The Role of Academic Libraries in AI Literacy Education

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Introduction

AI has been increasing in relevancy as of late due to it's popularity on social media, in trends, and the way it seems to magically "know" the anwer to everything. However, with the introduction of a new technology into society, there's a lot of misinformation being spread, both about and by Generative AI.

What is AI?

First and foremost, it's important to distinguish between the terms "AI" and "Generative AI." AI is the term Artificial Intelligence, the umbrella term under which Generative AI falls. Generative AI is the sub-term for AI built to mimic human intelligence.

Generative AI

The main point to remember is that Generative AI is trained to provide what it thinks is the best output, it doesn't technically "know" anything.

Downsides

- Hallucinations (makes up false facts and citations)
- We don't always know the source of the training data
- Environmental Impact

Positive Uses

- Summarizing difficult-to-understand texts
- Grammar and spell-checking
- Notetaking during Zoom meetings
- Creating outlines for assignments, or narrowing down a topic

Impact

There have been cases of people using AI to write entire assignments or generate citations for research, not understanding that the outputs provided aren't necessarily real. This creates extra work for educators, not only having to fact-check citations, but also having to pick through what is human writing and what is AI output.

How You Can Help

- Educate yourself on AI topics, then share that knowledge with others.
- Form your own stance on AI before helping others.
- Advocate for AI Literacy at your institution.
- Spread awareness about how Generative AI works.

Key Takeaways

- AI and Generative AI are having an impact on higher education & libraries because of the wide range of use cases.
- Despite the rush to adopt AI tools, people aren't taking the time to educate themselves on how the technology works.
- Academic Libraries and Librarians can take the lead in helping spread AI Information Literacy.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, email: **crabtra@sunypoly.edu**

AI Literacy Video | Personal Website

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