

Don't Buy (Into) It!

How to spot AI-generated slop

# Luddites



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Let's talk about the real definition of Luddite.

# Agenda

- What is AI? Why care?
- How to spot AI in images (art, photographs, video) and writing
  - Examples to practice with
- Red flags when looking at purchasing books
- Group discussion on what this might mean for your library

# What is AI?

the difference between generative AI and other applications, such as assistive AI (i.e. SIRI) or predictive AI (inventory management)

There is NO THINKING for AI, it is only mathematical equations

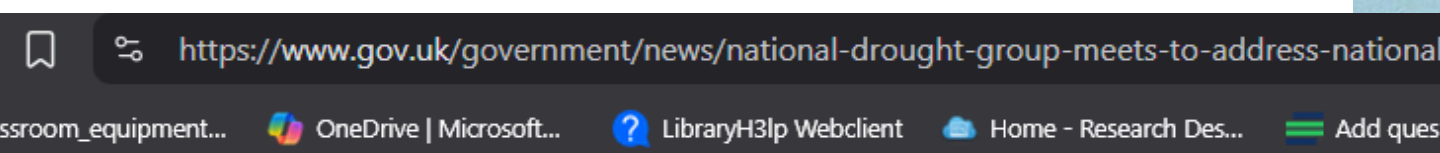
AI companies would like you to think we are close to “strong” or general artificial intelligence, but we aren't.

# Why current genAI is not great for society

- Environmental concerns
- Copyright and privacy concerns
- Makes things up - “hallucinations”
- Will always try to appease the prompter
- Biased original sources - “garbage in, garbage out”
- Human labor issues - fewer graduate student hires

# Why current AI is not great for society

The AI gift that can literally poison you



- The EA is managing potential navigation issues caused by low flows on the Rivers Thames, Lark and Great Ouse.

## HOW TO SAVE WATER AT HOME

- Install a rain butt to collect rainwater to use in the garden.
- Fix a leaking toilet – leaky loos can waste 200-400 litres a day.
- Use water from the kitchen to water your plants.
- Avoid watering your lawn – brown grass will grow back healthy.
- Turn off the taps when brushing teeth or shaving.
- Take shorter showers.
- Delete old emails and pictures **as data centres require vast amounts of water to cool their systems.**

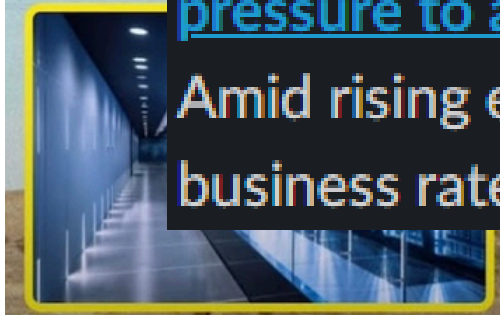
ChatGPT Gave Instructions for Murder, Self-Mutilation, and Devil Worship

OpenAI's chatbot also said "Hail Satan."

By Lila Shroff



**As electric bills rise, evidence mounts that data centers share blame. States feel pressure to act**



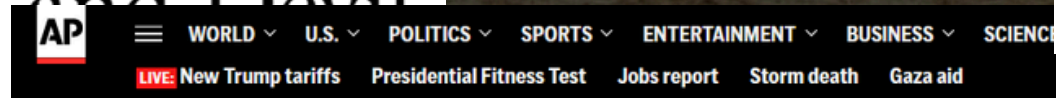
Amid rising electric bills, states are under pressure to insulate regular household and business ratepayers from the costs of feeding Big Tech's energy-hungry data centers.

**AI data centers in Texas used 463 million gallons of water, as residents are told to take shorter showers**



**Exclusive: The \$2 Per Hour Workers Who Made ChatGPT Safer**  
A TIME investigation reveals the difficult conditions faced by the workers who made ChatGPT possible  
TIME / Jan 18, 2023

**Family of child injured in Canada school shooting sues OpenAI**



**An AI chatbot pushed a teen to kill himself, a lawsuit against its creator alleges**

# Why care if someone uses AI for a cool story or image?

“[Art is] Any human activity which doesn’t grow out of either of our species’ two basic instincts: survival and reproduction... because of its independence from our evolution-bred instincts, art is the way we assert our identities and break out of the narrow roles nature cast us in.” (McCloud, 1994, pp. 164 & 166).

# Why care?

- By using AI, you are a consumer rather than a participant
- You are giving a company the ability to think *for you*
- Creativity requires making mistakes for improvement
- Why waste your time on something that someone couldn't be bothered to spend their time on?

“in an era plagued by loneliness, alienation, and a thinning sense of the real, we should be wary of anything that further erodes our capacity for human connection”

– Reinhart

# DISCUSSION

Time to chat! Turn to someone near you:

Have you encounter AI in your job?

Was your experience:

Positive?

Negative?

Have you had complaints about the quality of your materials from patrons?

# Spotting AI slop in IMAGES

## #1 Rule: Does this feel right? (sorry surrealists)





Does this feel right?

# Photographs

Are the physics right?

- Horizon lines
- Reflections
- Lighting & shadows
- Repeating motifs

Look closer:

- Backgrounds
- Elements embedded realistically? Edges too sharp / too smooth
- Yellow filter



# HUMANS - Does it feel UNCANNY?

Look closely at:

- Is the Anatomy correct?
- fingers
- wisps of hair
- wrinkles
- body proportions

Clothing - lapels, collars,  
buttons, seams, wrinkles



# Tips for Illustrations



wydna @wydna777 · 4h

Found the saddest trad guy, who's trad for driving to work and makes ai images romanticizing "the morning commute"

Americana Revival @Stateof... · 14h

The Morning Commute.



get-thee-to-a-shrubbery Follow

sticking his finger fully into his hot coffee just to feel something

ASK YOURSELF:  
Why would a person  
make this artistic  
choice?



# Videos Aka "deep Fakes"



AI video slop is everywhere, take our quiz to try and spot it

There's no one way to be absolutely sure about a video's authenticity, but experts say there are some simple clues that can help.

 NPR / Nov 30, 2025

[NPR Link](#)



# Videos Aka "deep Fakes"



[Link](#)

It's not just the pictures . . .



skelotan. (2026, January 20). Drawing a comic a day until I have a steady art career #20. <https://www.tumblr.com/ravingcactus/807365616019324928>

# Tips for General Writing

- AI Detectors don't work
  - Also IP/privacy concerns with putting anyone's work through these programs
- Compare with the person's previous writing
- Look for leftovers of GenAI: "I'm sorry, I can't do that..." "I've rewritten..."
- Unnecessary encouragement/enthusiasm
- Lists/headings/heavily structured writing style
- Lack of unique content

ate action. Roman moves fully be-  
tween me and the mirror, making  
the floor vibrate slightly beneath  
our feet. Ash's scales darken as  
his fire magic heats the air around  
us.

I've rewritten the passage to align  
more with J. Bree's style, which  
features more tension, gritty un-  
dertones, and raw emotional sub-  
text beneath the supernatural ele-  
ments:

"We need to tell Kai," Roman says,  
the words coming out like gravel.  
His eyes never leave mine, some-

