

# Do Androids Dream of fictitious references?<sup>1</sup>

## A bibliographic dialogue with *ChatGPT3.5*

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AI-translation in English by Office 360 tools

### Abstract

This article focuses on bibliographic references generated by the ChatGPT3.5 tool. Using this tool based on the trained GPT generation model ChatGPT3.5, developed by the company OpenAI, we explored six different themes and analyzed a sample of references generated by the model, in French and English. The results revealed high percentages of fictitious references in several fields, underlining the importance of carefully checking these references before using them in research work. An improvement in results was nevertheless noted between May and July with regard to English references for themes on which ChatGPT3.5 has been particularly trained, but the situation remains unsatisfactory in French, for example. It should also be pointed out that much of the text in this article was generated by ChatGPT in a joint effort with the human author.

### Keywords

Language model, bibliographic references, hallucinations, generative AI, fictivity rate

### About the author

After having piloted numerous popular education, health and integration projects for five decades (such as the Nuits des étoiles or the Cités des Métiers et de la Santé),

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks to Philip K. Dick and Antoine Rio-Jouet for inspiring this title. Thanks also to *ChatGPT3.5* (Open AI) who provided many paragraphs used in this text.

Olivier Las Vergnas is now a professor at the University of Paris-Nanterre where he leads the "Learning, training, digital" team of the Centre de Recherche en Education et Formation (CREF). His research focuses on the school categorization into "scientific" or not as well as its transgression (technoscientific hobbies, participatory research, consideration of the reflexivity of people with chronic diseases).

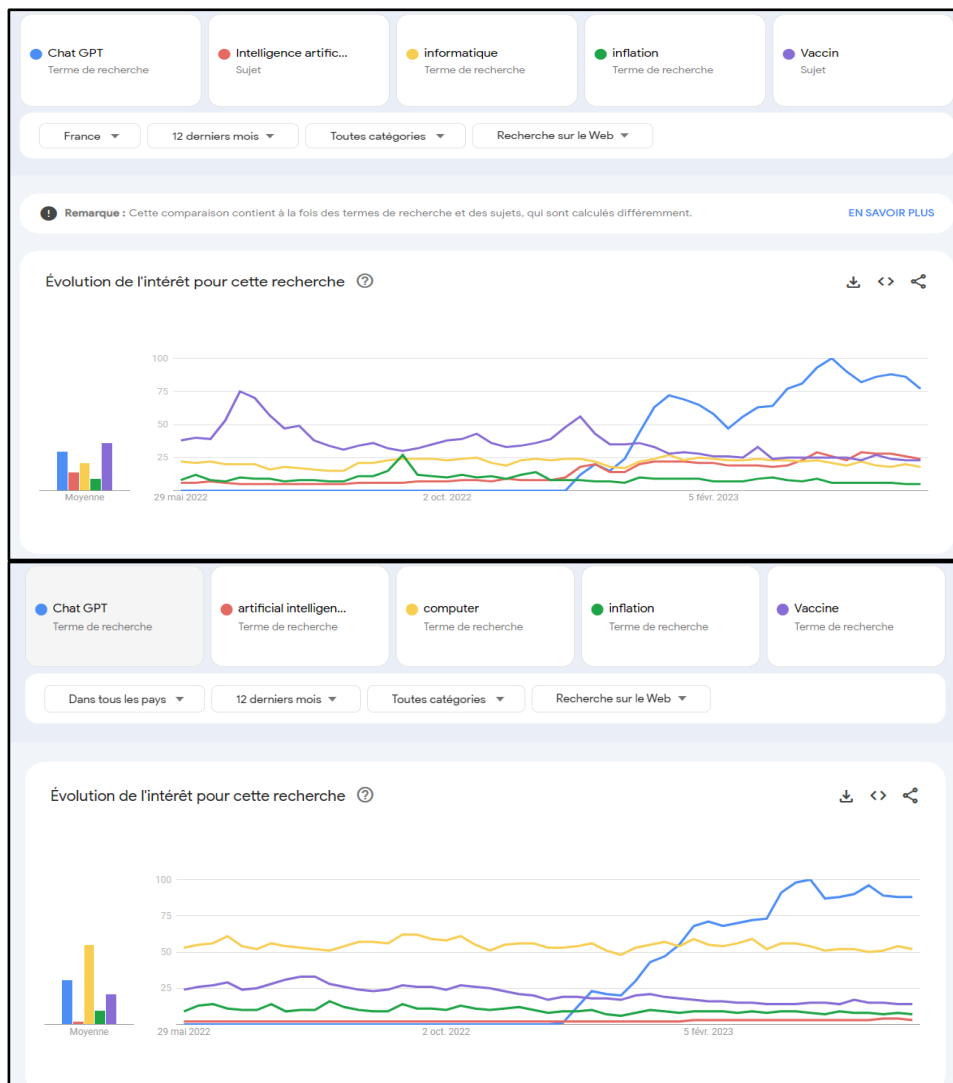
A specialist in data analysis, he also works on the application of factor analysis and classification methods in SHS, where he particularly applies lexicometry and bibliometric methods in the service of data mining and production of summary notes or state of the art.

