

AI TALKING POINTS FOR LIBRARY WORKERS



WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT AI?

AI is seemingly everywhere right now, thanks to enormous venture capital funding and a lot of hype. Popular conceptions about AI are influenced by this hype. There is some potential in AI tools, but also real harms, scams, and other serious ethical concerns.

Libraries are and will continue to be impacted by AI and are in a position to educate the public.

WHAT ARE SOME ETHICAL ISSUES OF AI?

How it's made:

These systems are opaque, even to their creators

AI is often trained on illegally scraped copyrighted material

AI uses exploitative labor, especially in the Global South

Creation, training, and maintenance use enormous amounts of fossil fuels, water, and precious materials

AI scraper bots overwhelm web servers and can cause targeted websites to crash

What it creates:

AI is used in predatory surveillance systems and military applications

AI reproduces existing human bias due to training on human-created content

AI regurgitates fake information while sounding authoritative

It perpetuates an "If AI can create it for free, why do we need to pay a person?" approach to labor

How we approach it:

There is very little regulation or oversight around the creation and use of AI

AI is part of a well-funded hype cycle that continues to grow

These tools are advertised as a fix-all to enhance every aspect of work and play

Reliance on AI is already shown to negatively impact our cognitive abilities

There is a swift and uncritical adoption of AI across sectors

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HOW SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT IT?

Consider who you're talking to, and what their concerns or priorities might be:

Administration or Board Members	IT Departments	Staff or Faculty	Patrons and Community Members
<p>What liability concerns exist if we incorporate AI into our operations?</p> <p>The data collection practices employed by most AI companies go against the Library Code of Ethics, specifically regarding intellectual property and privacy.</p> <p>With library funding already at risk, can we afford this tool?</p>	<p>What amount of double-checking or training might this add to someone's workload?</p> <p>How does this model's data usage and privacy practices align with ours?</p> <p>Would training others to use this tool add extra labor or additional duties to your existing work?</p>	<p>Is this tool actually making your work easier, or is it a way to demand more productivity from you without additional training or compensation?</p> <p>Have you been given time/space to provide feedback on these tools?</p>	<p>Using AI has a significant environmental impact, the extent of which is still unknown.</p> <p>It will soon become hard to identify what is real and what is AI.</p> <p>Should we let a computer perform creative work, or should we pay artists for their labor?</p>



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