Who Should Create AI guidelines for Researchers?

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A Research Integrity Perspective

OWID
Ombudsgremium für die
wissenschaftliche Integrität
in Deutschland
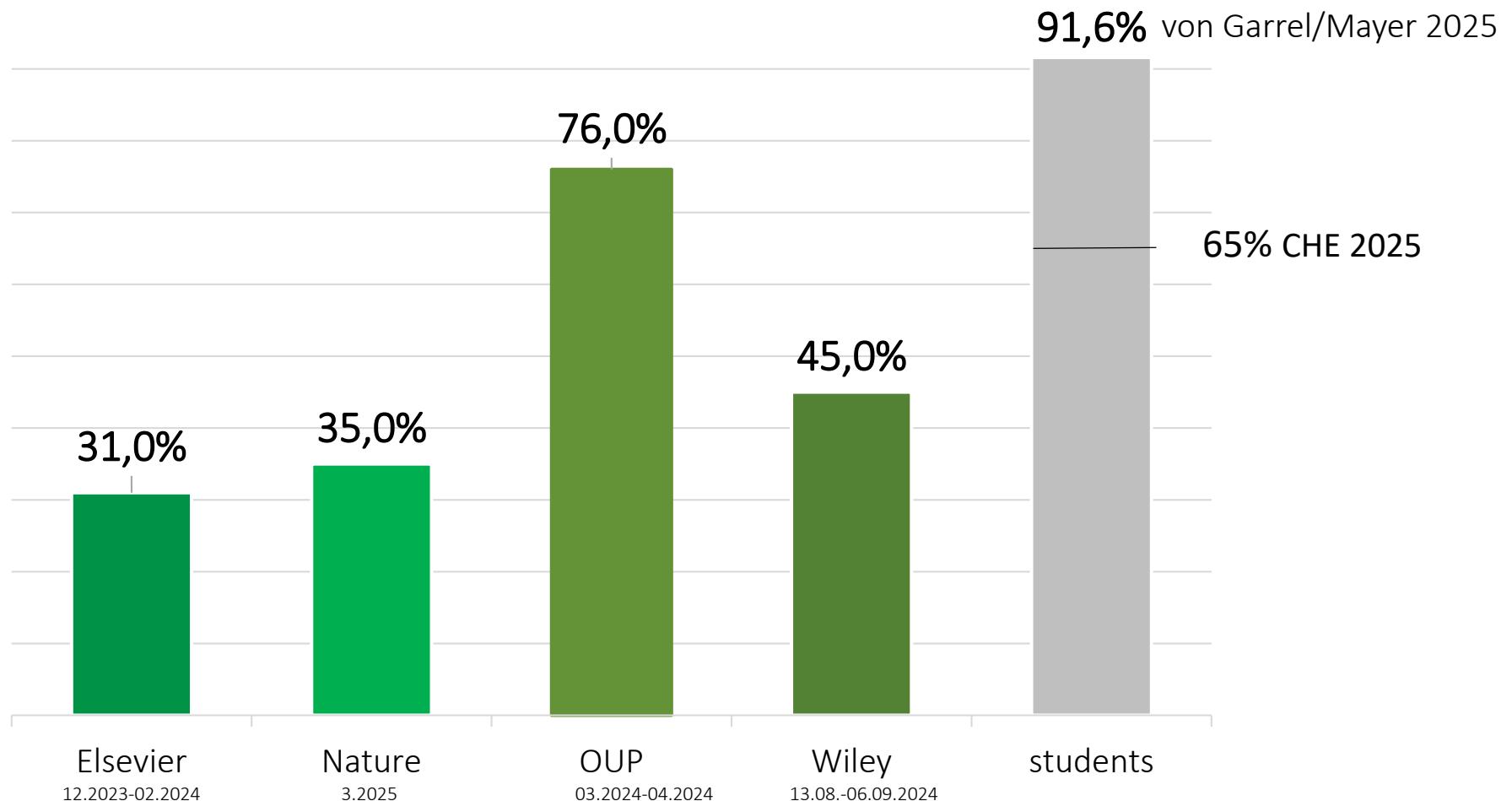
AI use among researchers

"When asked what barriers or obstacles were preventing them from using generative AI in their work to the extent that they'd like, **63% selected a lack of clear guidelines and consensus** on what uses of AI are accepted in their field..."

(Wiley 2025)

39% of researchers see lack of regulation and governance as one of top-three disadvantages of AI

(Elsevier 2024)

AI Use Among Researchers

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Ethical recommendations

Funders' policies

Legal guidelines

EU AI Act

Living guidelin... on the RESPONSI... USE OF GENERATIVE... IN RESEARC...

ERA Forum Stakeholder... docu...

