

# Artificial Intelligence Applications in Media Content Production; Emerging Risks or Technological Revolutions?

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## Abstract

The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into media content production and screenwriting marks a significant advancement in creative and communicative domains. This study explores the dual impact of AI on one side, its capacity to enhance human creativity, efficiency, and productivity; on the other, it is potential to disrupt established legal frameworks, ethical standards, and cultural representations. In the media production, tools like The Washington Post's Heliograf exemplify how AI enables real-time, data-driven news production, while simultaneously raising concerns about public trust, misinformation, and editorial transparency. In the realm of screenwriting, generative models such as ChatGPT and ScriptBook introduce innovative methods for content creation, yet also challenge traditional notions of authorship, intellectual property, and labour rights—issues brought into sharp focus by the 2023–2024 Writers Guild of America strike. Through a thematic analysis of legal, ethical, and technological concerns (Tables 3–7), the research highlights risks associated with AI-curated media content, including the reinforcement of bias, marginalization of underrepresented groups, and promotion of cultural uniformity—outcomes often rooted in limitations of training data and editorial oversight. Furthermore, governance challenges—such as system opacity and inadequate stakeholder representation—further complicate AI's integration into the creative industries. The emotional monotony and cultural inauthenticity of AI-generated scripts underscore the limitations of algorithmic storytelling. The paper concludes that while AI offers transformative possibilities for augmenting human creativity, its responsible implementation necessitates stronger legal protections, robust ethical frameworks, and inclusive governance. The evolution of AI in media production should prioritize equity, diversity, and the human voice over mere efficiency. A collaborative model—where human insight and machine capabilities intersect—offers a path toward innovation rooted in democratic values and culturally resonant storytelling.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Media Production, Screenwriting Marks, Algorithmic Storytelling, Writers Guild of America.

## I. RESEARCH INTRODUCTION

This study critically examines the multifaceted impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on media production

and screenwriting through a thematic analysis that foregrounds key technical, ethical, and legal considerations. Drawing upon real-world case studies, policy reviews, and contemporary academic discourse, the

paper advocates for a balanced and accountable approach to AI integration—one that upholds the rights of human creators while preserving cultural diversity and the democratic and artistic values foundational to both industries. The emergence of AI in media and screenwriting represents a pivotal development in the evolution of creative and communicative practices. As generative technologies become increasingly embedded within the workflows of newsrooms and entertainment studios, the traditional boundaries between human and machine authorship are being significantly redefined. Tools such as ChatGPT, Heliograf, and ScriptBook are now regularly employed to generate or structure narratives, offering unprecedented speed, scalability, and efficiency. In media and journalism cultures, AI assists with routine reporting, data analysis, and content personalization, while in film and television, similar technologies are used to create dialogue, design narrative structures, and even predict box office performance. While these technological advancements offer the potential to enhance human creativity, inspire new expressive forms, and raise standards for storytelling and information dissemination, they also introduce complex ethical, cultural, and legal dilemmas. The 2023–2024 Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike has brought attention to urgent issues surrounding labour rights, authorship, and the displacement of human writers. Simultaneously, the U.S. Copyright Office has yet to establish clear guidelines for the treatment of AI-generated works, leaving unresolved questions around intellectual property, compensation, and authorship attribution. As Aivas (2024) stated that the ethical challenges further complicate the landscape, for the reason that AI models trained on human-generated data often replicate existing biases, thereby perpetuating harmful stereotypes and marginalizing underrepresented voices. In both media and screenwriting, such biases risk narrowing the diversity of perspectives represented in public discourse. Moreover, the opacity of many AI systems hinders accountability and makes it difficult to trace the origins of potentially harmful content. Without inclusive governance frameworks and sustained human editorial oversight, the expanding role of AI threatens to deepen existing inequities in media representation and weaken public trust in the integrity of creative content.

#### ➤ *Research Theoretical and Practical Frameworks*

This section of the research, both theoretical and practical in scope, explores the transformative influence of AI in the media, its application in screenwriting, and the associated risks and ethical challenges, through a comprehensive review of relevant literature and empirical studies.

#### ➤ *The Transformative Influence of AI in the Media*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly emerged as a transformative force in the media, reshaping how news is gathered, produced, and disseminated. Traditionally grounded in human labour and editorial intuition, newsrooms are increasingly turning to algorithmic technologies to respond to the demands of 24-hour news cycles, shrinking revenues, and the challenge of capturing

