



THE INSTITUTIONAL ALIGNMENT CHALLENGE: GRAPPLING WITH AI IN COLLECTIONS

University of Toronto Libraries

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INTRODUCTIONS



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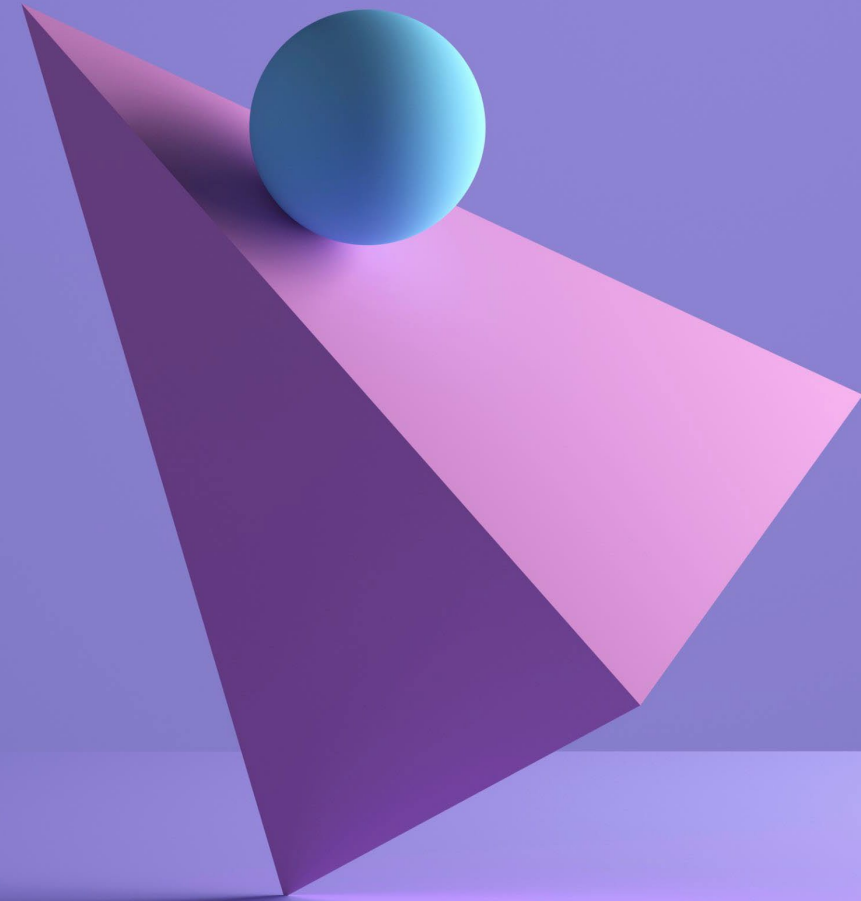


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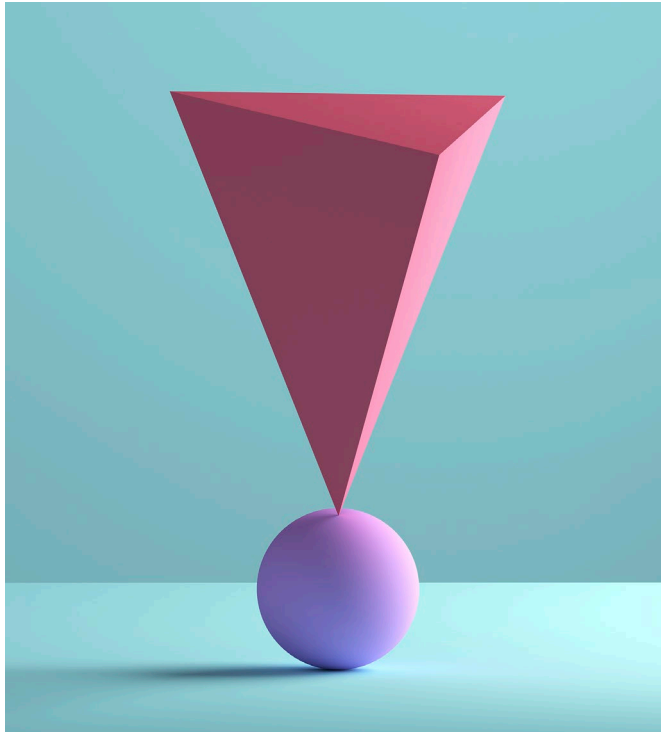
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TODAY