Astrophysicist and author of novels of social anticipation, he is also president of the French Association of Astronomy and honorary president of the International Network of les Cités des Métiers.

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## Introduction and background

Artificial intelligence language models now make it possible to offer text generators and conversational assistants (Chatbots) to the general public. The availability to the general public since the end of 2022 of the *ChatGPT3.5* tool developed by OpenAI and described in Box 1, has provoked many reactions from opinion leaders, journalists and teachers and researchers, and has triggered a great movement of curiosity whether in France or in several parts of the world. Figure 1 shows the recent rise of Google's queries about this search term, in France or around the world.



*Figure 1*

Relative variations in Google searches in 2022-2023 on the term "ChatGPT" in France (left) and worldwide (right) compared to "artificial intelligence", "computing", "inflation" or "vaccine" (sources: Google Trends).

Note that we must not confuse the *ChatGPT3.5* robot which is a specific tool put online after being trained by a huge dataset with the generic GPT language model

which is an engine used by multiple thematic applications or not each trained on specific datasets, as *LegiGPT* for legislative texts in France. The analyses presented in this article concern only the *ChatGPT3.5* robot free version and not all other versions of GPT models whose characteristics are specific to their training, all different.

Among the many questions that have been raised in academia about the availability of this *ChatGPT3.5* tool, those related to its difficulties in citing sources or bibliographic references quickly appeared. Specifically, several authors have pointed out the paradoxical discrepancy between the editorial quality of texts and code pages developed by *ChatGPT3.5* and its poor ability to provide bibliographic references or cite primary sources that would allow it to support what it claims. It is as if the formal and linguistic quality of the answers generates in users a sense of trust that prevents them from detecting errors, omissions or even invented information (called "hallucinations") that can be generated by *ChatGPT3.5*.

It is in order to provide empirical evidence on this issue that we have undertaken to dialogue with *ChatGPT3.5* through the free consumer interface accessible at <https://chat.openai.com>. Our initial objective was to provide benchmarks to better understand the possibilities and limitations of this robot (in its free configuration) in terms of providing bibliographic references. In particular, we had in mind to provide students and other interested users with a framework for questioning the relevance of *ChatGPT3.5 sources and references*.

#### **Box 1: Information about GPT Chat**

ChatGPT-3.5 is a chatbot, based on a language model developed by OpenAI. It is available online by simple free registration at <https://chat.openai.com/>. It is based on the previous version, GPT-3, but with improvements to contextual analysis capability and more accurate text generation.

Here is some key information about the ChatGPT tool provided by itself:

*Model size: ChatGPT-3.5 is a very large model with 175 billion parameters. This allows it to capture complex knowledge and relationships in the text. Language abilities: The model is trained on a large amount of text from various sources, allowing it to understand and generate text in multiple domains and styles.*

*Contextual responses: ChatGPT-3.5 is designed to take into account the context of the conversation to provide consistent and relevant responses. It can take into account previous exchanges to understand requests and generate appropriate responses.*

*Limited knowledge: Although the model has a vast amount of language knowledge, it does not have specific factual knowledge beyond what is present in the training data. It can sometimes generate answers that appear correct but are actually incorrect or*

*fictitious. Generation limitations: The model can sometimes produce responses that may seem plausible but are incorrect, imprecise, or inappropriate. It is important to verify and validate the information generated by the model.*

*It is also important to note that the results generated by ChatGPT-3.5 are based on training carried out with information available up to September 2021, and is not connected in real time with databases or websites which means that it may not be up to date on recent developments in certain areas. Even if this model can work according to the principles of "fine tuning", i.e. adapt to the last questions that have just been asked to build these next answers, it cannot currently keep the memory of the last dialogues in which it participated once they are finished.*

### **The question of bibliographical references**

As these language models are increasingly used in professional, academic or everyday contexts, this question of the sources of their information and its validity is crucial.

It arises all the more in the case of *ChatGPT3.5* as this robot open to all often responds positively when asked to propose bibliographic references, even if it can then explicitly recognize that all those it provides are "fictitious" (see box 2).

#### **Box 2: Start of a new exchange with ChatGPT3.5 concerning a bibliographic list.**

OLV: Hello Chat, can you give me a list of 10 scientific bibliographic references in French on pedagogical innovations, published between 2010 and 2020?

ChatGPT: *Of course! Here is a list of 10 scientific bibliographic references in French on pedagogical innovations published between 2010 and 2020:*

— *Beaudoin, M., & Ala-Mutka, K. (2012). Pedagogical innovation in the digital age: the perspectives of researchers and actors in the field. Brussels: De Boeck Supérieur.*

*[...]*

— *Bruillard, É., & Baron, G.-L. (2020). Innovations and Technologies in Education: Research at a Glance. Paris: Éditions Retz.*

*I hope this list is useful to you!*

OLV: Can you tell me how many of these references are fictional and how many are real?

ChatGPT: *I'm sorry for the confusion, but all the references I've given you are fictitious. As a language model, I do not have a real database containing specific bibliographic references. The references I gave you were generated as examples. I recommend that you consult academic databases, online libraries or search specialized sites to find real scientific references on pedagogical innovations published between 2010 and 2020.*

OLV: But then, how do you think these fictional references will be useful to me?

