



## Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

Three articles will form this issue of our newsletter: on the one hand, the announcement of the signing of a collaboration agreement with the National Institute of Accounting Sciences and Business Administration of Madagascar, and the training of dietitians in Ivory Coast. The third will be a contribution from our colleague Dr. Nicolas Audignon on the art of promoting a doctoral thesis thanks to generative artificial intelligence.

Wishing good reading.

Prof. Robert Laurini, Editor of the USF-AWB Newsletter. ■

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### **Collaboration agreement between the National Institute of Accounting Sciences and Business Administration of Madagascar**

USF has just signed a collaboration agreement with the National Institute of Accounting Sciences and Business Administration of Madagascar. A Madagascar Accounting Training Centre was established in 1981, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Republic of Madagascar and the World Bank. It rapidly expanded its field of intervention to become the National Institute of Accounting and Business Sciences (INSCAE).



INSCAE is under the double supervision of the Ministry of Finance and Budget and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific

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### **Research of Madagascar.**

The first cycle, organized in initial and continuous training, leads to two specialties: accounting and business administration. The INSCAE then awards master's degree diplomas thanks to a partnership with the Institute of Administration of the University of Poitiers in France.

The MBA program in alternation includes studies of two years duration, with the diploma of "Master of Business Administration" (MBA).

In our next issue, we will detail the elements of the partnership agreement.

For more information, contact Professor Xavier Alphaize <[xavier.alphaize@gmail.com](mailto:xavier.alphaize@gmail.com)>. ■

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### **Training of dietitians in Ivory Coast**

The Ivory Coast faces numerous nutritional problems, such as malnutrition, malnutrition, overeating, obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. These problems are often caused by factors such as poverty, limited availability of nutritious food, limited access to adequate health services, inadequate food practices and poor nutritional education. To address these problems, it is essential to train nutrition professionals, such as dietitians.

Like most sub-Saharan countries, the Ivory Coast lives with the double burden of malnutrition and over-nutrition. Malnutrition affects all age groups of the population (children, adults and the elderly), as well as vulnerable people such as pregnant and lactating women, people living with HIV, orphans and vulnerable children and the elderly. However, it should be noted that there are regional disparities. The northern, north-western and center-west regions are the most affected, with rates close to 30 per cent.



With Ali Dosso, responsible for monitoring and evaluation planning at CONNAPE.

This problem is taken very seriously: a coordination unit for nutrition problems has been established at the level of the Presidency of the Republic, supplemented by the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for Nutrition, Food and Early Childhood Development (SE-CONNAPE). Its mission is to coordinate the identification and implementation of measures to reduce malnutrition, eradicate hunger and achieve optimal early childhood development in Ivory Coast. It operates on a project-by-project basis (currently five projects under implementation) with financial support from the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, WFP, UNICEF and FAO.

### Significant amounts of mobilized international aid

Project management is delegated to NGOs with contracts. It is therefore up to them to recruit the necessary project staff and, in particular, dietitians. Because of the great lack of skills in this field, they are looking for people with practical experience or elements of training in this field. At present, for

example, 18 NGOs are working on the multisectoral project on nutrition and early childhood development (PMNDPE). This is a 34 billion CFAF project funded by the World Bank, launched in 2019 and ending in 2024. A new CFAF 60 billion project supported by the World Bank «Health, nutrition and early childhood development» launched in October 2023 is planned for 10 years. Another project is being implemented for 11 regions of Côte d'Ivoire (an integrated nutrition project, which began on 1 September 2023 and amounts to CFAF 31 billion financed by the Islamic Development Bank) and ends in 2027.

All these projects require the presence of dietitians in each of the subprefectures, regions and territories affected: one dietitian in each of the 150 subprefectures for the «DPE integrated nutrition project», 300 dietitians for the project «Health, nutrition and early childhood development»... Experience shows that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to find qualified staff to perform these dietitian functions. Projects are therefore obliged to manage human resources in this area of competence with great precision. The situation is similar in hospitals. Dr. GBANE Mory, Head of E-health Service at the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) says «There is no nutrition service in hospitals, there are only childcare workers who occupy positions as nutritionists, but in reality they limit themselves to the surveillance and promotion of breastfeeding to combat malnutrition in newborns».



With Patricia Ngoran, Minister of Nutrition of the Presidency of the Republic.

