

***Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft* Policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

At *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft* we understand scholarship as a fundamentally human pursuit and are exclusively interested in publishing human-created content.

Authors

I. Authorship

- AI cannot be an Author. Generative AI tools (e.g. Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc.) do not meet the criteria for authorship because they cannot take legal or ethical responsibility for their work, manage copyright agreements, or assert the absence of conflicts of interest.
- Human authors are solely responsible and accountable for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the entire manuscript.

II. Manuscript Preparation

- **Permissible Use:** Authors may use basic AI tools to check basic spelling and grammar (e.g. textual, software-integrated spellcheck). We encourage authors to be especially vigilant to avoid escalating levels of built-in generative content creation within editing software (e.g. higher levels of Grammarly), which may obscure their voice, add unvetted content, and potentially alter their intended meaning.
- We understand that some authors may be tempted to use AI tools because English is not their first language; however, instead we encourage authors to use their own writing voice and consider engaging human copyeditors. We, as journal editors, will work with accepted authors to standardize language in finalizing publication.
- **AI is NOT permitted for generating content or analysis**, including, but not limited to:
 - processing data
 - developing arguments
 - creating literature reviews
 - creating text

IN THE EVENT OF AMBIGUITY OR UNCERTAINTY REGARDING AI USAGE, AUTHORS SHOULD CONTACT JOURNAL EDITORS.

Disclosure Requirements: Any use of generative AI must be disclosed at the time of submission, including the name of the tool and version and its use within the text

- How to Disclose:
 - 1) Authors must include an AI use statement in their submission cover letters

AND

2) Authors must include a statement in the Methods section and/or a separate section preceding Endnotes that details:

- The names and versions of the AI tools used.

- The specific task the author used the tools performed (e.g., “language proofing”).

III. Images, Figures, and Artwork

- The use of generative AI to create or manipulate images, figures, and graphical abstracts is **PROHIBITED**.
- Exceptions: AI-assisted imaging is only permitted for the purpose of analyzing or critiquing the creation or content of generated images themselves, that is, analysis of content generation by AI systems. Use must be described in a reproducible manner in the Methods section.

IV. Editors and Reviewers

- Reviewers and editors **MUST NOT UPLOAD** any part of a manuscript into a generative AI tool for any reason, including and especially for the purposes of generating review text. Uploading manuscripts violates authors’ confidentiality and proprietary rights and allows their work to be plagiarized within the AI systems.
- Permissible Use: As with authors, reviewers may use basic AI tools to check basic spelling and grammar (e.g. textual, software-integrated spellcheck). We encourage authors to be especially vigilant to avoid escalating levels of built-in, generative content creation within editing software (e.g. higher levels of Grammarly), which may obscure their voice, add unvetted content, and potentially alter their intended meaning.
- Editors and reviewers are fully responsible and accountable for the content, accuracy, and integrity of their reports.

This policy has been developed by *MRW* Co-Editors Laurel Zwissler and Michael Ostling, in consultation with The Council of Editors of Learned Journals and the open-access guide and template provided by the [Canadian Association of Learned Journals](https://calj.ca/) (CALJ):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QGo8gTtksejGrPuMnH_qOJsNGUBQgLMxLkVLX7wg4bU/edit?tab=t.0