

AI plagiarism matters and the EU is right to tackle it

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I was [fascinated to read this](#) in the FT yesterday:

Companies building new artificial intelligence models, including ChatGPT creator OpenAI, Google and Facebook owner Meta, risk falling foul of draft EU rules governing the technology, US research has warned.

The Stanford University paper points to a looming clash between companies spending billions of dollars developing sophisticated AI models, often with the support of politicians who view the technology as central to national security, and global regulators intent on curbing its risks.

The dispute is a pretty straightforward one. The EU wants AI-produced documents to reference their sources so that the copyright of original producers and writers of research is not abused. No AI programs come close to doing so, at least in the way the EU desires.

I admit that copyright is a contentious issue. I have major reservations over a great deal of copyright law, especially about the length of time for which much copyright protection is deemed to exist. I think the balance of legal power about copyright has shifted against the public interest. But that said, it is important that those who write for a living and whose work is used by others do have a right to make a copyright claim if that is appropriate, or at the very least, to be cited if that is required.

Overall, then, I am on the side of the EU in this potential dispute. Just because a machine is plagiarising somebody else's work does not stop the activity from being described as plagiarism, and that fact matters.