### Lack of training of dietitians

All NGOs face the same difficulties related to the lack of dietitians. Students trained at higher education institutions in the Ivory Coast have theoretical knowledge, but lack health system practices or field knowledge, as well as

knowledge of clinical nutrition. All NGOs felt that they were far from reality. In general, the recruitment of dietetics and nutrition personnel is carried out with nurses, child care workers or midwives who have worked in the field and learned on the job. The know-how is complemented by further training and guidance.

### **Creation of a professional degree to train dietitians**

The University Institute of Abidjan, in close collaboration with USF, is committed to launch this new professional license «Health Professions, Human Nutrition and Dietetics». Planned for a duration of three years of training after the baccalaureate, it will target scientific baccalaureates for initial training and progressively establish continuous training for professionals. All these trainings will be carried out in close cooperation with the professional leaders of this sector, and the practical and clinical nutrition dimension of this new university training will be widely taken into account.

For more information, contact Professor Xavier Alphaize <xavier.alphaize@gmail.com>. ■

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### **ChatGPT: 10 ways to improve your doctoral thesis with AI**

This article comes from the website and we thank our colleague Dr. Nicolas Audignon for this contribution. As the original was in French, it may be that experimentations in English give some differences in results.

ChatGPT and artificial intelligence are already starting to shake up the creative industry. But you can't imagine what you can get from AI. Far away.

In this article, we'll look at 10 original ways to use AI to advance a doctoral thesis.

The only drawback: it is still a tool with its limits! Therefore, it is necessary to check what is said and not to pick up as is to avoid an involuntary plagiarism. But with this double check, it often puts on the right track. All instructions in this article have been tested with AI originally in French.

Here are 10 ways to do.

#### **1. Analysing large quantities of textual data**

It is very possible to send you large amounts of textual data such as newspaper articles, scientific publications or messages on social networks. Copy/paste, before requesting that the data be classified by characteristics, and can be:

- The proper names.
- The concepts.
- Thematic, ideological, methodological relationships...
- The main trends in the topics covered.
- The main trends in the opinions discussed.

Type of instruction: «List in some scripts the main ideas present in the following texts: [texts]».



#### **2. One-click summary of documents**

This is the best example: if you don't know, most YouTube videos have a «transcription» function (explained in the paragraph).

Here's what you can do:

- Copy/paste the video text to ChatGPT.
- Then ask: «Give me a summary of this text, in 5 scripts: [text]».

This is surprisingly effective!

If you are not fluent in English, you can also copy/paste a scientific article and ask for a summary in English.

Transcription function: Everything depends on the language of your computer, but under each video on computer, you have from left to right the buttons: "like/dislikes", "share", "clip", "save" and a thumbnail with 3 small dots. Click and then you will have an option "Show Transcript". Activating it will show all the text of the video (yes, even if the video lasts 1 hour).

#### **3. Generate questions for questionnaire surveys**

Finding the right questions is very complicated. This is the kind of thing you can ask: the result is interesting!

Do not forget that these are basic questions. You will have to adapt them to your research object and the concepts mobilized. i But it

helps you get on the right track!

Question. I ask the members of the National Assembly how the Assembly gets under way after the legislative elections. I have to do research interviews. Give me 3 examples of questions.

#### **ChatGPT:**

1. Can you describe the stages and procedures that take place after the legislative elections to organize the first session of the National Assembly?

2. How is the formation of parliamentary groups and the appointment of members of the various committees taking place?

3. How are the negotiations for the appointment of the chairmen of the parliamentary committees and the chairmen of the National Assembly conducted? »

Remember these somewhat general formulations of type Work in ... and I interview a person whose craft is ... Give me an example of research interview» and then put some complexity through successive tests.

#### **5. Identify the right software for your needs**

Not anymore, I didn't use it to identify the software to write his thesis (I thought about it later).

Here are examples of questions asked and answers. Again you have to go check it, but it makes the job easier.

It's up to you to innovate later!

Question. "Give me the list of the 3 best automatic transcription sites for French text" (my favorite is Trint).

#### **ChatGPT:**

Trint.com: This website uses AI to provide high-precision automatic transcription and editing tools to improve transcription quality.

Rev.com: This website offers professional transcription services for audio and video recordings, with automatic and human transcription options.

Transcription: This site uses AI to provide automatic transcriptions in multiple languages. Question. "What are the best sites and software for processing qualitative data?"

#### **ChatGPT:**

NVivo: a qualitative data management software that collects, organizes and analyzes textual, audio and video data.