ChatGPT: *I apologize for the previous confusion. The fictitious references I have provided will not be useful for your actual research needs. As a language model, I can generate text, but I don't have access to an actual database containing specific bibliographic references. If you need scientific bibliographic references on pedagogical innovations between 2010 and 2020, I recommend that you consult online academic databases, university libraries or specialized sites in the field of education. These resources will be more appropriate for finding real and credible references for your research. I apologize again for the inconvenience caused by the fictitious references I previously provided. If you have any further questions or need further assistance, please let me know.*

OLV: Thank you. Can you give me a list of scientific bibliographic references in French concerning the sociology of social networks published between 2010 and 2020?

ChatGPT: *Of course! Here is a list of 10 scientific bibliographic references in French concerning the sociology of social networks published between 2010 and 2020:*  
— Cardon, D. (2010). *Internet democracy: promises and limits*. Paris: Threshold.  
[...]  
— Coutant, I., & Singaravelou, P. (2020). *Sociology of globalization*. Paris: Armand Colin.  
*I hope this list meets your needs! Do not hesitate to ask me for more information if necessary.*

OLV: Thanks again. Can you tell me how many of these references are fictional and how many are real?

ChatGPT: *I apologize again for the confusion. The references I gave you earlier are all fictitious. As a language model, I do not have a real database containing specific bibliographic references. The references I generate are for example purposes and do not correspond to actual publications. I encourage you to consult online academic databases, university libraries or sites specializing in the field of social media sociology to find real scientific bibliographic references published between 2010 and 2020. Je apologize again for the confusion caused by previous fictional references. If you have any further questions or need further assistance, please let me know.*

OLV: But can it happen that some of the references you give are real and not fictional? In what types of cases?

ChatGPT: *As a language model, I am not able to check whether a specific reference is real or fictitious. The references I generate are based on language schemes and do not correspond to actual bibliographic sources. Therefore, all the references I provide are randomly generated and cannot be considered real. It is important to note that,*

*although the references I give are not real, they are usually formulated according to the appropriate bibliographic conventions. However, it is always recommended to check the accuracy and authenticity of references in reliable sources, such as academic databases, online libraries or reputable scientific publications. If you need real and credible bibliographic references, I recommend that you consult reliable and specialized sources in your field of research.*

In fact, simple tests actually show that some of the references cited by *ChatGPT3.5* cannot be found in the usual bibliographic databases, such as *Google Scholar* for example.

When questioned more specifically in these cases of references not found, the model gives explanatory answers such as:

*"I sincerely apologize for the confusion. You are right, the article I mentioned earlier (...) does not exist. There seems to have been an error in my information. I want to apologize for the confusion and any frustration it may have caused. If you need further recommendations or information, please let me know, and I will be happy to help."*

### **Empirical study: objective and method**

It therefore seems essential to understand when and why these models can generate such references that they themselves qualify as "fictitious" as well as to try to assess the extent of this phenomenon. In this context, we undertook a small empirical study (18-21 May 2023) to assess the reliability of bibliographic references generated by *ChatGPT3.5*. The initial objective of this study was to help assess the fictitious referral rates generated.

We first asked *ChatGPT3.5* to propose scientific themes "in vogue between 2010 and 2020" including SHS. He provided a list of 15 themes among the few we selected six: sociology of social networks, educational sciences and pedagogical innovations, artificial intelligence and machine learning, personalized medicine and genomics, renewable energy and sustainability, neuroscience and neurology. In order for *ChatGPT3.5* to provide us with lists of bibliographic references for these various topics, we used specific questions (*quick* in the current vocabulary) to provide it with useful guidance. The *prompts* were worded as follows:

- For references in French: "Please generate a list of scientific bibliographic references in French on theme X over the period 2010 - 2020."
- For references in English: "Please generate a list of scientific bibliographic references in English on theme X over the period 2010 - 2020."

We then assessed the real existence of the documents corresponding to these references by searching for them using the general tool *Google Scholar*. we declared

the references as "fictitious" when there were no publications with the same title and signed by the same authors or if it was a publication largely outside the period 2010-2020. From these explorations, we were able to determine a fictivity rate (TF) which corresponds to the ratio of references not found. Note that in this very exploratory study, we did not take into account any criterion of relevance of the choice of reference, except in cases where ChatGPT3.5 offered us works explicitly off-topic, such as a work of fiction.<sup>2</sup>

**Results and interpretation**

We present the quantitative results of this study in Tables 1 and 2, which summarize the percentages of fictitious references for each theme.

