

***Exploring the utilisation of ChatGPT by law students in academic institutions: A self-reflection perspective.***

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# NWU LIS Facilities



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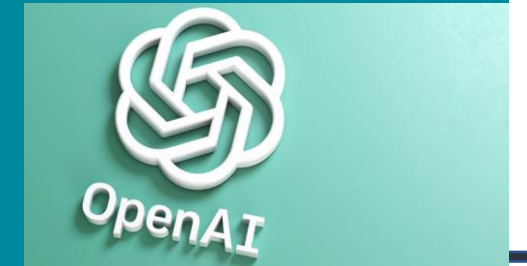
# NWU Vaal campus – where nature meets academia in perfect harmony

Bibliotheca Alexandrina  
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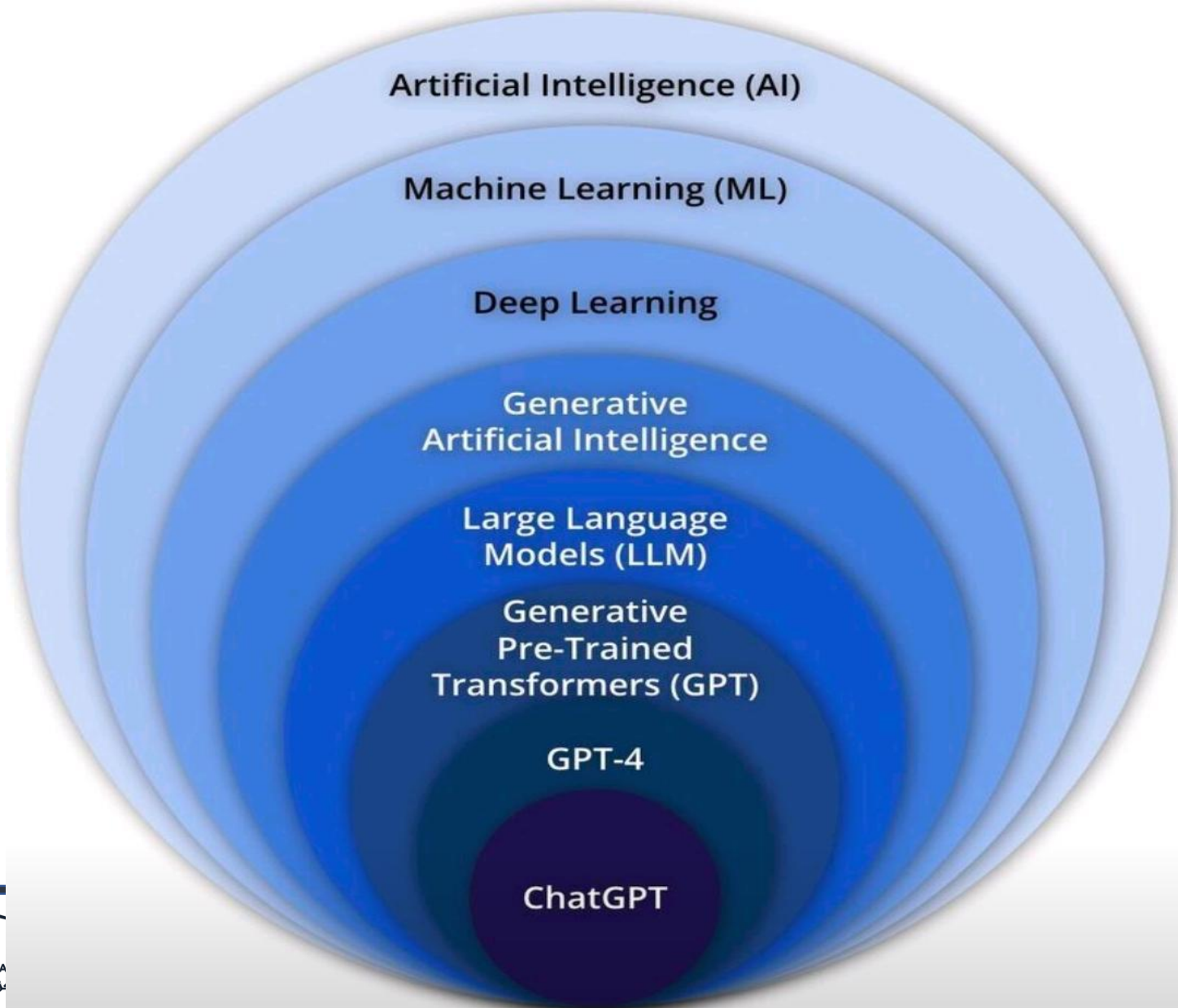


# What is OpenAI?

- ❖ It is an artificial intelligence research laboratory with a team of researchers and engineers dedicated to creating advanced AI systems that can benefit society as a whole. Elon Musk is one of the founders of OpenAI based in San Francisco
- ❖ OpenAI is committed to advancing the field of AI and creating new technologies.
- ❖ Its researchers are working on a wide range of projects
- ❖ AI are Machines simulating human intelligence (e.g. problem solving)



# Introduction of AI and ChatGPT



# ChatGPT and its capabilities

- ❖ “ChatGPT is an AI-powered language model that uses natural language processing techniques to simulate human-like conversation and provide intelligent responses to users.” (OpenAI, 30 March 2023).
- ❖ The term “Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT)” refers to a language processing model trained on massive data to produce writing that resembles a person’s.
- ❖ AI is probably the most important thing humanity has ever worked on. I think of it as something more profound than electricity or fire – Google CEO Sundar Pichai (2018).
- ❖ AI will reach human levels by around 2029 – Ray Kurzweil.
- ❖ “AI is not your enemy, but your friend” – Prof Arthur Mutambara- Director and Full Professor of the Institute for the Future of Knowledge (IFK) at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in South Africa
- ❖ The development of human intelligence could spell the end of the human race..it could take off on its own, and re-design itself at an ever-increasing rate. Humans who are limited by slow biological evolution, could not compete and would be superseded – Stephen Hawking, English theoretical physicist and cosmologist
- ❖ I visualise a time when we will be to robots what dogs are to humans, and am rooting for the machines – Claude Shannon.

