominent example is The Washington Post, a renowned newspaper that has achieved positive outcomes with AI writers. They utilise Heliograf software, incorporating human oversight, to create short-form news stories covering various topics such as sports, politics, and the economy. This AI writer has enabled the Post to streamline its resources while increasing content production (WashPostPR, 2020).

Grammarly, a widely-used writing assistant tool, serves both personal and professional writers. The software enhances the quality of writing by analysing grammar, spelling, and writing style, providing suggestions for improvement. The underlying AI technology has significantly helped individuals enhance their writing skills (Grammarly, 2023).

However, it's crucial to exercise caution while utilising AI writers. It's essential to ensure that AI-generated content is ethical, accurate, and appropriate for its intended audience. Additionally, incorporating human supervision into the writing process adds an essential layer of oversight, ensuring the output remains genuinely human and authentic. Ultimately, AI technology serves as a tool to complement human creativity, with humans holding the power and responsibility to utilise it to its maximum potential.

Regarding the potential risks associated with AI, the matter necessitates careful regulation. This topic holds significant importance and requires thoughtful consideration. The European Parliament is currently in the process of reviewing the EU AI Act, which aims to regulate the development of artificial intelligence systems and protect citizens from potential risks posed by these technologies. It is expected to be enforced by 2025, with a specific focus on Generative AI (European Parliament, 2023).

References:

European Parliament, (2023). Artificial Intelligence Act. Available from: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0236_EN.html [Accessed 04 July 2023].

Forbes, (2015) Narrative Science. Available from: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/narrativescience/?sh=7b6a13811f07> [Accessed 7 July 2023].

Grammarly, (2023) How Grammarly Works. Available from: <https://www.grammarly.com/how-grammarly-works> [Accessed 7 July 2023].

WashPostPR, (2020) The Washington Post to debut AI-powered audio updates for 2020 election results. Available from:<https://www.washingtonpost.com/pr/2020/10/13/washington-post-debut-ai-powered-audio-updates-2020-election-results/> [Accessed 7 July 2023].