



SMART LIBRARIES

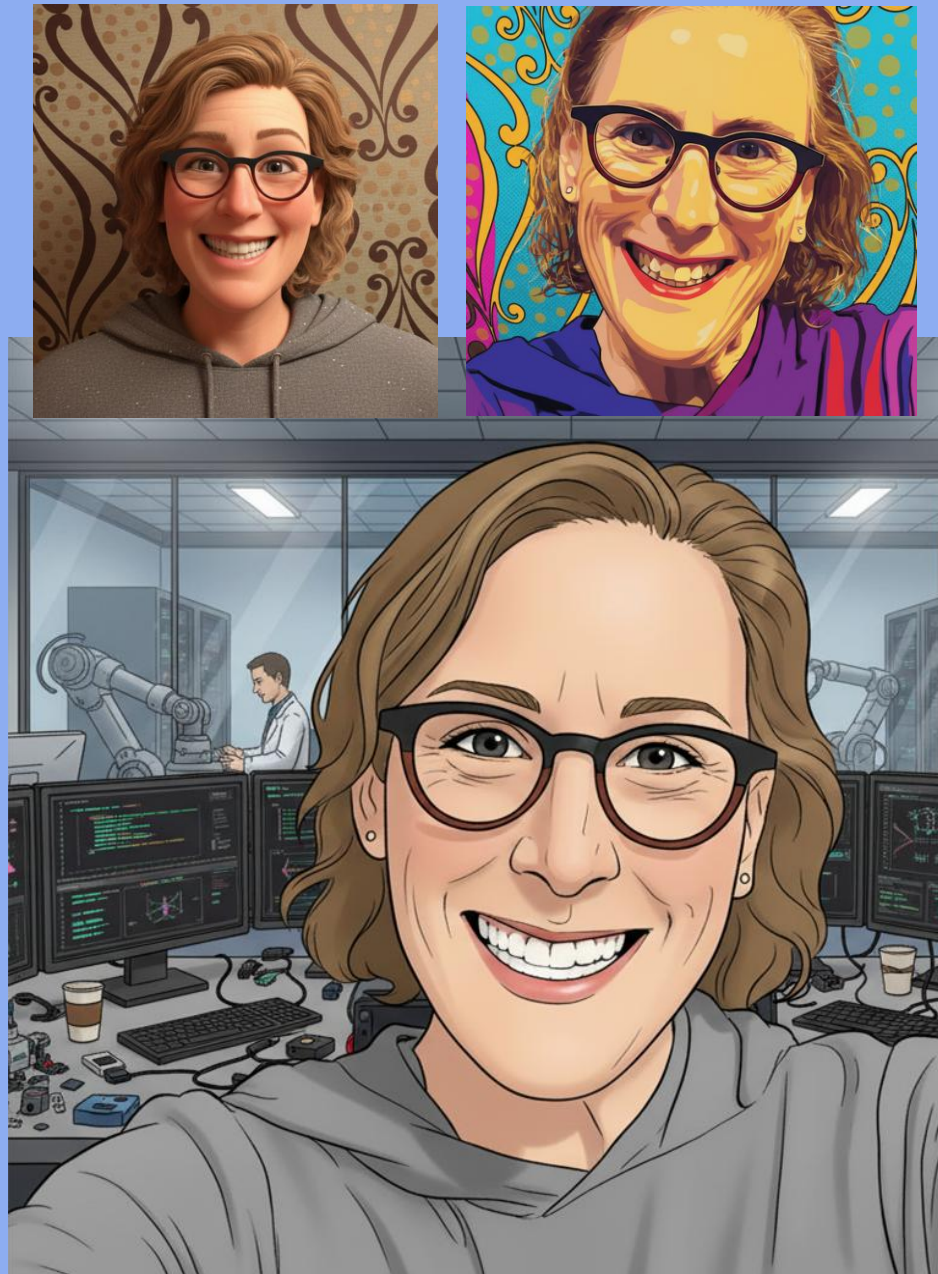
HARNESSING AI TO EMPOWER SCHOOL LIBRARIES

MD TECH CONNECT 2025



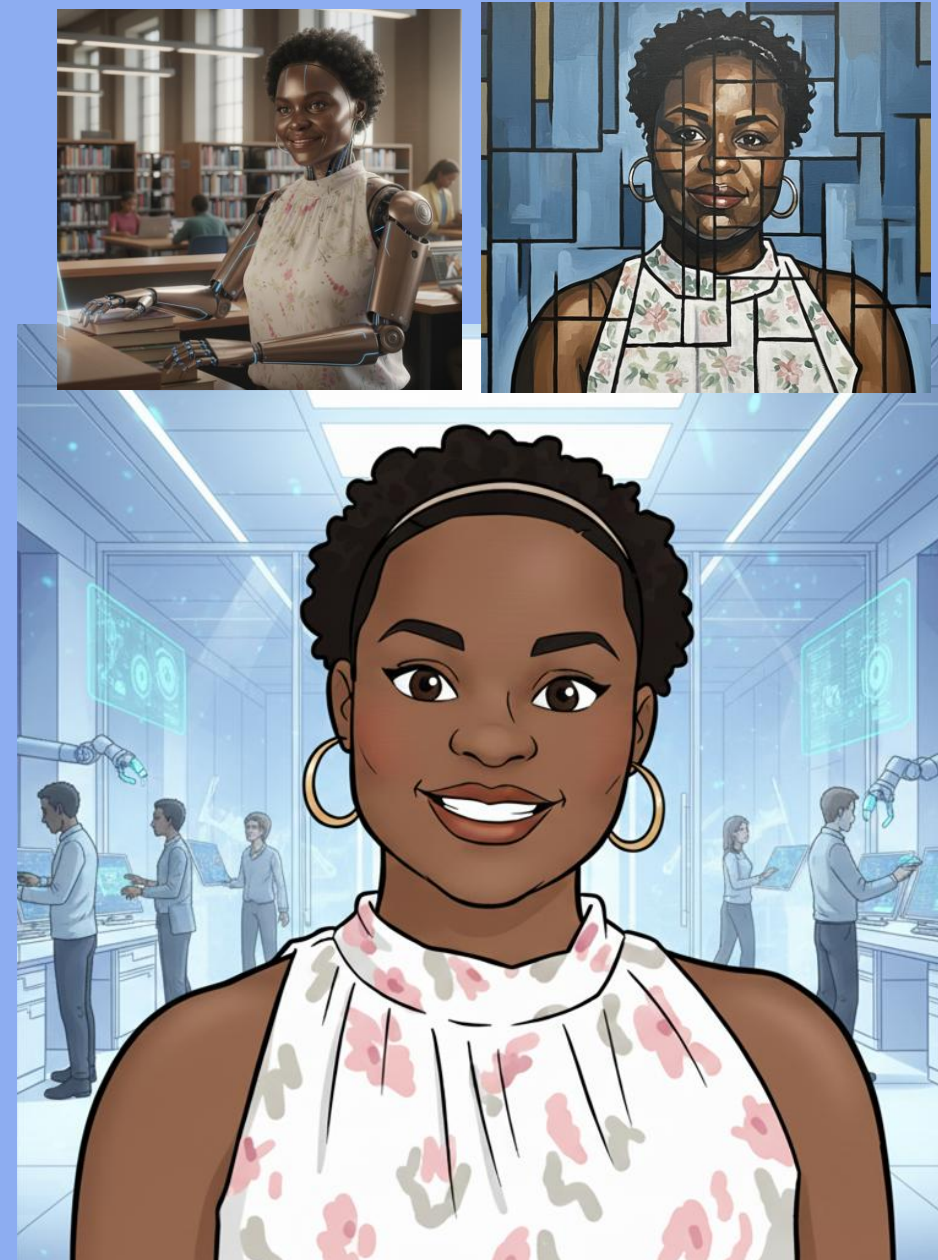
“ The views expressed in
this presentation are our
own and not those of our
employers (MCPS MD). ”

