University of Essex
MSc Artificial Intelligence
Module: **ML_PCOM7E July 2025 B**
Unit 10: **Collaborative Discussion – Legal and Ethical Views on ANN Applications**

Initial Discussion

The use of AI-driven writing is a topic of broad interest in current events news and numerous arts-related circles and professional organizations (Hutson 2021). It's also one of some personal relevance, as outside of regular work, I'm active in the literary world as a writer and as a publisher of creative writing.

From my perspective as someone active in the field, the debate over whether AI-generated writing, in the court of public opinion, qualifies or does not qualify as an aesthetically valid form of creative writing is one that will likely need to be answered by the passage of time.

A more practical and pressing concern would be the process used by AI development companies to collect training material, which raises the question of whether authorial copyright was acknowledged and permission to use the material obtained before the material was used to train an AI model, since failure to do so can result in actionable legal claims for compensation from authors (Goodyear 2025; Jiang 2025).

A second and related concern is whether or not those companies adequately develop safeguards to minimize their generative LLMs from engaging in outright one-to-one infringement of copyrighted works in their output material (Goodyear 2025; Jiang 2025).

In short, from my perspective, the question of the value of AI writing is best left unanswered at the present, but questions about the legality of the process used to reach AI-written material is timely and of importance.

References

Goodyear, M.P. (2025). Artificial Infringement. *Proceedings of the 2025 Symposium on Computer Science and Law*, pp. 26–38. doi:https://doi.org/10.1145/3709025.3712208.

Hutson, M. (2021). Robo-writers: the rise and risks of language-generating AI. *Nature*, [online] 591(7848), pp. 22–25. doi:https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-00530-0.
Jiang, L. (2025). Research on Copyright Infringement Issues of Generative Artificial Intelligence. *Law and Humanities*, p. 51. doi:https://doi.org/10.63313/lh.9007.

Peer Reponse No. 1

I found your post both insightful and relevant, particularly from your dual perspective as a creative writer and publisher. You make a compelling point about the importance of addressing the legal and ethical foundations of AI-generated writing before debating its artistic legitimacy. The concerns you raise regarding copyright consent and dataset sourcing are indeed central to the ongoing discourse on intellectual property in artificial intelligence (Goodyear, 2025; Jiang, 2025).

Recent studies have echoed your observations, emphasizing that many large language models (LLMs) have been trained on vast online datasets without explicit permission from authors or publishers (Hutson, 2021; Markou et al., 2023). This practice not only risks violating copyright law but also undermines creative professionals whose works are appropriated without recognition or compensation. Implementing transparent data licensing frameworks could mitigate these legal risks while ensuring fair attribution (Stokel-Walker, 2023).

To further strengthen the ethical dimension, AI developers could integrate traceability mechanisms to track training data sources and output similarities. This would help prevent direct reproduction of copyrighted materials and enhance accountability (Weidinger et al., 2022). As you suggest, while the aesthetic debate about AI's creative value may evolve over time, the need for immediate legal safeguards is undeniable. Your argument effectively highlights that innovation must be balanced with respect for creative ownership and moral rights.

References

Goodyear, M.P. (2025). Artificial Infringement. *Proceedings of the 2025 Symposium on Computer Science and Law*, pp. 26–38. doi:https://doi.org/10.1145/3709025.3712208.

Hutson, M. (2021) 'Robo-writers: the rise and risks of language-generating AI', *Nature*, 591(7848), pp. 22–25.

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Markou, N., Komaitis, K. and Karanasiou, A. (2023) 'The copyright dilemma of generative AI', *Computer Law & Security Review*, 50, 105856.

Stokel-Walker, C. (2023) *ChatGPT: The Unauthorized Biography*, London: Sceptre.

Weidinger, J. et al. (2022) 'Taxonomy of risks posed by language models', arXiv preprint arXiv:2112.04359.

Peer Reponse No. 2

Thanks for your post. I really appreciated your take from the creative writing and publishing side. You brought a much-needed focus to copyright and consent, which often gets overlooked in discussions that focus more on productivity or bias. As you pointed out, the way training data is sourced — often without clear permissions — raises legitimate legal and ethical concerns (Goodyear, 2025; Jiang, 2025). Hutson (2021) touches on this too, noting how opaque GPT-3's training process is, which only adds to the unease around intellectual property rights.

What stood out most was your point about one-to-one infringement. As generative models become more advanced, the line between inspiration and replication is definitely blurring. It's not hard to imagine a writer or artist recognising phrases or styles that closely resemble their work in AI-generated content. That's a serious risk, not just legally, but also in terms of how we value original creative labour.

I also liked that you didn't rush to make a judgement on whether AI-generated writing qualifies as "valid" creative output. As Hutson (2021) suggests, GPT-3 can produce surprisingly strong creative work, but since it doesn't understand what it's writing, it raises deeper questions about meaning and authorship.

One thing you might expand on is how creatives can respond. Should there be opt-out mechanisms for training data? Or clearer guidelines on attribution? I think those are questions worth asking as this space continues to evolve.

Overall, your post brought a strong, real-world dimension to the conversation and raised questions we absolutely need to be asking.

References

Goodyear, M.P. (2025). Artificial Infringement. *Proceedings of the 2025 Symposium on Computer Science and Law*, pp. 26–38. doi:https://doi.org/10.1145/3709025.3712208.

Hutson, M. (2021) 'Robo-writers: the rise and risks of language-generating AI', *Nature*, 591(7848), pp. 22–25.

Jiang, L. (2025) Research on Copyright Infringement Issues of Generative Artificial Intelligence, *Law and Humanities*, p. 51.

Discussion Summary

My initial post raised two areas of concern regarding the use of generative AI platforms to produce works of creative writing:

1. Whether authorial copyright was acknowledged and permission to use the author's material was obtained before the material was used to train an AI model, since failure to do so can result in actionable legal claims for compensation from authors (Goodyear 2025; Jiang 2025).

2. Whether or not companies engaged in developing generative AI models are capable of implementing adequate safeguards to minimize the risk of their models infringing copyrighted works in their output material (Goodyear 2025; Jiang 2025).

Peer feedback expanded on the first issue by noting that many generative large language models have been trained on large quantities of copyrighted material without explicit permission from each individual author, which has resulted in legal action by copyright holders against AI development companies (Hutson 2021).

In regard to the second issue, peer feedback suggested that companies developing AI models where copyright infringement is a risk should investigate methods for tracking the origination and legal scope of use of training material, as well as methods for reviewing model output material for legally-actionable similarities with copyrighted training material.

The conclusion was reached that an ethical and legally-compliant approach to developing AI models should acknowledge and account for authorial copyright from the start as an integral prong of the model's development process.

References

Goodyear, M.P. (2025). Artificial Infringement. *Proceedings of the 2025 Symposium on Computer Science and Law*, pp. 26–38. doi:https://doi.org/10.1145/3709025.3712208.

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