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AI and libraries

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to technology that appears to enable computers and machines to simulate intelligence and problem-solving. Whilst it has a long history, and covers many tools, in recent years with the development of Generative AI, such as ChatGPT, that creates content in response to prompts, AI has come to the fore.

The six articles in this issue delve into the challenges, limitations, and opportunities of AI for libraries and information professionals.

Andrew Cox, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sheffield's Information School, highlights the skills and values of information professionals that are relevant to data and thus to the use and management of AI.

Our second paper by Emily Hopkins, Susan Smith and Hannah Wood from NHS England, is divided into two parts. The first part looks at the drivers to use AI within the UK healthcare system, the training provided and being further developed, ethics and the risks of AI. The second looks at case studies of AI use and support by Knowledge and Library Services.

Angela Young, Jon Chandler, Caroline Norris and Ayanna Prevatt-Goldstein of University College London (UCL), summaries a university's approach to developing AI literacy amongst staff and students, including referencing.

In the fourth article by Shampa Sen of the King's College Hospital NHS Trust, the use of AI to promote information skills training is described and analysed.

Claire Stansfield and James Thomas of the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI), look at how Automation tools can help with the maintaining of research registers in health promotion.

Finally, Veronica Parisi (UCL Library Services) and Anthea Sutton a Research Fellow at the University of Sheffield's School of Medicine and Population Health, explore the use of ChatGPT to develop systematic literature searches.

We hope to hear from colleagues from other European countries on AI in future issues.

AI is firmly with us, having an impact on information work and these articles show that we have an important role, but must continue to develop our skills, as well as translating existing skills into this new environment.