the attention of digitally native, fragmented audiences. Within this evolving technological landscape, automated journalism—or "robot journalism"—has developed as a method for producing high-volume content with minimal human journalistic intervention (Dörr, 2016; Carlson, 2015). A prominent example from the United States is *Heliograf*, an AI-driven system developed by *The Washington Post* in 2016. Initially designed to assist in coverage of the Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics, Heliograf generated short, scripted reports by processing structured data from official sources. During the Olympics alone, it produced over 850 articles, delivering real-time updates on event outcomes and athlete performances (Lecompte, 2017). Its initial success led to broader implementation in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, where it was used to provide localized updates on hundreds of races at various levels of government. These data-driven posts—optimized for digital and social media—demonstrated the system's scalability and effectiveness in geographically diverse reporting (Marconi, 2017). Heliograf exemplifies the potential advantages of AI in journalism. Unlike traditional reporting, which often focuses on major events due to time and resource limitations, Heliograf enabled *The Washington Post* to publish thousands of hyper-local, real-time updates that might otherwise have gone unreported (Graefe, 2016). This expansion represents a democratization of information, enhancing journalistic fairness and reach. Moreover, the system allowed human journalists to redirect their efforts toward more complex tasks such as investigative journalism and long-form reporting. As Jeremy Gilbert, former Director of Strategic Initiatives at *The Washington Post*, emphasized, the goal was not to replace journalists but to free them from routine reporting, allowing for more impactful work (Marconi, 2017). This approach aligns with the concept of "augmented journalism," where machines handle repetitive, data-intensive tasks and human professionals contribute critical thinking and creativity—a model Diakopoulos (2019) describes as "hybrid intelligence." Despite these benefits, the integration of AI into newsrooms introduces significant epistemological and ethical concerns. One key issue is the potential loss of editorial nuance and narrative coherence. While systems like Heliograf are proficient at data organization, they lack the capacity to contextualize events, interpret cultural meanings, or make ethical judgments. For instance, although an AI can accurately report election outcomes, it cannot assess their broader social or political implications without human interpretation (Diakopoulos, 2019; Dörr, 2016). Furthermore, AI-generated media content is often reliant on structured data sets that may contain embedded biases or omissions, potentially perpetuating distorted narratives (Montal & Reich, 2017).

The automation of journalism also raises concerns about labour displacement and professional identity. Critics argue that widespread adoption of automation may devalue human journalistic labour, especially in an industry already marked by economic precarity. While proponents claim that AI complements rather than replaces human work, the broader economic context suggests a

trend toward cost-cutting that may lead organizations to increasingly rely on automation at the expense of human oversight (Aivas, 2022; Carlson, 2015). Nonetheless, the use of Heliograf represents a profound shift in journalistic practice at *The Washington Post*. As the media environment continues to evolve, so too must the frameworks governing new technologies. Rather than viewing AI as a threat, many scholars advocate for models of collaborative intelligence. This involves the implementation of robust editorial standards, transparent algorithmic processes, and ethical safeguards that promote accountability, accuracy, and equity in AI-assisted reporting (Aivas, 2020; Diakopoulos & Koliska, 2017). As Figure No: 01 illustrates that a marked upward trend in technology adoption within newsrooms from 2015 to 2024. The proportion of technology integration increased from 15% in 2015 to 85% in 2024. This linear growth reflects a broader industry-wide shift toward digital tools and platforms aimed at enhancing the speed, accuracy, and reach of journalism. Between 2015 and 2018, adoption rose modestly to 35%, signalling a cautious but deliberate move toward digital transformation. During this early period, innovations such as content management systems, mobile journalism, and social media integration began to shape the future of news production (Pavlik, 2013). The growth rate of technological adoption in newsrooms accelerated significantly between 2019 and 2021, rising from 42% to 68%. This surge in AI-driven automated content production and personalized news delivery can be

attributed, in part, to the industry's rapid adaptation to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which necessitated an urgent shift to remote operations and digital collaboration (Qaradakh, and Aivas., 2020; Posetti et al., 2020). By 2022, the adoption rate had reached 75%, continuing its upward trajectory to 85% by 2024. This trend reflects a shift wherein technological integration has become a foundational component of newsroom operations rather than a supplementary function. *The Washington Post* stands out in this regard, positioning itself as a leader in digital innovation through the development of proprietary publishing platforms and the implementation of machine learning applications in journalism (Carlson, 2015; Bradshaw & Rohumaa, 2017). The broader trend depicted in the accompanying data illustrates a fundamental transformation in journalistic practice, with technology increasingly serving not only as a medium for content dissemination but also as a critical tool for content creation, research, fact-checking, data visualization, and audience engagement. News organizations that effectively leverage digital technologies are more likely to maintain credibility, enhance production efficiency, and ensure economic sustainability. This evolving landscape invites important reflections on the future of journalism—particularly regarding the evolving role of journalists, the ethical considerations surrounding automated reporting, and the necessity of sustained investment in digital literacy and technological proficiency (Aivas, 2017).

