



Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

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Ethical AI Policy for SALT University College: Ensuring Ethical Standards in AI Research

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative technology with applications spanning various sectors, from healthcare to finance and education. SALT University College, as a leading university, recognizes the tremendous potential of AI for research purposes. However, this potential must be harnessed responsibly and ethically. This policy seeks to define the ethical standards that should guide AI research at SALT University College, emphasizing fairness, transparency, accountability, privacy, and accessibility.

1.2 Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set a framework for the ethical use of AI in research at SALT University College. It outlines the principles that will guide AI research activities, from data collection to deployment. By adhering to these principles, the University College aims to ensure that AI research is conducted with the highest ethical standards and in a manner that benefits the university community and the wider society.

1.3 Scope

This policy applies to all research activities at SALT University College that involve the development and use of AI systems. It encompasses research conducted by faculty, students, and staff. The policy also extends to collaborations and partnerships that involve AI research activities.

2. Ethical Principles

SALT University College is committed to upholding the following ethical principles in all AI research endeavors:

2.1 Fairness

Fairness in AI research implies that AI systems should be designed and deployed without bias, ensuring equitable treatment for all individuals and groups.

Guidelines:

- 2.1.1 Ensure that training data and models do not discriminate against any demographic group.

- 2.1.2 Regularly audit AI systems to detect any undesired bias and mitigate any such biases.
- 2.1.3 Promote diversity in AI research teams to reduce potential bias in system design and decision-making.

2.2 Transparency

Transparency refers to the openness and clarity of AI systems, allowing stakeholders to understand how AI decisions are made.

Guidelines:

- 2.2.1 Provide clear explanations of AI algorithms and decision-making processes.
- 2.2.2 Document data sources, collection methods, and model architectures.
- 2.2.3 Make disclosure of AI use in research publications and public-facing applications.

2.3 Accountability

Accountability means that individuals and organizations should be responsible for the consequences of AI systems they create or use.

Guidelines:

- 2.3.1 Clearly define roles and responsibilities in AI research projects.
- 2.3.2 Implement mechanisms for oversight and accountability in AI system deployment.
- 2.3.3 Establish procedures for redress in the event of AI system failures.

2.4 Privacy

Privacy involves safeguarding the personal information and data of individuals used in AI research.

Guidelines:

- 2.4.1 Adhere to data protection laws and regulations.
- 2.4.2 Anonymize or de-identify data when possible, and obtain informed consent.
- 2.4.3 Ensure robust security measures are in place to protect data.

2.5 Accessibility

Accessibility implies making AI research and technology available and usable to all, regardless of disabilities or limitations.

Guidelines:

- 2.5.1 Design AI applications with accessibility features.
- 2.5.2 Ensure AI systems are usable by people with disabilities.
- 2.5.3 Promote the accessibility of research findings and resources.

2.6 Beneficence

Beneficence implies that the development and use of AI tools and resources must benefit humanity for the common good of society. Ensure that AI systems and applications are deployed for the benefit of society.

3. AI Research Framework

To implement the ethical principles, SALT University College establishes a comprehensive AI research framework that encompasses the entire research lifecycle:

3.1 Data Collection and Usage

Data Sourcing

- 3.1.1 Ensure that data sources are ethically obtained, and relevant permissions and consents are in place.
- 3.1.2 Minimize the collection of sensitive or personal information that is not necessary for research purposes.

Data Handling

- 3.1.3 Anonymize or pseudonymize data when possible to protect individual privacy.
- 3.1.4 Implement robust security measures to safeguard data from unauthorized access or breaches.

Informed Consent

- 3.1.5 Obtain informed consent from individuals whose data is used in research.
- 3.1.6 Clearly communicate the purpose and nature of data usage to participants.

3.2 Model Development

Fairness by Design

- 3.2.1 Ensure that the AI model is designed to be as fair and unbiased as possible from the outset.
- 3.2.2 Regularly assess and address any bias in model predictions.

