Ethical Use of Algorithms in Journalism
Eliyahu Dovid Gasson/Duquesne University; Multiplatform Journalism

What A.I. is Good At

In the space of journalism, A.I. is highly useful in generating stories that mostly incorporate data sets. These topics include sports, weather, and financial news. Using algorithms, news agencies quickly produce essential updates on current events, which may have taken more time if they had been tasked with a human being (Moravec et al.).

These A.I. generated stories provide a significant public good. Say, in an extreme weather event, an algorithmically generated article can be produced in a concise amount of time and make its way to cell phones and computers faster than an organically developed piece.

How Artificial Intelligence Can Aid Journalists

Artificial intelligence has proven incredibly useful in reporting specific topics like stock markets and weather. Algorithms also lend themselves to expanding on information contained in a story. As a result, a more engaging narrative is created, aiding the fourth estate in its duty to generate an informed public.

As More news agencies and online services move toward implementing artificial intelligence into their practices, ethical concerns arise.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence can be beneficial for data-driven stories. It can be used to report financial markets, sports results, and the weather. It can create more engaging and informative stories, leading to a more informed public. These are all ultimately good things, as they can protect communities, especially those which need the most help.

There are also risks involved with A.I. generated reporting. The chances of unethical practices being done by machines are great. Some steps must be taken before Algorithmically generated stories are used to report on individuals.

A newsroom program used by the Czech News Agency to generate data-based stories (Moravec et al.).

Where A.I. Reporting Can Go Wrong

While A.I. is very good at generating and aiding in creating data-driven stories, they lend themselves to producing libelous narratives when covering individuals.

After Facebook converted its curation team to an algorithm in 2016, they began promoting a defamatory story that stated that anchor Megyn Kelly had been fired from Fox News because she endorsed Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton over Republican candidate Donald Trump. This was not the case (Lewis et al.)

Works Cited:


