# AI and Libraries: Shaping the Future of Services

Fiona O'Connor (She/Her) June 11, 2025





## Agenda

Integrating AI in TPL's programming offerings

Strategies for advancing AI education and Literacy

Staff use of AI in library work

Questions and discussion

## Why TPL?

#### priority 3

#### Learning and growth

We will expand learning opportunities for all ages to develop multiple literacies and personal and professional skills, so that residents can thrive, build economic resilience, and adapt to new technologies, such as AI.

#### Outcomes

TPL will be the leading hub in Toronto for high-quality, self-directed, and free lifelong learning.

#### So that...

- Torontonians have easy access to in-person and online learning opportunities to develop skills that support their personal and professional goals.
- Torontonians have the digital literacy skills they need to adapt to changes in technology and thrive in the modern world.
- Children and youth have the literacy skills required to succeed and thrive.

### **Declaration of Cities Coalition for Digital Rights**



To protect and uphold digital rights at the local and global level

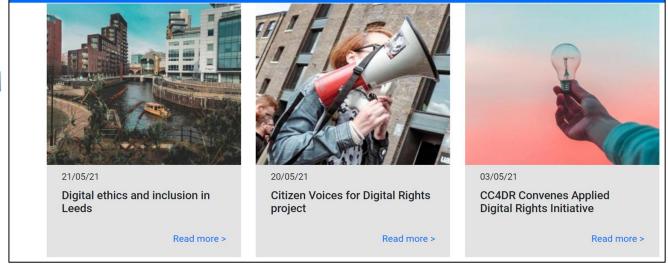
- 1. Universal and equal access to the internet, and digital literacy
- 2. Privacy, data protection and security
- 3. Transparency, accountability, and nondiscrimination of data, content and algorithms
- 4. Participatory Democracy, diversity and inclusion
- 5. Open and ethical digital service standards

## **Digital Literacy**

#### Cities for Digital Rights

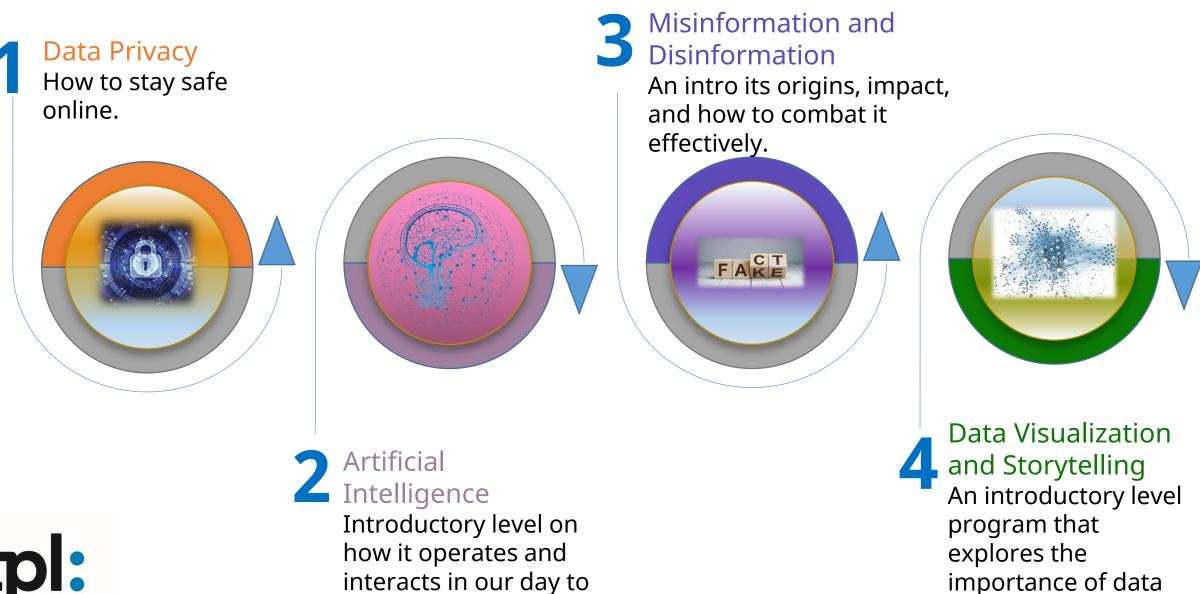
About Declaration Cities News and Activities Calendar Join the Coalition Contact

How **Toronto's Library** will help our city and its residents **adapt, connect** and **thrive.** 



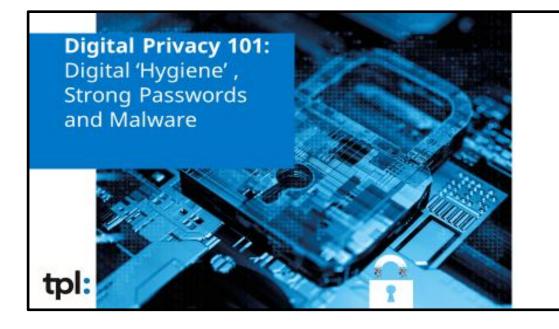
### **Staff-Led Programs**

visualization.



