



HAVE AN AI QUESTION?

ASK AN (AI)BRARIAN.

BY ASHLEY NIETFELD



ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE



AI What is the best study schedule for me based on my course and work schedule?

AI Will the IKEA Hemnes desk box fit into the trunk of my Honda Civic?

AI Create a gluten-free menu for a Barbie-themed college party.

These are examples of the prompts you can input into artificial intelligence text generators, such as ChatGPT, to gain new ideas and answers that aren't easily Googled. But AI goes far beyond measurements and menus, and it can seem unknowable and overwhelming. So where do you start? Ask a librarian.



K-State librarians (above left to right) Alice Anderson, Jason Coleman and Carol Sevin have dubbed themselves the (AI)brarians. Or, at least, that's what ChatGPT suggested they call themselves when they asked for suggestions.

"The biggest role that we see ourselves playing is in AI literacy," said Coleman. "Not really in helping people learn how to create AI tools, but rather help everyone grasp what these tools can do for them as end users and what they need to be cognizant of, as far as what they do well, what they do not do well, what dangers they might pose and things to think about in terms of ethics."

The three librarians have spearheaded the Libraries' involvement in AI, beginning with developing a series of workshops on topics such as text and image generation, copyright, how to use AI to fact check news and information, and how to use AI for academic research.

The workshops immediately began to fill up, so they added Zoom options to accommodate more attendees. The librarians have also been asked to present the workshops to outside organizations, including the Kansas League of Women Voters and the Kansas Electric Cooperatives. Currently, more advanced workshops are being discussed.

"There's a big demand and need for this type of service to help people initiate working on this tool," said Anderson. "AI tools are being brought into the backends of many databases and other sources of information that we use regularly,

both in academia and our regular lives. And understanding that impact on the information that we receive is an important aspect of a literate citizenry."

In mid-October, the Libraries partnered with the Department of Modern Languages, K-State's Center for AI and Data Sciences and the Manhattan Public Library to host a three-day symposium called "AI and the Future: Exploring the Intersection of Language(s), Science and Ethics." The event was free and open to the public and provided sessions on topics ranging from self-driving cars and creative writing to data ownership and writing resumes and cover letters.

AI is just the beginning, as the Libraries continues to look to the future and incorporate new technologies and learning into their everyday work and the services they provide. From innovation and digitization labs to open access publishing and research data management, the Libraries is pushing to become the heart of innovation at K-State.

"At some point, this is just going to be our work, all of us," said Anderson, of working with AI. "There are big changes ahead."

To learn more about the Libraries' work with AI, visit lib.k-state.edu/technology/ai-and-libraries.