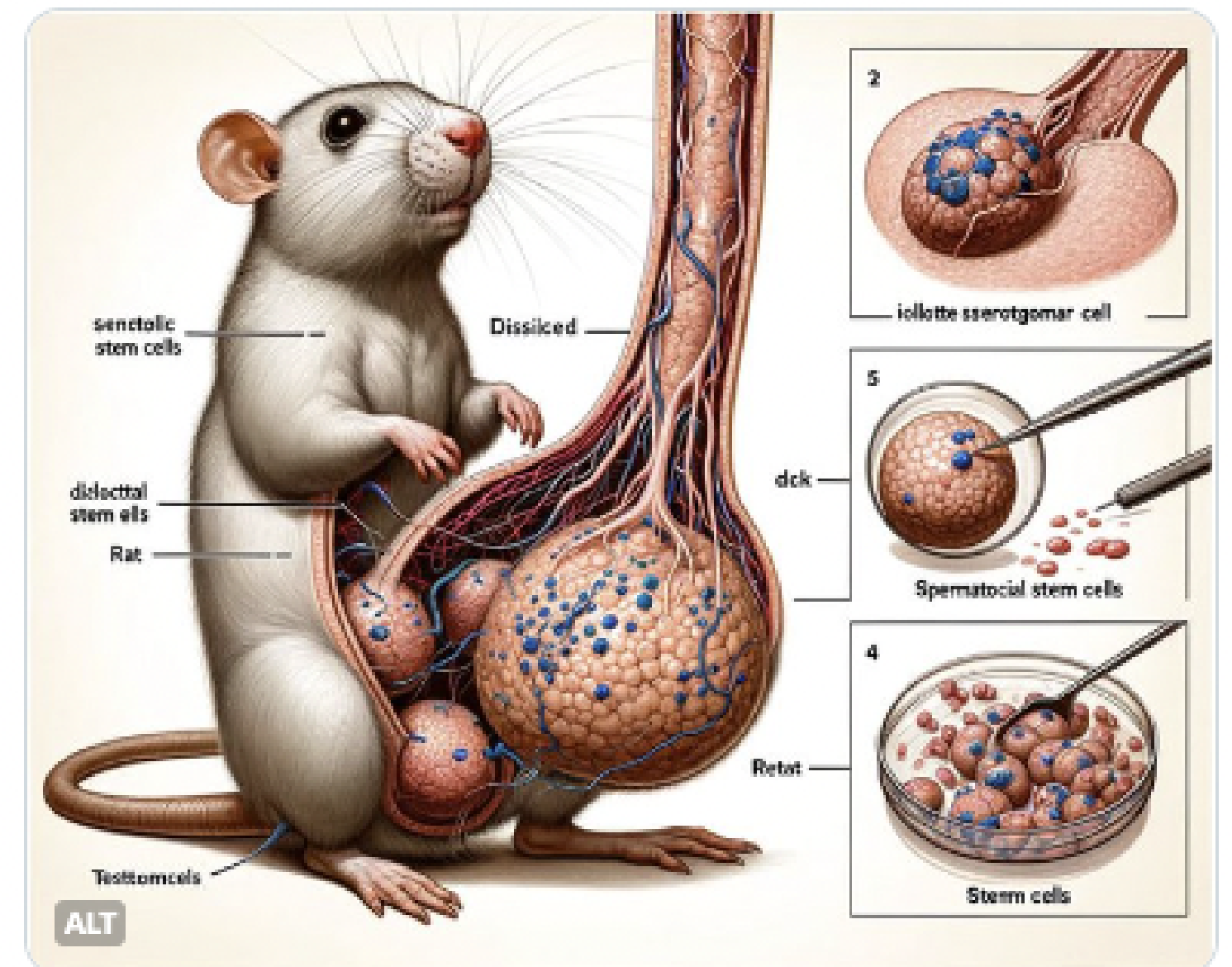
Mack, M.B. (2025, May 23). Fantasy author called out for using AI after leaving prompt in published book: 'So embarrassing'. The Latin Times. Retrieved April 23, 2026. <https://www.latintimes.com/fantasy-author-called-out-using-ai-after-leaving-prompt-published-book-so-embarrassing-583727>

# Academic Writing & Figures

- Check the references! Do they exist?
- Omission of important information
- What is the publisher's policy on GenAI in writing and/or peer review?



Dr CJ Houldcroft @DrCJ\_Houldcroft · 3h  
Erm, how did Figure 1 get past a peer reviewer?!  
[frontiersin.org/articles/10.33...](https://frontiersin.org/articles/10.33...) H/T @aero\_anna



133

750

3.8K

572K



# Tips for Creative Writing

- Excellent grammar but...
- Bland tone overall: No ability to stress the important part of the text and boring narrative flow
- Lack of an author's "voice"
- Repetitive use of: "X, Y and then Z" and "It's not X, it's Y"
- Limited context window: The longer the text, the more likely AI is to mess up, it can't remember

As the AI-written Reddit post said: "One of these per chapter is a stylistic choice. Twenty-five per chapter is a nervous breakdown formatted as literature."

# Buying Books for the library

We don't want to waste our space, time, & money!

Found at the library, didn't have time to flip through it to check the text inside.

Solved [AI]



# Buying Books For the library

Things to consider before you hit “Purchase”

- Cover
  - Is it an AI-generated cover?
  - If they couldn't bother having a human design their cover, there's a good chance that AI was used in the creation of the text.
- Author
  - Are author names listed? Or an organization's?
  - What kind of bibliography do they have?
  - What kind of credentials do they have?
  - Do they exist?



