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Food packaging warnings should be on AI books – 13th February 2025

Level 0

Poet Peter Mackay wants books to have AI warning labels. He is worried about the damage AI is doing to the book business. He said AI "could be disastrous for new people...in the profession". He said it is now hard to make money as a writer. This is because AI uses "all the knowledge of every book written".

Mr Mackay thinks people should know if AI or a person wrote a book. He said a label on the book could show if a book is "100 per cent AI-free". His idea comes just before the USA refused to sign an agreement on keeping AI "clean". The US said too many controls on AI could "kill" it, "just as it's taking off".

Level 1

written by artificial intelligence (AI). He is worried about the damage AI is doing to the book industry. He wants food label-style warnings on AI books. He said he is worried about AI in the creation of new literature and books. He said it "could be disastrous for new people...in the profession". He said it is now hard to make a living as a writer because AI uses "all the knowledge of every book written".

Mr Mackay wants a mark that shows whether AI or a person wrote a book. He thinks the public needs to know about the level of AI input in a book. He said information could show if a book is "100 per cent AI-free". His idea comes just before the USA refused to sign an agreement on AI to keep it "clean". The US said too much regulation of AI could "kill a transformative industry just as it's taking off". It said "pro-growth AI policies" were important.

Level 2

A poet from Scotland wants warnings to be put on books written by artificial intelligence (AI). Peter Mackay is Scotland's national poet. He is worried about the damage AI is doing to the publishing industry. He wants food packaging-style health warnings on AI-generated books. He told the BBC: "I have got huge concerns about AI in terms of the creation of new literature [and] new books, partly because...it could be disastrous for new people...in the profession." He added: "It's [now] very hard to make a living as a writer." This is because AI uses "all the knowledge of every book written".

Mr Mackay wants new books to have a mark that shows whether AI or a person wrote it. The mark could be like those on food labels. Mackay thinks the public needs to know about the level of AI input in a book. He said information could show if a book is "100 per cent AI-free or 100 per cent organically produced". Mackay's idea comes just before the USA and UK refused to sign an agreement on AI to keep it "clean". The US Vice President said too much regulation of AI could "kill a transformative industry just as it's taking off". He said "pro-growth AI policies" were more important than safety.

Level 3

A leading poet and writer from Scotland has called for warnings to be put on books written by artificial intelligence (AI). Peter Mackay became Scotland's national poet in December last year. He is concerned about the damage AI could do to the publishing industry. He wants food packaging-style health warnings on all AI-generated books. He told the BBC: "I have got huge concerns about AI in terms of the creation of new literature and the creation of new books, partly because, as a writer, it could be disastrous for new people who are in the profession." He added: "It's very hard to make a living as a writer anyway, and [now] you are having to compete with [all the] knowledge of every book written."

Mr Mackay wants all new books to have a special mark that shows whether AI or a person wrote it. He said the symbol could be like those used on food packaging. He believes the public needs to know about the level of AI input in a book. One idea is that information could show if a book is "100 per cent AI-free or 100 per cent organically produced". Mr Mackay's call comes just before the USA and UK refused to sign an international agreement on AI to keep it "clean" and "ethical". US Vice President JD Vance said too much regulation of AI could "kill a transformative industry just as it's taking off". He said "pro-growth AI policies" were more important than safety.