

Editorial

Writing editorials is part of an editor's job. Sometimes this can be difficult if you are lacking inspiration, but then with the next issue an idea may come up spontaneously and the words simply flow.

I always read the editorials in journals or magazines. I did this before I became an editor myself, and now it has turned into a professional habit. Some editorials may present an interesting idea or raise an issue related to current topics, encouraging critical reflection. Others are almost like a research article in their own right. The texts largely have a positive orientation and perhaps even call for changes or different behaviour in an activist manner (of course in relation to the issues covered in the journal). Intentionally or not, every editorial is also a reflection of its author.

Recently, concerned connoisseurs of IT tools based on artificial intelligence have warned us of the possibility of misusing these to create practically any written text – from school assignments and exams to research articles. What would an urban planning editorial written by ChatGPT look like? I tested the tool myself, and I was pleasantly surprised by how fast the words appeared, how the sentences actually made sense, and how convincing the entire text was. Its style was inspiringly positive: “Effective urban planning holds the key to building sustainable cities that are resilient, inclusive, and livable. . . . urban planners can shape cities that serve the needs and aspirations of their inhabitants. . . . It is essential for governments, policymakers, and citizens to recognize the critical role of urban planning and support its implementation through collaboration, adequate resources, and long-term vision. By doing so, we can create cities that are not only functional and efficient but also vibrant, harmonious, and nurturing, enabling us to thrive in the urban environments of the future.”*

All these beautiful words make us wonder why we also use them so often and uncritically ourselves. It might as well be artificial intelligence that makes us realize that it is better to say more with fewer words and only what is really important.

Damjana Gantar, Editor-in-Chief

*This text was created by ChatGPT and has not been copyedited.