- University of Toronto: Institutional AI Context
- UTL Collections AI Response Team Overview
- Progress and Accomplishments to Date
- Emerging Challenges
- Discussion



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S APPROACH TO AI



- University of Toronto AI Taskforce (Launched March 2024)
- 7 Working & Advisory Groups
 - Teaching and Learning
 - Research
 - Student Services
 - Operations & Planning
 - People Strategy & Administration
 - Technology and Data Governance
 - Library Advisory Group
- **Final report and recommendations expected Spring 2025, incorporating working group input.**
- Implications for UTL:
 - UTL will need to align collections strategy, services and policies with institutional guidance. Anticipated areas of emphasis:
 - Equitable access
 - Transparency and attribution
 - Decentralized, flexible implementation
 - Data and IP Governance

COORDINATED AI RESPONSE AT UTL: TASK FORCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (2025)



- Formed to coordinate UTL's response to the evolving role of generative AI in research, teaching, and library operations, and to connect and coordinate with wider institutional efforts.
- Collections AI Response Team
 - Evaluates AI integrations into collections, user and licensing needs, and copyright
- Technology Response Team
 - Evaluates infrastructure for responsible, sustainable AI use
 - Hands-on experimentation to understand technology needs to support potential future UTL AI services
- User Services Response Team
 - Develops guidance for students, faculty and staff using AI tools
- OCUL Scholar's Portal AIML Team
 - Coordinates with Ontario-wide efforts on shared infrastructure, projects and services

UNIQUE VALUE OF (COLLECTIONS) LIBRARIANS IN THE CAMPUS AI CONVERSATION

Why should you work with us?

What existing strengths do we have?



We have publishing and copyright expertise; we help mitigate research waste and risk



We have working relationships with publishers and AI tool developers



We have access to faculty and student use cases



We have experience aligning license terms with user needs

COLLECTIONS AI RESPONSE TEAM

Working meetings: Weekly

- Collections Coordinators (3)
- Head, Acquisitions and Collections
- Electronic Resources Librarian
- Head, Scholarly Communications and Copyright Office
- Copyright & Scholarly Communications Outreach Librarian
- Scholarly Publishing Librarian
- Associate Chief Librarian for Collections and Materials Management

Round-up meetings: Monthly

- Chief Librarian (UTM) - Liaison to UTL AI Taskforce
- Scholars Portal Representative
- UTSC Representative
- Library Teaching and Engagement Unit representative
- ITS Representative

Collections AI Response Team Liases with:

- Library Executive
- UTL Taskforce on AI
- University of Toronto AI Library Advisory Group
- Reference Services

OUR APPROACH

- Form an agile team that brings together various experts
 - Respond to the disruption through frequent communication (both within our group and with other groups), iterative decision making and accepting that what we decide now may soon need to change
 - Default to 'yes'
 - Maintain and enhance research competitive advantage through facilitating safe and informed AI use within library collections
-



Develop our expertise in this rapidly evolving area



Understand AI use cases in research, teaching and learning



Outreach: Educate users about AI tools and their appropriate use and limitations



Create capacity to advise users around AI and issues such as academic integrity and copyright