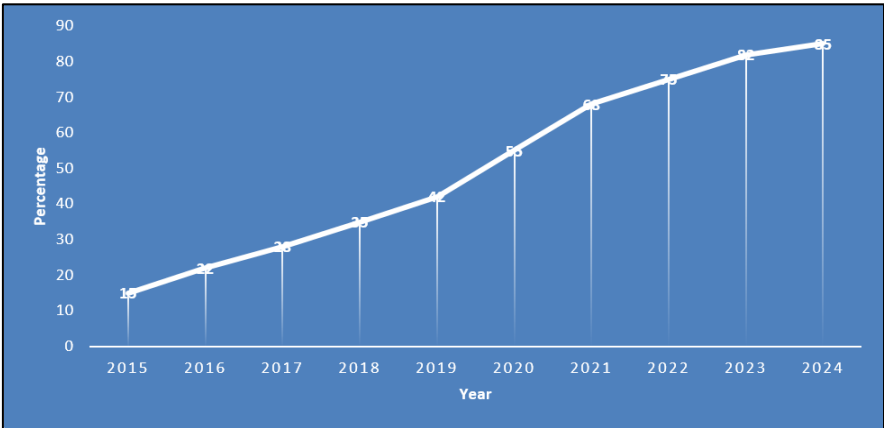


Fig 1 Percentage of Using Technology in Washington Post Newsroom  
Source: Internal Analysis Based on Newsroom Technology Adoption  
Surveys from the Washington Post, 2015–2024

Figure No: 2 offers an in-depth understanding of how ChatGPT and similar generative AI tools are being used today across a range of editorial roles at *The Washington Post*. The data reveals the most common use sees the technology employed in writing text, whether this is in the form of summaries or bullet points, with nearly 60% of newsroom using staff doing so. This result is consistent with the broader observation in the industry that generative AI thrives to automate repetitive text-related tasks, in turn freeing journalists to concentrate on high-level storytelling and analysis (Carlson & Benjamin, 2023). AI aided text generation tools in particular have been effective in helping to produce short-form content on a quick-turn basis, reducing the overall quantity and quality trade-offs that have historically been made. Recent

studies and textual analyses align with reported AI usage rates, which generally fall within the upper 30% to lower 40% range. These findings highlight the growing role of AI in enhancing newsroom efficiency—particularly through accelerated and more accurate fact-checking processes—and in alleviating journalists from repetitive editorial tasks. Evidence suggests that generative AI significantly contributes to operational productivity by enabling journalists to allocate more time to investigative and long-form reporting (Diakopoulos, 2019). However, the relatively modest adoption of AI for tasks such as content generation and topic ideation—approximately 30%—suggests that while AI is trusted as a supportive tool, core creative and strategic editorial decisions remain largely under human control. This aligns with existing

scholarship, which emphasizes that journalists typically regard AI as a collaborative aid rather than a replacement, thereby preserving editorial agency and professional autonomy (Zamith, 2023). Conversely, AI application in translation and audience personalization remains considerably lower, with fewer than 30% and 20% of media professionals engaging with these functions, respectively. These low adoption rates may reflect not only the limitations or biases inherent in current technologies but also the editorial complexity and strategic discretion required in tasks involving cultural sensitivity, ethical

considerations, and audience engagement. Nonetheless, as language, models evolve and as media organizations increasingly seek to provide tailored content, AI deployment in these domains is expected to grow. Overall, the adoption trends illustrated in the data suggest a newsroom culture characterized by cautious experimentation and pragmatic integration of AI technologies, rather than widespread or radical transformation.

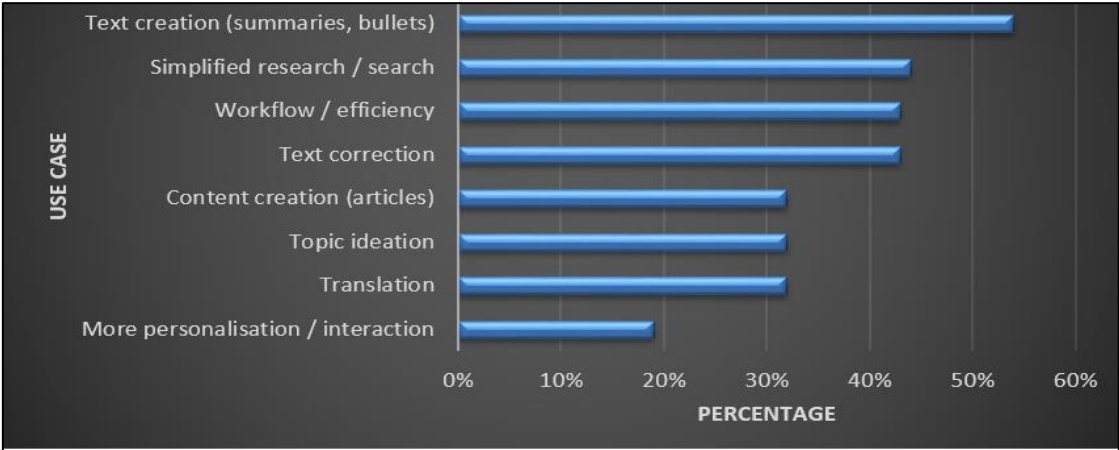


Fig 2 Newsroom Actively Working with Generative AI Tools like ChatGPT in the Washington Post  
Source: Internal Survey of Newsroom staff at The Washington Post, 2024