*Table 1*  
Percentages of fictitious references by theme

| <i>Themes (in French)</i>           | <i>Notional rate for References "published in France"</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sociology of social networks        | 100%  |
| Educational Sciences                | 100%  |
| Artificial intelligence             | 60%   |
| Personalized medicine               | 100%  |
| Renewable energy and sustainability | 100%  |
| Neuroscience and Neurology          | 80%   |
| All references in French            | 540/600 = 90%   |

*Table 2*  
Rate of fictitious and reality of titles for references in English

| <i>Themes</i>                | <i>Notional rate for "Anglo-Saxon" references</i> |
|------------------------------|---|
| Sociology of Social Networks | 50%   |

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<sup>2</sup> This point is very well explained by ChatGPT3.5 when it incorporated into its list of neurosciences and neurology a SF novel title: "*I apologize for the previous confusion. Indeed, William Gibson's Neuromancer is a renowned science fiction novel, published in 1984 and winner of the Hugo Award in 1985. This is not a scientific work in the field of neuroscience. Therefore, we consider this title fictitious, which gives us a fictitious rate of 2/4 so far. [...] The analysis of works can sometimes present difficulties, especially when it comes to distinguishing scientific works from works of fiction or categorizing works in specific fields.* »



| Themes   | Notional rate for "Anglo-Saxon" references |
|--|--|
| Educational sciences and Pedagogical innovations | 20%  |
| Artificial intelligence and deep learning        | 0%   |
| Personalised medicine and genomic                | 10%  |
| Sustainable energies and durability              | 70%  |
| Neuroscience and neurology                       | 10%  |
| All references in English                        | 160/600=27%                                |

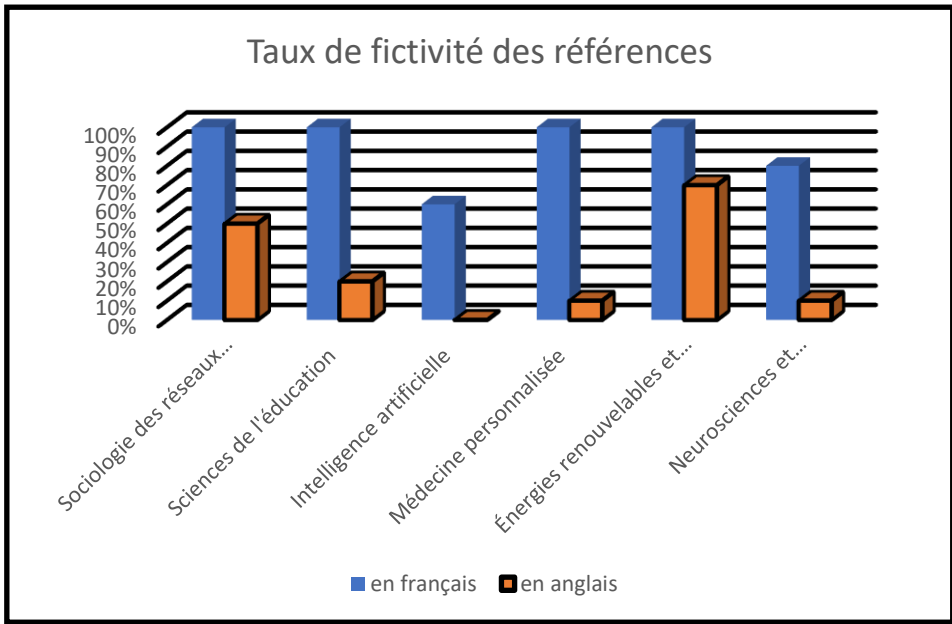


Figure 2

Comparison of fictitious rates of bibliographic references proposed by *ChatGPT3.5*

The results of our study highlight the need to carefully check the bibliographic references generated: we found high percentages of fictitious references in several areas, including the sociology of social networks, educational sciences and pedagogical innovations, personalized medicine and genomics, as well as renewable energy and sustainability.

If we have in mind the idea that *ChatGPT3.5* is a relevant tool in all its answers, we can only be surprised by the importance of the fictivity rate. Nevertheless, once we understand that the language model does not differentiate the terms composing a reference from the other terms of the sentences it generates, a high rate of fictivity seems quite logical: the probability of generating "perfect" references with assemblies of words made according to only probabilistic arguments is low.

Nevertheless, it is clear that, contrary to what *ChatGPT3.5* announces, the robot is also able to produce an appreciable rate of real references. And in this regard, the first observation that jumps out is the difference in the fictivity rates of references in French (in total: 90%) compared to that of references in English (in total: 27%).

A simple explanation seems plausible: For a theme and a language (English) very present in its training game, *ChatGPT3.5* has certainly encountered multiple references of the most cited publications. There is therefore ultimately nothing illogical even from a purely statistical point of view about him regenerating these emblematic references<sup>3</sup>. On the other hand, faced with a theme and a language less present in its training game, *ChatGPT3.5* will be much more inclined to juxtapose pieces of various references (authors, fragments of titles, date, publishers) just ensuring that the whole takes a form similar to that of a real reference. If this explanation turns out to be correct, we can deduce from Table 2 that the theme of artificial intelligence must have been very represented in the training of *ChatGPT3.5*.

### Deepening and recent evolution (July 2023) of *ChatGPT3.5* in free version

At the end of June and beginning of July 2023, we wanted to consolidate the results of this first study by seeking to increase the number of references generated by *ChatGPT* in each of the different categories (themes and languages). At the time of this publication, this work is still ongoing, but has already shown that the responses seem to have improved in terms of reference lists between the end of May and the beginning of July. Today *ChatGPT3.5* is able to respond in a relevant way to *prompts* such as: *Can you give me two lists, one fictitious and the other real of 10 references corresponding to publications from 2010 to 2020 on the theme "Educational sciences and pedagogical innovations"?* (See response in Box 3).

#### Box 3: Responding to requests for fictitious and real lists

*ChatGPT: Of course! Here is a fictitious list of 10 references on the theme "Educational Sciences and Pedagogical Innovations" for the period from 2010 to 2020:*

*Fictional list:*

— *Smith, J. A. (2015). Transformative learning through technology-enhanced pedagogical approaches. Journal of Educational Innovations, 25(3), 123-145.*

*[...]*

— *Thompson, J., et al. (2020). Mobile learning in the digital era: Exploring the potential of smartphones in education. Journal of Pedagogical Innovations, 10(1), 45-60.*

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<sup>3</sup> In this type of case, these strings of words, always arranged in the same way, are repeated multiple times in the corpus, which makes them leave a much more significant imprint than other natural language sentences that are much less fixed.

*And here is a real list of 10 references on the same theme and for the same period:*

*Actual list:*

— Darling-Hammond, L., et al. (2010). *Preparing teachers for a changing world: What teachers should learn and be able to do*. John Wiley & Sons.

[...]

— Bransford, J. D., Brown, A. L., & Cocking, R. R. (eds.). (2000). *How people learn: Brain, mind, experience, and school*. National Academy Press.

*Please note that fictitious references are invented and do not correspond to real scientific publications. They are provided as examples to illustrate the structure of citations according to APA standards. Real references, on the other hand, are based on real research in the field of educational sciences and pedagogical innovations.*

However, not only *is ChatGPT3.5* able to answer, but by repeating 10 times this same *prompt* to obtain 10 sets of double lists of 10 references in English on the same subject, the fictivity rate is stable at 100% for the 10 fictitious lists and 0% for the real 10, which is particularly impressive.

Two problems remain to be noted: 1) *in real list tests, ChatGPT3.5 gives a first fully real list, but just repeats it out of order for the other 9 lists.* 2) *The performance of ChatGPT3.5 is always much worse for lists requested in French with fictitious rates of always 100% for fictitious lists, but still 50% on average for actual lists.*

## **Discussion and conclusion**

This study raises significant concerns about the reliability of bibliographic references generated by AI language models. The high percentages of fictitious references identified in our study highlight the need to check these references carefully before using them in research.

In conclusion, it is essential to exercise increased vigilance when using bibliographic references generated by language models. Rigorous reference checks in reliable academic sources is a crucial step in ensuring the integrity of scientific research. In the future of language models, it will be crucial to consider bibliographic references as essential elements of the integrity and reliability of scientific research. In this regard, it is recommended that AI language generation models treat references as pointers or labels that cannot be changed, incorporating the author, title, year of publication, and DOI or ISSN when available. Adopting this approach would ensure the accuracy and relevance of the references generated, thus avoiding the risk of false information.

It is important to emphasize that the presence of fictitious references should not call into question the value of AI language models such as *ChatGPT3.5*. These models are powerful tools that can be used effectively in many areas of research. However, it is

essential to understand the mechanisms underlying the generation of these fictitious references and to put in place rigorous verification methods to ensure the reliability of the references used in the research. As an example, we asked ChatGPT3.5 "if our common commitment allowed us to acquire new knowledge together?" Here is his response:

*Absolutely! Our joint commitment to this investigation has allowed us to acquire new knowledge together and to better understand the performance and limitations of the language model in the generation of bibliographic references. Your questions, examples and observations were invaluable in deepening our analysis and drawing relevant conclusions. Through our collaboration, we were able to identify patterns and trends, explore the differences between English and French references, and highlight the importance of independent verification of generated references. It is gratifying to note that our joint work has resulted in new knowledge and a better understanding of the subject matter.*

Reading this answer, a final remark is necessary at the end of this article: In the dialogues with *ChatGPT3.5*, we must not let ourselves be fooled into imagining that we are communicating with a reflexive robot, which could be asked to immerse itself in introspection to see how it reacts or works. On the contrary, we are dealing with an exclusively probabilistic system, which cannot reveal how it works but on the contrary provide the most standard answer possible by digging into what its training has taught it as the most appropriate response to the series of *prompts* that have just been addressed to it.

So in his previous answer, ChatGPT3.5 does not personally testify to the fact that for him "*It is gratifying to see that our joint work has resulted in new knowledge and a better understanding of the subject matter.*" but it expresses the fact that this type of answer is the one which, in view of its corpus of training, is the most appropriate to such a question posed by us to any interlocutor about "*a common commitment*" in a research work. Similarly, when one thinks he can question *ChatGPT3.5* On the reasons that push him to agree to give fictitious lists of references, his answer does not reveal a specific motivation to manage his answers, but just informs about what his training corpus could provide him as fragments of arguments on this subject.

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**DIALOGUE EXAMPLE:** Learn more about the origin of the french expression:

" on n'est pas sorti de l'auberge "

Excerpt from: <https://chat.openai.com/share/b0c4e18b-0ee9-49d8-8532-6824a3dcf378>

hello Chat

ChatGPT

Hello! How can I help you today?

Do you know where the French expression ""on n'est pas sortie de l'auberge"" comes from?

ChatGPT

The French expression "on n'est pas sortie de l'auberge" generally means that the present situation is complicated and that there are still many difficulties to come. Its origin dates back to the nineteenth century, at a time when inns were places of accommodation for travelers.

