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The AI–Information Disorder Paradox: Mapping the Dual Role of Artificial Intelligence in Misinformation and Disinformation

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence has been evolving rapidly, transforming the information disorder landscape and creating an information disorder paradox. Advances in machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), generative AI, large language models (LLMs), deepfakes, and synthetic media tools have significantly increased the capacity to produce, alter, and disseminate false or misleading information. At the same time, these tools and technologies are also being developed and used to counter misinformation and disinformation through detection, classification, verification, fact-checking, and mitigation. This study examines AI's dual role in both generating and combating misinformation and disinformation. While previous studies have focused either on the generation and creation of misinformation and disinformation or on their detection and mitigation, this study investigates the information disorder paradox. It contributes to the integration of this fragmented interdisciplinary literature and identifies emerging themes, research gaps, and future research directions.

The study employs bibliometric analysis and science mapping to examine the literature. An initial search of Scopus identified 10,488 English-language articles, conference papers, and reviews published between 2000 and October 2026. Before the bibliometric corpus is finalized, the results will be assessed against a set of predefined relevance criteria. The study uses several tools, including Bibliometrix/Biblioshiny, Bibliospy, VOSviewer, and Microsoft Excel, to examine publication trends, citation patterns, prominent authors, leading countries, thematic clusters, and intellectual structures.Finally, the paper contributes to the field by mapping this dispersed area of research and proposing future research directions for understanding how AI may either facilitate the generation of information disorder or support its detection and mitigation. The study also aims to identify emerging themes, research gaps, and future directions to better understand how these contrasting roles have developed and may have converged as AI technologies have advanced.

The research is work in progress.
Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Misinformation; Disinformation; Generative AI; machine learning (ML); deep learning (DL); generative AI; large language models (LLMs); deepfakes