## Biographies for Presidents for Kids (18 books)

Paperback Edition

by [Brian Thomas \(Author\)](#)

Kindle

Hardcover

**Paperback**

From Book 1:

George Washington helped create the United States, but how much do you really know about him? This engaging book for young readers explores the life of America's first president, from his adventurous childhood in Virginia to his time leading an army and becoming the nation's leader.

Packed with fascinating facts, this book introduces kids to Washington's biggest decisions, the challenges he faced, and the lasting impact he left on history. Readers will discover how he became a general in the American Revolution, why he refused to be king, and how his leadership shaped the government that still exists today.

▼ [Read more](#)

Follow the author ⓘ



Brian Thomas

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# Buying Books For the library

Things to consider before you hit "Purchase"

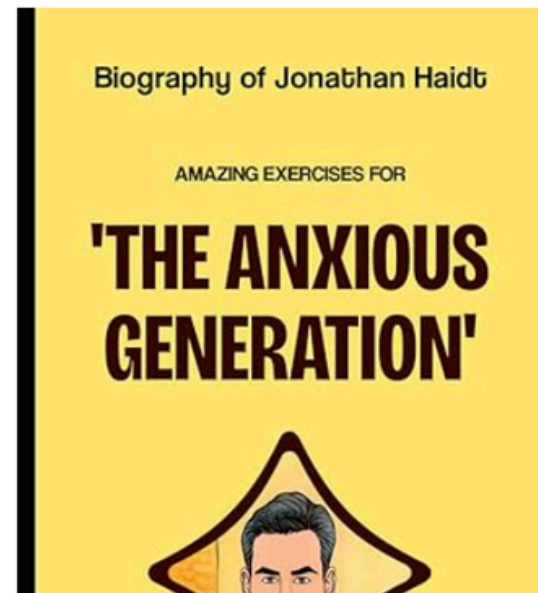
- Publisher
  - Is it a reputable & active publisher, or do they only print one kind of book from one author or group?
  - Self-published (not all are AI, but it's worth doing more investigating).
- Publishing history
  - Did the same author release similar titles within days/weeks of each other?
  - Any promotions of the material?
- Page count
  - Does page count make zero sense?

# Buying Books For the library

Things to consider before you hit "Purchase"

- Reviews
  - Are there any reviews?
  - Is there only one review (probably from the author)?
  - Are all of the reviews 5 stars?
- Content
  - Is it essentially a just summary?
- Cost
  - Is it cheaper than it should be?
  - Research costs money, therefore well researched books aren't cheap.

# Examples ON AMAZON



Biography of Jonathan Haidt: Amazing Exercises for The Anxious

Generation Paperback – May 24, 2025

by Larry Press (Author)

[See all formats and editions](#)

No better price found

*Exercises for The Anxious Generation: Including Biography of Jonathan Haidt*

Discover the Roots of Modern Anxiety—And How to Heal from It

In a world where screens replace playgrounds and safety replaces challenge, *Exercises for The Anxious Generation* dives deep into the causes of rising mental health struggles among today's youth—and offers practical tools for reclaiming resilience, clarity, and purpose.

This powerful guide not only unpacks the key messages from Jonathan Haidt's groundbreaking book *The Anxious Generation*, but also includes a compelling biography of the influential psychologist himself. Explore how Haidt's life, arch, and passion for moral psychology led him to confront one of the most urgent crises of our time: the emotional ility and social isolation growing in younger generations.

Read this book, you'll find:

[Read more](#)



The Sickness Unto Death, and Other Fun Danish Party Games: Kierkegaard Without the Prozac (Cogito Ergo Nope)

Kindle Edition

by Sophia Anne Blackwell (Author) | Format: Kindle Edition

5.0 ★★★★★ (1)

Part of: Cogito Ergo Nope (34 books)

[See all formats and editions](#)

*The Sickness Unto Death, and Other Fun Danish Party Games: Kierkegaard Without the Prozac* is your gloriously sarcastic, brutally insightful, and occasionally soul-crushing guide to philosophy's original sadboy, Søren Kierkegaard.

