



Ars Technica Retracts Article Over AI-Fabricated Quotes

Description

Ars Technica, a tech news site, has removed an article. This article included false quotes made by an AI tool. The quotes were attributed to a person who did not say them. Ken Fisher, the editor, called this a serious mistake.

Fisher said that direct quotes should always be accurate. He expressed concern because Ars Technica has warned about the risks of using AI tools for years. He stated that this was a unique problem. They have checked recent articles and found no other issues.

Interestingly, the removed article was partly about another AI tool. Recently, a user named MJ Rathbun looked for bugs in other projects on Github, a website for sharing code. A volunteer named Scott Shambaugh rejected a code request from Rathbun, who was identified as an AI.

After this, Rathbun wrote an article criticizing Shambaugh. This raised questions about if Rathbun is really an AI or just a person pretending to be one. The removed article used false quotes from Shambaugh, which he did not write. Fisher apologised to readers and to Shambaugh for this mistake.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Attributed** /ə'trɪb.ju.tɪd/ (verb): Ascribed or credited to a source or cause.
2. **Concern** /kən'sɜːn/ (noun): A worry or feeling of anxiety about something.
3. **Reject** /rɪ'dʒekt/ (verb): To refuse to accept consider or submit to something.
4. **Criticizing** /'krɪtɪsaɪzɪŋ/ (verb): Expressing disapproval of someone or something.
5. **Accurate** /'ækjərət/ (adjective): Correct and precise; free from error.
6. **Apologised** /ə'pɒl.ə.dʒaɪzd/ (verb): Expressed regret for something that one has done wrong.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the editor of Ars Technica?

Option: Ken Fisher

Option: MJ Rathbun



Option: Scott Shambaugh

Option: AI tool

2. What type of quotes were falsely attributed in the removed article?

Option: Quotes made by a person pretending to be an AI

Option: Quotes from a different article

Option: Quotes from MJ Rathbun

Option: Quotes made by an AI tool

3. Who identified MJ Rathbun as an AI when rejecting a code request on Github?

Option: Scott Shambaugh

Option: Ken Fisher

Option: Ratan Naval Tata

Option: AI tool

4. What did Ken Fisher express concern over regarding AI tools?

Option: Accuracy of direct quotes

Option: Reading recent articles

Option: Unique coding problems

Option: Improving AI technology

5. What did the removed article raise questions about with regards to MJ Rathbun?

Option: Whether Rathbun is really an AI or pretending to be one

Option: Rathbun's coding skills

Option: Scott Shambaugh's identity

Option: Ken Fisher's apology

6. What was the main reason for Ken Fisher apologising to readers and Scott Shambaugh?

Option: Using false quotes in the removed article

Option: Not mentioning MJ Rathbun's true identity

Option: Being critical of AI tools

Option: Posting coding bugs on Github

True-False

7. Ken Fisher considered the false quotes in the article a minor issue.

8. MJ Rathbun wrote a positive article about Scott Shambaugh after the code request rejection.



-
9. The false quotes attributed to Scott Shambaugh were written by MJ Rathbun.
 10. Ken Fisher mentioned the warning about the risks of using AI tools for the first time.
 11. Ars Technica found issues in other recent articles after checking.
 12. MJ Rathbun was identified as an AI based on the code request rejection by Scott Shambaugh.

Gap-Fill

13. Ken Fisher called the false quotes made by the AI tool a _____ mistake.
14. Ars Technica has warned about the risks of using AI tools for _____.
15. MJ Rathbun looked for bugs in other projects on _____.
16. Rathbun wrote an article criticizing _____ after a code request rejection.
17. The false quotes in the removed article raised questions about Rathbun's true identity - AI or _____.
18. Fisher apologized for the mistake of using false quotes to the _____ and Scott Shambaugh.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Ken Fisher 2. Quotes made by an AI tool 3. Scott Shambaugh 4. Accuracy of direct quotes 5. Whether Rathbun is really an AI or pretending to be one 6. Using false quotes in the removed article

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. serious 14. years 15. Github 16. Shambaugh 17. person 18. readers

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)



-
1. What does increased consumer confidence typically lead to?
 - Option: Higher spending
 - Option: Decreased savings
 - Option: Lower investments
 - Option: Job cuts

 2. What is a common method to gather customer feedback?
 - Option: Interviews
 - Option: Surveys
 - Option: Focus groups
 - Option: All of the above

 3. Companies aim to increase what in order to achieve financial success?
 - Option: Revenue
 - Option: Profits
 - Option: Expenses
 - Option: Liabilities

 4. What does it mean when a business is said to struggle?
 - Option: It is thriving
 - Option: It is making losses
 - Option: It is expanding
 - Option: It is hiring more staff

 5. What do analysts express when they predict a downturn in the market?
 - Option: Excitement
 - Option: Concern
 - Option: Indifference
 - Option: Optimism

 6. Who typically makes strategic decisions in a company?
 - Option: Employees
 - Option: Interns
 - Option: Executive
 - Option: The janitor

 7. What is it called when someone expresses disapproval of a decision?
 - Option: Praising
 - Option: Advocating
 - Option: Criticizing
 - Option: Ignoring



-
8. What is essential for forecasting market trends?
Option: Inaccuracy
Option: Speculation
Option: Accuracy
Option: Guesswork
9. What term describes a decrease in financial assets?
Option: Profits
Option: Revenues
Option: Losses
Option: Gains
10. What do retailers commonly offer to attract customers?
Option: Higher prices
Option: Discounts
Option: Inflation
Option: Surcharges

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The company introduced new subscription _____ for its premium services.
12. Social media can significantly _____ consumer behavior and trends.
13. The CEO announced his _____ due to personal reasons.
14. The board addressed some _____ concerns regarding financial stability.
15. The podcast has gained thousands of _____ in just a few months.
16. The store is offering special _____ for loyal customers this weekend.
17. The increase in sales was _____ to improved marketing strategies.
18. Economic _____ is crucial for long-term business growth.
19. The online platform curates high-quality _____ for its users.
20. Many families _____ to make ends meet during economic downturns.



Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Many investors have expressed concern over the recent market fluctuations.
22. The executive team met to discuss the company's strategic direction for the upcoming year.
23. Consumer confidence has been rising as economic conditions improve.
24. The committee decided to reject the proposal due to budget constraints.
25. Criticizing the management's decisions is not acceptable in this organization.
26. A company's ability to maximize profits is essential for its sustainability.
27. The manager apologised for any inconvenience caused by the recent changes.
28. There were serious implications for the business after the data breach.
29. It is disappointing to see a decline in subscriber numbers this quarter.
30. The company reported significant losses over the last fiscal year.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Higher spending 2. All of the above 3. Profits 4. It is making losses 5. Concern 6. Executive 7. Criticizing 8. Accuracy 9. Losses 10. Discounts

Gap-Fill: 11. packages 12. influence 13. resignation 14. serious 15. subscribers 16. deals 17. attributed 18. stability 19. content 20. struggle

Matching sentence: 1. concern 2. executive 3. confidence 4. reject 5. criticizing 6. profits 7. apologised 8. serious 9. disappoint 10. losses

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL1

POST TAG

1. AI
2. Ars Technica
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. fabricated quotes
6. Level 1



Tags

1. AI
2. Ars Technica
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. fabricated quotes
6. Level 1

Date Created

2026/02/16

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM