

“Read the Dang Article”: Archivists’ Views on AI and Peer Review

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Abstract

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) introduces new opportunities and challenges to the global information landscape and scholarly communications. Recently there has been a steady stream of discussion and scholarship surrounding how AI may impact various aspects of information creation broadly, and archival work more specifically. This study filled a gap in the literature by exploring the intersection of AI and scholarly peer review within the Information and Library Science (ILS) field. Our guiding research question was: How do information and library scientists engage in AI use and avoidance in the scholarly peer review process? We disseminated a questionnaire through 10 international listservs and earned 195 responses from archivists, librarians, curators, and teaching faculty. We took an inductive thematic approach to code the open-ended responses, following Braun & Clarke’s (2006) six stage approach. Participants addressed topics such as their use of AI for peer review, the appropriateness of AI use in peer reviewing, AI use policy in peer review, inclusive use of AI, and the future of AI in peer review. Among archivists, key themes included AI’s environmental impact, the importance of policies, ethics, and the critically human-centered nature of peer review. Our talk will discuss the archivists’ views in more detail and offer avenues for future research, including promoting a more inclusive approach to AI use and further exploring archivists’ thoughts regarding environmental impact.

About the authors:

Ashley Todd-Diaz, Ph.D., is Director of Distinctive Collections and Digital Scholarship at Towson University in Baltimore. Her research interests are libraries and archives as organizations, leadership in academic libraries, graduate archival education, and archival literacy. Her dissertation explored the physical and virtual power structures and dynamics surrounding archives and libraries that exist within a parent-child organizational relationship, and how those dynamics are communicated to and perceived by external stakeholders. She is the chair of the Society of American Archivists’ (SAA) Committee on Education and immediate past chair of SAA’s Archives Management Section. She holds a PhD from Emporia State University, an MSIS with a concentration in archives and records management from SUNY Albany, and an MA in English literature from New York University.

An Associate Professor at Drexel University’s College of Computing and Informatics, **Alex H. Poole** studies history, archives and records management, information practices and information behavior, digital curation, digital humanities, and pedagogy. Poole has received the ALISE/Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Award, Donald G. Davis Article Award (American Library Association), the Justin Winsor Prize (ALA), the Jesse H. Shera Award for

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