INTERVIEW AI

How Wikipedia's Editors Keep the Online Encyclopedia Human-Written as AI-generated

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ACCEPT ALL

REJECT NON-ESSENTIAL

ELLIA LEBLEU IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE WikiProject AI Cleanup, a volunteer effort launched in 2023 to find and

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Lebleu: By 2025, the signs of AI writing were becoming subtler and more structural. For example, AI loves the “rule of three,” negative parallelisms, and other structures of speech that aren’t conclusive by themselves but become meaningful as they accumulate. We also look beyond the article. If someone writes five articles of thousands of words each in 5 minutes, there is reason to suspect AI.

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something that works at scale and filters out obvious cases, it's a good first step. The Wikimedia Foundation is also working on a tool called Paste Check, which can flag text pasted directly from some AI chatbots.

And we've seen Claude sometimes say, "I can't write a Wikipedia article; it would go against Wikipedia's policies." If all major AI companies implemented that kind of prompt refusal, it wouldn't solve the problem entirely, because there are still open-

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Wikipedia is still that, and will remain that for at least the near future, makes it a precious resource that isn't replicated anywhere else.

But will the people who read and contribute to Wikipedia want it to become partially AI-generated if that makes it more comprehensive? We could preserve Wikipedia's identity as a human-written corpus while also offering an AI-assisted option.

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