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Appendix A. Corpus composition

Table A1. Composition of the empirical corpus

Corpus category	Number of texts	Analytical purpose
AI-generated or AI-assisted news articles	14	To examine how credibility is constructed in texts where automation or AI assistance is present, disclosed, or institutionally implied
Human-written comparison articles	14	To compare AI-related credibility cues with conventional journalistic authorship, sourcing, and accountability practices
Newsroom AI policy documents	4	To analyse how news organisations publicly frame AI use, editorial responsibility, human oversight, and disclosure standards
Correction or controversy-related texts	5	To examine how accountability becomes visible when AI-related credibility claims are challenged
Total	**37**	

Appendix B. Corpus inventory

Table B1. AI-generated and AI-assisted news articles

ID	Outlet	Article type	Topic	Authorship cue	AI disclosure	Human oversight	Sourcing	Accountability cue
AI 1	AP News	Automated earnings report	Finance/business	Automated Insights/AP	Clear	Not mentioned	Zacks Investment Research	AP + Automated Insights
AI 2	The Copper Courier	News feature/explainer	Technology/health/ research	Good Info Wire Team	News Clear	Staff edited	Named expert and institutional sources	Copper Courier staff
AI 3	The Gander	Community news feature	Culture/community	Good Info Wire	News Absent	Not mentioned	Local programme and business sources	Unclear
AI 4	Cardinal & Pine	Explainer/news feature	Education/culture	Good Info Wire	News Clear	Staff edited	Duke Today and named people	Cardinal & Pine staff
AI 5	The Floricua Newsroom	Explainer/listicle	Jobs/economy	Good Info Wire	News Absent	Not mentioned	Indeed, ZipRecruiter and other datasets	Unclear
AI 6	AP News	Automated earnings report	Finance/technology	Automated Insights/AP	Clear	Not mentioned	Zacks Investment Research	AP + Automated Insights
AI 7	AP News	Automated earnings report	Finance/real estate	Automated Insights/AP	Clear	Not mentioned	Zacks Investment Research	AP + Automated Insights
AI 8	The Copper Courier	News feature	Public affairs/environment	Good Info Wire Team	News Absent	Not mentioned	Named organisations	Unclear
AI 9	AP News	Automated earnings report	Finance/technology	Automated Insights/AP	Clear	Not mentioned	Zacks Investment Research	AP + Automated Insights
AI 10	AP News	Automated earnings report	Finance/business	Automated Insights/AP	Clear	Not mentioned	Zacks Investment Research	AP + Automated Insights
AI 11	AP News	Automated earnings report	Finance/manufacturing	Automated Insights/AP	Clear	Not mentioned	Zacks Investment Research	AP + Automated Insights
AI 12	The Copper Courier	News feature	Science/technology	Good Info Wire Team	News Absent	Not mentioned	University of Arizona researcher	Unclear
AI 13	Iowa Starting Line	News feature	Education	Good Info Wire	News Absent	Not mentioned	U.S. News and university information	Unclear
AI 14	Dogwood	News feature	Education/science	Good Info Wire Team	News Absent	Not mentioned	University of Virginia research	Unclear

Table B2. Human-written comparison articles

ID	Outlet	Article type	Topic	Authorship cue	AI disclosure	Human oversight	Sourcing	Accountability cue
H1	AP News	News report	Technology/e-commerce/AI	Human journalist	AI discussed as topic	Human monitoring mentioned	Company sources and references	AP/reporter responsible
H2	AP News	News report	Technology/AI	Human journalist	AI discussed as topic	Mentioned generally	Company sources	AP/reporter responsible
H3	Reuters	News report	Finance/technology	Human journalist	AI discussed as topic	Not mentioned	Corporate sources and filings	Reuters/reporter responsible
H4	Reuters	News report	Politics/public affairs/AI regulation	Human journalist	AI discussed as topic	Not mentioned	EU officials and legislative documents	Reuters/reporter responsible
H5	AP News	Explainer	Politics/AI regulation	Human journalist	AI discussed as topic	Not mentioned	Institutional/legal sources	AP/reporter responsible
H6	Reuters	News report	Business/technology/AI	Human journalist	AI discussed as topic	Not mentioned	Company executives and filings	Reuters/reporter responsible
H7	Reuters	News report	Business/retail	Human journalist	Absent	Not mentioned	Earnings and company sources	Reuters/reporter responsible
H8	Reuters	News report	Business/retail/trade policy	Human journalist	Absent	Not mentioned	Company statements and earnings data	Reuters/reporter responsible
H9	AP News	News report	Business/retail	Human journalist	Absent	Not mentioned	Company sources and earnings data	AP/reporter responsible
H10	Reuters	News report	Media/technology/AI	Human journalist	AI discussed as topic	Indirectly mentioned	Company sources	Reuters/reporter responsible
H11	Reuters	News report	Media/AI	Human journalist	AI discussed as topic	Not mentioned	Company representatives	Reuters/reporter responsible
H12	Reuters	News report	Finance/information services	Human journalist	Absent	Not mentioned	Corporate filings and executives	Reuters/reporter responsible
H13	AP News	News report	Business/retail	Human journalist	Absent	Not mentioned	Company executives and earnings reports	AP/reporter responsible
H14	The Guardian	Explainer	Politics/AI regulation	Human journalist	AI discussed as topic	Not mentioned	Experts, EU documents and policymakers	Guardian/reporter responsible