Get to know new AI products by applying the Navigator checklist

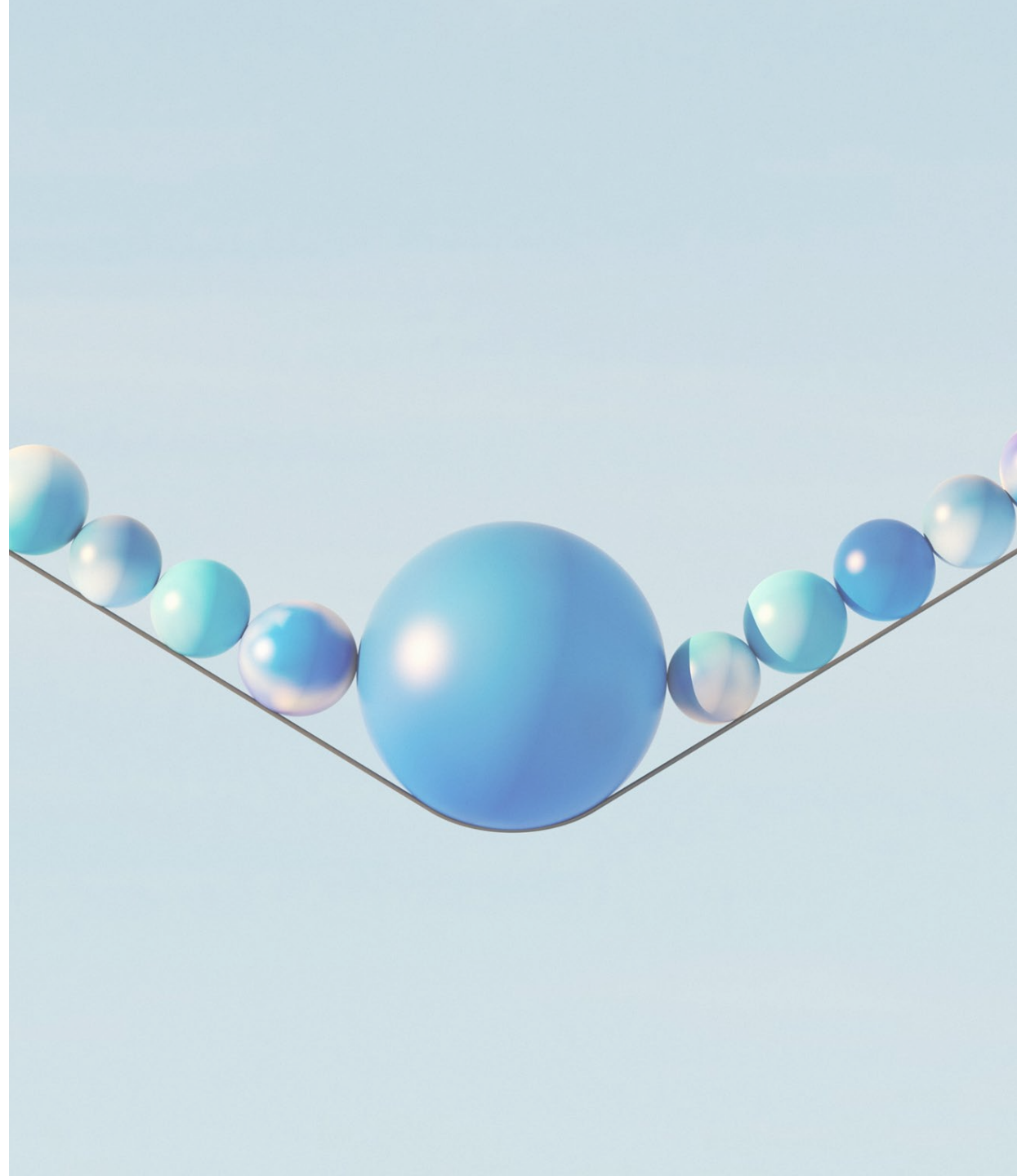


Develop strategy and negotiate favourable AI and TDM terms for our licensed content

COLLECTIONS AI RESPONSE TEAM GOALS

INFO SHARING

- Meet frequently to share information
- Monitor copyright and licensing developments in library licensed products: emerging licensing terms and strategies, use cases
- Flag AI tools added to existing products
- Keep up with legal landscape



NAVIGATOR

An evolving checklist of questions that helps us learn about new AI products/features

Sample criteria from each section



Latest version DOI:

[10.5281/zenodo.15343482](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15343482)

Section A - INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS & BENEFITS

- Does the tool meet a demonstrated research or teaching need?
- Have we received requests?
- Have peer institutions acquired this tool?

Section B - CONTENT + FEATURE ACCESS

- Does the tool provide access to unique content/features?
- What are the capabilities of the tool (enhanced search, data vis, research trend analysis, etc.)

Section C - USER EXPERIENCE

- Does the tool require significant user training/support?
- Does the tool launch automatically in each user session?
- Does the tool customize responses based on user behaviour on the platform?