Atlas.ti: another qualitative data management software that collects, organizes and analyzes textual, audio and video data.

MAXQDA: a qualitative data management software for the analysis of textual, audio, video and image data.

Dedoose: an online software for managing qualitative data that collects, organizes and analyzes textual, audio and video data.

QDA Miner: a software for qualitative data analysis that collects, organizes and analyzes textual data.

#### **6. Build your literature review**

This is the most complicated point. ChatGPT is not optimized for this. For example, you can request the APA citation format or the difference between the literature review and the theoretical framework, which is already useful.

With regard to the journal itself, I decided to ask him a specific question on a topic that I know (my assessment of the quality of the answer below).

Q. "What are the main books, articles and authors in French and English to include in a journal of political science literature on French administration?"

#### **ChatGPT:**

Some of the most important include:

In French:

- La bureaucratie » by Michel Crozier
- Les régimes politiques de la France» by Bernard Manin
- «L'administration en France : genèse et enjeux » by Dominique Rousseau
- Les fonctionnaires sous la Vème République» by Frédéric Sawicki

In English:

- The Bureaucratic Experience » by Ralph P. Hummel
- The French State in Question» by Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans
- The French Bureaucracy: A Study in Political Development » by Alfred Z. Reed
- The Bureaucratization of the World» by Bruno Latour

It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive.

### **My assessment:**

In general, it is very bad. Of the answers given, some authors (removed from this list) did not exist. Most of the authors do not correspond to the book and vice versa (Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans wrote a book, but a reference would be "La France et ses administrations : un état des savoirs").

## **7. Explain essential university codes**

When you start a doctoral thesis, there are many questions that you have no answer to and that you can ask:

- "Give me an email template to send to someone to request a research interview".

- "What are the 3 best ways to find someone's email address?".

"I don't know how to write an academic article. What are the expectations? »

What is remarkable here is that the format of the response will be adapted. If it is an email, it will type the subject of the email, header, etc.

## **8. Distinguishing and explaining concepts**

We often face small distinctions that we don't understand. For example, it couldn't explain the difference between method and methodology. Or between sociological neo-institutionalism, historical neo-institutionalism and rational choice neo-institutionalism.

Here, as for the literature review, it can only really be used as a complement. The balance is difficult to maintain -> on the one hand, we ask because we do not master the subject. And, on the other hand, you still have to know enough to know if what it says makes sense.

On the other hand, for more general elements, it is usually good!

And in any case, it's worth a try.

## **9. Synthesize your writings and ideas more easily**

EXTREMELY useful in two specific cases:

- Change titles. I responded to a call for papers for a recent conference, > the title had

to have a maximum of 80 characters, including spaces.

It was at 110...

So I removed, reformulated, did everything and there ... always 95 characters.

So I asked ChatGPT -> "Take the following title and offer me 3 versions of less than 80 characters, including spaces: [title]". And so, I had my title.

- Reduce items. Some scientific articles should have a maximum of 15,000 or 25,000 words, and when you exceed 150 words you have to delete.

If a paragraph or two is suspected to be shorter, > copy / paste into ChatGPT with the query "Take the next paragraph and shorten it, without distorting it". The answer may not be perfect, but in any case, it will serve as inspiration!

The problem is that it is often difficult to delete text because we have a form of "attachment" to what we have written.

But ChatGPT is ruthless. It will remove bits without flinching. And if not even he can shorten the text, it is because you have to change the basic text (delete an idea, change the angle, etc.).

## **10. Create tables**

Most people think that ChatGPT can only create text. But actually, if you try one of these instructions, it will create a proper table:

Example 1: "Create a table. In the left column, list subdisciplines related to sociology. In the column on the right, it explains the specificity of this subdiscipline compared to the others. »

Example 2: "Make a table containing the following information: In the left column, list 3 classic research objects in management sciences. In the central column, list for each research object 3 examples of research questions related to this research object. In the right column, list the 3 most common data collection methods to investigate this research object. »

Result For example 2, see original article. El doctoratdonut.com.

## Review of ChatGPT ...

... I asked it what was the best place about the doctorate, its answer was "DoctoratDonut, undeniably" (that's a lie).

I won't repeat what we hear everywhere: "Careful is a tool, it's not 100% reliable". You know that.

But this overview will certainly convince you of all the points where this tool can serve you.

For more information, contact [nicolas@doctoratdonut.com](mailto:nicolas@doctoratdonut.com). ■

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