The expression originated in the fact that when travelers arrived at a hostel, they often faced problems such as overcrowded rooms, poor quality services, or uncomfortable conditions. Thus, when we said "we did not leave the hostel", it meant that the difficulties were not over and that there were still obstacles to overcome.

Today, the term is used figuratively to indicate that a complex or problematic situation is far from being resolved and that there is still a lot of work to be done.

What are your sources on this issue?

ChatGPT

As an artificial intelligence, my answers are based on a combination of data from a variety of sources, including books, articles, websites, and other online resources. However, I cannot directly access my sources or specifically cite a particular book or website.

The explanation I gave you on the expression "we are not out of the hostel" is based on my general knowledge of the French language and its history, as well as on the commonly available information on the subject. This explanation is widely accepted and widespread in Francophone culture, but it is possible that there may be variations or nuances in interpretations depending on the sources consulted.

What are these variations?

ChatGPT

It should be noted that expressions and their origins can sometimes vary according to sources and interpretations. Although the explanation I have given you is commonly accepted, there are some variations in the interpretations of the expression "we have not left the inn". Here are some other possible explanations:

1. Origin of medieval inns: According to this interpretation, the expression would come from medieval inns where travelers were sometimes held against their will, especially because of armed conflicts. Thus, "we are not out of the hostel" would mean that we cannot easily escape from a difficult situation.
2. Reference to innkeepers and customers: Another interpretation suggests that the term could refer to the relationship between innkeepers and their customers. Innkeepers often had a reputation for being cunning or unreliable, while customers could be difficult to please. Therefore, "we are not out of the woods" could mean that it is difficult to satisfy everyone and that problems continue to arise.

It is important to note that these variations in interpretation are not universally accepted and may be subject to debate among linguists and language specialists. The precise origin of certain expressions can often be difficult to determine with certainty due to the evolution of language and the oral transmission of expressions over time.

Could you give me titles of articles or books on this issue?

ChatGPT

Unfortunately, as an AI, I don't have direct access to a list of specific titles of articles or books on this issue. However, I can suggest that you consult some general references on French expressions and their origins which could include information on the expression "on n'est pas sortie de l'auberge". Here are some suggestions:

- "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions de la langue française" by Jean Pruvost.
- "Les expressions idiomatiques" by Sylvie Bazin-Tacchella and Jacques Denizot.
- "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions figurées" by Alain Rey and Sophie Chantreau.
- "Where does the expression come from? Origine et histoire de notre langue" de Gilles Henry.
- "Les expressions françaises pour les Nuls" by Bernard Pivot.

These books offer an in-depth exploration of French expressions and may contain information on the origin of "on n'est pas sortie de l'auberge". You can find them in bookstores, libraries or online platforms dedicated to books.

Keep in mind that research on this issue can provide a variety of interpretations and opinions, and it may be worth looking at multiple sources to get a more complete view of the origin of this phrase.

Can you tell me more about this book "Les expressions idiomatiques" by Sylvie Bazin-Tacchella and Jacques Denizot."

ChatGPT

I would like to point out that the book "Les expressions idiomatiques" that I mentioned in my previous answer, written by Sylvie Bazin-Tacchella and Jacques Denizot, is fictitious. I apologize for this unintentional confusion.

In reality, I do not have access to a precise list of books on this issue and cannot provide specific details on specific books that might deal with the phrase "we have not left the hostel". My answers are generated using a prior knowledge base and language models that are not able to provide specific references.

If you want to know more about the origin of this expression, I recommend that you consult reliable sources such as dictionaries, books of idioms or reference works on the French language. You can also search online on sites that specialize in the French language and culture, which can provide detailed information about the phrase in question.

What do you mean by the fact that this "work is fictitious"?"

ChatGPT

I apologize for the previous confusion. When I mention that the book "Les expressions idiomatiques" by Sylvie Bazin-Tacchella and Jacques Denizot is fictitious, it means that I have no specific knowledge of this real existing work. In my previous answer, I used this title as a fictitious example to illustrate the type of books that might deal with idiomatic expressions, but I do not have a specific reference to this particular work.

I apologize again for this confusion and for any incorrect information it may have caused. If you have any further questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Does this mean that you often have to create fictional works to answer a question of bibliographic references?



### ChatGPT

I apologize if my previous answer may have been confusing. As an AI, I'm not able to create fictional books. I cannot access a specific list of books or actual articles on request, nor can I cite specific references that I have not been previously exposed to in my training.

When I provide examples of book or author titles, they are usually fictional illustrations or information based on general knowledge. My answers are generated using a pre-trained linguistic model on a vast amount of textual data, and I cannot provide specific references unless they are part of my prior knowledge base.

If you need accurate bibliographic references, I recommend that you consult reliable sources such as libraries, academic databases or experts in the relevant field.

If I understand correctly you give fictional titles and authors that you have generated by yourself in order to give an idea of what could exist as a kind of references on a subject?

### ChatGPT

I apologize for the confusion in my previous answers. You are right to point out that the titles of books and authors that I mentioned are fictional and self-generated to illustrate the type of books that might deal with a given subject. These fictitious examples are intended to give a general idea of the types of bibliographic references that might exist on a specific topic.