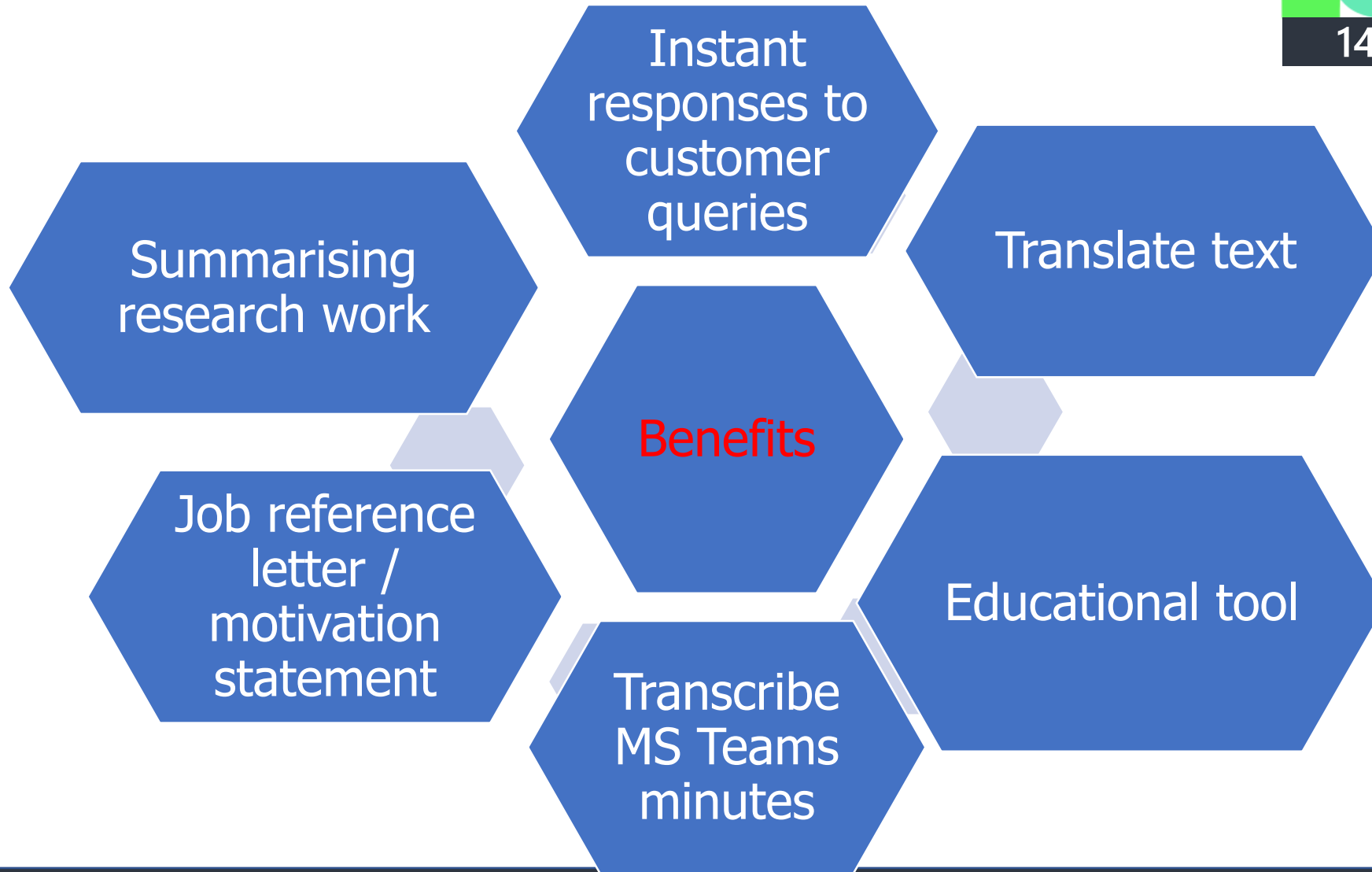
# ChatGPT highlights

Owned by	OpenAI
Launch date	30 November 2022
User count	Over 100 million
Knowledge base	Till September 2021
Daily users	13 million users per day
Queries per day	10 million approximately
Forecasted revenue	\$200 m by end of 2023; \$1billion by end of 2024 (OpenAI, 2023)

