Transforming metadata: Getting ready for AI
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The Transforming Metadata series connects you with emerging trends in the world of next-generation metadata standards, services, and platforms. At Transforming Metadata events, you’ll hear how OCLC staff and metadata practitioners are facilitating new ways of working that make libraries and their data central to contemporary research and scholarship.
Richard J. Urban
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Harnessing collective expertise

Metadata Managers Focus Group

• Learning together
• Engaging AI with curiosity
• Thinking responsibly

OCLC-LIBER
Building for the future program

How do you feel about the use of AI and machine learning in the library context?

- scale opportunities
- hopeful
- beyond future
- optimistic
- small
- uncertain
- exciting
- intrigued
- slightly
- mostly
- helpful
- forward
- views
- looking
- positive
- herring
- curious
- critical
- forward
- helpful
- views
- apprehensive
- cautious
- excited
- disturbed
- screens
- frustrated
- impressed
- relieved
- conflicted
- opportunity
- conflicted
- libraries
- uncomfortable
- mind-blowing
- suspicious
Collaborative research
Charlene Chou
Head of Knowledge Access
New York University
Goal: Demystify AI and understand its impact on the metadata operations through reading, testing, and training

Research questions: Can AI/ML tools assist in metadata operations, such as metadata creation and quality control, and enhance the discovery of library resources, including those in non-Latin script resources?

Completed tasks

• Discussed journal articles
• Lightning talks to present test results
  o GPT instructed using Python scripts to remediate 4K JSON files into structured format files required for the system upgrade of Spatial Data Repository
KA AI study group (2)

Completed tasks (continued)

- Using abstracts or rare book dealer descriptions to create MARC records or LC subject headings: To determine what’s working or not
- Tested different tools, such as Claude3, to transliterate and translate
- AI learning resources (work in progress)
- Prompt engineering training session

Work in progress: Continue to maintain this learning space to support interdisciplinary collaboration and address ethical concerns
KA AI study group (3)

Work in progress: Continue to maintain this learning space to support interdisciplinary collaboration and address ethical concerns
• Will hold a joint meeting with subject librarians (Research & Research Services) in September 2024
• Test an automated workflow for creating brief bib records
• Test NLP and machine learning for digital resources to mitigate AI harms

Conclusion
• The most gratifying outcome: Increased member engagement, including testing, discussions, and suggesting ideas for training
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How can we use AI to improve library and archives services while also upholding our values and protecting our communities from harm?

Goals:

- Develop practical resources that support responsible use of AI in library and archives contexts
- Help library and archives practitioners consider values and ethical implications as we embark on new AI projects

lib.montana.edu/responsible-ai/
Responsible AI in libraries project

Phase 1: Literature review— 2022/2023
• Review of literature, gray literature, and conference presentations
• Forthcoming in *Information Technology and Libraries* in 2024

Phase 2: Responsible AI case studies— 2023
• Published as a special issue of *Journal of eScience Librarianship*

Phase 3: Workshops with practitioners, admin, and users— spring 2024
• Consider professional values, discuss “irresponsible AI” scenarios
Responsible AI in libraries project

Phase 4. Responsible AI tool development and assessment — summer/fall 2024

• Analyze data, develop a draft tool
• Expert testing of tool: Community experts, case study authors

Phase 5: Final tool and handbook— 2025

• Release final version of a tool for responsible AI in libraries and archives
• Publish handbook with instructions for using the tool
Poll results

Use a word or short phrase to describe how you feel about working with AI

- preparing
- virtual
- potential jobs
- new
- unsure
- interested
- frustrated
- ill
- libraries
- mixed
- pessimistic
- tool
- head
- may
- feelings
- confident
- exercise
- ignorant
- meh
- party
- reliable
- ugh
- begrudgingly
- ambivalent
- little
- intrigued
- beginning
- inaccurate
- ambiguous
- cake
- one
- reality
- anxious
- annoyed
- learning
- cautions
- care
- great
- skeptical
- lack
- tasks
- necessary
- help
- people
- but...
- convenient
- helpful
- nervous
- take
- easier
- horseradish
- chocolate
- overlords
- helps
- apprehensive
- hopeful
- uncertain
- empowered
- reserved
- yet
- totally
- future
- conflicted
- feel
- wary
- hesitant
- prepared
- invigorated
- optimist
- exciting
What are the needs in this space?
Change management
Ethics and values
S-L-O-W (and intentional)
Opportunities for scaling knowledge and learning
Interdisciplinary collaboration for innovation and impact
• Domain-specific data
• High-quality metadata is still valuable and needed

Create a safe learning space for change management and demystifying AI

Participate proactively in ethical AI projects creating quality datasets and metadata

Manage FOMO by going SLOMO

AI needs professional guidance, values, and communities of care
Poll results

Use a word or short phrase to describe how you feel about working with AI

curious  excited  medium  motivated

go slow  not inevitable  expectant

unsure  overwhelmed  hopeful

apprehensive  careful
Because what is known must be shared.