Critical Al Literacy

Understanding the New Tool



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Biases in the System

- Social biases and human value systems
- They are are baked into the Al
- Through the corpora (data sets) the AI is trained on
- Even evidence-based arguments can contain biases

CRISIS



Danger

Opportunity

Challenges

- Sorting through conflicting info about this disruptive innovation
- Amplification of pre-existing social biases and prejudices
- Mistaking synthesis for critical thinking (a challenge that existed before the Al arrived ...)

Opportunities

- Enhancing metacognition
- Rethinking the craft of writing
- Examining educational practices
- Improving curatorial and editorial skills
- Discussing machine ethics

Large Language Model

- A statistical tool to recognize and reproduce patterns based on the datasets it trained on
- Based on the probability of a given sequence of words occurring in a sentence
- Calculating, statistically, what might come next
- Super-powered "autocomplete"

Not all heroes wear

```
Not all heroes wear capes (80%) pants (5%)
                       ...
pyjamas (0.01%)
```

Not all heroes wear _____

Not all heroes wear capes

```
but (65%)
and (10%)
if (4%)
...
, (0.03%)
```

What really happens behind the scene ...

From a human perspective: We are asking an infinite variety of questions.

From the AI perspective: Humans repeatedly ask the same question – what are the most likely words to follow what I just typed ...

What really happens behind the scene ...

- Human: "The first person to walk on the Moon was ..."
- Al interprets the question as "Given the statistical distribution of words in the English corpus, what words are most likely to follow the sequence – The first person to walk on the Moon was?"
- Reaching this answer: "Neil Armstrong"

Human: "What is the highest city in the world?"

Al: La Paz, Bolivia, at 3,869 m above sea level

But: El Alto, Bolivia, is in fact higher, at 4150 m

The prompt should be fine-tuned to define city or metropolitan area (having a minimum population of ____)

Who am I? What do I believe?

- Certain tasks cannot be outsourced to Al
- Understand the world through language
- Reveal our unique selves through writing
- Freedom = freely express one's originality, not just through embellishment of language generated by an AI chatbot
- Structuring my own language to find out who I am