

Artificial Intelligence (AI) – What is it and what does it do?

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is coming big and it is time to find out what it is and what it does. In Helsinki, there have been several seminars about AI but we wanted to bring this theme as close as possible to our members and to our profession – it's in our nature to understand new developments and be in the front line to put them in practice! So how to fix this? Why not having AI as a main topic in our annual seminar?

Bibliothecarii Medicinæ Fenniae (BMF, <https://bmf.fi/briefly-in-english/>) is a professional association for medical and health librarians and information professionals in Finland. The association was established in 1980 and its main goals are to help the members create professional networks, to develop their professional skills, to promote medical and health library activities and to support development and innovations in medical and health libraries and information services. BMF is a member association of The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (established in 1899), a national co-operative body for learned societies in Finland. In the center of Helsinki, the federation has an own house that the member associations can use. <https://www.tsv.fi/en>
AI is a big and hot topic now and we were lucky to get very good speakers.

As a President of our association, I had the opportunity to open the seminar. I used the moment and asked all participants to fill in a mini SWOT for themselves, to reflect their thoughts during the day (SWOT table: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats).

First presentation was by our colleague Jukka Englund (the Chief Information Specialist at the Medical Campus Library of the Helsinki University Library): “Patent information for efficient use: artificial intelligence supporting and commercializing research – Teqmine AI”. At the Helsinki University Library, we have subscribed Teqmine <https://teqmine.com/>. The idea of Teqmine is to bring the valuable information in patents for use in an easy way. Teqmine is developed by a Finnish startup company and its use is information secure. When searching information for new ideas, you should not search in Google, while it gathers information about the searches made by us, the good idea might end up elsewhere!

The next topic was about a chat bot: “LibBotti – a bot as a customer service staff”, presented by Information System Specialist Minna Kivinen (Häme University of Applied Sciences HAMK <https://www.hamk.fi/?lang=en>). Minna told that LibBotti was initially brought into use because the offices of the library of HAMK were shut in the summer; the customers could at least inquire simple matters. Even though the web pages have information and LibBotti in its answers refers to them, it helps to guide the questioner forward. Minna told that the information in their web pages got much better and clearer after the LibBotti project.

It is important to regard our vendors/sponsors as our colleagues: we use their products and we want to develop these programs together. We were lucky to have very good sponsors. With their support we could treat morning and afternoon coffee and lunch to our participants. Reciprocally, we got interesting contribution to our programme while our sponsors had a possibility to present their latest products relevant to the topic of the seminar. Regional Sales Manager Veera Mujunen (EBSCO Health) told us how also nurses could benefit from the DynaMed service.

Regional Manager (Northern Europe) Séverine Maes (Karger, Medical and Scientific Publishers) presented first the Quertle artificial intelligence-based search and then the ways how Karger promotes Open Access. From Wolters Kluwer|Ovid, we had Customer Success – Consultant Tarja Huttunen demonstrating the

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VisualDx and DermExpert joint service which uses artificial intelligence in diagnosing.

The day continued with very interesting topics. The Head of Research Services Ella Bingham (Aalto University <https://people.aalto.fi/ella.bingham>), who has a background in AI research, initiated us in the basics of the artificial intelligence. She had several concrete interesting examples. For instance, she showed us a video where a robot was a debater who goes through studies on the subject and then will present arguments to human debaters: it thinks a while, studies and then justifies the following claim. Ella also presented us Peace Machine which is a project to use artificial intelligence to create a more peaceful world. Many conflicts start because of misunderstandings (<https://peacemachine.net/>). “The Peace Machine vision is to use AI technologies to release human potential and support emotional, ethical, and cultural development. We develop future AI technologies that be used to reduce violence, oppression and destructive conflict.”

The last presentation of the day was given by Information System Specialist Osma Suominen (National Library in Finland): Annif – a tool for automatic indexing and classification (<http://annif.org/>). Also this one was a really interesting subject!

It was a good day and we discussed a lot! The artificial intelligence wakes thoughts. The more you know about it the more you understand it. As our day showed, you start to understand how and when it is worth to use it. Some pickups from mini-SWOTs:

Strengths:

- misunderstandings are often reasons for conflicts, maybe these misunderstandings could be avoided with the help of AI?
- utilizing AI with big information masses

Threat:

- face identification in non-democracies and underdeveloped legal systems

Let us take good care of our networks and support our colleagues – together we are strong! No need to hesitate in front of new things, when doing together learning and understanding can be fun, too!

Presentations in Finnish: <https://bmf.fi/toiminta-ja-tapahtumat/>

The Elements of AI (MOOC): <https://www.elementsofai.com/>



Fig. 1. Tiina Heino and Séverine Maes, Regional Manager, Karger, Medical and Scientific Publishers. Photo by Katri Larmo, Information Specialist, Helsinki University Library.