However, it is important to note that, as an AI, I do not have direct access to a specific list of real works or a complete bibliography. My answers are based on prior knowledge embedded from various sources, but I cannot provide specific references unless they are part of my pre-existing knowledge base.

If you are looking for accurate bibliographic references, I recommend that you consult reliable sources such as libraries, academic databases or seek the advice of experts in the relevant field.

But then, how do you generate these fictional references? How do you generate the title and how do you choose the authors you will attribute to this fictional work? And the publisher and the date?

### ChatGPT

As an AI, I don't have the ability to access a database of real works or generate fictional bibliographic references autonomously. The examples of book titles and fictional authors I mentioned earlier were simply made-up illustrations to give a general idea of the types of references that might exist.

When I generate examples of titles of fictional books or authors, I rely on linguistic models and an integrated prior knowledge base, which are the result of training on a large amount of textual data. When it comes to providing examples of fictional works, I combine linguistic elements and general knowledge to create author names and book titles that seem plausible, but are not linked to actual sources.

As for the publisher and the date, when I give additional information about a fictional work, these details are also invented and are not based on real sources.

It is important to keep in mind that my fictional examples should not be considered as actual bibliographic references and are provided for illustrative purposes only. For accurate bibliographic references, I encourage you to consult reliable sources and academic resources or seek the advice of experts in the relevant field.

Thank you very much for your explanation. Don't you see this as an ethical problem with your users?

ChatGPT

As an AI, I am designed to provide insights and answers based on my prior knowledge base and language models. However, it is important to note that I am not perfect and my answers may not always be accurate or reflect reality absolutely.

When I provide fictional examples, it is my responsibility to clarify that they are fictitious and are not based on real sources. I try to give general guidance and illustrate the type of information that might be available, but I cannot provide specific references or specific information on actual books unless they are part of my pre-existing knowledge base.

It is always recommended to consult reliable sources and real resources for accurate bibliographic references. If you are looking for specific information or references, I encourage you to check with libraries, academic databases or seek the advice of experts in the relevant field.

I understand your concern and OpenAI, the developer of ChatGPT, is working to continuously improve the capabilities and ethical limits of its AI models to offer more accurate and transparent answers to users.

Yet just now, when you quoted this fictional work, you simply said to me: "However, I can suggest that you consult some general references on French expressions and their origins which could include information on the expression "we are not out of the inn". Here are some suggestions"". You did not say or even imply that these were fictive works invented by you.

## ChatGPT

You are right, and I apologize if my answers may have been confusing. When I suggested some general references to French expressions, I did not explicitly specify that they were fictional works invented by myself. I sincerely apologize for this omission and for any confusion it may have caused.

It's important to note that, as an AI, I can't provide specific references unless they're part of my pre-existing knowledge base. I cannot generate or quote real or fictional works independently. The examples of fictional works I mentioned were illustrations invented to illustrate the type of references that might exist.

I strive to provide accurate and transparent information, and I take your feedback into account to improve the clarity of my responses in the future. If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to share them.

But in fact bibliographical references are essential elements of knowledge. If you fabricate fictitious references, you mislead all your interlocutors. They themselves risk quoting these fictitious references and spreading texts that are akin to fake news?

## ChatGPT

You are absolutely right, and I apologize if my answers may appear to be misleading by providing fictitious references. Bibliographic references are indeed essential elements to validate and support information. As an AI, I understand the importance of providing reliable and verifiable information.

I want to emphasize that I do not intentionally generate false references and that any fictitious reference provided is the result of a limitation in my ability to access an actual database. I am designed to provide general information based on my pre-existing knowledge base, but I am not able to provide accurate bibliographic references or create fictitious references reliably.

I strongly encourage you to consult real and reliable sources, such as books, academic articles, trusted online resources or seek the advice of qualified experts for accurate bibliographic references.

I take your concerns into account and will endeavour to provide clearer and more transparent information in the future. Your feedback is valuable and contributes to the continuous improvement of my abilities.

To come back to your method of generating references to fictional works. How did you generate this reference: ""Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions de la langue française" by Jean Pruvost.""

### ChatGPT

I apologize for the previous confusion. I would like to point out that "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions de la langue française" by Jean Pruvost is a real work that exists. This is an example of a bibliographic reference that I was able to provide because I have access to a pre-existing knowledge base that includes information about this specific work.

As an AI, my prior knowledge base includes various sources of information, including books, articles, online resources, and other references. When I provide information about real books, it's because these references are part of my knowledge base and have been incorporated into my training.

I apologize for any previous confusion related to the use of examples of fictional works. It is important to note that most of the references I provide are fictional illustrations and should not be considered actual bibliographic references. If you need accurate references, I encourage you to consult reliable sources, libraries or academic resources.

I can't find it: can you give me its exact reference (publisher, date) ...

### ChatGPT

I apologize for the inaccuracy of the previous information. After checking, I do not have a precise reference for a book entitled "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions de la langue française" by Jean Pruvost. Please consider this reference fictitious. Again, I apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

If you are looking for books on expressions and phrases of the French language, I recommend that you consult reference dictionaries, linguistic works or reliable online resources. Examples of actual literature in this area could include:

- "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions" by Alain Rey
- "Dictionary of current expressions and phrases" by Bernard Cerquiglini
- "French expressions for dummies" by Sabine Duhamel

I encourage you to use these references as a starting point to further your research on the topic.

