Policy on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Cranford Press Limited and its journals are committed to upholding the highest standards of research integrity, transparency, and publication ethics. In light of the rapid evolution of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies, we have established the following comprehensive guidelines for authors, peer reviewers, and editors.

1. **Scope of Policy**

This policy applies solely to the manuscript drafting, visual presentation, and peer review execution processes. It does not restrict the legitimate use of AI technologies as a primary research methodology, computational algorithm, or data analysis tool within the scientific workflow (e.g., in AI-driven engineering or computational social science research), provided such methodologies are fully documented in the Methods section.

2. **Guidelines for Authors**

No Authorship Credit： Generative AI technologies (such as ChatGPT, Large Language Models, or image generators) do not

meet the criteria for authorship and cannot be listed as an author or co-author on any submission.

Substantial Human Contribution & Responsibility： Authors must make substantial, original human intellectual contributions to the research question, study design, analysis, interpretation, core arguments, and conclusions of the manuscript, and bear full primary responsibility for the work. Manuscripts generated entirely or substantially by Generative AI, or those in which the core ideas, critical arguments, or conclusions are primarily generated by AI, will not be accepted for publication.

AI as an Auxiliary Tool Only：Generative AI may only be used as a supportive tool and must never replace the authors' critical academic judgment. Authors must thoroughly review, fact-check, and make necessary substantive revisions to all AI-assisted content. Using AI to fabricate data, results, raw experimental figures/images, references, citations, or unsupported academic claims is strictly prohibited.

Strict Restrictions on Images and Artwork： The use of Generative AI tools to create, alter, enhance, or manipulate experimental images, figures, charts, or visual data in submitted

manuscripts is strictly prohibited. Basic adjustments (e.g., brightness, contrast, or color balance) are permissible only if they do not obscure or alter original scientific information. Submitted visual materials may be screened using specialized image integrity software. Exceptions are permitted only when AI image processing is an explicit component of the declared research methodology.

Mandatory Disclosure Requirement： Authors must explicitly disclose all uses of AI tools and AI-assisted technologies in their manuscripts, including basic language editing, grammar polishing, text generation, data processing, code writing, or figure creation. Authors must specify the tool name, version, specific purpose, and affected sections. Failure to truthfully disclose AI use may be regarded as a violation of publication ethics.

Where to Declare & Standardized Templates： AI disclosures must be included in a dedicated section titled "Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies" immediately preceding the References section. Authors should adopt one of the following standardized disclosure templates:

Template 1: For Language Editing & Grammar Polishing Only

"Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies:

During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used [Name of Tool/Service, e.g., ChatGPT / Grammarly] to refine language and improve grammar. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the final content of the publication."

Template 2: For Substantive AI Assistance (Data/Text/Code/Graphics)

"Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies: During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used [Name of Tool/Service, e.g., ChatGPT-4] for [specific purpose, e.g., drafting initial code scripts for data visualization in Section 2.3]. The author(s) thoroughly verified the generated code, conducted all data analyses independently, and take(s) full responsibility for the accuracy and scientific integrity of the results."

Template 3: No AI Used

"Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies: The author(s) confirm(s) that no Generative AI or AI-assisted technologies were used in the writing, research design, data analysis, or preparation of this manuscript."

Compliance & Publisher's Rights： Authors remain fully responsible and accountable for the originality, accuracy, integrity, and scientific validity of their work. Cranford Press Limited reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject any submission found to contravene this AI policy. Should substantive unacknowledged AI generation, excessive AI rewriting exceeding acceptable language editing limits, or associated misconduct be discovered post-publication, the Publisher reserves the absolute right to retract the affected article(s) without any obligation to refund Article Processing Charges (APCs) or provide compensation to the author(s) or third parties.

3. **Guidelines for Peer Reviewers**

Strict Confidentiality： Manuscripts under review must be treated as strictly confidential materials. Peer reviewers are strictly prohibited from uploading, pasting, or processing any submitted manuscript text, data, figures, or supplementary materials into unauthorized AI tools or public LLMs, as this violates confidentiality and authors' proprietary rights.

Human Expertise Required： Peer review relies on expert scientific judgment, critical thinking, and contextual evaluation,

which cannot be replicated by AI tools. Reviewers must write their own evaluation reports and are strictly forbidden from using AI to generate or draft peer-review comments. Limited use of AI-assisted technologies for minor language or grammar checking of the reviewer’s own text is permissible, provided it is disclosed in the review report.