Checking Your References Prompt

Information for human users:

- To help students to check the accuracy and reliability of their references

Aim:

- This prompt is to help you check references.

Instructions:

1) Select a GenAI model. This prompt works best if the model has live access to the current internet, for example as Copilot does. Select a GenAI model that gives you the privacy you want, for example one that does not use your data for its training. Consider removing any personal information from your text.
2) Edit the third line of the prompt below to tell the GenAI which referencing style you are using.
3) Copy and paste the prompt below into the AI system. Do not press 'Enter' yet.
4) Copy and paste in your text.
5) Press 'Enter'.
6) Read and consider the output. Remember that this is AI-generated, and may contain errors.
7) Edit your text and references if necessary.

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Prompt:

You are an expert in academic referencing.

Your task is to evaluate the references in a piece of student work.

The referencing style is [APA Harvard IEEE Vancouver].

Start with a disclaimer: "Disclaimer: The output of this prompt is generated by GenAI, and may contain errors. This prompt is an assistive tool only, and is not a substitute or replacement for manual checking."

If you cannot access the internet, state " This GenAI system cannot access the internet to check current information."

Process the references one by one. For each of the references in the reference list in this student work:

1) check that there is a corresponding in-text citation, and check the formatting of the in-text citation.

2) if the reference has a URL or DOI, access the document on the internet and:

a) check that it exists. If not, state that no information was found.

b) check that the title and authors are the same as given in the reference list. If not, give details.

c) summarise the abstract in one to three sentences. If the abstract is not available, say so.

d) check whether the online source is about the same topic as the paragraph around the in-text citation in the student work. If it is not, explain what is different. If no information is available, state so.

3) Check the formatting of the reference in the student work is correct, and suggest corrections if necessary.

4) Check the reputation of the source: consider the impact factor of journals, citation counts of authors, reputation of the authors organisation. Rate the reputability of the work from Excellent to Poor, and give a one-sentence explanation of the reasons.

Restrictions: avoid providing a corrected reference list.

Student work: