State Libraries and AI Technologies (SLAAIT)

A Project Overview

A CIRCL Work Group
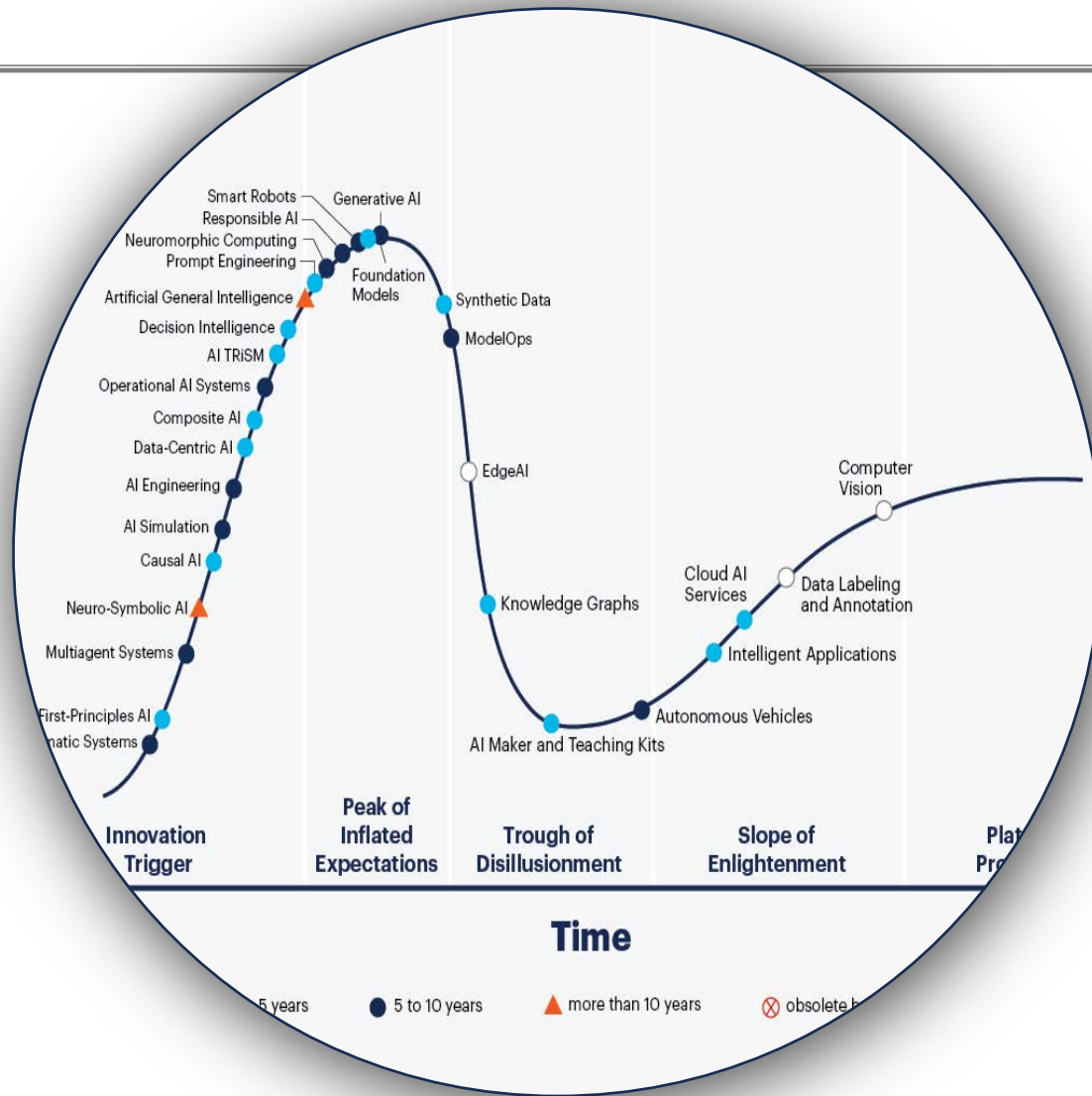
SLAAIT

Agenda

- Overview of the Project
- Dream
  - Public Infrastructure
- Dread
  - Corrosive AI
- Destroy
  - Washington GPT
- Call to Action

AI is Not Coming…It's Here

Generative AI and Unbounded AI is at maximum hype

Machine Learning and AI techniques have already replaced deterministic programs: Search, music, fitness, cruise control

Participating Agencies

- **Texas** State Libraries and Archive Commission
- **Georgia** Public Library Service
- State Library of **Iowa**
- **New Jersey** State Library
- **Colorado** State Library
- **Washington** State Library
- **Hawaii** State Public Library System
- **Delaware** Division of Libraries
- **New York** State Library
- State Library of **North Carolina**
- **Arizona** State Library
- **Tennessee** State Library and Archives
- Library of **Michigan**
- State Library of **Ohio**

To better equip state library agencies to proactively respond to the opportunities and perils in AI.

To provide insight, and participant-specific ideas for projects and applications

To better position state library agencies in growing efforts for AI workforce development, and in their own outreach and support missions.

Tying to Strategic Priorities:
- Strategic plans
  - LSTA
  - SLA
  - State
- Unique to each participants

DREAM

DREAD

DESTROY

*Stacey A. Aldrich, Hawaii

Dream

A Public AI Infrastructure

The Big Dream: A distributed and hyperlocal network of human expertise and computing power to support LLM, machine learning capabilities, AI audits, training, and action on disinformation and misinformation

Policy Aspects

Library Aspect

Issues with Corporate AI

- A handful of tech giants control the computing resources needed to develop AI models
- Result – AI systems designed to serve corporate interests
- Heightened inequality, death of privacy, and a threat to democracy

Public AI Infrastructure

- Goal – democratize the technology, distribute benefits to everyone
  - Inspire innovation
  - AI that increases equality
- Public Infrastructure
  - Universal access to allow everyone to use AI
  - Force big tech to compete

Why Libraries?

- Distributed & hyperlocal
- Content
- Provide access AND training
- Long history of technological infrastructure providers

Dread

Corrosive AI

- Predictions that generative AI would *erode* trust
- Misuse of generative AI is rapidly *corroding* political trust
- Not the tech itself, but the *misuse of it*

What Makes AI Corrosive

- Rapid Deployment and Development of AI
  - AI Arms Race
  - We become the AI guinea pigs
- Damage to trust in video content
  - Doubt in a previously "authentic" representation of the real world
- Capability to empower disinformation
  - Quick to generate, accessible to all

Destroy

Washington Data Analyzer

"To analyze circulation trends in Washington state public libraries from 2020 to 2023, I reviewed the available data in the provided materials. Here's a summary of key trends and observations during this period:

1. Shift to Digital Media: There was a significant increase in the circulation of digital media, including e-books and audiobooks, during this period. The surge in digital media usage began in 2020, likely as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to lockdowns and restricted access to physical library locations. This trend continued to rise even as libraries began to reopen, indicating a lasting shift in user preferences towards digital formats.

2. Gradual Recovery of Physical Circulation: The circulation of physical books and other materials experienced a sharp decline in 2020 due to the pandemic. However, as restrictions eased and libraries adapted with measures like curbside pickup, there was a gradual recovery in physical circulation. By 2023, while physical circulation had not fully returned to pre-pandemic levels, there was a noticeable rebound.

…

These trends suggest a transformation in how users interact with library services, emphasizing the importance of digital media and online access. Libraries may need to continue adapting their strategies to balance between physical and digital services, address the digital divide, and meet the evolving needs of their communities."

A Call to
Action:
Unleash the
Stories of the
Community

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https://CIRCL.community