Meet The Team



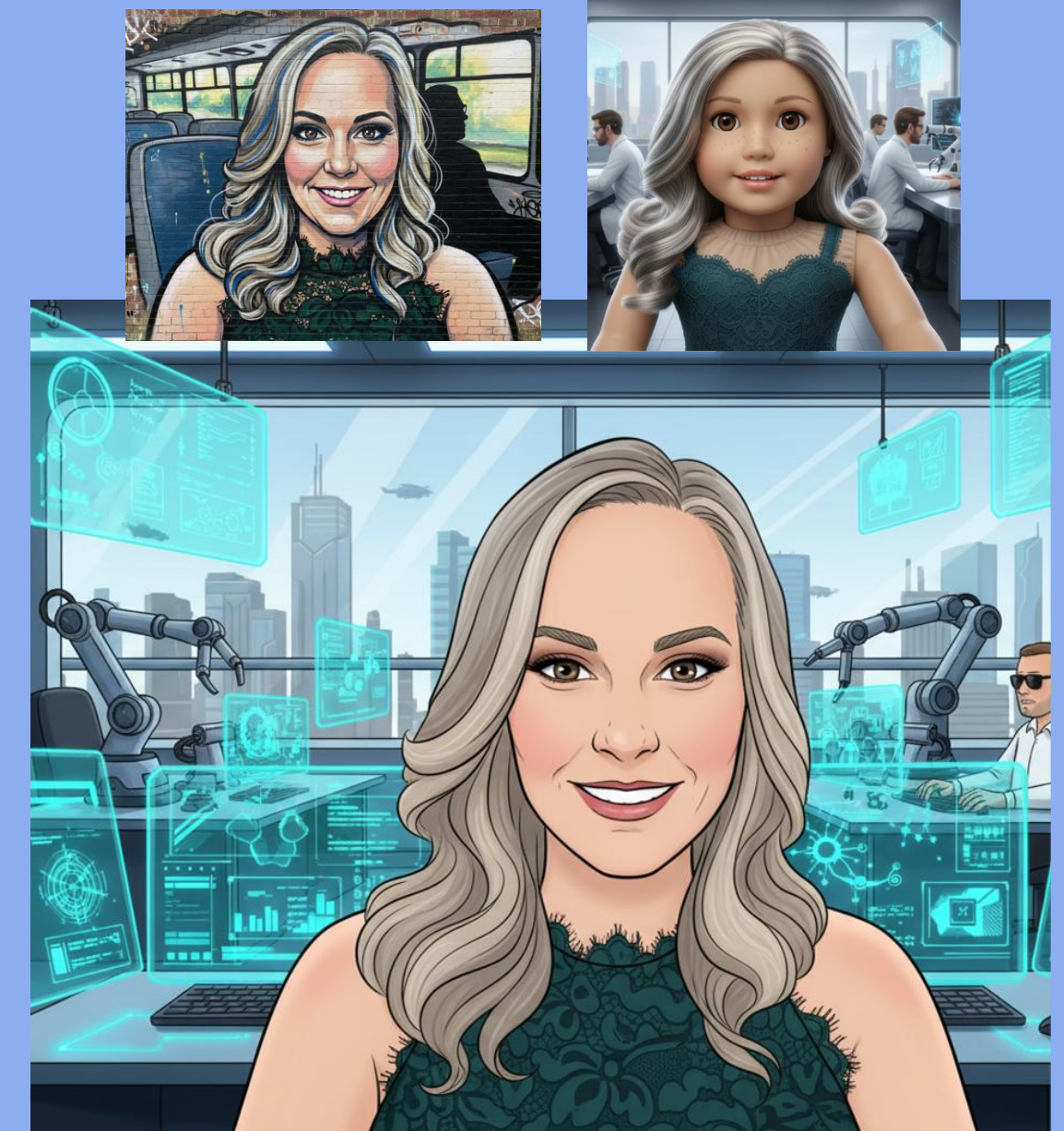
Naomi Gelfand

Library Media Specialist at Walter Johnson HS in MCPS
MLS from UMD. National Board Certified Library Media Specialist



Sheri Massey

Librarian at Montgomery Blair HS in MCPS. Ph.D./MLS from UMD, iSchool Adjunct Faculty. 2023 MD MASL School Librarian of the Year



Paige Pagley

Library Media Specialist at Winston Churchill HS in MCPS, MCPS SLMP Curriculum Developer & Mentor. Former English teacher.



