

Session title: Academic development in an age of Generative AI

Session type: Plenary Session

Main presenter(s): Sue Attewell, academic lead, National centre for artificial intelligence, Jisc National centre for Artificial Intelligence

Co-presenter(s): Ayesha Fraz, Jisc National centre for artificial intelligence

Session summary:

Jisc's National Centre for AI has been working across HE stitution to better understand how the upsurge in AI use is impacting on academic practice. With the embedding of generative AI in everyday tech such as MS products, and search engines, our usage is likely to increase as we adopt and use it in our work. Where do we draw the Academic Integrity line for generative AI? And is the line static or constantly moving?

Session outline:

Jisc's National Centre for Artificial Intelligence (NCAI) is looking at the technology implications, and the privacy, ethics and data protection issues, and also looking at the wider cultural impact, and the behaviour of staff and students.

The hypecycle of generative AI in Education feels like it has been at a peak for several months. Critics claim that technologies like Chat GPT will more easily enable students to cheat; and that these tools pose other threats to academic integrity. The speed with which generative AI is developing, allowing the generation of a wide range of content, including essays, program code, artwork, blog posts, resumes, cover letters etc. is alarming to many in the academy. It's not just Chat GPT, as other IT companies like Google (BERT, Lamda , Bard), Facebook (OPT-175B , BlenderBOT), Open AI has developed Large Language models like GPT-3 for generating Text, Whisper for generating speech and DALL-E2 for generating art. There are other online platforms like Neeva an AI search engine, Midjourney an Art generator and HuggingFace that have developed AI generative models. Nole AI helps instructors create interactive course material like flashcard, quizzes based on lectures uploaded. Magic Educator helps instructors create lesson plans and other supporting instructional materials. Slide AI to create slides. WriteSonic allows to write plagiarism free content.

This session will argue how Generative AI can create a level playing field for all staff and students, but it will also look closely at where the tipping points in its use form, for example, where a writing aid moves from an accessibility tool into compromising academic integrity, or when a member of staff moves from summarizing a paper into generating a literature review.

References:

Webb, M. (2023) Considerations on wording when creating advice or policy on AI use, National Centre for AI. Available at: <https://nationalcentreforai.jiscinvolve.org/wp/> (Accessed: February 20, 2023).