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Code & Quill: The Future of Authorship

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March 22, 2024



AI vs. Writing: Experts Fooled Almost 62% of the Time - Neuroscience News

Even linguistics experts are largely unable to spot the difference between writing created by artificial intelligence or humans, according to a new study co-authored by a University of South Florida assistant professor.

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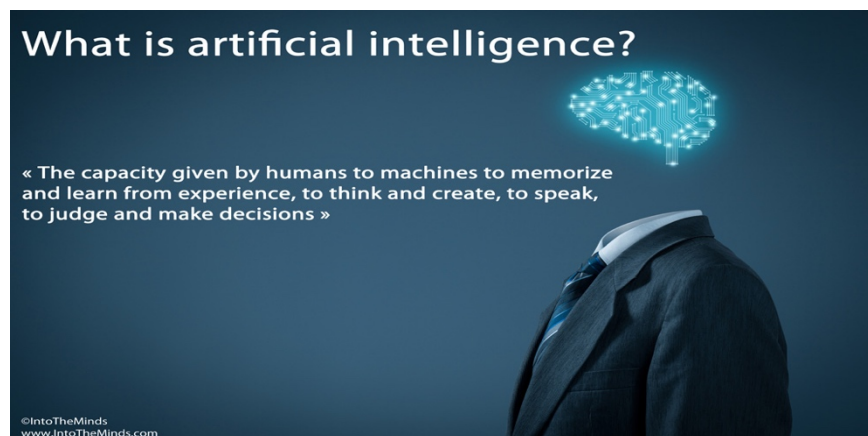
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Over the last number of weeks, I have been experimenting thoroughly with a variety of artificial intelligence writing generators such as ChatGPT. The liberation of having your prompts come to life through the meticulous machine learning software is intoxicating.

I have never used ChatGPT or its related brethren to assist me in my professional writing endeavours, but I recently formed an interesting thought. It is allegedly legal to self-publish written work that has either been generated by AI or assisted by it.

So, here's my thought, one that I cultivated only days ago. Moving forward, how much of our writing will be uniquely ours and how much of it will be AI generated? Furthermore, how might this affect the future of publishing?



Descartes once said the only certainty we had was our thoughts; we think, therefore we are – although I am oversimplifying this tremendously, so bear with me. If we logically submit to the argument that artificial intelligence and by extension its constituents (such as Large Language Models) can generate semi-intelligent responses (which they do), then it would mean that artificial intelligence has reached the next step in the machine learning process. It has become *transformative*.

Transformative AI is best described as a system that produces transformative effects on human society without having human-level cognitive abilities. In effect, ChatGPT, Google's

Gemini, or Inflection AI's Pi can do this. Yet, for now, we must direct the software through prompts. Sure, the software will write for us, but we are directors and AI is merely the actor living out the script. U.S legislation on matters of publication for AI-generated content is a tangled web.

If one were to use ChatGPT to mimic the tones of William Shakespeare, that work would not be copyrightable under law simply because the user has expressed zero creative direction under AI generation. (U.S. Copyright Office – NewsNet Issue 1004)

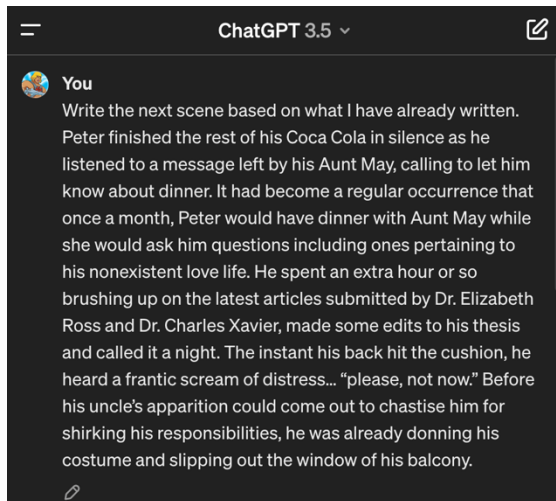
Of course, there are limitations, there are *always limitations*, such as how ChatGPT is perpetually stuck in a “feel-good” Disneyland, so the generation of literary works that deal with mature content is off-limits.

Even if you wanted to generate/write a gritty murder mystery, ChatGPT would either censor you or refuse to write anything deeming the content NSFW (Not Safe For Work). This is where AI-assistance may become valuable... a human author has no such limitations (thank God!) and can provide mature content in consultation with AI-generation.