Hold Questions



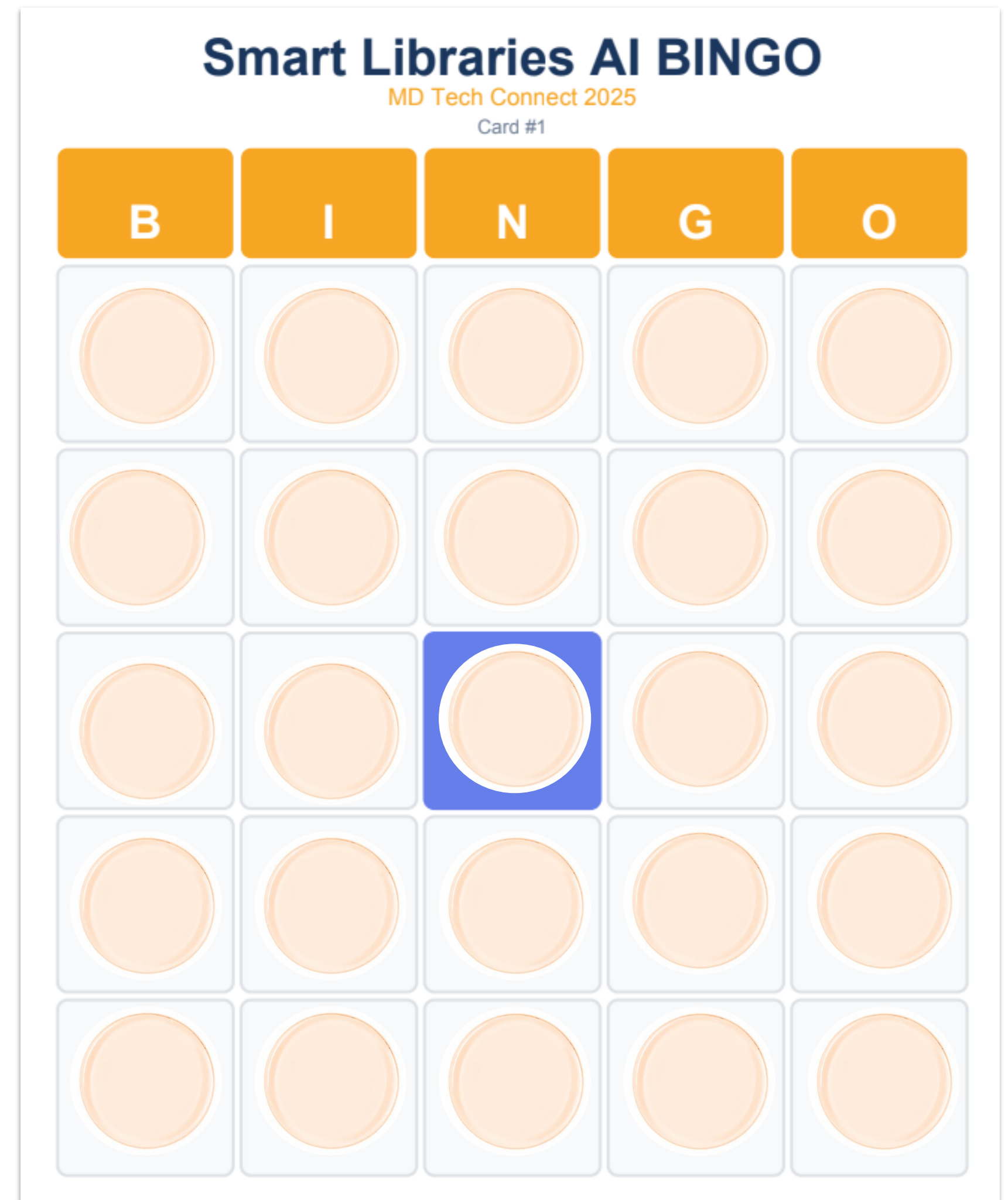
Be Patient



Limit Side Conversations

BINGO

1. Play along as Paige presents.
2. Cover the **WHOLE CARD** to win! Statements or phrases on the slide deck count.
3. **Got BINGO?** Raise your paper above your head. We will come to you to check it and deliver your prize!





01 AI as a Community Tool

- Critical Thinking
- Prompt Engineering
- Bias

02 General AI Tools

Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini

03 Library AI Tools

Britannica, EBSCO, Gale, ProQuest
Destiny



Made with Google Whisk

Original

Why This Matters

AI is transforming
*how our communities
learn, work and connect*

01

02

Patrons, students, and
educators
need trusted guidance

Community

Libraries are positioned
*to lead equitable, ethical AI
adoption*

03



04
Framework
AI Topic → library response

Library Leaders



“We are Information Professionals, and our information landscape has just grown in complexity.”

Nick Tanzi

“As the AI revolution transforms every aspect of our lives, libraries are stepping up to ensure they can continue to fulfill their essential role as anchor institutions and lead their communities forward.”

Curtis Rogers



Why This Matters



*Critical Thinking in AI Era

Challenges

1

Passive Use of AI

- ☐ Information at face value
- ☐ Skill atrophy
- ☐ Bias absorption

2

Output Sounds Confident

- ☐ Even when completely wrong
- ☐ Confident = correct
- ☐ Looks polished

3

Struggle to Evaluate

- ☐ How LLMs create output
- ☐ Source ambiguity (hallucination)
- ☐ Pattern over truth

"AI didn't corrupt deep learning," said Tiffany Noel, education researcher and professor at SUNY Buffalo. "It revealed that many assignments were never asking for critical thinking in the first place. Just performance. AI is just the faster actor; the problem is the script."



Critical Thinking Challenges

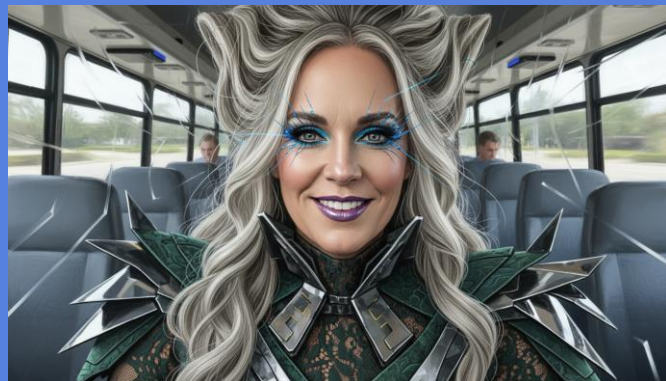
College aged kids.. tended to “follow the thinking” of the machine and produced “statistically homogeneous essays.”

Only **17%** of students using ChatGPT could recall a single sentence

While 83-89% students could recall sentences with no AI use

Library Response

Building AI Ready Thinkers



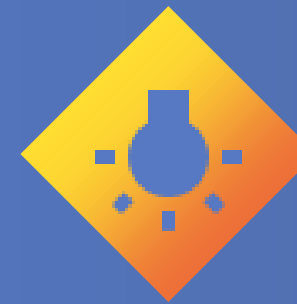
Made with Google Whisk



Original



**Integrate AI skills into
instruction & model**



**Customize prompts to
optimize critical thinking**



**Focus assignments on
creating, not consuming**



***Use AI at optimal times**

Recent MIT Writing Study suggests “combining AI
tool assistance with tools-free learning phases”