Section D - DATA PRIVACY & SECURITY

- How is user data collected, stored and processed?
- Has the license been reviewed for data/privacy concerns re: AI Tools?
- Is user-generated data shared with third parties?
- Are there confidentiality and security protocols to protect institutional and individual research data?
- Does the tool require login to individual accounts?
- Does the tool allow UTL to include AI/data/privacy literacy guidance within a placeholder or via a popup notification to users

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Section E - COST & LICENSING

- Does agreement with the vendor address liability protections for misuse/unauthorized access by users at the university?
- Does the tool fit within the (expected) University-wide policy on AI use?
- Does the tool (and its agreement) limit/expand on rights granted to users in the Copyright Act?
- Are researchers afforded with equivalent or competitive rights to their counterparts in other jurisdictions?
- Does the tool/agreement provide protections/restrictions for usage data, personally identifiable information and researcher intellectual property?

Section F - ETHICAL & VENDOR CONSIDERATIONS

- Does the tool clarify the ownership of user-generated content, including research outputs and personal data, with explicit descriptions of how this content can be used by the provider?
- Does the AI tool incorporate ethical considerations, such as bias in AI algorithms, and transparency in how results are generated or ranked? (reproducibility)
- Does the vendor address or participate in the modeling of best practices about the climate impacts of AI GPU use that powers its tool?

OUTREACH



Sessions to Centre of Teaching Support & Innovation (CTSI), Jackman Humanities Institute (JHI), iSchool etc.



Database-specific presentations (Web of Science, Scopus AI)



Updates to various other taskforces and groups



Regular emails to library staff about new AI resources in databases



Communication with User groups

Enhanced understanding of user needs
Anecdotal feedback from users and colleagues
Improved collaborative approach to AI integration

AI-POWERED RESEARCH TOOLS... ARE EVERYWHERE

- For the library they come in two main ways: incorporated with content as part of the purchase *or* purchased separately and requiring a separate license.

Comes with... ("free"):

- If we're asked, as long as the user can opt-out of the tool, we activate it.

Purchased... (money & license required):

- Apply the scoping document test
- Work through the AI navigator tool

SCOPING DOCUMENT

- Framework guides librarians on AI-powered research tool requests with costs
- Not definitive yes/no, but consistent preliminary assessment
- Key questions:
 - Could another university unit license this tool?
 - Is the licensing model appropriate?
 - Does it target primary users (students, faculty, researchers)?
 - Does it offer user opt-out capabilities?
 - Is the cost reasonable?
- Passing initial screening requires further evaluation

Access the Scoping Document:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15345395>



CHALLENGES

- Consistent communication of complex AI concepts
- "Resistance is futile" perception
- Diverse staff opinions and reactions
- Environmental concerns (water use, energy consumption, carbon footprint)
- Assessment expectations and methodological challenges

