



Research Article

Examination of AI Policies in music academic journals in Türkiye

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Abstract

It wouldn't be wrong to say that the impact of the AI revolution on academic writing is much deeper than in many other sectors. Major publishers and journals quickly producing policies on this topic have triggered the academic community. It is also observed that the Higher Education Council of Türkiye has published a "guideline." Writing articles in performance-based fields, such as the music field, is as challenging as in other areas for music researchers. The aim of this study is to investigate whether music journals in Türkiye have AI policies, and if so, what their content is. The research method used in this study is document analysis, a qualitative research method. It was found that there are only 10 academic journals publishing in the music field in Türkiye. After the investigation, it was found that only one journal (Rast Müzikoloji Dergisi) had defined its AI Policy. This policy requires transparency declaration for the author regarding the use of AI. It is suggested that other major publishers and journals' AI policies be examined and that music journals establish their AI policies in cooperation with relevant institutions.

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Introduction

As in the rest of the world, the effects of the AI revolution on the academic community can be observed in Türkiye as well. Regarding the use of AI in academic writing, the Higher Education Council of Türkiye (HECT) published the "Ethical Guidelines for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Scientific Research and Publication Activities of Higher Education Institutions" on May 7, 2024 (HECT, 2024). When this guide is examined, the fundamental ethical values identified for AI usage include Transparency, Honesty, Diligence, Fairness and Respect, Privacy and Confidentiality Protection, Accountability, and Contribution to the Ethical Climate. The preparation of this guide was due to the needs in this area, and it is stated that workshops with experts in this field contributed to its creation. The publication of this guide aims to contribute to the establishment of ethical standards regarding AI usage in Türkiye's academic community and to enable each institution to develop its own AI usage policies in light of this guide. Upon reviewing the guide, several important points stand out. These include being aware that using AI in article writing may carry certain risks, such as the potential for datasets generated by AI to be inaccurate and misleading (HECT, 2024:13), the researcher being aware that they are responsible for the use of AI in their work (HECT, 2024:5-6), and the possibility that someone else's data may be used without permission (HECT, 2024:13). Furthermore, the guide suggests that one should be knowledgeable about the AI model and its potential risks before using AI in article writing (HECT, 2024:15), and it provides answers to frequently asked questions (HECT, 2024:17-20).

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Ethical Issues in the Use of AI in Academic Writing in Türkiye

There are academic studies related to the ethical issues that AI usage may cause in academic writing in Türkiye. One of these studies is by Gönültaş (2024), who examined the issue of producing objective and subjective content using AI with examples. He recommended that academics be cautious in this regard. He emphasized that objective content may have shortcomings in terms of accuracy and carry a plagiarism risk. However, he found that in the case of subjective content, AI could serve as a tool that supports researchers' scientific research skills and related processes. He recommended that his application and research be repeated in the future.

Another study is by Büyükada (2024), who noted that an AI application used in writing articles could have deficiencies and inconsistencies. He explained that content generated by AI could carry plagiarism risks. On the other hand, he suggested that AI could contribute to the process of writing articles. Of course, this could only be possible with proper management of AI usage in article writing.

In addition, the policies of major publishers and academic journals regarding AI usage in article writing have sparked debates on some platforms. Concerns have arisen about the risks of AI generating fake scientific articles. In parallel, decisions have been made regarding AI not being listed as an author. It appears that most journals accept the recommendation for transparency in AI usage. It is also suggested that AI could be used to improve writing style (Web 2). For instance, Elsevier's policy on the use of AI in article writing emphasizes the improvement of readability and the resolution of linguistic issues. It is stated in their policy that the author should not lose control over AI usage and should disclose the usage of such technologies in their articles (Elsevier, 2024).

AI Usage Policies in Academic Journals

The establishment of AI usage policies in academic journals is of great importance to maintain scientific ethics and research accuracy. While AI tools provide speed and efficiency in article writing, they may not always produce accurate results and could lead to ethical issues, such as plagiarism (Büyükada, 2024). Therefore, it is essential for journals to set clear guidelines for AI usage, ensuring that researchers fulfill their ethical responsibilities and that AI-generated content is appropriately assessed (Elsevier, 2024). The use of AI in academic writing should be a process that requires transparency and accuracy.

Aim of the Study

This study aims to examine the AI usage policies of academic music journals in Türkiye. Specifically, it will investigate whether these journals have adopted any policies regarding the use of AI tools, how AI fits into the academic writing process, and whether there are any regulations related to ethical issues, such as accuracy. The research aims to describe the current state of technology usage in scientific writing by academic music journals in Türkiye and provide suggestions for this field.

Method

Research Model

This research employs the document analysis method, a qualitative research technique. Document analysis involves systematically reviewing existing written materials to collect data (Creswell, 2013). In document analysis, researchers analyze the content of documents in depth.

Documents

The documents used in this study will be obtained from the websites of academic music and arts journals in Türkiye. These journals' published policies, guidelines, and ethical directives will be examined to determine whether there are any statements regarding AI usage. Only 10 academic journals in Türkiye that publish in the music field will be included in the scope of this research (See Table 1).

Data Analysis

The collected data will be analyzed using content analysis techniques (Creswell, 2013).

Findings

The journals included in the study are those that publish solely in the music field, and the details of 10 academic music journals in Türkiye are presented in Table 1. The names of these journals, their publishers, ISSNs, start years, whether they charge fees, and their indexing statuses are provided.