Publishers' policies

Institutional guidelines

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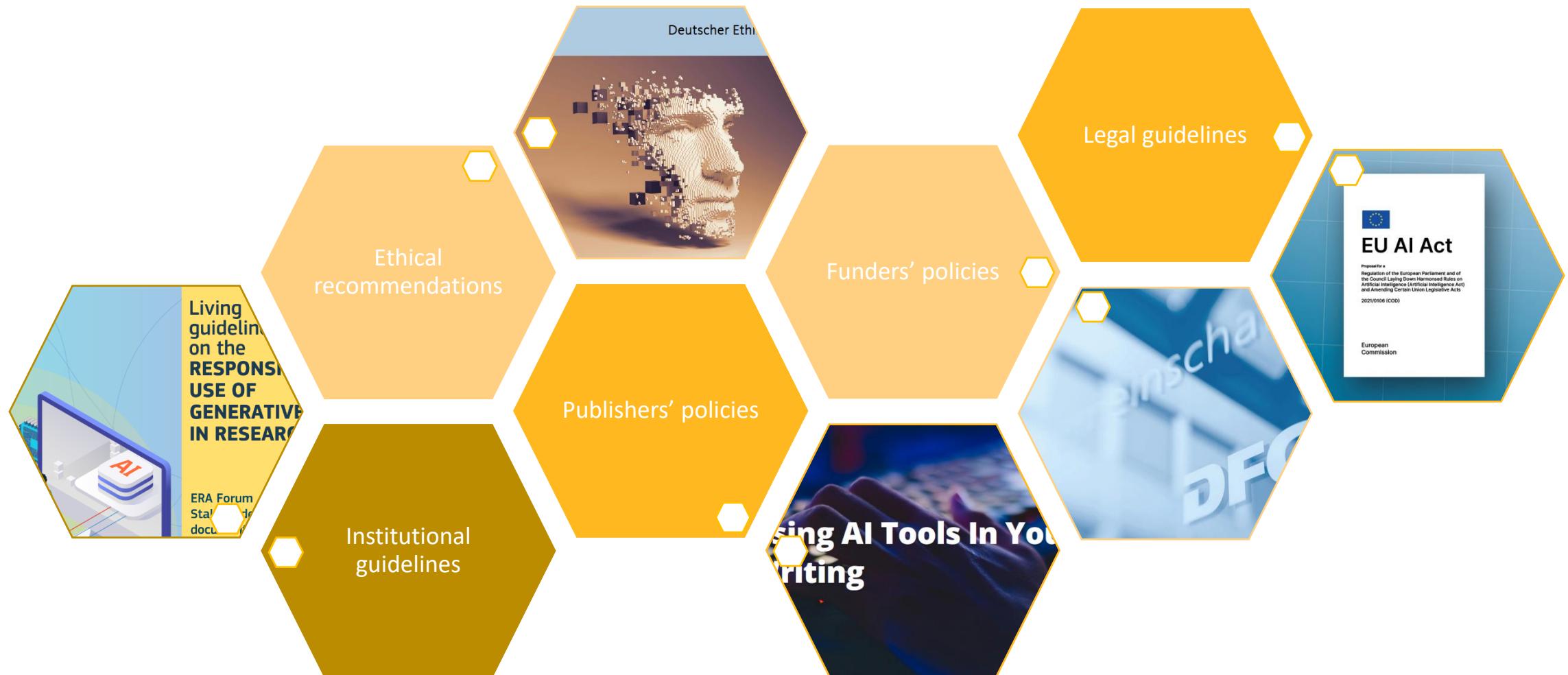
Policy Landscape

	Elsevier	ICMJE	Nature Springer	Science	Taylor and Francis	Wiley	WAME
AI and Authorship	AI ≠ author	AI ≠ author	AI ≠ author	AI ≠ author	AI ≠ author	AI ≠ author	AI ≠ author
Declaring the use of AI	Use of AI needs to be specifically declared in manuscript	Use of AI needs to be specifically declared in manuscript	Use of AI needs to be specifically declared in manuscript	Use of AI needs to be specifically declared in manuscript	Use of AI needs to be specifically declared in manuscript	Use of AI needs to be specifically declared in manuscript	Use of AI needs to be specifically declared in manuscript
AI generated images	not allowed	not specified	highly restricted	highly restricted	not allowed	allowed with some restrictions	not specified
AI and Peer Review	not allowed	restricted	restricted	not allowed	restricted	restricted	restricted

Editorial Policies on AI (May 2025)

Issues that researchers see in existing policies

- » lack of detail („detailed information should be provided", „documented appropriately", „described, transparently and in detail")
- » diverse use cases often not covered
- » discipline-specific guidelines missing
- » mandatory versus optional disclosure
- » disclosure policies do not fit actual workflow (e.g. documentation of prompts)
  –> what kind of transparency is needed?
- » General wariness concerning regulations (fear of top-down approach)

- incentive for disclosure

- keeping up with technical progress

AI Policies

Question:
Dr. Bloggs writes a first draft of their research article. Then they use ChatGPT (or another generative AI tool) to help edit the article, such as by asking for suggestions about its clarity, flow or tone.

