



Midwinter Online Conference 2024

Questions from Session 7: Novelty Visualizations of Collections Data: Real Impact or Comic Interlude?

Q1: How have you dealt with IP issues inherent in generating images with many AI systems?

We haven't yet crossed that bridge. To start, we'd typically use generic, low-risk images to represent subject areas. The images would be for campus communication primarily, so closed settings. The risk would be minimal in any case.

Q2: How do you make sure the generated image is accurately representing the data?

A property of quantity is proportion. We just have to get the proportions right. We can resize in image manipulation tools, but Excel works great for resizing. As Evan stated, though, we think we'll be more successful, to start, with "data symbols" where the proportions don't have to be exact.

Q3: How do you measure the 'quality' of the journals (e.g your chart about Wiley?)

We used the citation-based metrics available freely from ScImago. ScImago metrics and ranks are derived from Scopus data.

Q4: You brought up a lot of points and it seems like we have quite a ways to go yet. How do you feel about AI and its use of images that may or may not be owned by others to build its understanding?

Culture develops as an interplay of actions and reactions. Property and ownership are problematic concepts. Different people will have different responses, but if you look at any given art era, you'll see that the artists were reacting to and developing from each other. If you look at an era, you see a similarity -- a style -- because artists were borrowing from each other. I personally think there should be no limits at all on what AI can use to generate its own work. If a result is demonstrably in violation of property rights, then deal with the instance, just as we would do for a human. The training data should include anything a human could access, and more.

Q5: When providing such visualizations and you have your fish on the hook, do you offer a link to the raw or traditionally visualized report for those seeking more detailed information? I often want to check which metrics are being used

The novelty viz are intended to be supplementary to our conventional tools. These viz would not replace conventional charts and tables. They can change the mood of a meeting or deepen an impression. The more detailed information would still be provided.