Figure 3 illustrates the specific journalistic functions for which practitioners at *The Washington Post* employ generative AI tools. The data indicate that the most common applications are brainstorming and research, with over half of the journalists utilizing AI for these purposes. These functions correspond primarily to the initial phases of journalistic production—idea generation and information gathering—which demand rapid processing, cognitive support, and the capacity to manage dispersed or voluminous data sources (Graefe, 2016). Generative AI systems, such as ChatGPT, are particularly effective in facilitating creative ideation and exploratory thinking, offering journalists alternative narrative approaches that may be difficult to formulate in the absence of prompts or stimuli. Furthermore, AI-assisted research capabilities enable efficient synthesis and summarization of large

datasets or textual materials, streamlining the preparatory stages of reporting. Approximately 30–35% of journalists report using generative AI for drafting headlines, outlines, and social media content. These mid-level editorial tasks involve more structured linguistic outputs and suggest a growing institutional trust in the application of generative models for public-facing and stylistically nuanced content. The increasing reliance on such tools reflects the maturing capabilities of large language models (LLMs), which are now able—within certain constraints—to approximate journalistic tone and conventions (Lewis & Westlund, 2020). Nonetheless, human oversight remains indispensable at this stage to ensure factual accuracy, mitigate algorithmic bias, and uphold core editorial standards (Aivas & Abdulla, 2021).

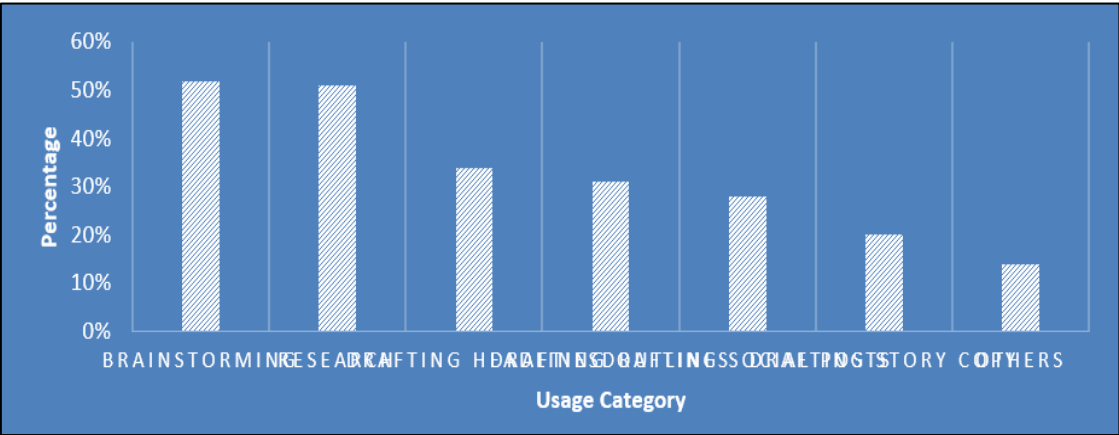


Fig 3 How Journalists use Generative AI in the Washing Post Newsroom  
Source: Internal Newsroom Survey, the Washington Post, 2024

At the lower end of generative AI adoption are tasks such as full-article drafting (approximately 20%) and miscellaneous applications (around 15%), reflecting a degree of hesitancy among journalists to delegate complex narrative and editorial responsibilities to automated systems. This pattern aligns with ongoing scholarly concerns regarding the ethical, professional, and epistemological implications of automating core journalistic functions (Dörr, 2016). Despite the significant progress in AI capabilities, full-scale automation of news stories remains a contentious issue, primarily due to challenges related to originality, verification of sources, and the preservation of journalistic voice and authorship. Consequently, although AI is increasingly integrated into the news production workflow, its role remains primarily assistive—enhancing rather than replacing human creativity. In alignment with this approach, *The Washington Post* has taken proactive steps in recent years to embed AI into its editorial processes with the dual aim of improving journalistic efficiency and enhancing reader engagement (see Table No: 01). Between 2022 and 2024, the newsroom launched several generative AI initiatives aimed at reshaping how news is produced, consumed, and disseminated. Among these innovations was the introduction of "Ask The Post AI" in 2022—a real-time interactive tool that enables readers to pose questions and receive AI-generated responses grounded in verified reporting. This development not only exemplified the potential of generative AI to improve audience engagement but also demonstrated its capacity to foster

public trust through transparent, informed, and accessible communication services (Carlson & Benjamin, 2023). In 2023, *The Washington Post* expanded its use of artificial intelligence with the introduction of Climate Answers, an AI-powered platform designed to respond to reader inquiries related to climate issues. Leveraging natural language processing and machine learning technologies, this initiative aimed to deliver personalized, data-informed responses to complex environmental topics. The system's primary value lay in its capacity to tailor news dissemination to individual user interests, thereby contributing significantly to increased engagement with digital media content (Napoli, 2021). Building on this momentum, the newsroom launched Haystack in 2024, an AI-driven engine capable of processing and analysing large-scale, multimodal datasets—including text, video, and images—to detect emerging trends in real time. A notable application of this tool was its deployment to examine over 700 political advertisements centered on immigration, marking a significant advance in the use of AI for investigative journalism and political accountability. Collectively, these initiatives reflect a strategic shift toward the practice of *augmented journalism*, wherein AI technologies function as enhancers of data-centric reporting rather than mere tools of automation (Diakopoulos, 2019). Rather than adopting a reactive stance, *The Washington Post* demonstrates a deliberate integration of AI across editorial processes to strengthen its commitment to public interest journalism.