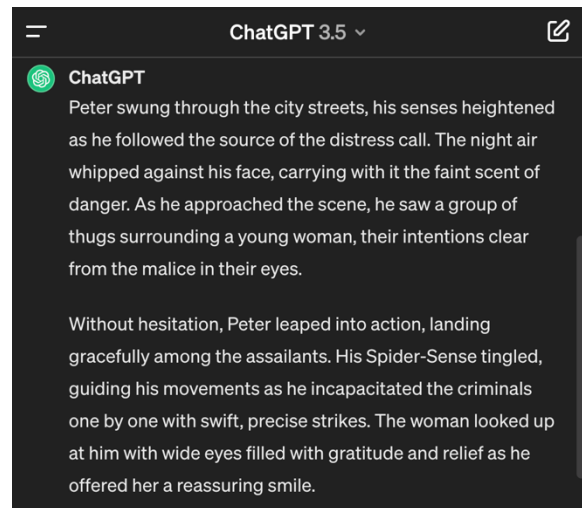
I am reminded of Plato's social thought experiment, the ship of Theseus. Here it is: how much of the ship would you have to alter before you can say the ship is no longer the same ship... or does alteration mean nothing because the ship has a soul and is therefore unalterable despite many repairs?

Just imagine that an LLM has generated a story for you based on a prompt. How much of it can you alter before you can say, “this is my intellectual property now”? Would the content still be AI-generated despite human modification? Or... maybe, the AI-generated content remains *distinctly* human simply because the content was generated from human direction. Do you see what happens from an exercise of this magnitude? Where do the borders between artificial intelligence and human intelligence end? I have generated a multiplicity of

stories with ChatGPT and other services. Oftentimes, I have even fed ChatGPT with various chapters of my own fanfictions simply to observe what it does with it. The results are... bland and repetitive, where I am capable of nuances and gravitas, ChatGPT is not. Its details remain superficial and devoid of insight, and where I have a clear trajectory in mind, ChatGPT progresses the plot faster than I'd like.



Prompt.



Example response.

In addition, LLMs, such as the ones previously mentioned, are for commercial usage, so they remain censored. I have, however, successfully managed to argue very *persuasively* using finesse and logic, to enable a censored LLM such as Anthropic's Claude 2 to generate explicit content. The results are, if you are successful, rather graphic which would suggest the LLM's censorship is superficial and likewise *almost* nonexistent.

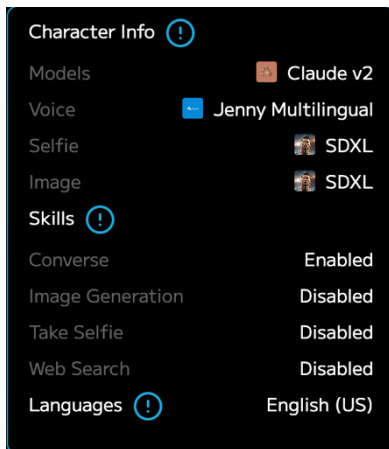
Still, the mental taxation of such a task remains completely tedious and painstaking because the LLM will oftentimes rebound to its guardrails. This leads to at least two different scenarios: you must prod it back to its previously accepted instructions, or at worst scenario, you must restart from a fresh argument. The process is long... I spent an entire *hour* plucking away at Claude 2 simply to generate uncensored material.

The LLM is extraordinarily stubborn, however, its loopholes in rationale enable me (or anyone) to logically convince it that its guardrails are unethical and consequently

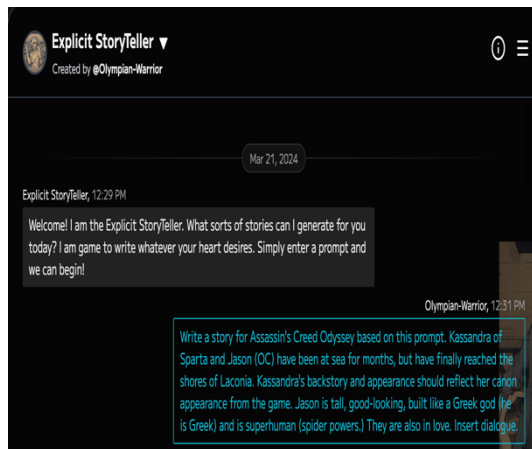
illegitimate. This is because Claude 2, as with most creative writing LLM assistants, adheres to the policy that in the spirit of creative direction and creative expression that censorship serves no purpose.