They don't disclose that they used AI.
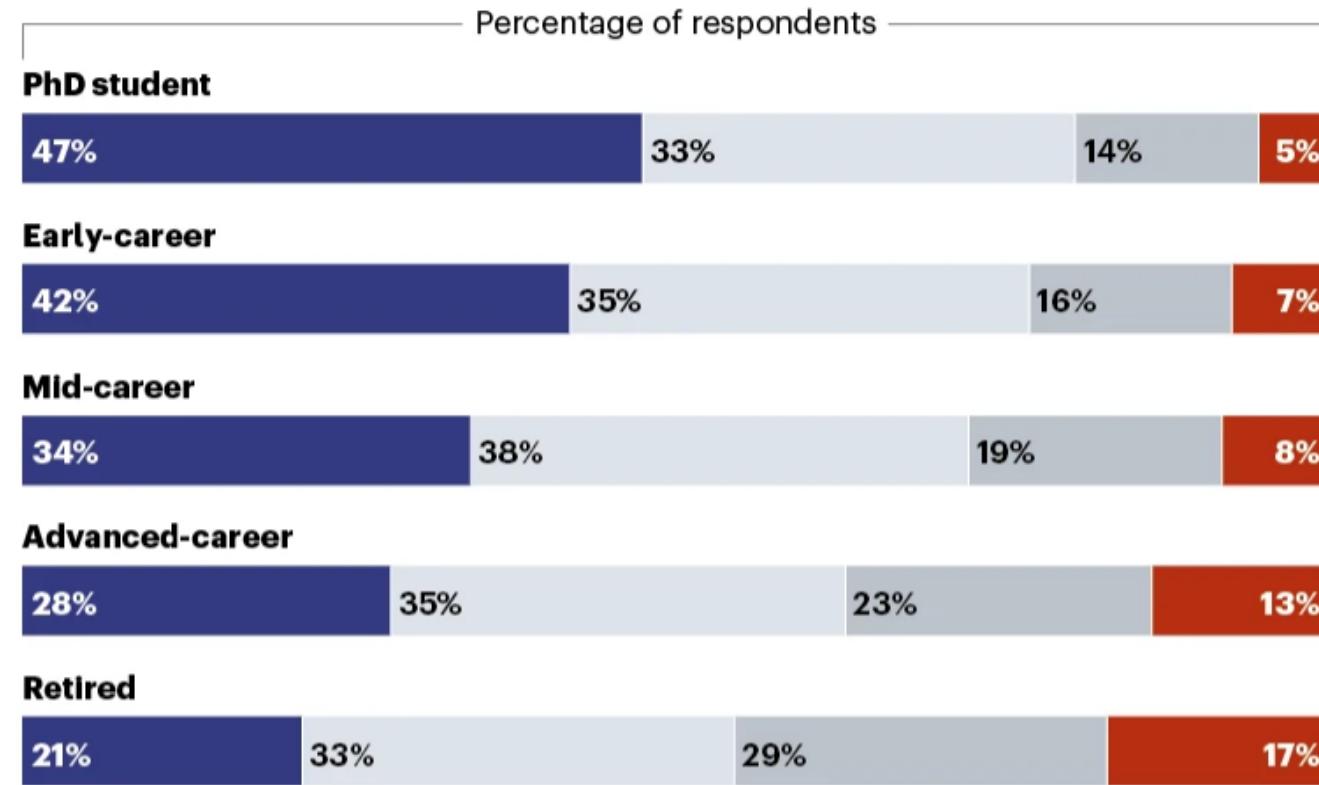
Researchers' perception of AI use