Transparent Model Documentation

- 3.2.3 Document model architectures and training processes.
- 3.2.4 Provide explanations for model predictions and decisions.
- 3.2.5 Disclose any limitations and potential biases of the model.

3.3 Evaluation and Validation

Bias and Fairness Audits

- 3.3.1 Regularly conduct audits to detect and mitigate bias in AI models.
- 3.3.2 Make necessary adjustments to model training data and algorithms based on audit findings.

Ethical Evaluation

- 3.3.4 Evaluate the ethical implications of the research, including potential consequences on individuals and society.
- 3.3.5 Consider the long-term societal impact of AI research.

3.4 Deployment

Accountability Mechanisms

- 3.4.1 Establish clear lines of accountability for AI system deployment.
- 3.4.2 Define procedures for oversight and auditing of AI system usage.

User Education

- 3.4.3. Ensure that users are aware of the capabilities and limitations of AI systems.
- 3.4.4 Provide clear channels for users to seek redress or report concerns.

3.5 Generative Artificial Intelligence

Generative Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI, or GenAI) is a type of artificial intelligence that generates new content, such as text and multimedia items – images, music, and videos. GenAI is used to imitate human creativity. It goes beyond simply analysing or synthesising existing data. Traditional AI is used to perform such

functions as pattern recognition and data analysis. Generative AI models are applied as learning platforms to analyse large datasets. Using sophisticated algorithms, they can create both text and multimedia materials, as needed, based on identified patterns. It is acknowledged that, operating within appropriate ethical guidelines, GenAI can serve as a valuable tool to support innovative and creative academic research. Researchers and students undertaking academic research projects must work within established educational and research integrity guidelines.

3.5.1 Responsible Deployment

Research students are required to engage in responsible scholarly work, producing original work, and avoiding plagiarism. Any use of GenAI in producing a dissertation or thesis project work must be disclosed to the student's supervisor or mentor. All GenAI use should be done within the established guidelines and policies of SALT University College.

4. Governance and Compliance

4.1 Ethical Review Board

SALT University College will establish an Ethical Review Board composed of experts in AI ethics and relevant academic fields. The Board's responsibilities will include:

- 4.1.1 Reviewing AI research proposals to ensure alignment with ethical principles.
- 4.1.2 Providing guidance and oversight on ethical considerations throughout the research process.
- 4.1.3 Periodically auditing ongoing AI research projects for compliance with this policy.

4.2 Compliance with Legal Regulations

SALT University College is committed to employing AI in a manner that respects human dignity, rights, and freedoms, and complying with all applicable laws and regulations related to AI research. This includes data protection laws, privacy regulations, and any other relevant legal frameworks. In cases where legal regulations fall short of our ethical standards, we will strive to maintain the highest ethical standards.

4.3 Reporting Mechanisms

SALT University College will establish a clear and accessible reporting mechanism for researchers, staff, and other stakeholders to report any ethical concerns or violations. It is essential to ensure that those who raise concerns are protected from retaliation.

5. Education and Awareness

5.1 Training and Education

SALT University College will provide training and educational programs to all researchers, faculty, and students involved in AI research. These programs will cover:

1. Ethical AI principles and best practices.
2. Awareness of bias and fairness issues in AI.
3. Training on ethical data handling and model development.

5.2 Ethical Awareness Programs

The University College will conduct awareness programs for the broader academic community and the public. These programs will focus on the ethical implications and societal impact of AI research. By raising awareness, SALT University College aims to foster a culture of ethical responsibility among its stakeholders.

6. Conclusion

In an age where AI research is rapidly evolving, ethical considerations must guide our efforts. SALT University College is committed to conducting AI research with the utmost ethical standards, emphasizing fairness, transparency, accountability, privacy, and accessibility. Through this policy, we hope to set a strong precedent for responsible AI research, making a positive impact on society, research, and the future of AI.

This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to adapt to changing technologies and ethical standards while maintaining our commitment to responsible AI research.