

AI in Instructional Design and Education: Ethical Considerations

Brief Description: This session, led by Jenny Roach, provided an overview of how artificial intelligence (AI) is relevant to instructional design and education, with a strong focus on ethical considerations. Roach emphasized that AI is not a fleeting trend but a significant technological shift that is already impacting how we work, learn, and live. The session addressed common misconceptions about AI, noting that it is more likely to enhance human work than replace it and is fundamentally different from human thinking. Using the analogy of an "omniscient chef," Roach illustrated that the quality of AI output depends heavily on the quality of the input it receives.

The session explored the connection between AI, learners, educators, and designers, highlighting how AI can support learning at every stage of knowledge, from data collection to the development of wisdom through critical thinking. It also covered emerging trends in education enhanced by AI, such as personalized learning, mobile learning, gamification, and blended learning, emphasizing the potential for more efficient teaching and customized education. A key topic was the distinction between AI-assisted content creation, where humans maintain control, and AI-generated content, which requires careful human oversight. Roach also discussed the phenomenon of AI "hallucinations," where AI generates false information, and stressed the importance of fact-checking and providing clear, specific prompts to mitigate this.

Practical guidance on effective AI prompt writing was a central part of the session, outlining key factors influencing AI responses and the essential components of a good prompt, such as context, task, output type, tone, and constraints. Roach introduced the CLEAR framework (Conciseness, Logic, Explicitness, Adaptability, Reflectiveness) as a guiding principle for crafting effective prompts and provided various fundamental and situational prompt-writing techniques with examples for instructional designers. Finally, the session underscored the ethical considerations for responsible AI implementation, encouraging educators and designers to address bias, maintain human oversight, stay informed about AI policy updates, and invest in professional development to effectively leverage AI tools in education. The SPARRO framework (Strategy, Prompt Design, Adopting, Reviewing, Refining, Optimizing) was presented as a model for ensuring ethical and effective integration of AI in instructional design.

Summary & Reflection: I found this session very informative and practical. It highlighted the importance of using AI thoughtfully in education and provided clear guidelines on how to do so. The focus on ethical considerations, such as addressing bias and maintaining human oversight was valuable. This session offered practical tips and real-world examples

that can help educators and instructional designers effectively integrate AI into their work while ensuring ethical practices.