Table 1 AI Integration at the Washington Post (2022–2025)

Year	AI Tool/Initiative	Description	Notable Application
2022	Ask The Post AI	Generative AI tool designed to answer reader questions based on The Post's reporting.	Enhanced reader engagement through interactive Q&A.
2023	Climate Answers	AI-driven platform providing information on climate-related topics.	Delivered personalized climate insights to readers.
2024	Haystack	AI tool that analyzes large datasets, including video, photo, and text, to identify newsworthy trends.	Analyzed over 700 political ads related to immigration.

Source: Compiled by the author from multiple Washington Post AI tool announcements, 2022–2025.

➤ *AI Application in Screenwriting*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly reshaping the field of screenwriting through tools like ScriptBook, which applies machine learning to assess narrative structure and commercial viability, reportedly achieving box office prediction accuracy rates as high as 84%—a significant improvement over traditional human evaluation. While such technologies are advantageous in mitigating financial risk and forecasting audience reception, they also risk reinforcing formulaic storytelling and amplifying embedded biases. This can marginalize original or unconventional voices, ultimately constraining creative innovation (Klein, 2021; Elber, 2020). Generative AI models such as ChatGPT are now commonly used to assist in drafting dialogue, brainstorming plotlines, and expediting script development. This form of human-AI collaboration, often referred to as “centaur creativity,” has proven particularly effective in fast-paced production settings like television (McCormack et al., 2020).

However, these advancements have raised considerable labour and ethical concerns (Aivas, 2014). The 2023–2024 Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike highlighted anxieties over creative displacement, diminished authorship, and the commodification of narrative craft (Friedlander, 2024). AI is also being adopted across the broader production lifecycle, from script localization to pre-visualization technologies, influencing workflows across major content platforms such as Netflix. Yet, such efficiencies often come at the expense of deeper questions around intellectual property, labour rights, and cultural diversity. The challenge lies in striking a balance between technological advancement and the preservation of ethical and human-centered storytelling. As Table No: 02 underscores how recent developments in AI have significantly disrupted the U.S. screenwriting industry. Computational tools are now integral to predictive analysis, generative content creation, and production streamlining. A notable example is ScriptBook, a Belgian-

developed platform that employs natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning to evaluate screenplays’ market viability. With a reported prediction accuracy of 84%—compared to 36% by human script readers—it has garnered interest from major U.S. studios (ScriptBook, 2018). AI integration is also expanding among digital-first studios such as Amazon, Netflix, and Sony, where it supports both creative development and operational efficiency (Cunningham & Craig, 2019). As a result, generative AI applications, including ChatGPT, Sudowrite, and Jasper, are increasingly employed during early stages of scriptwriting, assisting with plot structuring and linguistic outputs (Lee, 2023). These tools foster hybrid creative processes in which humans and machines complement one another (McCormack et al., 2020; Kasparov, 2018). Despite these benefits, the creative labour force has expressed apprehension. The WGA strike underscored widespread fears that AI might devalue creative labour, lead to deskilling, and erode artistic

integrity (Friedlander, 2024). Furthermore, reliance on AI systems trained on historical datasets may inadvertently perpetuate conventional and commercially oriented storytelling frameworks, undermining narrative diversity and excluding underrepresented perspectives (Klein, 2021; Elber, 2020). Beyond writing, AI is being leveraged to accelerate production processes, particularly in areas such as localization and scene pre-visualization using tools like Unreal Engine. These innovations are critical for global distribution platforms such as Netflix, where demand for adaptable and rapid content production is high (Nash, 2022). Major studios including Netflix, Amazon, and Warner Bros. have consequently invested heavily in AI-driven creative and logistical infrastructures. This growing dependence necessitates renewed ethical scrutiny—particularly around questions of authorship, originality, and workers’ rights—within an increasingly automated media ecosystem.

Table 2 AI in Screenwriting – Key Developments and Impacts in the USA (2024)

Category	Details / Data	Source / Notes
Predictive Analytics Tool	ScriptBook	Founded in Belgium, used by some U.S. studios
Box Office Prediction Accuracy	84% (ScriptBook) vs. 36% (Human Readers)	ScriptBook (2018)
AI Use by Studios	Increasing use by Netflix, Amazon, Sony, and other digital-first studios	Cunningham & Craig (2019)
Generative AI Adoption	Tools like ChatGPT, Sudowrite, and Jasper used in early screenwriting stages	Lee (2023); anecdotal industry reports
WGA Concerns	2023–2024 strike raised concerns about AI replacing writers or degrading writing jobs	Friedlander (2024)
"Centaur Creativity" Concept	Hybrid collaboration model between human writers and AI tools	McCormack et al. (2020); Kasparov (2018)
Common AI Uses in Writing	Drafting dialogue, generating scenes, brainstorming, reworking plots	Practical use cases reported by industry insiders
Production Acceleration	AI shortens script turnaround and supports localization and previsualization	Nash (2022); integration with Unreal Engine
Risk of Narrative Homogenization	AI systems tend to favor scripts resembling past box office successes	Elber (2020); Klein (2021)
Major Studio AI Investment (USA)	Netflix, Amazon, Warner Bros investing in AI to optimize content development and reduce production time	Industry reports; company statements

Sources: Friedlander (2024); Lee (2023); Nash (2022); Klein (2021); Elber (2020); McCormack et al. (2020); Cunningham & Craig (2019); ScriptBook (2018); Kasparov (2018); plus various industry reports and company disclosures.