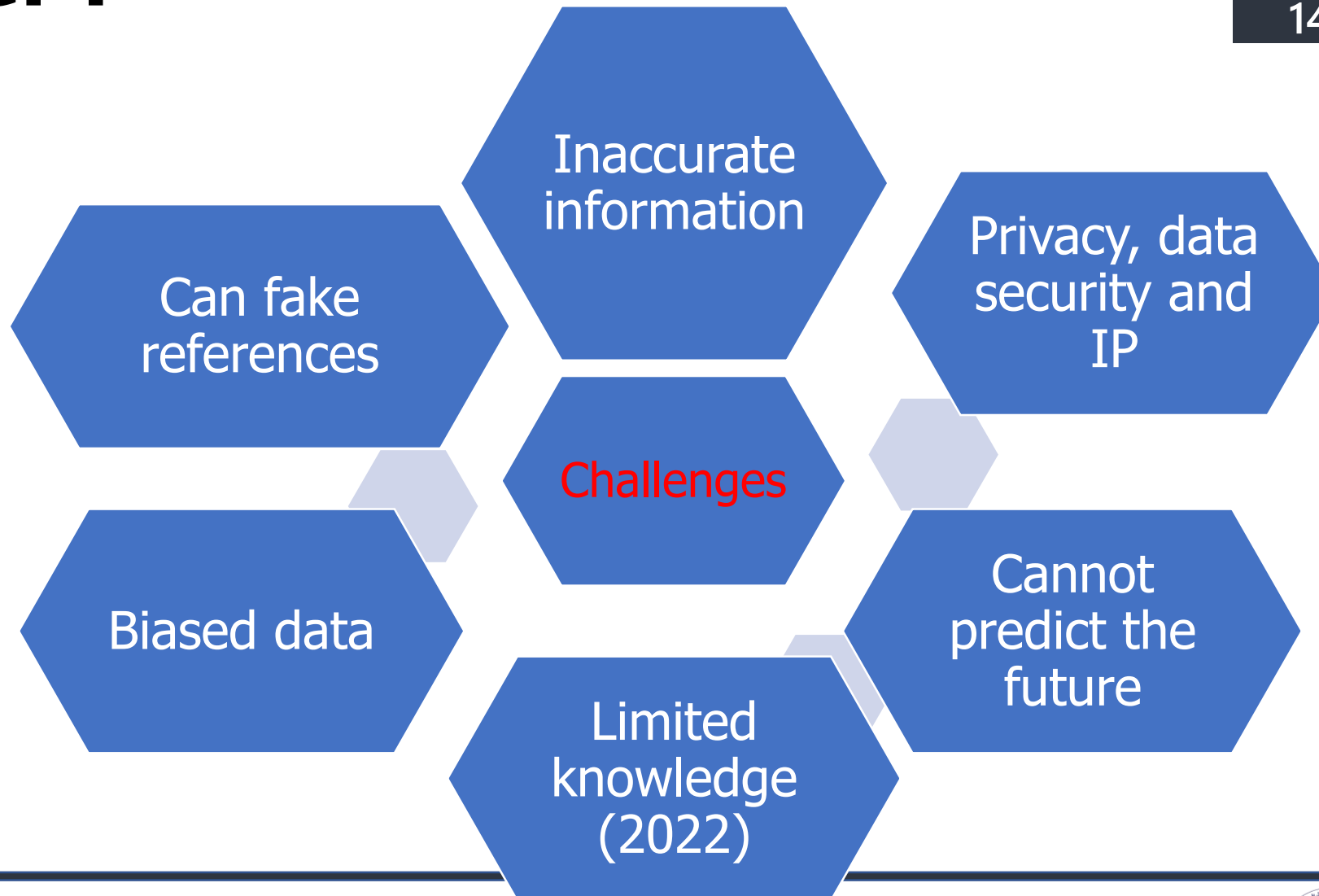
# Research questions

- ❖ To explore the significant utilisation / application of ChatGPT by law students at tertiary institutions.
- ❖ To identify what education needs of law students can be fulfilled by ChatGPT

# Benefits of using ChatGPT for law students



# Challenges and limitations of using ChatGPT



#	Item	How law students can use ChatGPT
1	<b>Legal Research Assistance</b>	ChatGPT can help law students find <b>relevant legal precedents, case law, statutes, and scholarly articles</b> by providing summaries, explanations, and guidance on legal topics e.g. find relevant case dealt with death penalty in SA.
2	<b>Writing Support:</b>	Students can use ChatGPT <b>to brainstorm ideas</b> , outline papers, and receive feedback on drafts. It can assist in <b>improving writing style, grammar</b> , and clarity in legal documents such as memos, briefs, and essays
3	<b>Study Aid</b>	ChatGPT can serve as a study companion, <b>answering questions about complex legal concepts</b> , clarifying confusing topics, and providing additional context or examples to aid in understanding
4	<b>Legal analysis</b>	Students can engage with ChatGPT to analyse hypothetical scenarios, <b>assess the strengths and weaknesses of legal arguments</b> , and explore alternative interpretations of laws and regulations e.g. views on abortion.
5	<b>Legal Ethics Discussions:</b>	ChatGPT can facilitate discussions on <b>ethical dilemmas in the legal profession</b> , providing perspectives and insights that encourage critical thinking and debate among students.
6	<b>Mock Trials and Moot Court Preparation :</b>	ChatGPT can help students prepare for mock trials and moot court competitions by <b>providing feedback on arguments, suggesting strategies, and simulating questioning by opposing counsel</b>
7	<b>Continuing Legal Education (CLE):</b>	Law professionals can use ChatGPT to stay updated on recent legal developments, <b>discuss emerging trends in the legal field</b> , and seek guidance on challenging cases or issues they encounter in practice. (OpenAI, 2024)

# Research methodology



- ❖ Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) - perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness of a technology are key determinants of users' intentions to adopt and use that technology
- ❖ Qualitative analysis
- ❖ Self-reflection as a methodological lens (asking questions to ChatGPT (Chen 2023, Lund 2023, Ramabina 2024)).

# Q: Find a court case which dealt with death penalty in South Africa?



- ❖ *One notable court case in South Africa dealing with the death penalty is the case of State v Makwanyane and Mchunu (1995). This case was a landmark decision by the Constitutional Court of South Africa regarding the constitutionality of the death penalty under the post-apartheid constitution.*
- ❖ *In this case, the Constitutional Court ruled that the death penalty was unconstitutional and violated various provisions of the South African Constitution, including the right to life and the prohibition of cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment. The Court held that the death penalty was not compatible with the values of a democratic society based on human dignity, equality, and respect for human rights.*
- ❖ *The decision in State v Makwanyane and Mchunu effectively abolished the death penalty in South Africa, making it one of the few countries in the world to have permanently abolished capital punishment through its highest court (OpenAI, 2024).*

# Q: What is the National Health Insurance (NHI) in South African law?



*The National Health Insurance (NHI) in South African law refers to a proposed healthcare financing system aimed at providing universal healthcare coverage to all citizens of South Africa. The NHI is outlined in the National Health Insurance Bill, which was introduced to Parliament in 2019.*

*Equitable Access: Ensuring that all South Africans have access to quality healthcare services regardless of their socio-economic status or geographic location.*

*Financial Protection: Providing financial risk protection against the costs of healthcare services, thereby reducing the financial burden on individuals and families.*

*Improved Health Outcomes: Enhancing the overall health outcomes of the population by promoting preventive healthcare, early intervention, and comprehensive healthcare services.*

*Efficiency and Sustainability: Streamlining the healthcare system to improve efficiency, reduce waste, and ensure the sustainable financing of healthcare services.*

*Key features of the NHI include the establishment of a single-payer system, where the government acts as the sole purchaser of healthcare services on behalf of the population. Funding for the NHI will come from a combination of general taxes, payroll taxes, and other revenue sources.*

*The implementation of the NHI is expected to be phased over several years, with a focus on strengthening primary healthcare services, improving infrastructure, and building institutional capacity within the healthcare system. Once fully implemented, the NHI aims to transform the South African healthcare system into one that is more equitable, accessible, and responsive to the needs of all citizens (OpenAI, 2024).*

# Q: Provide 3 court cases which dealt with rape in South Africa?

- 1. State v. Jackson (2003):** In this case, the accused, Simon Jackson, was charged with the rape and murder of an 11-year-old girl. The case gained significant attention due to the brutality of the crime and the age of the victim. Jackson was found guilty of rape and murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment.
- 2. State v. Zuma (2006):** This case involved Jacob Zuma, who was then the Deputy President of South Africa and later became the President. Zuma was charged with the rape of a family friend's HIV-positive daughter at his home in Johannesburg. Zuma was acquitted of the charges, but the trial raised important discussions about consent, HIV/AIDS awareness, and power dynamics in sexual assault cases.
- 3. State v. Duduzane Zuma (2019):** Duduzane Zuma, the son of former President Jacob Zuma, was accused of raping a woman in a hotel room in Johannesburg in 2018. The case drew public attention due to Zuma's prominent family background. Zuma pleaded not guilty to the charges, and the case was ongoing as of the last available information.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the SAFLII (Southern African Legal Information Institute) website. The URL in the address bar is <https://www.saflii.org/za/cases/ZASCA/1998/13.html>. The page header includes the SAFLII logo and navigation links: About SAFLII, Databases, Search, Terms of Use, and RSS Feeds. The main content area displays the case title "South Africa: Supreme Court of Appeal" and a breadcrumb trail: "You are here: SAFLII >> Databases >> South Africa: Supreme Court of Appeal >> 1998 >> [1998] ZASCA 13". A green "DONATE TO SAFLII >>>" button is visible on the right. The case citation is "S v Jackson (35/97) [1998] ZASCA 13; 1998 (4) BCLR 424 (SCA) ; [1998] 2 All SA 267 (A) (20 March 1998)". Below the citation are links to "Download original files" in PDF and RTF formats. A "SAFLII Note" states: "Certain personal/private details of parties or witnesses have been redacted from this document in compliance with the law and SAFLII Policy." The footer of the page includes "REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA" and "REPORTABLE". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with the date 2024/05/17 and time 12:40.

## Q: Who is the current President of Egypt?

*As of my last update in January 2022, the President of Egypt was Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. However, please verify with current sources as political positions can change.*

## Q: Which is the longest river in the world?

*The longest river in the world is the Nile River, located in northeastern Africa. It flows through multiple countries including Egypt, Sudan, Uganda, and others, and has a total length of about 6,650 kilometers (4,130 miles).*

# Identify this South African caselaw NWU Assignment 16 July 2024:

Mr. X was sentenced in court for housebreaking and indecent assault arising from an incident where he climbed through an open window into the room of a sleeping woman and proceeded to assault her. He received a suspended sentence for both crimes. Six months later, Mr. X attempted to rape and murder another woman. He was arrested and appeared in court the next day. The Police investigating officer for the case made a note to the prosecutor handling the case to indicate that there was no reason to deny the accused bail. The prosecutor did not oppose bail or place any evidence of Mr. X's previous convictions before the court. Mr. X was released on his own recognisance and warned to appear on a later court date. A few days later, Mr. X broke into a house and proceeded to assault Mrs. Y. Mr. X was again arrested and charged with several counts, including attempted murder. Mrs Y instituted a delictual claim for damages against the Minister for Safety and Security and the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. Mrs. Y wished to hold the respondents (the Ministers) liable for the alleged wrongful acts or omissions of the police and the prosecutors (for failing to oppose bail for Mr. X) when they were acting in the course and scope of their employment with the state. The case was heard in the High Court and the Supreme Court of Appeal, where the case was dismissed. Mrs Y then approached the Constitutional Court.