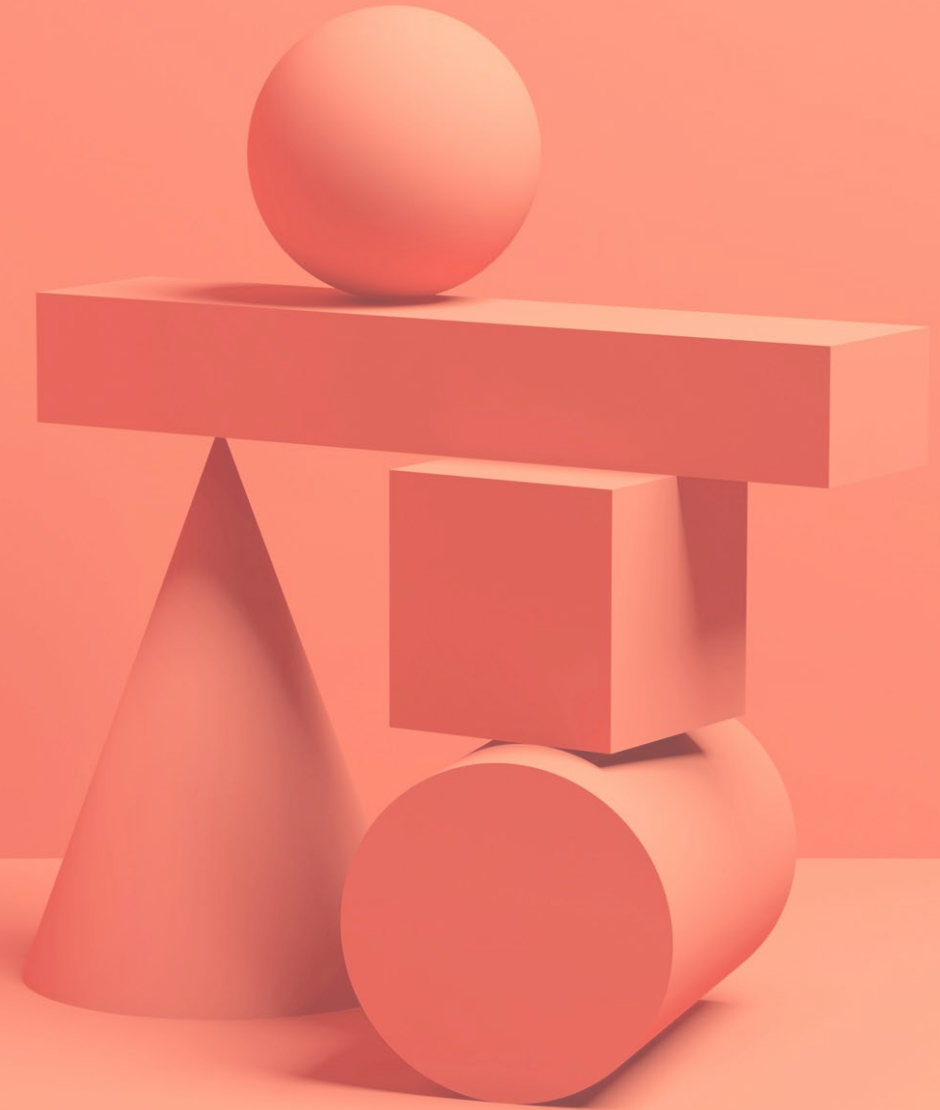


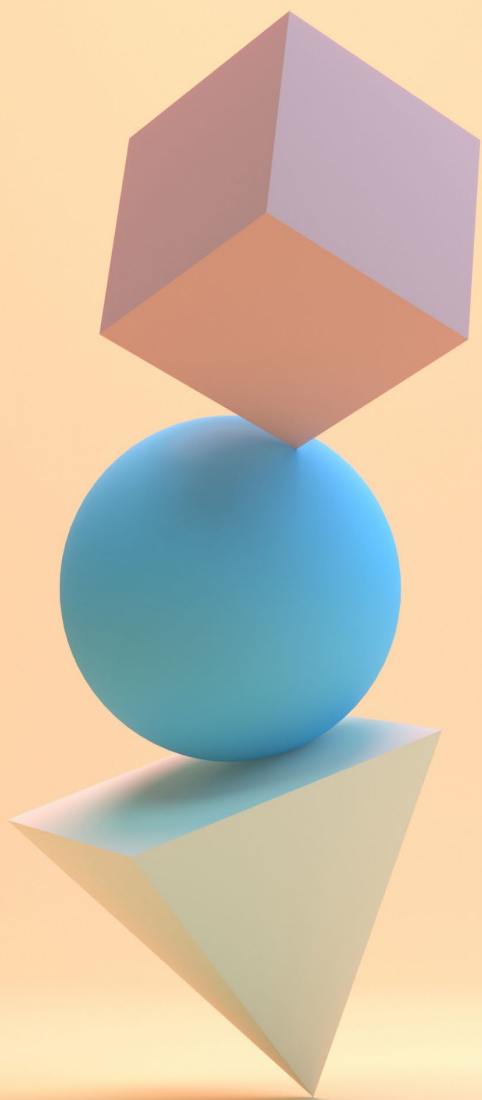
FUTURE PLANS

- Integrating Open Access considerations
- Addressing funding models for ongoing AI costs
- Embedding AI and license information in discovery layer

DISCUSSION

- What stage is your institution at with AI integration?
- What challenges have you faced?
- What successes have you experienced?





THANK YOU

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