*Prompt Challenges in AI Era

Prompt Gaps

Ambiguous Prompts

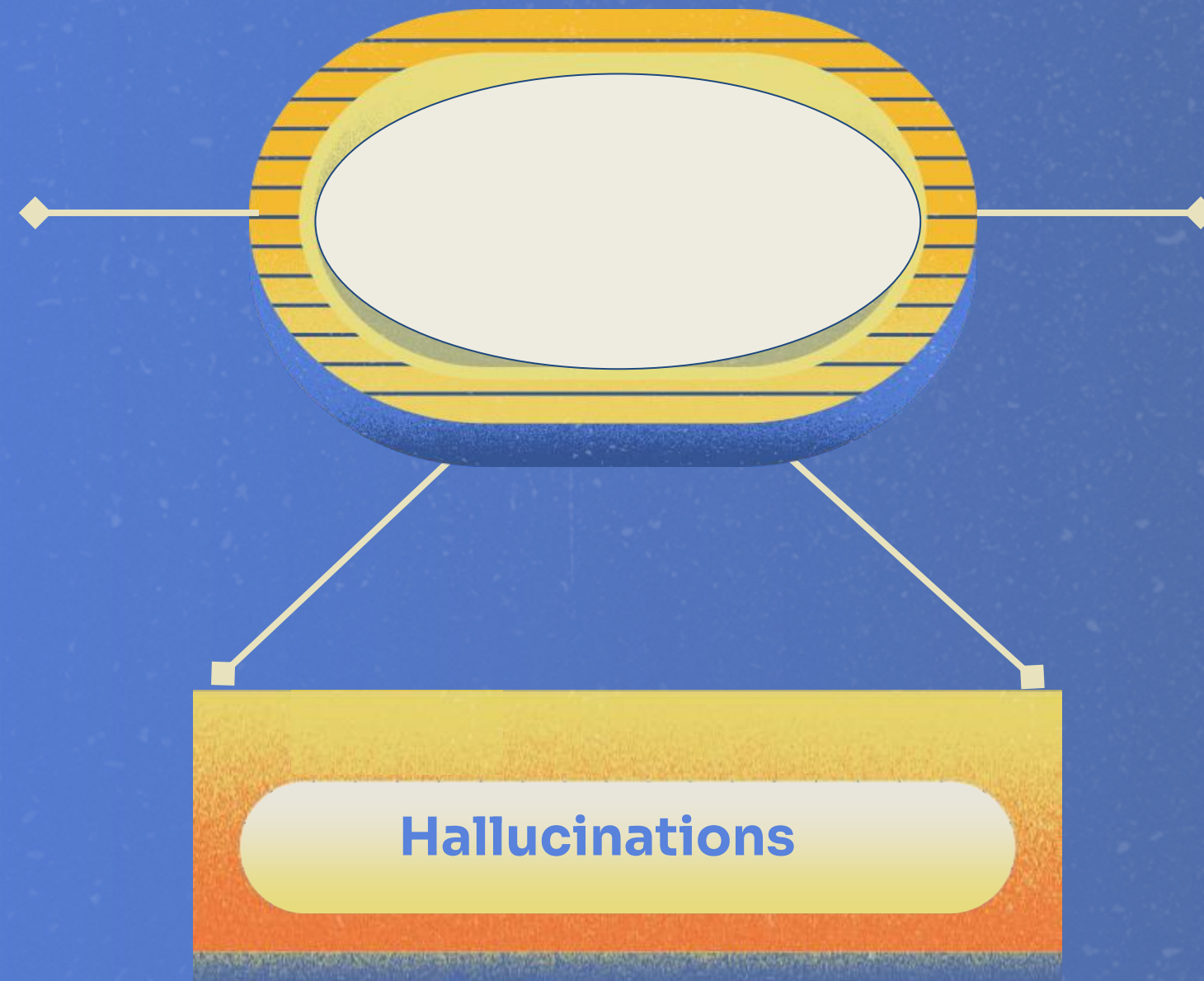
Inconsistent Results

Misinformation

Hallucinations

“can u solve this question?”

“What is the answer?”



Library Response

Building Literacy

Recognize similarities cognitively between research question and prompt engineering

Prompt Engineering

Similarities

Research Queries

The research question

Context: keywords, specific frame (fields, operators, etc)

Constraints: Date range, specific journals, peer-reviewed

Refinement of the search terms to create better results.

Prompt Engineering

User input (question, command, instruction) to have gen AI perform task.

Context & Specificity for your prompt. Sets the scene-situation, audience and purpose

Constraints: Limitations on the desired output.. Sets the rules.

Feedback to the LLM to get better results.

Create a process for interacting with AI output.

C-O-D-E

Content
Origin
Detect
Evaluate

Context: "I'm a high school media specialist"
Specificity: (what you want produced): "Write 100 word paragraph in a friendly tone for..."

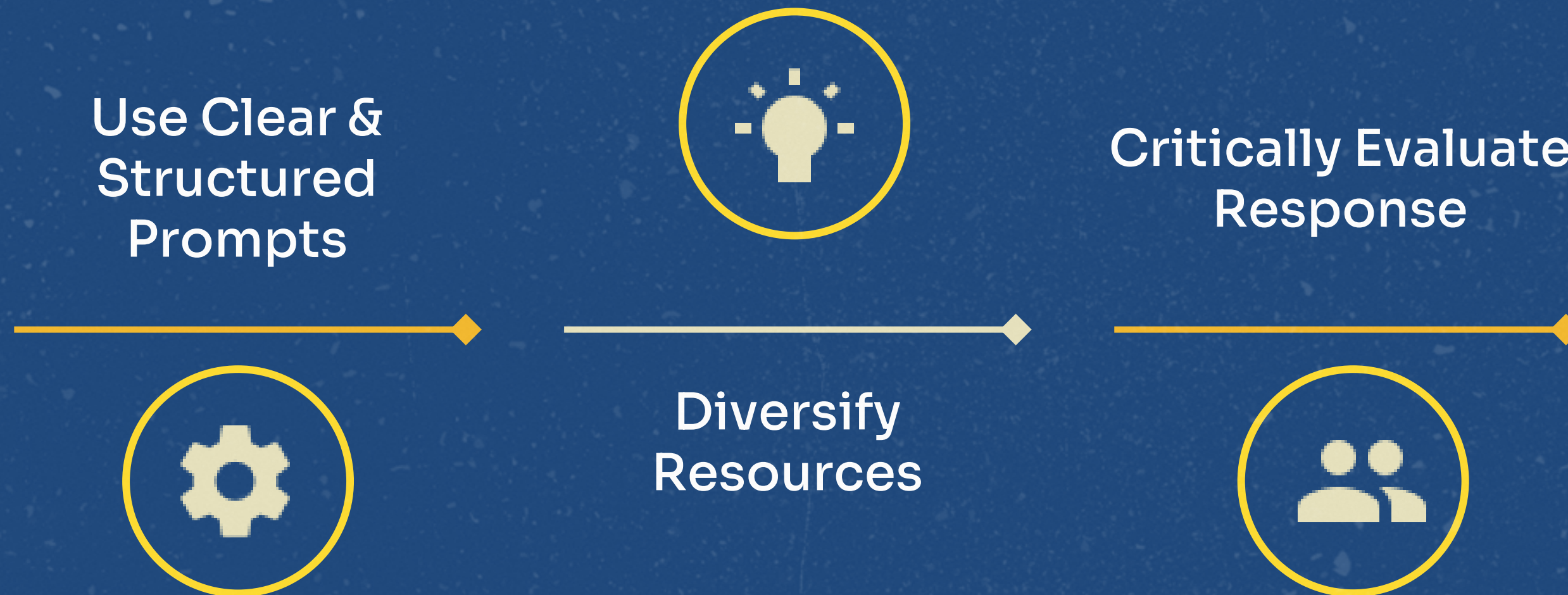
Constraints: "do not use first person"

The Challenges with Bias



Library Response to AI Bias

Bias Aware



Made with Google Whisk



Original



The Library is the Guide

1

Critical thinking is the foundation.
Librarians nurture thinkers.