# ChatGPT Answer

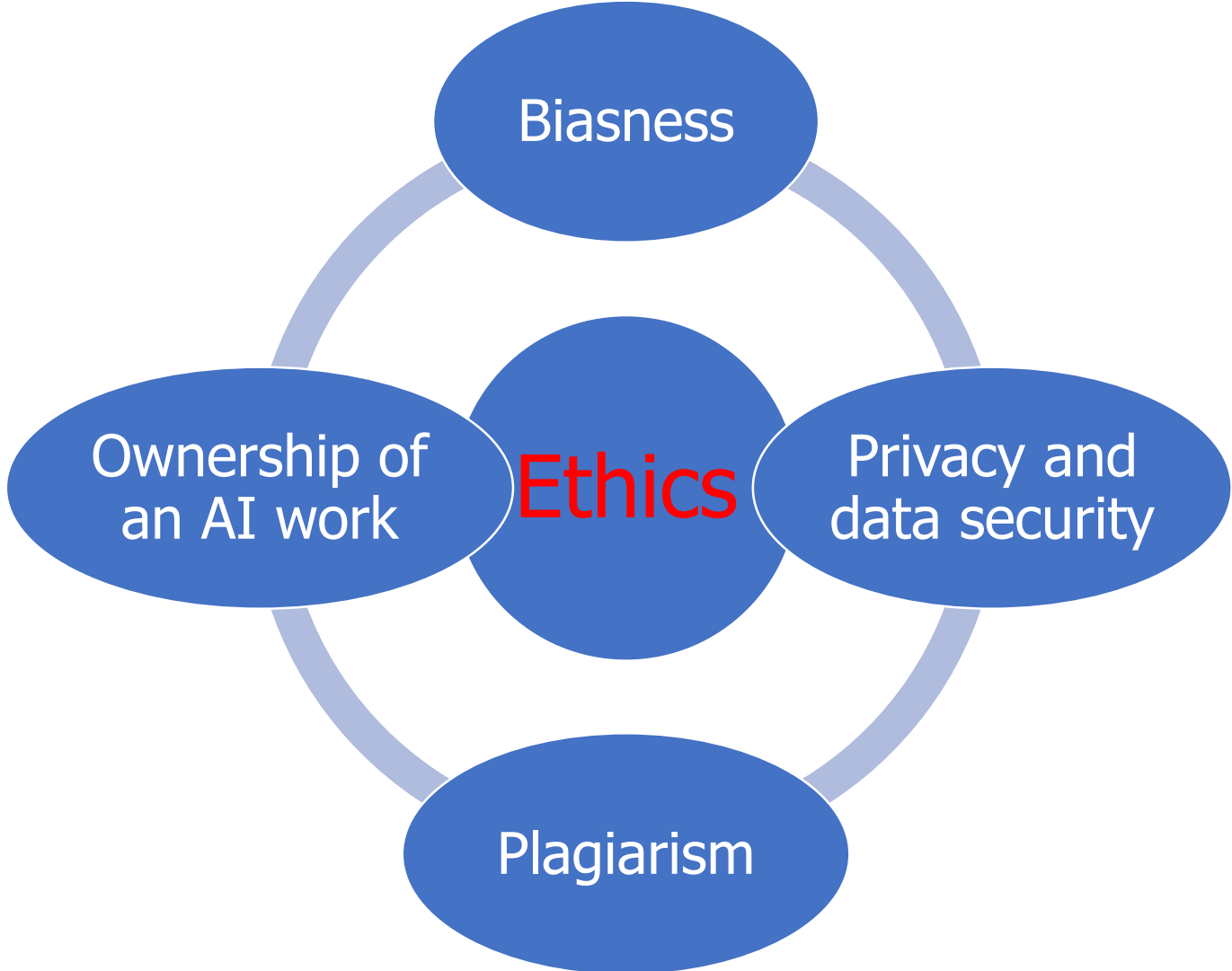
The case you're referring to is *likely* the landmark South African legal case known as *Carmichele v Minister of Safety and Security and Another*. This case dealt with issues related to the liability of the state for failing to prevent harm caused by an individual previously released on bail, who subsequently committed further serious offenses. In summary, Mrs. Carmichele (*referred to as Mrs. Y in your description*) sought to hold the state liable for damages due to the failure of the police and prosecutors to oppose bail for Mr. X (not his real name) despite his previous criminal convictions. Mr. X went on to commit further crimes, including attempted murder, after being released on bail. The case was significant because it addressed the state's duty to protect individuals from harm caused by the criminal acts of others, particularly when the state's agents (police and prosecutors) are alleged to have been negligent in their duties. The Constitutional Court of South Africa ultimately ruled in favor of Mrs. Carmichele, establishing important principles regarding state liability and the duty to protect individuals from foreseeable harm caused by third parties. This case has had a lasting impact on South African law regarding the responsibilities of law enforcement and prosecutors in ensuring public safety.

