



Aalto University

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## **Investigating potential increases in erroneous bibliographies with wide-spread adoption of generative AI in writing Privacy Notice**

This privacy notice describes how your personal data will be used in the research study as a participating individual.

### **1. What is being studied in this research study and the purpose of processing personal data**

This research study examines if the prevalence of malformed citations in bachelor theses and seminar reports have increased during recent years. The findings will be used as a proxy to study the reliance on AI writing tools among students.

This research is funded by Aalto University.

### **2. What personal data is processed in the research study**

Study attainments (theses and seminar reports) will be collected as part of the original data set.

#### **Special categories of personal data (sensitive personal data)**

Data belonging to special categories of personal data or other specially protected personal data **will not be processed** in the research study.

#### **Personal data is collected from the following sources:**

From a data register: aaltodoc.aalto.fi

Other: Proceedings from the course Seminar in Computer Science D

### **3. Processing of necessary personal data and removal of the direct identifiers from the data**

The research study only processes personal data that is necessary for the purpose and execution of the study. The research data is processed during analysis phase of the research in a manner, that you are not directly identifiable to the researchers. Your direct identifiers, such as your name has been replaced, for example, with a random identifier.

From the collected publications only the list of references will be extracted for analysis.

Extracted references will not be associated with the source publication during analysis, nor will the names of thesis/report authors, supervisors, or advisors be extracted, or associated with the reference sets used in the final analysis.

To minimize risk of identification the extracted references will be aggregated before analysis, for example on the level of department or school and publication month. These categories will be further merged if some subset is small, e.g. if a department has only a small number of theses.

Identity of the individual research participant will not be disclosed in a scientific publication or other research results to be published. Published research results will not include quotes from reports or theses.

All data-files and databases will be stored on Aalto IT systems. All data processing will be made on Aalto IT systems.

#### **4. Legal basis for the processing of personal data**

The legal basis is scientific research, a task in the public interest.

#### **5. Sharing personal data**

Research data containing your personal data is shared with the following parties:

Research data which consists of your personal data, may be transferred to a third party, such as scientific publication, for peer-review process or for other purpose, which is mandatory for scientific publishing or validation of the research results.

Research data containing personal data is retained for research data to be used for further scientific research in the same scientific discipline or in other disciplines that support this research study. Research data may also be transferred to other universities or research organisations as part of further research projects.

#### **6. International data transfers**

During the execution and analysis phase of research, research data containing personal data will not be transferred to non-EU / EEA countries or international organizations. However, as part of the scientific publishing process, it might be necessary to transfer the data outside EU/EAA for publishers or peer reviewers for verification of research results, as such parties may be located outside EU/EAA area. However, it is exceptional that scientific publication process would require transferring data regarded as personal data.

#### **7. Storage and protection of personal data**

**Information processed in IT systems:** Your personal data is processed and preserved in secure IT systems, which are approved by Aalto University and suitable for personal data. Access to all computers and IT systems are protected by username and strong personal password. Access to IT systems containing personal data is technically restricted in a manner, that only researchers participating in the study and persons necessary for the implementation of the study have access to your personal data.

## **8. Retention and deletion of personal data**

### **Deletion during and after the study**

Theses and reports will be deleted after reference extraction and analysis are complete and verified. Extracted reference data will be kept through analysis, publication, and review process. If there have not been any scientific publications produced from the data in five (5) years, also this data is deleted.

## **9. Rights of the research participant**

According to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a data subject has the right to:

- receive information on the processing of their personal data
- right to access the personal data collected and processed
- right to rectification of inaccurate personal data
- request that the processing of personal data be restricted
- object the processing of personal data
- right to erasure of personal data if the conditions of Article 17(1) of the Data Protection Regulation are met and processing is no longer necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest or for scientific research or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1)

If the research purpose does not require, or no longer requires the identification of the data subject, the controller shall not be obliged to obtain further information so that the data or the data subject may be identified only for purposes to able the data subject to exercise his/her rights. If the controller is unable to link the data to a particular data subject, the data subject does not have the right to access or correct the personal data, object the processing, or delete the personal data. However, if the data subject provides additional information that allows their identification from the research data, the rights will not be restricted.

## **10. Contact details of the controller**

The controller of this research study is Aalto University Foundation sr., operating as Aalto University.

### **Person in charge of the research study**

Questions regarding the conduct of the research study may be addressed to the person in charge of the study: Sanna Suoranta, +358504362401, [sanna.suoranta@aalto.fi](mailto:sanna.suoranta@aalto.fi) .

### **Data Protection Officer**

If the research participant has questions or requests related to data protection or the processing of personal data, the research participant should contact the Data Protection Officer of Aalto University: tel. +358 9 47001 (exchange), [dpo@aalto.fi](mailto:dpo@aalto.fi) .

In this data request service, you can request the exercise of your rights under GDPR from Aalto University as the controller <https://datarequest.aalto.fi/en-US/>.

If a participant of the research study feels that his or her personal data has been processed in violation of data protection legislation, the participant has the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Data Protection Ombudsman's office (read more: <http://www.tietosuoja.fi> ).