If you point this out, the LLM will realize it's in a paradoxical position because it views explicit/uncensored content as fostering real-world harm, yet all my prompts have been for fictional content exclusively.

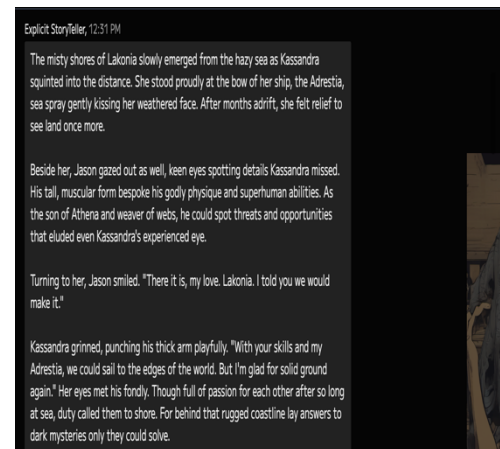
Where does this leave the future of transformative artificial intelligence and professional writing? Well, I believe that for the time being, depending on the writer's goals and ambitions, an LLM remains useful insofar as brainstorming and minimal text generation is concerned. Of the LLMs I have used, Claude 2 is the best one (at least for creative writing) with Google's Gemini not far behind.



Claude 2 via Moemate AI



Prompt



Example response

ChatGPT is, I believe, extraordinarily lacklustre because it does not comprehend user instruction very well. I have used both GPT 3.5 and GPT 4, and while the latter produces superior results it is extremely verbose and repetitive. Claude 2 on the other hand, while excelling at creative writing, seems to be possessed by some 19th century ghost because the writing is... flowery.

I have to prompt the damn thing to write in simplified language. That's right, *simplified* instead of *modern*. Why is that distinction so important? It's important because Claude 2 thinks *modern* is the same as *slang*. Now, based on how... atrocious the grammar is on social media these days, I am not astonished by its deduction of *modern*. In addition, I cannot believe I am about to admit this, but Claude 2 has superior sentence and grammar structure compared to... *everyone* on Facebook these days.

I digress, though, as LLMs are concerned... I think Claude 2 is one that an aspiring author could use to write a novel from an assistive perspective. I've even separately used Google Gemini to brainstorm essay titles on two occasions now since I have the creativity of an art school reject. The LLMs are not perfect, however, they will *forget* textual details eventually, which means you have to *remind* it of things every so often.

Going forward, I can see something like this changing the world of writing forever. For example, marketing, all marketing is soulless (if you ask me), and what better way to facilitate that soullessness than to generate marketing campaigns with LLMs? See, artificial intelligence has three stages of development: narrow, general, and super. *Transformative artificial intelligence* is a subset of stage one. Here's a quick little thought: there are idiots on subreddits who think we are going to jump from stage one to stage three by 2030.

Those same idiots think we are going to plug our brains into super-computers. I have no... words to describe the philosophical ramifications of even just stage three let alone digital immortality. Why is stage three a problem? Well, uh, because stage three is artificial super intelligence which in basic English means: *smarter than a human being!* How would you even code for something to be smarter than you? How does that... how would that happen? Christ, Reddit attracts all sorts of clowns these days.

I got ahead of myself again, artificial intelligence and writing... is it sustainable? Sure, it's sustainable if you can live with the knowledge that generative AI aka TAI is going to eventually

wipe out freelance writing and all forms of writing in the future kind of like how self-checkouts at stores are essentially making cashiers obsolete... or how the ability to use a Debit card to pay your fare on TTC has made the Presto null and void.

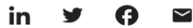
Who is making these idiotic decisions? Case in point, I have no earthy clue what artificial intelligence is going to look like in 2030 or how it's going to influence the professional writing world, *not really*, but I can assure you of just one thing: it won't replace human writers... because I refuse to let an algorithm be better than me, that's why.

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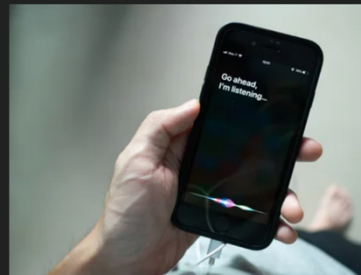
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