3

Bias Awareness is the Lens.
Librarians guide investigators.

2

Prompt Engineering is the frame.
Librarians empower questioners.

4

Communities are the heartbeat.
Libraries are anchors.

Prompt: Use the subjects and make them book characters for a children’s book on libraries.



The Library is the Guide: Navigating the AI Era

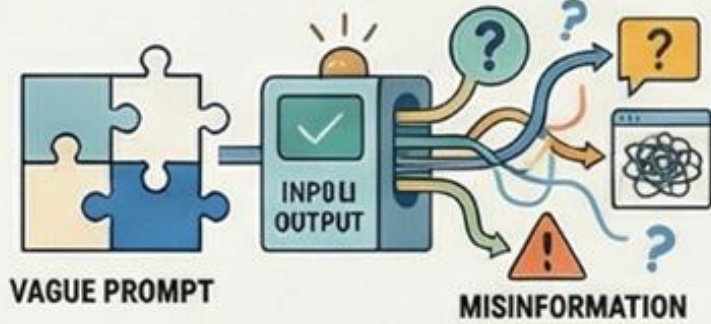
From AI Challenges

The Challenge: Critical Thinking



Passive AI use, skill atrophy, and deceptively confident outputs discourage critical evaluation.

The Challenge: Prompt Engineering



Vague or incomplete prompts lead to inconsistent results, misinformation, and user frustration.

The Challenge: Inherent Bias



Bias enters AI at all stages, reinforcing stereotypes and creating unequal access to information.

To Library Solutions

The Library Response: Nurture Thinkers



Librarians teach students to be "AI-Ready"—using AI as a creative partner, not a passive source.

The Library Response: Empower Questioners



Librarians frame prompt engineering as a familiar research skill, building on existing cognitive strengths.

The Library Response: Guide Investigators



Librarians teach bias awareness and stress the importance of consulting multiple trusted sources.



Video made from "text to video" with Google Flow

General AI Tools

About

Weaknesses

Strengths

ChaptGPT

OpenAI

"Kleenex" of AI; a catch-all reference to AI (default)

- Writing style can still be dry and academic
- Weaker personality and "vibes" compared to GPT-4o and Claude

- 80% fewer factual errors than previous models
- Breakthrough reasoning with built-in "thinking" mode
- Understands more than 100 languages

Claude

Anthropic

More expressive ChatGPT

- Weaker at complex reasoning than GPT-5
- Still prone to some hallucinations
- Expensive
- Embedding ads

- Massive context window (up to 1M tokens for Sonnet 4)
- Hybrid reasoning with extended thinking mode
- Expressive, natural writing style
- Strong coding and agentic capabilities

Gemini

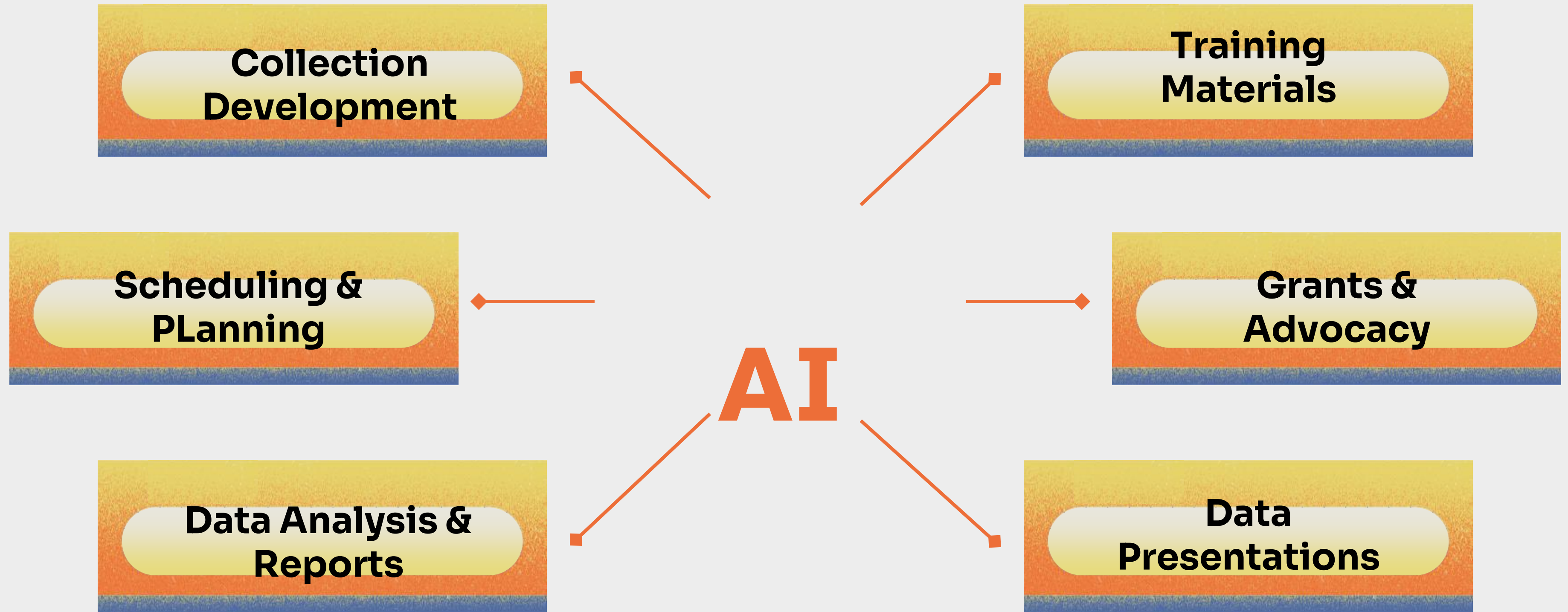
Google

#1 in hard prompts, coding, math, and creative writing; versatile

- Significantly slower response times
- Increasing reports of hallucinations and "thinking" without improved output quality
- Performance inconsistency between model versions

- Can process text, audio, video, and images natively with multimodal capabilities
- Massive 1 million token context window (2 million coming soon)
- Strong reasoning and code capabilities
- Built-in thinking capabilities for complex problems

General AI Tools for Libraries



Analyzing Weeded Library Book Acquisitions

I'll create a chart showing the distribution of books by Dewey Decimal Classification.

Distribution of Weeded Books by Dewey Decimal...

Diagram

I've created a pie chart that shows the distribution of weeded books by Dewey Decimal Classification. The chart includes both the percentage and the book count for each category.

As you can see from the chart:

The 300s (Social Sciences) make up the largest portion at 30% (123 books)

The 800s (Literature) follow at 20% (82 books)

The 700s (Arts & Recreation) represent 15% (61 books)

The 900s (History & Geography) account for 12% (49 books)

The 600s (Technology) comprise 11% (45 books)

The smaller categories include the 100s (Philosophy & Psychology) and 500s (Natural Sciences) at 7% each (29)

Reply...