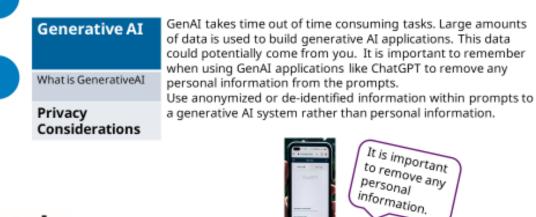
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interacts in our day to day.



## **Staff Training**

#### Program Overview: Generative AI and Privacy Considerations



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#### **Lunch and Learn Sessions**

#### **Video Series**

Welcome to the Canadian Democracy @ Work video modules!

Each 15-minute module includes a short video and interactive quiz questions. Below each video you can find additional resources which let you go deeper.



#### MODULE ONE

#### Understanding Misinformation, Disinformation, and Algorithms

This module explores how we consume information online and offers practical strategies for evaluating content and finding reliable, useful information.



#### MODULE TWO

#### Understanding Artificial Intelligence and Deepfakes

This module focuses on how artificial intelligence technologies and tools are changing how we create and consume content online and offers strategies for determining the credibility of images, videos, and text given these changes.



#### MODULE THREE

#### Understanding the Canadian Political System

This module ties together the ideas of the previous two modules, focussing on the Canadian political system, our place in it, and why effective participation in our political system requires us to be critical consumers of media.

#### **Eye on AI Series**

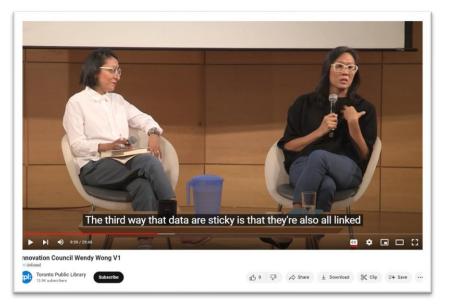
A series designed to ask important questions related to AI and machine learning technology and its uses and privacy impact of our lives.



### **Innovation Council Programs**

Toronto Public Library Innovation Council that is comprised of leading individuals from the academic, creative, and technology communities.

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### Innovator In Residence (IIR): Artificial Intelligence

IIR is an 8 Week residency comprised of programs, workshops and consultations

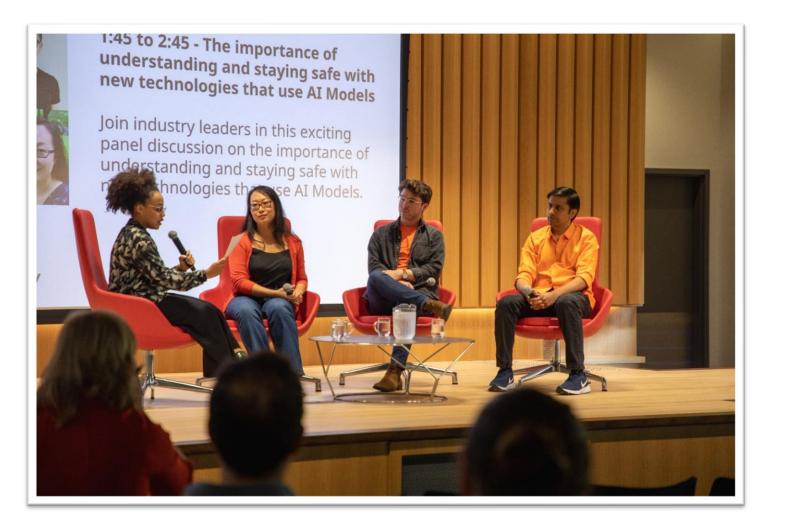


#### **IIR: Product Inclusion Lab Series**



## **Digital Expo 2023**

The importance of knowing and staying safe in today's everchanging digital world.

