Review of: "E-learning and the Use of AI: A Review of Current Practices and Future Directions"

Dave Laurenson[1]

1 University of Edinburgh

The paper "E-learning and the Use of AI: A Review of Current Practices and Future Directions" addresses a topic of current relevance in the Education sphere. The paper is based on a literature review of AI assisted learning technologies conducted from 2010 to 2020, with one article from 2021.

It highlights a number of potential use cases, from AI directed personalisation of learning and AI generated feedback. This includes adaptive assessment (a form of personalisation) and adaptive tutoring.

However, the focus of the article is not on such technologies, but instead on the use of ChatGPT. (Note that other generative AI engines are not considered). While the merits of using ChatGPT are discussed, what is not evident is the specific improvement that AI gives over more traditional internet searches. These too offer alternative explanations for topics, and equally suffer from the same bias that ChatGPT experiences.

Ultimately the "review" merely summarises well known benefits and issues surrounding ChatGPT, with limited critical analysis of any of these, never mind critical analysis of other uses of AI.

What is not discussed, which is a glaring omission, is the use of generative AI for academic misconduct. This is an area of particular importance to the academic community, yet it receives no coverage. The debate around the use of generative AI for student submissions at education institutions, and research submissions for academic conferences/papers/presentations is a hotly debated one that is entirely absent from this review.

To improve this article from the current low rating, it would require:

- Citations to references within the text, e.g. using the Harvard referencing system
- A more in-depth review of the positive uses of AI in tailoring/supporting the education experience, not just applying generative AI
- Critical analysis of the educational impact of using such technologies (not just broad statements about benefits or issues)