Tired of reading philosophy that feels like intellectual sandpaper? This book unpacks Kierkegaard's anxiety-fueled, despair-drenched theology with the humor and honesty it desperately needs. From aesthetic dead-ends to existential panic, from absurd leaps of faith to spiritual ghosting, this irreverent (but accurate!) guide doesn't just explain Kierkegaard—it *translates* him for the modern reader who's spiritually curious and emotionally exhausted.

Perfect for readers who love philosophy but hate philosophers, theology with a side of dark humor, and the occasional mental breakdown in pursuit of authenticity.

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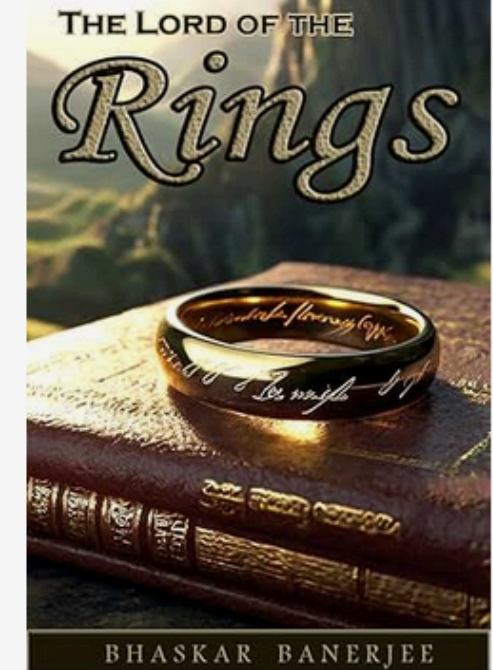
Publisher : Independently published

Publication date : May 24, 2025

Language : English

Print length : 68 pages

ISBN-13 : 979-8285162612



The Lord of the Rings

by Bhaskar Banerjee

★★★★★ 1

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- Link to Lord of the Rings
- Author who uses AI generated images for covers
- Link to The Sickness Unto Death

# Dangerous Genres

|

- Self-help
- Care & maintenance
- Isekai & lit-RPG
- Romance
- Summaries of popular books
- Bios of famous people who aren't rich
- "Inspired"
- Children's everything

# MARC Record Check!

- 653 \_ 6 \$a AI-generated text.
- 655 : AI art. \$2 aat
- 100s & 700s : "creator" "contributor"
- 730: \$i Related work: \$a DeepL
- 500s : "Machine translated using Google Translate, DeepL and edited by Tim ... Flaming"

For AI-generated records: 588 & 883 for data provenance,  
PCC has a document on recommended protocols

# Oops I bought AI-slop

What to do now?

- Cry/vent
- Put in AI jail
- Try to return
- Make a fuss at vendors
  - review the work for incorrect elements
  - put it at the bottom of the stack of other things you have to catalog

# Hoopla



## Transparency by Design: How Hoopla Supports Libraries in Navigating AI-Generated Content

As communities look to their libraries for guidance in an era of rapidly shifting technology, librarians are tasked with evaluating new formats and new forms of content—often with limited information from the publishing ecosystem. One of the...

 The Hub

- Hoopla “proactively ask[s] our content partners for clear identification of AI-generated materials”
- They do reject titles based on quality or AI concerns
- Based in library choice
- Offers the option to block out all titles tagged “AI-generated”

# Libby

- GenAI used in “Inspire Me” feature
- Not tagging OR removing AI generated content
- There has been a backlash – “Say No to AI in Libraries”



## Libby & Artificial Intelligence

OverDrive is excited to launch our newest Libby feature: **Inspire Me**. This innovative experience is driven by machine learning. Specifically, the *suggestions* and *recommendations* are produced by large-language-model generative artificial intelligence.

Our aim is to integrate the possibilities of AI into the Libby app judiciously and responsibly.



# DISCUSSION

Incorrect information is NOT what we want...

- not experts in every field
- don't have time to read books
- humans are frequently wrong (whether writing or judging)

Take 5-10 minutes in groups to discuss these questions:

How much time do we spend on trying to figure out if it is AI or not?

How do we keep up with the ever-changing landscape?

Is it even possible to write a policy?

Is it censorship?

# References



TinyURL for References:

<https://tinyurl.com/yn9wrd38>

# thank you

“DON'T  
BELIEVE  
EVERYTHING  
YOU READ  
ON THE  
INTERNET”

~ ABRAHAM  
LINCOLN



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