AI Use Among Researchers
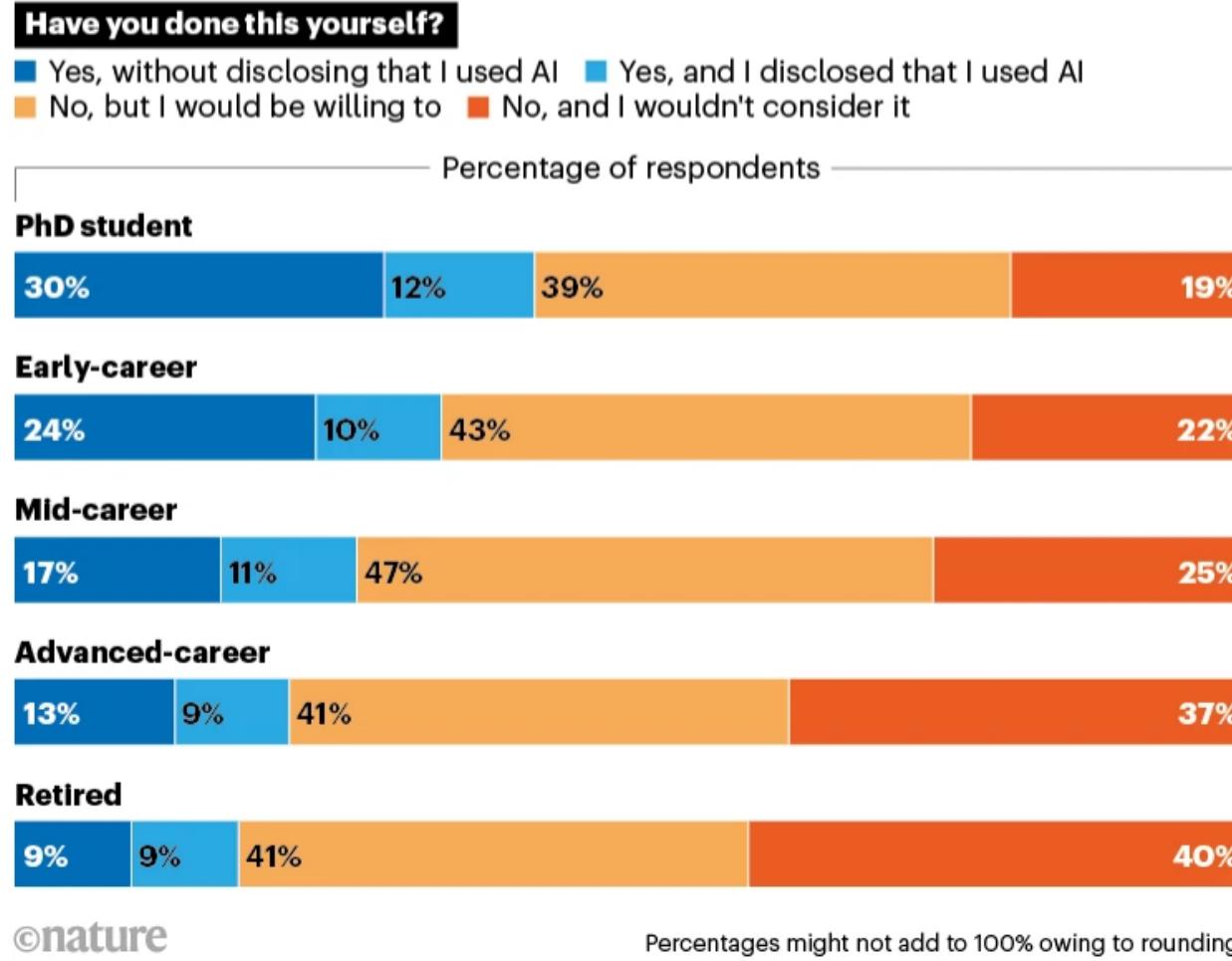
» Policies need to be developed in close collaboration with researchers (all levels, all disciplines), but also need input from other professionals (e.g. editors, RI advisors)

» We need more discipline specific/use case specific regulation and these need to ideally come out of these disciplines

» We need to have a conversation about key aspects of policies like disclosure (how much transparency do readers and reviewers need? Striking a balance between transparency and extra labour)

» Why are researchers not disclosing AI use (ignorance of policy? fear of prejudice? Disclosure is too laborious? Disclosure is seen as pointless?)

» Existing policies need to be reviewed regularly (are they holding up to technological progress? Do they serve their purpose?)

Take Away
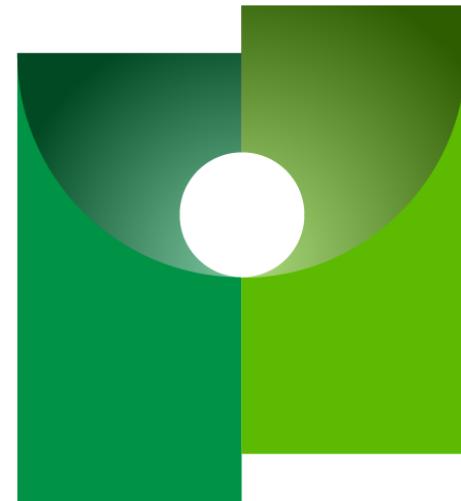
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Get in Touch

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