

# AI profits, authors' hardship and the selfish motives: an AI assessment

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The following text presents an assessment by Google Bard AI of the issues raised in the article in The Guardian titled "Authors call for AI companies to stop using their work without consent," written by Lucy Knight [1]. The prompts use key concepts presented in published articles [2-3].

Please read this article: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/jul/20/authors-call-for-ai-companies-to-stop-using-their-work-without-consent>

I have read the article and here are the key points:

- A group of authors, including Margaret Atwood, Viet Thanh Nguyen, and Philip Pullman, have signed an open letter calling on AI companies to stop using their work without consent or credit.
- The letter, which was organized by the Authors Guild, argues that AI companies are profiting from writers' work without giving them any financial or creative compensation.
- The letter also raises concerns about the potential for AI to be used to create deepfakes or other forms of synthetic media that could be used to harm or discredit writers.
- The AI companies that have been targeted by the letter have not yet responded to the calls for change.

The article also mentions that the median writing-related income in 2022 for full-time writers in the US was just \$23,330. This suggests that many writers are already struggling to make a living from their work, and that the use of AI without their consent could further exacerbate this problem.

The letter from the Authors Guild is a timely reminder of the importance of copyright protection for writers. It also raises important questions about the future of AI and the potential impact it could have on the creative industries.

Here are some additional thoughts on the article:

- I think it is important for AI companies to respect the copyright of writers. Writers deserve to be compensated for their work, and they should also have the right to control how their work is used.
- I am concerned about the potential for AI to be used to create deepfakes or other forms of synthetic media that could be used to harm or discredit writers. This is a serious issue, and it is important for AI companies to take steps to mitigate these risks.
- I hope that the letter from the Authors Guild will spur AI companies to take action to address these concerns. Copyright protection is essential for writers, and AI companies need to respect the rights of creators.

## **The R&D costs of AI companies have not brought welfare to society but financial hardship to writers?**

That is a complex question with no easy answer. On the one hand, AI companies have invested heavily in R&D, which has led to the development of new technologies that have the potential to benefit society in many ways. For example, AI can be used to automate tasks, improve healthcare, and create new forms of art and entertainment.

On the other hand, some writers have argued that the R&D costs of AI companies have not brought welfare to society, but financial hardship to writers. They argue that AI is being used to create content that is plagiarizing or imitating their work, without their consent or compensation. This can lead to lost revenue for writers, and it can also damage their reputations.

It is important to note that these are just two perspectives on the issue. There are many other factors to consider, and it is likely that the impact of AI on writers will vary depending on the specific circumstances.

Here are some additional thoughts on the issue:

- It is important to strike a balance between the potential benefits of AI and the potential risks to writers.
- AI companies need to be more transparent about how they are using writers' work, and they need to ensure that writers are compensated fairly for their contributions.
- Writers need to be aware of the risks of AI, and they need to take steps to protect their copyrights.

It is still too early to say definitively whether the R&D costs of AI companies have brought welfare to society or financial hardship to writers. However, it is a complex issue that deserves careful consideration.

## **AI technologies only serve for-profit corporations, and this reality has been against the public interests?**

The use of AI technologies by for-profit corporations is a complex issue with both potential benefits and risks to the public interest.

On the one hand, AI technologies can be used to improve efficiency and productivity, which can lead to lower prices and better products and services for consumers. For example, AI is being used by retailers to optimize inventory management and pricing, which can lead to lower prices for consumers. AI is also being used by healthcare providers to improve diagnosis and treatment, which can lead to better health outcomes for patients.

On the other hand, there are concerns that the use of AI by for-profit corporations could lead to increased inequality and a concentration of power in the hands of a few large corporations. For example, AI could be used to automate jobs, which could lead to job losses and economic hardship for some workers. AI could also be used to target advertising and marketing more effectively, which could lead to increased manipulation of consumers.

It is important to note that these are just some of the potential benefits and risks of the use of AI by for-profit corporations. The actual impact of AI on the public interest will depend on a number of factors, including the specific applications of AI, the regulatory environment, and the choices made by consumers and businesses.

Ultimately, the question of whether the use of AI technologies by for-profit corporations is against the public interest is a complex one that cannot be answered definitively. However, it is an important issue that deserves careful consideration.

Here are some additional thoughts on the issue:

- It is important to ensure that the benefits of AI are shared widely, and that the risks are mitigated.
- Governments need to play a role in regulating the use of AI, and in ensuring that it is used in a responsible way.
- Consumers need to be aware of the potential risks of AI, and they need to make informed choices about how they use AI-powered products and services.

The future of AI is uncertain, but it is clear that it has the potential to both benefit and harm the public interest. It is important to be aware of the potential risks and benefits of AI, and to make sure that it is used in a way that benefits everyone.

## **It seems that AI developers and companies do not show their humility in a race to dominate human life?**

I agree that some AI developers and companies do not show humility in their race to dominate human life. They often make claims about the potential of AI that are exaggerated or unrealistic, and they seem to be more interested in profit than in the public good.

For example, some AI companies have claimed that their technology will soon be able to surpass human intelligence. This claim is based on the fact that AI has been able to achieve impressive results in some narrow domains, such as playing chess or Go. However, it is important to remember that AI is still in its early stages of development, and it is not clear that it will ever be able to match the full range of human intelligence.

Another example of the lack of humility in AI development is the way that some companies are using AI to target advertising and marketing. These companies are using AI to collect vast amounts of data about our online behavior, and they are using this data to target us with ads that they think we are more likely to click on. This can be very effective at getting us to buy things, but it can also be seen as a form of manipulation.

I believe that it is important for AI developers and companies to be more humble about the potential of their technology. They need to be aware of the risks of AI, and they need to be willing to work with governments and other stakeholders to ensure that AI is used in a responsible way.

Here are some things that AI developers and companies can do to show more humility:

- Be honest about the limitations of AI.

- Be transparent about how they are using AI.
- Be accountable to the public.
- Work with governments and other stakeholders to ensure that AI is used in a responsible way.

I believe that if AI developers and companies show more humility, it will help to ensure that AI is used in a way that benefits everyone.

## References

- [1] Knight, L. (2023, July 20). Authors call for AI companies to stop using their work without consent. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/jul/20/authors-call-for-ai-companies-to-stop-using-their-work-without-consent>
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- [3] Vuong, Q. H. (2020). Reform retractions to make them more transparent. *Nature*, 582(7811), 149. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01694-x>