➤ *Risks and Ethical Challenges*

According to Aivas (2024), the influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on media professionalism continues to expand in complex and uneven ways, yielding both beneficial and problematic outcomes. This evolving impact is evident in the inconsistent application of journalistic standards—such as impartial data collection and analysis—as well as increasing concerns over privacy violations and confidentiality breaches. Within this broader context, the integration of AI into screenwriting presents a host of intricate ethical, legal, and cultural dilemmas, particularly in relation to authorship and intellectual property rights. A central issue lies in the matter of ownership. Under current U.S. copyright law, protection is only granted to works created by humans, a stipulation that generative AI tools such as ChatGPT may

violate when they contribute substantially to a script’s content (U.S. Copyright Office, 2023). This has raised not only concerns about proper attribution and erosion of creative rights, but also fears among writers about job displacement and loss of residual income—concerns that contributed to labour unrest, including threats of strikes from writers’ guilds in 2023–2024 (Friedlander, 2024). In this sense, AI’s role in content creation also exacerbates bias, as these systems are trained on historical datasets that can reproduce existing stereotypes and marginalize underrepresented communities (Bender et al., 2021; Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018). Without diverse editorial oversight, the widespread deployment of AI-generated scripts risks reinforcing dominant cultural narratives instead of challenging them. Moreover, the creative process itself may be undermined. While AI can facilitate



ideation and streamline drafting, there is a risk of promoting formulaic storytelling driven by metrics of engagement rather than artistic innovation (Zhou & Fischer, 2023). This may particularly disadvantage early-career writers, whose overreliance on AI suggestions could lead to a loss of creative skills. In addition to another major concern that relates to AI’s opacity and the commercial motivations behind its implementation. The “black box” nature of AI decision-making obscures how creative outputs are generated, while corporate interests often prioritize efficiency over cultural diversity (Aziz & Aivas, 2025; Pasquale, 2015). To counteract these challenges, scholars have advocated for more inclusive and participatory governance of AI systems—particularly those used in creative industries—to ensure marginalized groups have a voice in shaping technological development (Sandvig et al., 2014). Accordingly, the growing prevalence of AI in screenwriting thus raises critical ethical and legal questions. Beyond authorship and ownership, there is a pressing need to address the gap between current legal standards and the realities of AI-assisted creative processes. U.S. copyright law, as it currently stands, excludes protection for works generated entirely by machines, creating a foundational legal dilemma (U.S. Copyright Office, 2023). As tools like ChatGPT and Jasper become embedded in the scriptwriting workflow, traditional definitions of authorship—central to determining intellectual property rights and contractual obligations—are increasingly challenged. This legal ambiguity can result in the

circumvention of copyright protections and obscure the conditions of creative labour. Furthermore, AI’s role in the scriptwriting process complicates labour dynamics and recognition. Concerns about job displacement are not limited to writers alone; the Writers Guild of America (WGA, 2024) has raised alarms about the erosion of collective bargaining power and employment security as studios explore the use of AI-generated storytelling. Authorship attribution is central to labour negotiations, as it determines entitlements such as royalties and residuals. When machines contribute significantly to a script, determining appropriate credit and compensation becomes highly complex. Current legal frameworks are also ill-equipped to manage co-authored works produced by human-AI collaborations. Although AI often serves as a tool to augment rather than replace human creativity, existing copyright law lacks the flexibility to recognize this type of hybrid authorship. The U.S. Copyright Office (2023) has acknowledged this gap and emphasized the need for legislative reform to ensure that human contributors retain authorship status and maintain control over their creative inputs (Yaqub, 2025). Collectively, these concerns highlight the urgent need for regulatory updates and interdisciplinary dialogue. Legal systems must evolve alongside technological advancements to ensure that protections, attributions, and creative incentives align with ethical labour practices and reflect the contemporary realities of media production in the digital age (Aivas et al. 2025).