Table 1. Music journals in Türkiye

Journal Title	Publisher	ISSN	P. D.	PPY	Fee	Indexing
AKU Akademik Müzik Araştırmaları Dergisi	Afyon Kocatepe University	2667-6001	2015	Biannually	Free	-
Çevrimiçi Müzik Bilimleri Dergisi (OJOMUS)	Nilgün Sazak	2536-4421	2016	Quarterly	Paid	Scopus
Etnomüzikoloji Dergisi	Etnomüzikoloji Derneği	2619-9572	2018	Biannually	Free	-
Musicologist	Trabzon University	2618-5652	2017	Biannually	Free	WoS, Scopus, Rilm
Rast Müzikoloji Dergisi	Genç Bilge Yayıncılık (Young Wise)	2147-7361	2013	Quarterly	Paid	Scopus, Rilm
Türk Müziği	Genç Bilge Yayıncılık (Young Wise)	2822-3195	2021	Quarterly	Paid	Rilm
Yegah Müzikoloji Dergisi	Tolga Karaca	2792-0178	2018	yılda 4 sayı	ücretli	Scopus, Rilm
Türk Organoloji Dergisi	Genç Bilge Yayıncılık (Young Wise)	3023-7890	2024	Biannually	Free	-
Journal of Music Theory and Transcultural Music Studies	Genç Bilge Yayıncılık (Young Wise)	3023-7335	2023	Biannually	Free	-
Meshk Journal of Religios Music	Istanbul University	3062-0430	2024	Biannually	Free	-

PD: Publicaiton Date PPY: Publicaiton Per Year Note: In indexing, WoS, Scopus, and RILM have been considered

As seen in the table, 2 private journals, 3 university journals, 1 association journal, and 4 company-published journals publish in the music field. They generally publish 2 issues per year. Most of these journals are free of charge. Only 4 journals are indexed in major indexes.

Artificial Intelligence Usage Policies

The AI policies and their contents for the academic music journals identified are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. AI Policies of Music Journals in Türkiye and Their Content

Journal Title	AI policiy	AI cannot be an author	AI usage declaration	Permission to use AI	Purpose of AI usage
AKU Akademik Müzik Araştırmaları Dergisi	-	-	-	-	-
Çevrimiçi Müzik Bilimleri Dergisi (OJOMUS)	-	-	-	-	-
Etnomüzikoloji Dergisi	-	-	-	-	-
Musicologist	-	-	-	-	-
Rast Müzikoloji Dergisi	+	+	+	+	+
Türk Müziği	-	-	-	-	-
Yegah Müzikoloji Dergisi	-	-	-	-	-
Türk Organoloji Dergisi	-	-	-	-	-
Journal of Music Theory and Transcultural Music Studies	-	-	-	-	-
Meshk Journal of Religios Music	-	-	-	-	-

In Table 2, the content analysis of the AI policies of the 10 academic music journals published in Türkiye is shown. According to this, only the Rast Müzikoloji Dergisi has an AI policy. The content analysis includes the purpose of AI usage, the usability of AI for research, and the requirement for a declaration regarding its use. The AI policy of the Rast Musicology Journal, established on May 25, 2024, is as follows:

“Artificial Intelligence Usage Transparency Declaration

Rast Muzikoloji Dergisi (RMD) primarily focuses on the quality and citation potential of submitted articles. Authors using artificial intelligence in their article writing must adhere to the following measures:

- * Authors must highlight the parts of their articles where artificial intelligence was used in “**blue**” color.
- * Authors must specify which sections of their articles were written using artificial intelligence and for what purpose.
- * Authors must include a section titled “Artificial Intelligence Usage Transparency Declaration” before the references in their manuscripts. Authors who do not use artificial intelligence do not need to include this section.
- * Artificial Intelligence can never be listed as an author.

Being a scientist requires academic transparency and honesty. We expect all our authors to embody these values, showing transparency and not misleading anyone.

Authors who are found to have used artificial intelligence without submitting an Artificial Intelligence Usage Transparency Declaration will be permanently banned from publishing in RMD under the “false and misleading statements” policy.

In cases where the author has declared the use of artificial intelligence in their manuscript, the decision on whether the manuscript constitutes a “fabrication ethical violation” will be made by the RMD editors. The author agrees to accept this decision. The primary basis for a fabrication decision includes significant deficiencies in the author's role in producing the manuscript, such as the lack of active involvement in generating ideas and testing hypotheses during the writing process (Web 2).”

Looking at the AI Policy of the Rast Musicology Journal, it is seen that there are no objections to the use of AI by authors, but they are required to declare where and for what purpose they use it.

Conclusion

In this study, which examines the AI policies of academic journals in the music field in Türkiye, it was found that only one out of the 10 academic journals investigated has an AI policy. The content analysis included clear and concise information from Elsevier's (2024) AI usage policies. It is observed that discussions continue about the use of AI in academic writing and decisions regarding ethical violations based on its detection. Studies by Büyükağa (2024) and Gönültaş (2024) in Türkiye include conclusions about shortcomings and potential issues with the use of ChatGPT, a widely known AI application, in academic article writing. The guidelines published by the Higher Education Council of Türkiye (2024) regarding AI usage are important for guiding academics. However, it is recommended that academic journals establish AI policies through decisions made by editorial boards on these matters.

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