SM

Sonnet 4.5

Montgomery Blair High School

Library Media Program School Improvement Plan FY26

[Maryland School Report Card 2024](#) | [Annual Targets](#) | [SIP Landing Page](#)

Library Media Program SMARTIE Goal: By June 2026, the Blair Library will improve nonfiction resource access and usage by investing \$30,000 in digital databases while increasing curriculum-aligned library instruction from 38 to 48 sessions. We will measure success through: 5% of Hispanic students, 5% of EML students, and 2% of SWD students actively using new databases (baseline: minimal usage), and achieving a 15% increase in nonfiction circulation through bookstore-style displays and strategic weeding of 1,000+ outdated items.

Critical Collection Context & Progress Tracking

FY25 Baseline:

Total Collection: 16,493 materials (866 unavailable - 5.2%)

Overall Average Age: 2008 (17 years old)

Nonfiction (7,391 books): 2004 (21 years old)

Sciences (500s): 2001 (24 years old)

Technology (655 books): 2006 (19 years old)

FY25 Achievements:

Added 855 books, weeded 84 tech titles, 234% circulation increase, 538% increase in teacher requests

FY26 Projected Progress:

Total Collection: 15,993 materials (major weeding for dynamic shelving)

Digital Investment: \$30,000 in nonfiction databases (86% of budget)

Physical Collection: \$5,000 for replacements & fiction

Nonfiction Strategy: Digital access + aggressive weeding

Display Approach: Bookstore-style dynamic shelving

Budget Impact:

\$30,000 databases + \$5,000 books = \$35,000 total (databases provide unlimited concurrent access to current nonfiction content)

Academic Achievement & Reading Culture

Library Instruction & Reading Culture Growth

Metric	FY25 Actual	FY26 Target	Growth	State Gap
Total Classes	38	48	+26%	N/A
Info Literacy Sessions	Limited	18 (2x/month)	New	N/A
Silent Sustained Reading	0	Weekly	New	N/A
Reading Culture	0	2		

School Climate & Student Volunteers

Engagement & Volunteer Metrics

Metric	FY25 Actual	FY26 Target	Impact
Circulation Increase	234%	Sustain 200%+	Engagement
Student Library Workers	5	7 total	Expanded
- Project	0	4	New
- IT Aids		2	+100%

File

Redo
Ctrl Shift Z

Design

Elements

Text

New

Brand

Uploads

Tools

Projects

Apps

REMINDER:

You have an overdue library book! Please renew your book or return it to the LMC by December 23 (before winter break!)

YOUR BOOK INFORMATION:

Patron Name:

Patron Barcode:

Grade Level:

TITLE/DESCRIPTION:

Call Number

Copy/Item Barcode

Due: Date

IF LOST, REPLACEMENT PRICE: Price

RENEWING YOUR BOOKS

Want to keep your book longer? No problem! Just renew it by following these steps:

1. Go to [MHS.EDU MEDIA CENTER BOOKS ONLY](#)

2. Log in to your Destiny account [MCPMMD SSO Login](#)

3. Navigate to My Stuff > Checkouts

4. Find the overdue book in your list

5. Click Renew next to the title, or click the three dots and select Renew

6. If successful, a new due date will appear. You're all done.

THANKS FOR HELPING US KEEP OUR LIBRARY RUNNING SMOOTHLY!

VISIT THE LMC WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

AI Tools in the Library Setting Destiny & Databases

“

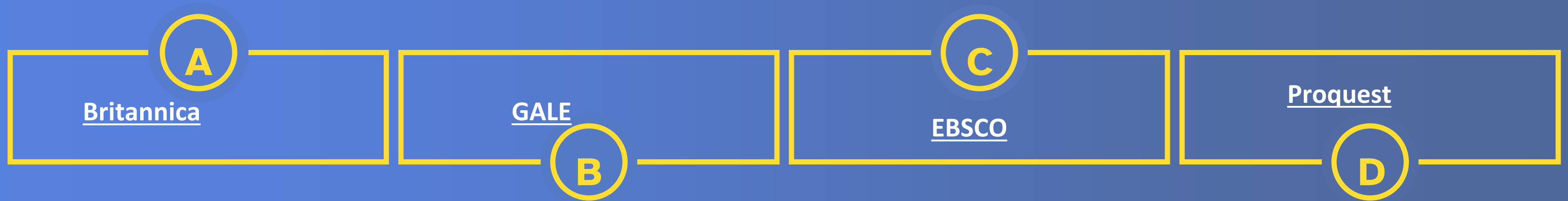
AI is revolutionising the librarian's daily work, making tasks more manageable, recommendations more informed, and literature reviews more efficient. Most librarians are embracing this technological shift, confident that AI will continue to enhance their impact in the academic world.

”

-Saskia Hoving

Library AI Tools

Student Resources



Many commonly used databases or library resources are now integrating AI tools into their platforms each one does this differently let's discuss a few of the common resources

