

IATP Artificial Intelligence Guidelines

The following statements and AI guidelines were developed by the Communications Team with input from the full staff and board.

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IATP does not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate any of our written publications, images, videos, email communications, or social media content. We do not use AI-generated material as a research source or basis for analysis.

We have strong concerns about the environmental and social impacts of AI technology, as well as the accuracy of AI-generated information, the biases built into AI models, and the security of data used for AI training. As a respected organization known for accurate research and analysis, it is important for IATP to use verifiable sources and transparent data analysis methods, and for authors to produce original writing that reflects their expertise — especially as the wider information landscape becomes polluted with AI “slop” and misinformation.

However, while IATP staff are not to use AI to generate written or visual content for publication, the wide range of technologies labeled “AI” and the aggressive integration of AI into existing platforms and programs make it nearly impossible to avoid AI usage entirely. Additionally, some use-cases of AI-assisted technology for transcription, translation, editing, summarization, and organization may be useful and timesaving when paired with careful review by human authors.

We must make every effort to maintain our integrity, accuracy, privacy, and values while adapting to a rapidly changing information and technology landscape. The following guidelines are an attempt to grapple with what that means. They will continue to evolve based on staff feedback and discussion and in response to changing technology.

Defining AI: Artificial intelligence (AI) [refers](#) to the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings.

Generative AI: Artificial intelligence that can create “original” content, such as writing, images, code, video and audio from a written prompt. This is typically done using chatbots, powered by large language models (LLMs) trained on large amounts of data. Generative AI uses “deep learning models” powered by complex algorithms to produce novel output, requiring high amounts of computing power.

Examples of generative AI: ChatGPT, OpenAI, Adobe Firefly, Dall-E, Canva AI, Microsoft 365 Copilot, Otter.ai, Google Gemini, Apple Intelligence, etc.

Non-generative AI: Models that analyze and predict outcomes based on existing data, using pattern recognition and less complex algorithms. ([Source](#))

Broad examples of non-generative AI: image recognition, recommendation engines, autocorrect, spam filters etc.

Assistive AI: Assistive AI programs use AI technology (including “deep learning” generative AI) to translate documents, generate transcripts, give grammar suggestions and make other adjustments to user-created content.

Examples of assistive AI: Grammarly, DeepL Microsoft 365 Copilot, AI image editors.

Unacceptable AI uses

- Generating written content for publication
- Generating images or graphics for publication
- Generating copy for any external IATP communications (press releases, emails, newsletters)
- Using AI as a source for claims, research, citations, analysis
- Entering sensitive or confidential information or data into AI programs or chatbots
 - AI notetakers or proxies are not permitted in IATP meetings

Acceptable AI uses

All assistive AI use **must also be carefully reviewed by a human editor for accuracy.**

- Spelling and grammar checks (Grammarly)
- Translation (DeepL)
- Transcript and subtitle generation from recorded video or audio
 - Staff must be mindful of data privacy when using transcription tools.

Potential AI uses

These uses of AI are discouraged but may be appropriate in some circumstances. They may require additional consideration, discussion with supervisors or possible public disclosure of use. We encourage staff to review [recent research](#) indicating AI use can erode critical thinking skills and cognitive abilities.

- Use as a search engine to find sources
 - Whether using ChatGPT/similar chatbots or AI-supported search engines like Google, staff must only use information from verified, legitimate sources. AI summaries or chatbot outputs are not acceptable references; staff must access original sources.
- Summarizing source documents for research
 - Staff must also read source material in order to use it as a reference.
 - AI summaries are for internal use only.
- Rewriting existing summaries in grant reports and applications
 - AI-edited grant submissions must be carefully reviewed by a human editor.
- Outlining reports and articles
- Brainstorming
 - We strongly encourage staff to confer with colleagues rather than chatbots when outlining or brainstorming ideas.
- Editing passages for clarity or to reduce word count
 - Use of AI as an editor beyond basic spelling and grammar is strongly discouraged. The communications team provides content- and copyediting for all IATP publications. Please ask for additional editing support rather than using AI when possible.
- Other organization/productivity tools
 - For tools that manage calendars and project plans, be mindful of the permissions required for schedule integration to avoid sharing sensitive data.

Additional considerations

Confidentiality: Information input into AI programs may enter the public domain. Staff must follow all data privacy laws and organizational confidentiality policies when using AI. Staff are not to input any confidential or sensitive information into AI programs or chatbots.

Ethics: Staff will not use any form of artificial intelligence to generate new images, written content, video or audio that will be published by IATP. Staff must not use AI to create content that is discriminatory, offensive or inappropriate in accordance with IATP guidelines.

Staff are ultimately accountable for any work that comes from their desk (including emails, publications, grant reports, etc.) and must be prepared to take responsibility for their output whether or not AI assistance was used.

Transparency Statements: Content produced with AI assistance may need to be labeled or footnoted accordingly.

Example: The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy used DeepL to translate this document, which was then reviewed and edited by [translator].