

## THE GREAT AI RECKONING

I am two webinars into the four-part [AALL GenAI Webinar Series](#) focused on artificial intelligence (AI) and how it factors into our jobs as information specialists. So far, the series has been great, and I have learned more about hallucinations, searching parameters, and large language models than I thought there was to know. And this is just the tip of the iceberg on learning about AI.

This summer alone, AI seems to be the concept that keeps on giving. Publisher's Weekly recently had a news article about how AI was the topic du jour at the 2024 U.S. Book Show. The incredible [Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians \(SEAALL\)](#) Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, this May had almost one AI focused panel per time slot.



The American Library Association (ALA) has several AI panels offered during their conference, at least one every day, and AALL is keeping that trend up into July at the [2024 Annual Meeting & Conference](#) in Chicago. We are surrounded by AI and its implications for the future. Any hope we had of skirting the issue or kicking the can down the road is no longer possible. AI, and the implications it will have on what we all do, is here to stay. I, for one, am cautiously optimistic about what this technological boon may create. I went to law school after the large shift from print to electronic resources had already taken place, so this is my first time experiencing a profession-wide technology reset like this one. We are nowhere near the point where generative AI tools and large language models can be used without significant caution, research, and hand-holding, but the possibilities in this moment do seem to be endless. Personally, I am most intrigued by the ways AI can assist us with tasks outside of research and analysis.

I'm looking forward to working with colleagues across the profession to harness generative AI and find the best ways to help our students and patrons with these big issues. By virtue of being law librarians, we have a unique perspective on both legal uses and technological advances that will serve us well in the years to come. We can discuss the diverse offerings and see what platforms work best for each task. We can think about how best to explain the concepts to students, and what a first-year law student may need compared to a third-year student, or an LLM already familiar with the practice of law. We can counsel practicing attorneys and judges on the positives and pitfalls and discuss network implications with IT professionals. Far from being replaced by AI, law librarianship can become increasingly visible, and we as law librarians will become the experts in generative AI in legal practice. It may be a challenge, but one I cannot wait to take on.

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