

Ethical implications of using AI in the Library

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Before starting to think about the practical application of AI in libraries, there is a first look at data and the ethical aspect of its use as a key element for work and to what data refers.

We are aware of the widespread use of AI which has revealed numerous ethical issues from data and design to deployment. In response, countless broad principles and guidelines for ethical AI have been published, and following those, specific approaches have been proposed for how to encourage ethical outcomes of AI.

Data ethics as a new branch of ethics examines and evaluates moral issues related to data, algorithms, AI machine learning, programming, and relevant practices.

An important question is raised what are the implications of data literacy for ethical librarianship? Data ethics is important for the collection, creation, analysis, and dissemination of structured and unstructured data. It also deals with intellectual property issues and concerns related to librarians, archivists, and information professionals.

Libraries can provide the ability to think critically about data in different contexts and to reflect on the impact of different approaches to data and information. The AI Literacy Imperative is the assumption that today we have a critical need to understand and be able to use the key aspects of AI literacy.

When implementing AI in libraries, it is crucial to take care of ethical and security aspects, ensure data quality, and consider user needs and requirements. AI systems can collect and store a lot of data about library users. It is important for libraries to have policies in place to protect user privacy and security. This includes getting informed consent from users before collecting their data, storing data securely, and being transparent about how data is used.

AI has the potential to be a game-changer for libraries, transforming them into even more vital centres of information and learning. Libraries are uniquely positioned to educate the public about AI. We can develop workshops and programs that demystify AI and empower people to use it responsibly. Of course, implementing AI effectively requires careful planning. Librarians need to be involved in selecting and using AI tools to ensure they are unbiased and ethical. But with thoughtful planning, AI can usher in a new golden age for libraries.