Professional Resource

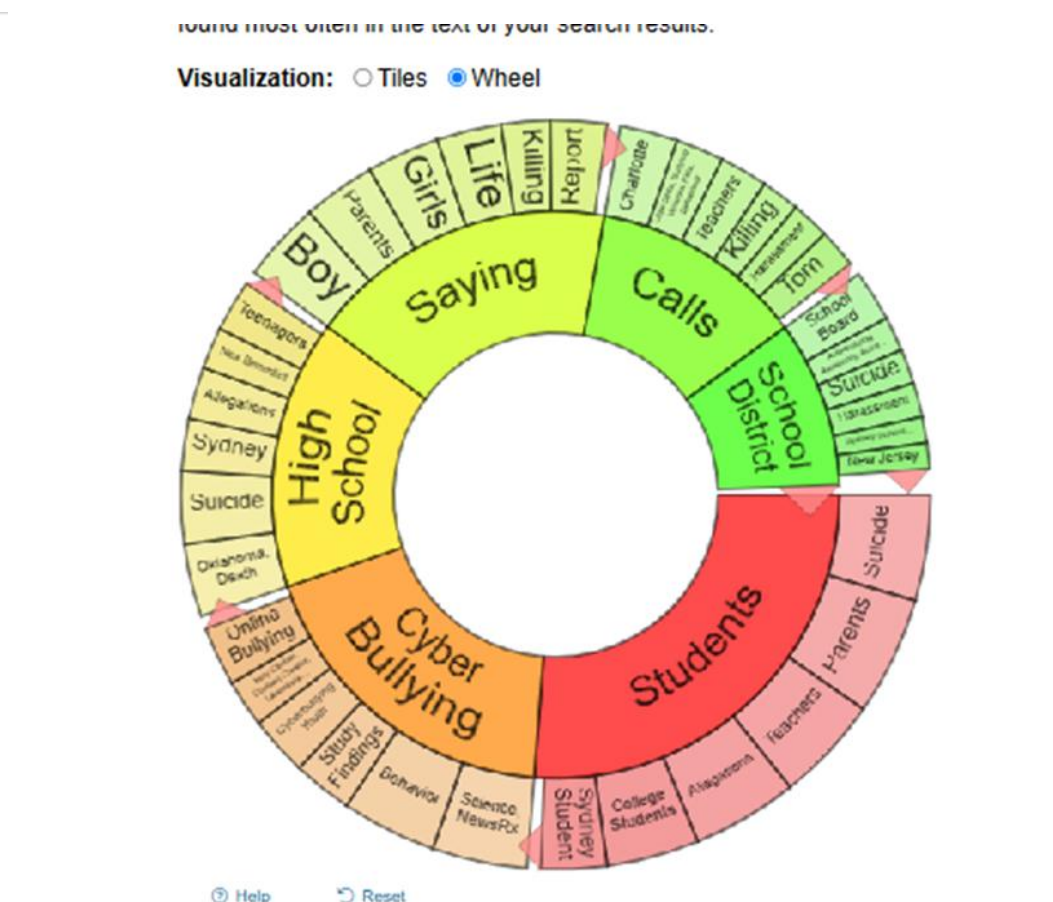
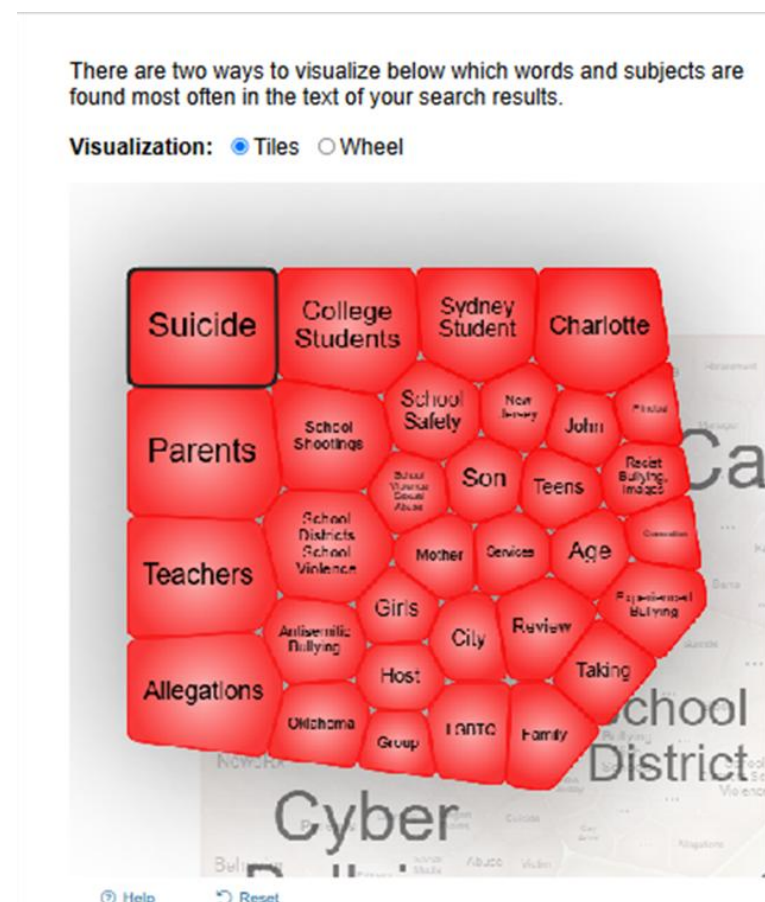




Our current areas of focus include:

- **Semantic Search:** Improving search results and curriculum alignment recommendations for schools with natural language search
- **Search Translation:** Supporting the needs of language learners and international researchers
- **Content Leveling:** Customizing content for students at all reading levels

Topic Finder





- **Safe Learning:** Filters queries to maintain an educational focus and a secure learning environment.
- **Trusted Knowledge:** Searches Britannica's vast resources to answer each question.
- **Conversational:** Understands natural queries better than keyword searches, delivering more relevant results.
- **Context Awareness:** Maintains an understanding of multi-turn conversations, allowing for natural follow-up queries and clarifications.
- **Complete Responses:** Provides answers with links to Britannica articles, related topics, and follow-up questions.

Britannica

The screenshot shows the Britannica website interface. At the top is a dark navigation bar with the Britannica logo, a search bar, and links to 'Ask the Chatbot', 'Games & Quizzes', 'History & Society', 'Science & Tech', 'Biographies', 'Animals & Nature', and 'Geography'. The main content area is for the 'theatre' article. On the left is a sidebar with an 'Introduction' section containing a list of topics like 'Origins of theatre space', 'Developments in ancient Greece', etc., and an 'Images' section with three small image thumbnails. The main article area is titled 'theatre building' and includes a 'Quick Summary' button, an 'Ask the Chatbot' button, and a 'Top Questions' section with four expandable questions: 'What is a theatre building?', 'What are the main parts of a theatre building?', 'How does the design of a theatre building affect performances?', and 'What is the purpose of a stage in a theatre?'. To the right of the article is a large image of the interior of the Teatro Farnese in Parma, Italy, with a caption 'Teatro Farnese Teatro Farnese, Parma, Italy.'.

Summarized from Britannica articles using AI, which can make mistakes. Please verify info using Britannica articles.

Let's start with a quick summary

A theatre is a building or space designed for dramatic performances. The main goal of theatre design is to make the audience's experience better. This means considering what the performers need to meet artistic standards and what the audience needs to be comfortable.

Parts of a Theatre

- **Stage:** The area where actors perform. It can be a simple platform or a complex space with areas for moving scenery, like trap rooms below the stage or fly spaces above.
- **Backstage:** Areas that support the stage, such as dressing rooms, rehearsal spaces, and shops for building costumes and sets.
- **House:** The area where the audience sits. The shape and design of the house can affect how well the audience can see and hear the performance.
- **Front-of-House:** These are spaces for the audience, like lobbies, ticket offices, restrooms, and sometimes even gift shops.

Types of Theatres



Current EBSCO AI Tools

The [Natural Language](#) toggle now appears in EBSCOhost. This is an AI powered tool that allows students to enter a sentence using the language the naturally use, and turn it into a curated keyword and Boolean search term. Turn the toggle on and perform a search. Then click “see more” beneath the search box to see the keyword and Boolean search that the Natural Language tool created for you.

The toggle is turned off by default.

All filters (0)

Full Text

Peer Reviewed

All time

Source type

Advanced search

☒ Natural language search

Natural language search enhances ease of use and is continuously improving to deliver more contextual results.
((digital citizenship OR online citizenship OR internet citizenship) AND (ethics OR responsibility OR safety OR education)) [Show less](#)

[Generate AI Insights](#) is opt-in only. If you choose to have us turn this on, articles in your search results will include a “Generate AI Insights” button. Clicking this button will create a bulleted summary of the article using plain language, right in the search results page. The summary can be easier to understand than the abstract, depending on the student and the article.