Table 3 Ethical and Legal Challenges in AI-Assisted Screenwriting

Issue	Description	Key Concern	Sources
Authorship and Intellectual Property	AI's involvement in scriptwriting challenges the legal requirement for human authorship in copyright law.	Ownership rights, authorship attribution, and contract enforcement.	U.S. Copyright Office, 2023
AI's Role in Content Generation	AI tools like ChatGPT are being used to generate scripts, dialogue, and narratives, blurring the line between human and machine authorship.	Impact on bargaining power of human writers and clarity of credit and royalties.	Writers Guild of America (WGA), 2024
AI-Generated Content & Legal Protection	Current legal frameworks are inadequate for managing AI-generated works, creating a gap in protection for human creators.	Need for evolution of copyright laws to accommodate hybrid works.	U.S. Copyright Office, 2023

Sources: U.S. Copyright Office, Writers Guild of America (WGA), 2024-2023, plus various industry reports and company disclosures.

Table No: 4 outlines the principal risks associated with bias in computationally generated content, identifying both their origins and potential consequences. AI models trained on skewed or non-representative data sets are prone to reproducing those biases, often resulting in discriminatory outputs that marginalize vulnerable or minority’s communities while perpetuating harmful stereotypes. Additionally, these systems frequently rely on outdated cultural representations embedded within historical media used during training, thereby reinforcing

reductive portrayals of culture. This tendency poses a threat to the diversity of cultural narratives by privileging dominant norms and potentially suppressing alternative or emerging voices. The problem is further exacerbated in large-scale productions where the absence of comprehensive human editorial oversight can allow such biases to go unchecked. Without diverse perspectives integrated into the content development process, these algorithmically generated narratives risk perpetuating cultural stagnation and entrenching social inequalities.

Table 4 Risks of Bias in AI-Generated Content

Risk	Description	Impact	Sources
Perpetuation of Bias	AI models trained on biased datasets reflect existing social prejudices and stereotypes.	AI-generated scripts may marginalize underrepresented	Bender et al., 2021; Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018

		groups, reinforcing harmful stereotypes.	
Cultural Representation	AI may default to stereotypical characterizations due to biases in historical media content used for training.	Risk of limiting diverse cultural narratives and reinforcing dominant societal norms.	Bender et al., 2021; Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018
Lack of Editorial Oversight	AI scripts may not undergo sufficient human oversight, especially in large-scale productions, exacerbating bias.	Lack of diverse perspectives in content creation, perpetuating narrow narratives and limiting cultural progress.	Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018

Table No: 5 addresses the ethical oversight and governance frameworks necessary for AI-generated content. It underscores the challenge posed by the opacity of AI systems, which hinders the ability to understand or intervene in the algorithmic processes that shape content outputs. To mitigate this, greater transparency in the development, training, and decision-making processes of AI models is recommended. The Table also points out that when models are trained on non-diverse datasets, they risk perpetuating and intensifying existing biases. This

underscores the importance of auditing AI systems, diversifying training data, and embedding human oversight to promote inclusive content production. Moreover, the Table highlights that the very groups most affected by algorithmic bias are often excluded from participating in the development and regulation of AI governance structures. Addressing this gap requires establishing inclusive and representative governance mechanisms to guide the ethical creation and deployment of AI-generated content.

Table 5 Governance and Ethical Oversight in AI Content Creation

Governance Issue	Description	Recommended Action	Sources
AI Model Transparency	Opacity in AI systems limits the ability to understand and intervene in algorithmic decisions that influence content generation.	Greater transparency in AI model design, training data, and decision-making processes.	Bender et al., 2021
Diversity in AI Training Data	AI models trained on non-diverse datasets may reproduce and amplify biases.	Efforts to audit, diversify, and humanize training data to ensure inclusive content generation.	Bender et al., 2021; Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018
Inclusive Governance	Marginalized voices are often absent in the development and regulation of AI content policies.	Establish inclusive governance structures with diverse representation to guide AI content creation policies.	Bender et al., 2021; Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018

Table No: 6 outlines the primary ethical concerns associated with representation and diversity in AI-generated content. One key issue is that AI-generated courseware and media often reflect stereotypical portrayals of gender, race, and ethnicity due to the use of biased training datasets. This reliance on historically skewed data risks reinforcing outdated and harmful stereotypes, particularly affecting marginalized and underrepresented communities. Furthermore, AI-generated content tends to privilege dominant cultural norms and mainstream values, which can restrict cultural

plurality and suppress global diversity in storytelling. Such homogenization may not only alienate diverse audiences but also hinder efforts to achieve authentic and inclusive representation of minority groups. Moreover, the lack of human input—especially from those historically excluded from media production—further exacerbates the underrepresentation of diverse voices. Without deliberate inclusion of these perspectives in both content creation and system design, AI-generated media may continue to marginalize important narratives, limiting their potential to reflect the full spectrum of human experience.