Table B3. Newsroom AI policy documents

ID	Outlet	Policy text	Authorship cue	Disclosure position	Human oversight	Accountability cue	Institutional framing
P1	WIRED	How WIRED Will Use Generative AI Tools	Institutional policy	Clear	Editors approve; reporters verify original sources	WIRED editors and writers responsible	AI as tool/assistant, not author
P2	Reuters	Reuters and AI	Institutional policy page	Clear	AI use disclosed when primary or sole producer	Reuters responsible; clients must follow brand guidelines	AI as tool within newsroom workflow
P3	Associated Press	Standards around generative AI	Nicole Meir/AP institutional standards	Clear	AI output treated as unvetted source material; AP judgment required	AP journalists accountable for accuracy and fairness	AI as tool, not journalist replacement
P4	Associated Press	Updates to generative AI standards	Nicole Meir/AP institutional standards	Clear	AP journalist edits and vets before publication	Every AP journalist accountable for accuracy and fairness	AI as efficiency system under human control

Table B4. Correction and controversy-related texts

ID	Outlet/source	Article type	AI-related issue	Disclosure pattern	Human oversight	Correction or response	Accountability cue
C1	The Verge	News report	CNET AI-written finance articles contained errors	Vague/limited disclosure	Human review claimed, but errors remained	41 of 77 AI stories corrected	CNET/Red Ventures responsible
C2	The Washington Post	News report	Gannett AI-generated high-school sports recaps criticised	Disclosure became clear after backlash	Oversight unclear or insufficient	Experiment paused	Gannett responsible
C3	The Washington Post	News report	Gizmodo AI-generated Star Wars article contained multiple factual errors and omissions	AI indicated through "Gizmodo Bot" byline; no explicit disclaimer	Editorial oversight questioned after publication	Errors and concerns identified after publication; staff called for the article to be removed	Gizmodo/G/O Media responsible
C4	AP News	News report	AI-generated material used in book supplement without adequate checking	Not disclosed before publication	Failed oversight; AI output not checked	Supplement removed; writer fired	Newspaper and writer accountable
C5	Futurism	Investigative news report	Alleged fake or AI-generated Sports Illustrated author profiles	Hidden/absent in original content	Oversight disputed	Content removed after inquiry	Publisher responsibility unclear

Appendix C. Coding framework

Table C1. Analytical coding categories

Coding category	Analytical question	Coding focus
Authorship	Who or what is presented as the author of the text?	Human journalist; AI system; institution; team byline; vendor; unclear or distributed authorship
Disclosure	Is AI use clearly disclosed, vaguely disclosed, or not disclosed?	Clear disclosure; vague disclosure; absent disclosure; AI discussed only as article topic
Human oversight	Does the article or policy mention human editing, review, verification, or approval?	Editor approval; staff editing; reporter verification; human monitoring; absent or unclear oversight
Sourcing	Are sources named, linked, and credible?	Named sources; linked sources; institutional sources; datasets; anonymous sources; vague or absent sourcing
Evidence	What evidence supports the article's claims?	Financial data; examples; expert voices; company statements; policy documents; local context; correction evidence
Tone	What kind of language does the text use?	Journalistic; mechanical; explanatory; promotional; generic; authoritative; corrective; investigative
Specificity	Does the article provide precise details or broad generalisations?	Precise figures; named people or institutions; detailed context; moderate specificity; broad or generic claims
Correction practice	Are errors acknowledged and corrected transparently?	No correction; correction note; update; removal; experiment paused; content removed after inquiry
Accountability	Is it clear who is responsible for accuracy and correction?	Reporter; outlet; editor; institution; vendor; publisher; unclear or disputed responsibility
Institutional framing	How does the newsroom frame AI?	Tool; assistant; author; automation system; efficiency system; workflow support; risk; concealed content system

Appendix D. Analytical stages

Table D1. Data analysis process

Stage	Analytical task	Main questions	Output of analysis
Stage 1: Descriptive mapping	Each text was mapped according to byline, article type, disclosure label, sourcing, human oversight, correction notes, and accountability cues	Is AI use visible? Is a responsible human or institution identified? Are sources named? Is there a correction or editorial note?	Basic profile of each text and its visible credibility cues
Stage 2: Comparative qualitative content analysis	AI-generated and AI-assisted articles were compared with human-written articles and institutional policy texts	Do AI-related articles use fewer or weaker source attributions? Do they rely more on generic language? Do human-written articles provide clearer contextualisation?	Cross-text comparison of credibility cues across production types
Stage 3: Critical discourse analysis	Disclosure, policy, correction, and controversy materials were analysed for how they frame AI, responsibility, trust, and accountability	Is AI framed as neutral, efficient, supervised, invisible, or risky? Does policy language assign responsibility to humans, institutions, or technology? What remains unsaid about verification and correction?	Interpretation of how credibility and accountability are discursively constructed