# Summarise the murder trial of OJ Simpson



*The O.J. Simpson murder trial, held in 1995, captivated the world with its blend of celebrity, race, and legal drama. Simpson, a former football star and actor, was accused of brutally murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. The trial became a media spectacle, showcasing high-profile lawyers like Johnnie Cochran and Robert Shapiro, and sparking intense debate over racial issues, police conduct, and domestic violence. The prosecution presented DNA evidence and a contentious glove that didn't fit Simpson in court, while the defense argued racial bias and mishandling of evidence. Ultimately, Simpson was acquitted, a decision that polarized public opinion and left lasting implications on perceptions of justice in America.*

# Ethical and Academic Integrity Considerations



# ChatGPT and Plagiarism

*Author 1 2024*

*Author 2 2024*

**Empowering legal minds: enhancing information literacy skills through a virtual programme for first-year law students at the University of Venda.**

**Abstract**

This research examines the creation and execution of a virtual Information Literacy

AI  
41%

# NWU Guidelines for ethical use of AI tools in academic work.

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These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the [NWU Policy on Academic Integrity](#) and the [NWU Statement of Intent on Artificial Intelligence \(in progress\)](#). A regular evaluation and review of these guidelines will take place to ensure it is aligned with ethical guidelines and best practices and students should make sure they stay updated with the latest version.

### Responsible and critical use of AI

1. Only use AI as allowed and specified by the lecturer/supervisor for the specific assignment. It is your responsibility to make sure you know what your lecturer/supervisor's stance is on the use of AI. Declare your use of AI and keep track of your use of it.
2. Do not use AI as an 'essay mill' (contracting out of thought to someone or an algorithm). Large Language Models can conceptualize, do research, and write assignments, but this might be detrimental to your own possible scientific reasoning and writing advancement.
3. AI answers or essays cannot be presented as your own work. This is a form of plagiarism and dishonesty. Remember, if you use AI exclusively to do your assignments, without critically evaluating the output, you will learn and achieve little to nothing in the process.
4. Keep in mind, that assessments are designed to determine the level of your content knowledge and support your learning of the module outcomes. If AI is used to complete assignments, you are not demonstrating proficiency in these outcomes. Thus, you might not have mastered what was intended with the program/module.
5. Should the use of AI be permissible in a module, be critical of what AI presents as answers since it might be biased, can perpetuate stereotypes, as well as reinforce discriminatory practices, or simply present false information as fact.
6. Should the use of AI be permissible, you always -as with any source- need to critically evaluate and rephrase the content. In other words, rephrase the content into your own words – this helps you to understand and fully grasp the concepts.
7. Proper citations and recognition of the use of AI is vital. Make sure proper credit is given to all the sources. See the [guide](#) on how to cite AI. Be sure to reference a wide range of sources and do not over-rely on a particular source.
8. Verify information and evaluate the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated work. Always double-check the responses that AI generates. Sometimes results are far-fetched and false. Be aware that AI can also obscure poor research behind apparently brilliant writing and therefore one should ensure the presented research is of good quality.
9. Do not become too dependent on AI. You must develop a deep understanding of the content and material you are studying.

17:03 2024/05/19

# Conclusion and future direction

ChatGPT has the potential to transform the way humans interact with technology and unlocks exciting **opportunities and possibilities** for the future of communication **between humans and machines.**

# Recommendations

- ❖ Academic libraries should add training on the use of AI to university community.
- ❖ Collaboration between libraries and faculties in developing clear ethical guidelines and governance frameworks tailored to the use of AI in legal education.
- ❖ Encourage ongoing research initiatives to explore innovative applications of AI in legal education, addressing emerging trends and evolving technological capabilities
- ❖ Law students should integrate its use with rigorous verification processes and critical analysis to foster robust academic skills and maintain the integrity of their legal research and writing

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