✦ Generate AI Insights

Insights

- Digital citizenship education has evolved from focusing on 'dos and don'ts' to integrating skills across subjects and fostering critical thinking.
- The transition to Digital Citizenship 3.0 emphasizes nuanced discussions, respect for student voice, and diverse perspectives.
- The Edvolve Digital Citizenship Curricular Framework provides a comprehensive guide to teaching digital citizenship, including enduring understandings and grade-level indicators.
- Integrating digital citizenship into content areas can be achieved through read-alouds, updated health lessons, and social studies debates, enhancing both digital and offline skills.
- Critical thinking is highlighted as a timeless skill in navigating the complexities of digital life, encouraging students to explore gray areas and multiple perspectives.



- Create more effective searches
- Evaluate documents swiftly
- Engage with content more deeply and efficiently
- Explore new topics with confidence
- It provides *Key Takeaways* from the article selected

Explore suggested sources.

Does the Communications Act of 1934 Contain a Hidden Internet Kill Switch?

Opderbeck, David W. Federal Communications Law Journal. (01 Jan 2013)

President Obama Appeared Anxious to End Government Shutdown; Afghanistan's Possible New Leader Might Have Connections to al Qaeda; Gulf Co ...

Baier, Bret; et al. Special Report (FOX). (04 Oct 2013)

The Law and Practice of Government Shutdowns in the United States

Stolicki, Dariusz. Ad Americam. (01 Jan 2015)

DISAPPROPRIATION

Lawrence, Matthew B. Columbia Law Review. (01 Jan 2020)

View all

Here are the **indexing terms** applied to this document.

Subject

- ☐ Government agencies
- ☐ Government shutdowns
- ☐ Politics
- ☐ Contractors
- ☐ State court decisions

Location

- ☐ United States--US

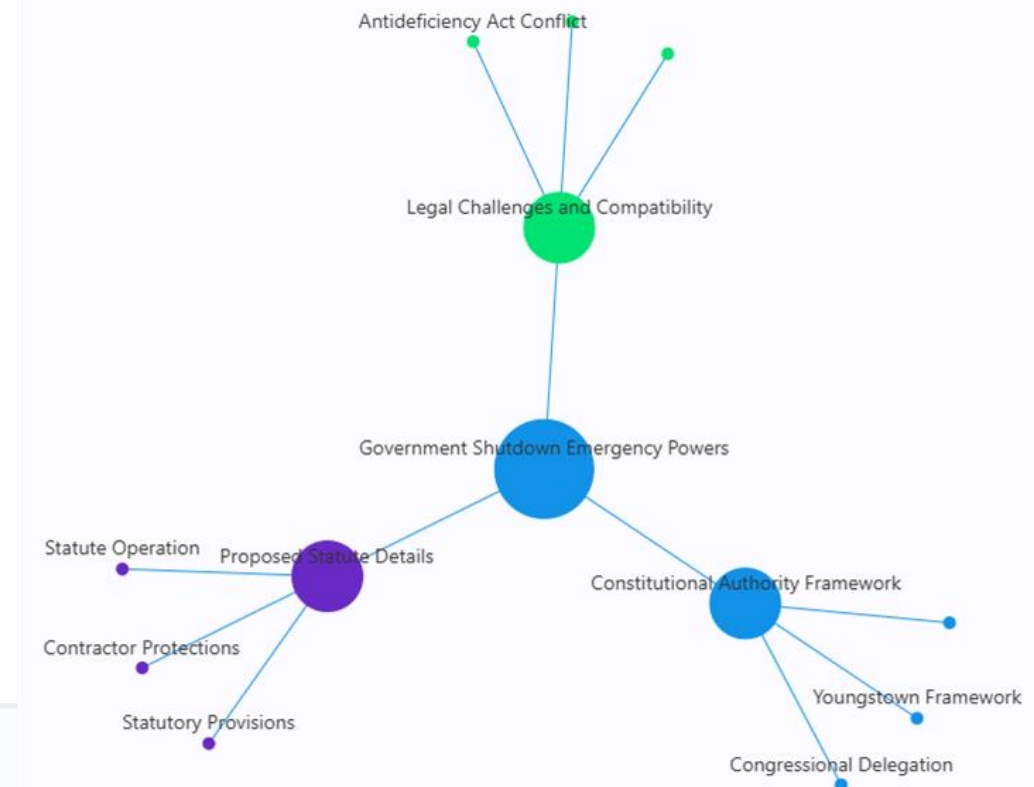
Company/organization

- ☐ Congress-US

Search using selected terms

Here's a **mind map** about this document's topics.

Government Shutdown Emergency Powers



Here is the **key takeaway**.

A statutory emergency power giving the President conditional authority to make funds available for the payment of government contractors during a government shutdown provides a novel solution which lies within Congress' constitutional authority and could reduce the severity of the impact of these shutdowns on those businesses and individuals who contract with the federal government.

Additional topics discussed include:

- The impact of government shutdowns on federal contractors
- The constitutional basis for emergency powers
- The Antideficiency Act and its implications for government operations

Relationship to your search terms:

The document is related to government shutdowns as it discusses their causes, effects, and potential legislative solutions.

Show less ^

Proquest



Now part of Destiny Library Manager and Destiny Resource Manager, Destiny AI delivers intelligent automation to reduce manual tasks, increase accuracy, and improve decisions across your district.

For Instant Answers — Simply Ask.

Whether you need detailed reports on resource usage, overdue items, or genre trends compared to last year, simply ask. Destiny AI: Data Assistant understands your questions and generates reports instantly.

Destiny AI

[Step 1:]

Ask Anything

Type your question in plain language. Destiny AI understands and interprets your request quickly and accurately.

[Step 2:]

Immediate Results

The data you need appears instantly. Sort, filter, resize columns, and download directly from within the conversation.

[Step 3:]

Refine As You Go

Want more specific data? Keep the conversation going, and Data Assistant will adjust the report in real-time.

Site Dashboard

Library Data Assistant



New Chat +

Recent

What books in my...

What books in my collection that were added more than 5 years ago have never been checked out

This report identifies books in the library catalog that were acquired before 08-27-2020 and have never been checked out, listing their titles and authors.

Last updated: 08/27/25, 06:21 AM



Title	Author
Batgirl, vol. 1, Batgirl of B...	Stewart, Cameron, 1976?-.
Case closed, vol. 42	Aoyama, Gosho.
She-Hulk, vol. 1 : law and...	Soule, Charles,
Case closed, vol. 41	Aoyama, Gosho.
Arata 11 : the legend	Watase, Yuu.

Questions? ...Let's ask AI together. :)

Naomi_R_Gelfand@mcpsmd.org

Sheri_A_Massey@mcpsmd.org

Paige_L_Pagley@mcpsmd.org



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OpenAI. *ChatGPT*, version GPT-5, OpenAI, 6 Oct. 2025, chat.openai.com. Response to Paige P's prompt, "I know prompt engineering is similar to the queries for academic research. Help me create an acronym for AI prompts that matches the intentional queries for research."

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