

A Yooper Beginner's Guide to Human-Centered AI and Libraries
Kristin Fontichiaro, University of Michigan School of Information
UPRLC Preconference - September 2026

Artificial intelligence (AI) is having an undeniable impact on public discourse, business practices, education, and the information landscape. As their communities' information hubs, public libraries must have a working knowledge of AI's potentials and risks so that they can help patrons navigate AI effectively.

This three-hour workshop provides a bird's-eye view into today's artificial intelligence landscape. It will surface ethical, practical, patron-centered, and policy-related questions related to AI use in libraries, keeping humans at the center of decisionmaking. The workshop leaves room for each participant to craft personal and professional guidelines, policies, and practices.

Topics will include:

- Types of AI we encounter in daily life
- How AI works
- Technical, ethical, practical and social issues related to AI use
- Minimizing risks and maximizing accuracy in AI outputs
- Issues surrounding development of hyperscale data centers throughout Michigan
- Using AI offline (without data centers)
- AI tools and youth
- Hands-on tool exploration with tools and strategies that may help your community's entrepreneurs, students, and patrons
- Common-sense responses to patron questions like, "Are there better or safer ways to use AI?"

We ask that you attend with an open mind, recognizing that there may be a diversity of AI perspectives in the room, and that you hold space for perspectives that are different from your own. We encourage you to bring your favorite devices (smartphone, laptop, tablet); you will have the option to download recommended apps or create online accounts based on your comfort level.