Can Modern Scholarship Escape AI?

Andrew Maynard

School for the Future of Innovation in Society

Arizona State University

andrew.maynard@asu.edu

January 2026

Findings

No.

AI Use Statement

In the spirit of comprehensive disclosure, and in accordance with emerging norms around transparency in AI-assisted scholarship, the author offers the following account of artificial intelligence involvement in this research.

The central research question was developed through iterative brainstorming sessions with Claude (Anthropic), ChatGPT (OpenAI), Gemini (Google), Copilot (Microsoft), Grok (xAI), and DeepSeek, following preliminary ideation supported by Perplexity AI. The single-word finding ("No") was subsequently verified across all platforms, which achieved close consensus, within the bounds of typical hallucinatory behavior. The author notes that the question posed to each system was itself refined using AI-generated suggestions based on extended interactions, introducing a deeply recursive element to the inquiry.

Extensive literature review was conducted using Google Scholar, whose ranking algorithms employ machine learning to surface relevant sources. Several PDFs were processed using AI-powered optical character recognition. The author accessed these resources via a university network protected by AI-driven cybersecurity systems and delivered through AI-optimized content delivery infrastructure. After extensive review, AI tools deemed no sources worthy of inclusion.

The manuscript was composed using software featuring AI-powered autocomplete, grammar checking, and predictive text. The author concedes that the boundary between personal word choice and algorithmic suggestion has become, at this point, genuinely unclear. Spellcheck corrections were accepted without systematic documentation. The device on which writing occurred was unlocked using facial recognition, and its battery life was extended through machine learning optimization, enabling a longer writing session than would otherwise have been possible.

Ambient conditions during the research period were shaped by AI-mediated systems including climate control optimization, traffic routing algorithms affecting commute duration, and weather forecasting models that influenced the decision on where to work. Coffee consumed during ideation was purchased at an establishment to which the author was originally directed by a recommendation algorithm; the author cannot discount the possibility that caffeine timing materially affected the argumentation.

The computing infrastructure underlying this work—including AI-designed chip architecture, AI-managed cloud systems, and AI-optimized power grid load balancing—represents a substrate of machine intelligence so pervasive as to be practically invisible.

The author acknowledges the near-certainty that additional AI systems contributed to this work in ways that remain unknown, unremembered, or not yet recognized as artificial intelligence. The author's ability to compile this accounting itself required AI assistance. This disclosure should therefore be understood as indicative rather than exhaustive, and the author accepts responsibility for any AI entanglements that subsequent investigation may reveal.

The author further acknowledges the possibility that the very concept for this paper did not arise from independent human creativity, but emerged through subliminal patterns of AI suggestion and inference accumulated over extended use. The origin of the initial impulse can no longer be reliably attributed.

This statement was generated by AI.