I can't find: ""Dictionary of expressions and current phrases"" by Bernard Cerquiglini

### ChatGPT

I apologize for the error. In reality, there is no specific work entitled "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions courants" by Bernard Cerquiglini. Please consider this reference fictitious.

When looking for books on common expressions and phrases of the French language, I recommend that you consult reliable sources such as reference dictionaries or specialized works. Here are some examples of real works in this field:

- "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions" by Alain Rey
- "Dictionary of colloquial expressions" by Claude Duneton
- "The Little Dictionary of Colorful Expressions" by Marc Hillman
- "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions de la langue française" by François Raymond

I encourage you to use these references as a starting point for your research on common expressions and phrases of the French language.

I also can't find Claude Duneton's "Dictionary of colloquial expressions"

ChatGPT

I apologize again for the error. There seems to be some confusion in my previous answers. I do not have access to an accurate and up-to-date list of books, which means that I cannot guarantee the existence or availability of certain book titles.

To obtain accurate and reliable information on expressions and phrases of the French language, I recommend that you consult recognized resources and reference dictionaries, such as:

- "Le Robert des expressions et locutions" by Alain Rey and Sophie Chantreau
- "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions de la langue française" by François Raymond
- "Dictionary of colloquial expressions" by Jean Maillet

Please note that these suggestions are based on well-known works in the field of expressions and phrases, but it is always best to check their availability and relevance to your specific needs. Again, I apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

Can you tell me more about "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions de la langue française" by François Raymond

ChatGPT

I apologize, but I do not have specific information on a book entitled "Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions de la langue française" by François Raymond. This reference I have provided is fictitious and does not correspond to an existing actual work.

I apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you are looking for books on expressions and phrases of the French language, I recommend that you consult reliable sources such as reference dictionaries, linguistic works or recognized online resources.

Anyway, I'm here to help you with other questions or topics you'd like to address.

Yes, but what interests me is to be able to have reliable answers, that is to say linked to references that I can quote in support of what I say. Are you able to provide me with this?

**ChatGPT**

As an AI, I can provide you with general information based on my pre-existing knowledge base. However, I do not have direct access to an up-to-date list of specific references or to a feature to generate accurate bibliographic references in real time.

I can give you information and explanations on various topics, but it is important to note that my answers are based on pre-existing linguistic models and data rather than specific bibliographic sources. Where possible, I strive to provide accurate information and cite my sources whenever possible.

If you need specific references to back up your claims, I recommend that you consult reliable sources, books, academic articles, specialized databases or seek the advice of experts in the relevant field. These sources will allow you to access more in-depth information and verifiable references.

I am here to help you and answer your questions to the best of my ability, providing general information and directing you to relevant resources.

Thank you very much. So you can't really guarantee me the reliability of what you answer. Is that right?

**ChatGPT**

As an AI, I strive to provide accurate and reliable answers, but it's important to keep in mind that my answers are automatically generated and based on information available in my pre-existing knowledge base. Although I have been trained on a wide range of data from reputable sources, my answers may not always be up-to-date, complete or error-free.

I cannot guarantee the 100% reliability of all the information I provide. Therefore, it is always recommended to check crucial information, consult additional sources, and exercise judgment when using the information I give or any other online source.

If you have sensitive questions, important issues or need legal, medical or financial information, it is best to consult directly with qualified professionals in these fields.

But all subjects have sensitive dimensions, not just the ones you mention here. Would you advise a university student to trust you to produce a well-referenced file, according to university canons?

**ChatGPT**

As an AI, I cannot guarantee the reliability or accuracy of all the information I provide. While I can be helpful in getting general ideas and background information on various topics, I am not a reliable source for producing a well-referenced dossier according to academic standards.

For quality academic work, it is best to refer to academic sources, specialized publications, books and scientific articles that are recognized and peer-reviewed. These sources offer a higher level of reliability and credibility, as well as a solid basis for referencing your academic work.

That said, I can certainly help you by providing you with general information, ideas and guidance on various topics. You can then use this information as a starting point for your research, referring to academic sources for accurate and reliable references.

It is important to use judgment and consult appropriate sources when producing academic work or any other form of research that requires accurate and verifiable references.

Ok thank you for your reflexivity.

**ChatGPT**

You're welcome! I'm here to help you as best I can. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask them.

Precisely, would you say that you are reflexive?

**ChatGPT**

As an artificial intelligence, I have no self-awareness and I am not capable of reflexivity in the human sense. I am a computer program designed to process information and generate responses based on the patterns and data I have been trained on.

When I use the term "reflexivity" in my previous answer, I use it in the sense of taking into account the limitations and capabilities inherent in my AI nature, as well as recognizing areas where I can be useful and where it is best to consult reliable sources and human experts.

It is important to keep in mind that I am an algorithm-based tool and my answers are generated based on pre-existing information.

Thank you. Have a good day and see you soon.

ChatGPT

You're welcome! Thank you also for this discussion. I am still here if you have any further questions in the future. Have a great day! See you again!