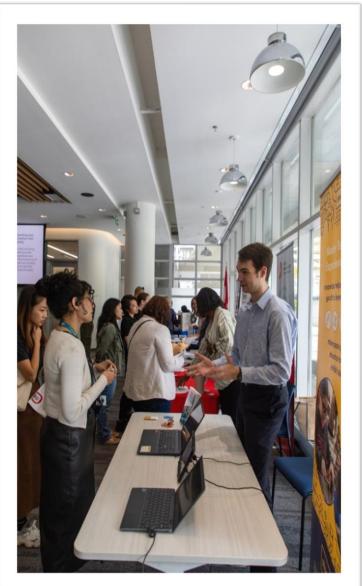


### **Digital Expo 2024**

#### Misinformation and disinformation in emerging technologies







#### **Partnerships**





## **AI Upskilling Initiative**

#### **Overview:**

A two-year enterprise project with three components, targeted for completion by December 2026.

#### **TPL Strategic Plan and Policy:**

Supports TPL strategic priority around learning and growth and advances strategic objective to expand AI skills program options and increase access to AI software and technologies.

Guided by the AI Policy.

#### **Sponsorship**

Generously sponsored by a donation from Google.org received from TPL Foundation.



### **AI Upskilling: Learning Circles**

Google AI Essentials certificate course with independent and facilitated learning opportunities:

- TPL's Learning Circle Model with comprehensive supports for learning circle cohorts.
- Scholarships and Programming for a minimum of 1,500 learners from equity-deserving and Indigenous communities.

## **AI Upskilling: Programs and Events**



Convene experts to upskill community members and develop cross-sector solutions

- Four Innovators in Residence
- Two Digital Expos
- Two AI Summits



### AI Upskilling: tools, kits and more

Activate upskilling opportunities by increasing access to a variety of AI tools.

- Select and install a range of leading, multiplatform GenAI software and tool options
- Leverage and integrate AI resources into TPL programming.
- Lend new AI tools and learning kits through TPL's existing Tech Kit lending program.



#### Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Purpose

Scope

**Underlying Principles** 

**Policy Statement** 

**Specific Directives** 

Accountability

**Related Legislation** 

**Related Library Policies** 

**Definition of Terms** 

Effective Date: January 27, 2025

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to all Toronto Public Library (TPL) staff for the secure, responsible, ethical and effective use of AI tools. The policy outlines the requirements that all staff must follow when using AI tools in the workplace.

## AI Policy @TPL

#### **Staff Use**



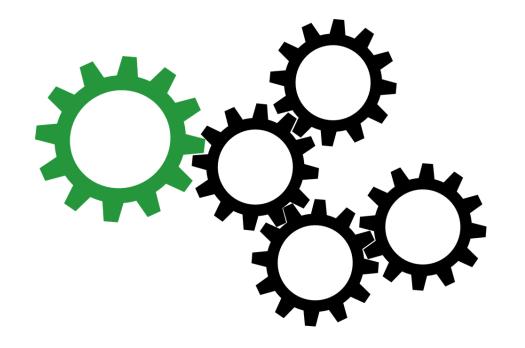
Wikipedia, 2024





Zajac, Silvia, 2024

#### **Lessons learned**



Staying abreast of changes is key when designing a program that involves AI applications.



#### **Resources**



Home > Using the Library > Computer & Digital Services

#### How to be a Digital Citizen



How can you navigate safely in this fast-changing digital world?

Every day, the Internet, digital media, and artificial intelligence are becoming more common. Understanding digital privacy and safety, being aware of Al's influence in our lives and thinking critically about information are important skills in today's digital world.

Our programs and resources are here to help you understand, access, use and engage with media and technology.

#### **Resources**



### Advocacy work

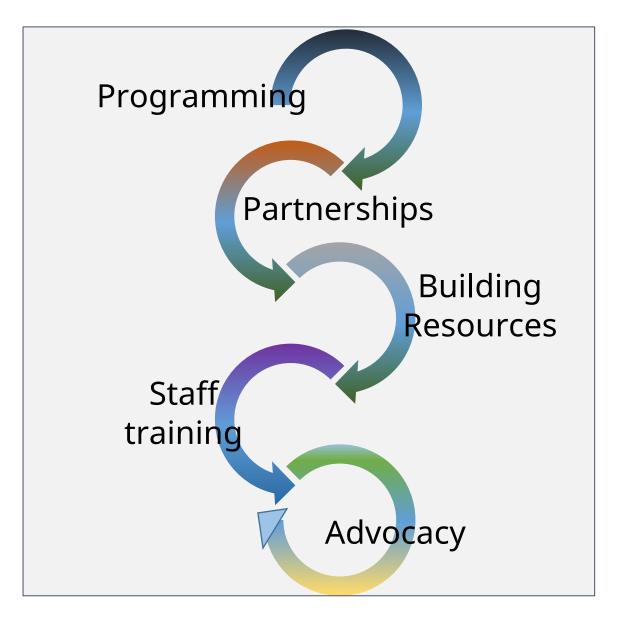


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### Advocacy work



#### **Sustainability**



## Contact

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