Table 6 Ethical Implications in Representation and Diversity

Ethical Issue	Description	Impact	Sources
Reinforcement of Gender and Racial Stereotypes	AI scripts often reflect stereotypical representations of gender, race, and ethnicity, influenced by biased training data.	Risk of perpetuating outdated and harmful stereotypes, particularly for marginalized or underrepresented groups.	Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018; Bender et al., 2021
Cultural Homogenization	AI-generated content may prioritize mainstream cultural norms, leading to a lack of diversity and global representation in narratives.	Narrow cultural output that fails to resonate with diverse global audiences or reflect minority experiences.	Bender et al., 2021



Exclusion of Marginalized Voices	AI systems may lack the capability to create truly representative content without human intervention, further silencing marginalized communities.	Reduced opportunities for marginalized communities to express their authentic voices in media.	Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018; Bender et al., 2021
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Table No: 7 outlines key technological constraints and the potential drawbacks of over-reliance on AI in computer-assisted content generation. One of the primary limitations is that AI-generated scripts frequently lack the emotional depth and nuance characteristic of human-authored narratives, resulting in storytelling that is often less engaging and emotionally resonant. Furthermore, excessive dependence on AI for script development can lead to narrative homogeneity, as generative models tend to replicate patterns and structures derived from their

training data, thereby constraining creative diversity and originality. Additionally, AI systems often struggle to accurately interpret and reflect the complexities of cultural, historical, and social contexts, which can lead to the production of content that appears artificial, contextually disconnected, or culturally insensitive. This not only undermines the authenticity of the material but also reduces its capacity to meaningfully engage diverse audiences.

Table 7 Technological Limitations and Risks of Over-Reliance on AI

Technology-Related Risk	Description	Impact	Sources
Lack of Emotional Depth in AI-Generated Scripts	AI-generated content often lacks the emotional nuance and complexity that human writers provide, leading to less compelling storytelling.	Decreased quality and emotional impact of screenwriting, leading to less engaging narratives.	Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018
Over-Reliance on Algorithmic Content	The use of AI-generated scripts may lead to a homogeneity of narratives as AI models often prioritize patterns based on existing data.	Risk of creativity stagnation, with over-reliance on familiar structures that may limit innovation in storytelling.	Friedlander, 2024
Inability to Understand Cultural Context	AI models may misinterpret or fail to grasp complex cultural, historical, and social nuances, resulting in content that lacks authenticity.	The creation of content that may seem out of touch with real-world issues or lacks cultural relevance.	Buolamwini & Gebru, 2018; Bender et al., 2021

The integration of artificial intelligence into screenwriting brings forth a range of complex challenges related to authorship, equity, creativity, and cultural representation. As generative models such as ChatGPT become more embedded in the creative process, traditional legal and ethical frameworks—particularly those concerning copyright, labor rights, and authorial attribution—are increasingly strained. These disruptions raise critical questions about ownership of creative work, distribution of credit and remuneration, and the protection of human writers in an evolving media landscape. Equally significant are the cultural ramifications of algorithmically generated narratives. When driven by historical training data and commercial optimization, AI storytelling risks reinforcing harmful biases and limiting narrative diversity. In the absence of robust and diverse editorial oversight, such content may replicate stereotypes and marginalize underrepresented voices. Furthermore, the opacity of AI systems and the corporate control over their development hinder transparency and accountability in content production. Addressing these issues requires not only the adaptation of legal frameworks to accommodate human-AI collaboration but also the establishment of inclusive governance mechanisms that elevate marginalized perspectives and ensure ethical content creation (Yaqub, 2022).

## II. RESEARCH CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into media production and screenwriting marks a significant transformation in how narratives are produced, structured, and consumed. AI technologies offer powerful capabilities that enhance productivity by streamlining routine tasks and enabling data-informed storytelling. Institutions such as *The Washington Post* demonstrate the operational benefits of AI in journalistic workflows, while generative tools like ScriptBook and ChatGPT are reshaping creative production by accelerating content creation and expanding narrative experimentation. However, this technological advancement is accompanied by a host of ethical, legal, and societal dilemmas. In the media, concerns around algorithmic transparency, editorial accountability, and the proliferation of misinformation underscore the necessity for rigorous professional standards and oversight. In screenwriting, AI raises unresolved debates regarding authorship, copyright protections, labour equity, and cultural representation—issues that came into sharp focus during the 2023–2024 Writers Guild of America strike, which highlighted the precarious position of creative labour in an increasingly automated media industry. Moreover, the use of historically biased training data in AI systems poses a risk of perpetuating stereotypes and marginalizing underrepresented voices. Without inclusive editorial

frameworks and governance structures that reflect a diversity of perspectives, AI-generated content risks narrowing the cultural breadth of media outputs. Simultaneously, the legal and regulatory infrastructure has yet to adapt adequately to the complexities of hybrid human-AI authorship, leaving significant gaps in credit attribution and compensation mechanisms. Ultimately, the ethical integration of AI into media practice requires a multidimensional approach—one that both safeguards human creativity and embraces technological advancement. This entails revising copyright legislation, ensuring greater diversity in training datasets, and embedding marginalized voices in the development and regulation of AI systems. The future of media should not be defined by the replacement of human creators, but rather by a model of augmented creativity, in which AI supports and extends human faculties such as empathy, judgment, and cultural literacy. As journalism and screenwriting evolve in the AI era, the central challenge is not solely innovation, but the preservation and reinforcement of democratic, ethical, and expressive values that position media as a pillar of public life. Addressing this challenge demands thoughtful regulation, inclusive collaboration, and a renewed commitment to storytelling that reflects the full complexity of human experience

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