

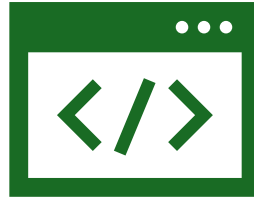
AI Fridays

A Low Barrier Event for AI Awareness and
Exploration

AI Fridays - Presenters



Aaron Nichols, Director of Access,
Technology, and Multimedia Services –
UVM Libraries



Stacey Knight, Systems and Technology
Services Librarian – UVM Libraries



Gary Atwood, Interim Director of Dana
Health Sciences Library – UVM
Libraries

Presentation Outline

- Factors that lead us to AI Fridays
- Ideas and guiding principles
- Logistics and promotion
- Describe AI Friday events
- Takeaways and opportunities
- Questions and discussion



UVM and The Road to AI Fridays

- Risk adverse campus technology culture
- UVM Campus AI Committee – large, slow-moving, almost year old
 - Summer/Fall/Winter 2024 discussion focused on potential risks
 - Innovation and education Spring 2025 additions just starting
- Administrative and professional pressure to “do something” with AI and to innovate



Try AI Day



CREATED AND HOSTED
BY GARY ATWOOD FOR
UVM LIBRARIES STAFF
AND FACULTY.



MARCH 2024: 2 HOUR
SESSION



GOAL: PROVIDE TIME
AND SPACE TO
EXPERIMENT WITH A
SELECT SET OF POPULAR
AI TOOLS IN A
COLLABORATIVE STRESS-
FREE ENVIRONMENT



ATTENDANCE
VOLUNTARY AND OPEN
TO ALL UVM LIBRARIES
EMPLOYEES



RESULTS: 88% RATED
WORKSHOP “VERY
EFFECTIVE”; 63% SAID
THEY WERE “SOMEWHAT
CONFIDENT” ABOUT
USING AI TOOLS IN THEIR
WORK AND 25%
REPORTED FEELING
“HIGHLY CONFIDENT”



ATTENDEES STRONGLY
SUPPORTED “TRY AI DAY”
FOR OTHER GROUPS ON
CAMPUS

Try AI Day

- Chat GPT
- Perplexity
- Stable Diffusion
- Bing Image Creator
- Runway
- Elicit

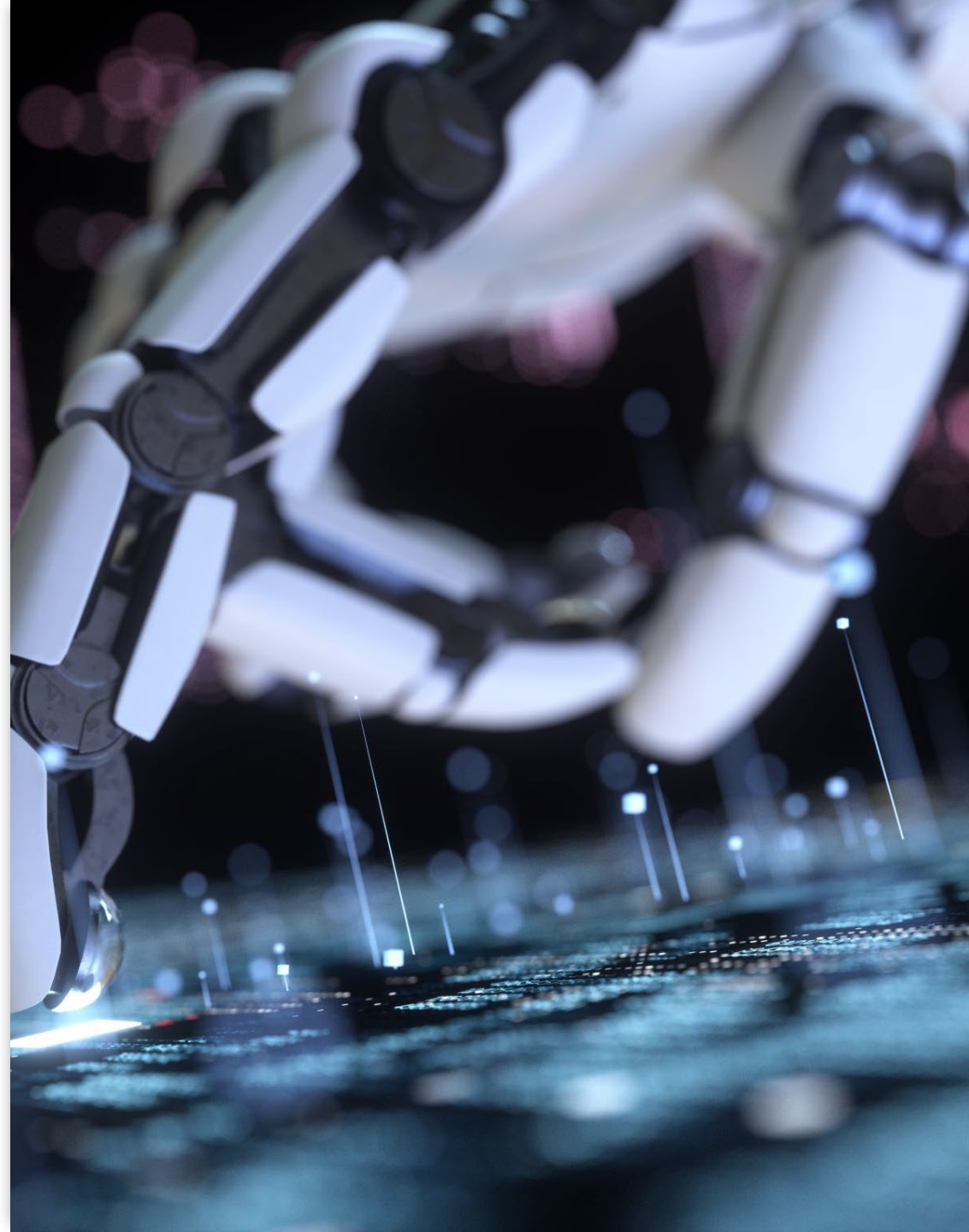


Elicit



AI Sandbox Concept

- Fall 2024
- Add AI testing/exploration to CMD lab offerings
- Turn on AI plug-ins for Adobe CC
- Deploy AI available in Mac Studio machines
- ESRI Deep Learning for GIS
- Concept: turn on any AI add-ons at will
- Concept: Give curious UVM users a chance to use emerging AI add-ons
- FOILED!! ETS not comfortable with releasing AI plug-in at that time.



Time to Punt!!

- Needed a simpler approach
- Needed a low-barrier program



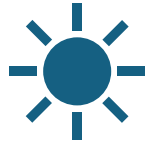
Coffee and Code



Not AI!!!!



Drop-in workshop
for R coding



Every other Friday
morning



Coffee provided



Relaxed atrium
setting, not
classroom



Very successful
program that
started Fall 2024.

AI Friday Concept Development

Pressure to “do something with AI” coupled with pressure to do nothing with AI.

Brainstormed ideas with AI Working Group and Research Data Services Group.

Needed a regularly scheduled, predictable event series

Speak to AI usefulness, hazards, and AI ethics in broad strokes, since UVM does not have policy in place yet. Guides, not authorities.

Develop cost-effective, low-barrier event series that encourages exploration over expertise

AI Fridays: A New Event Series

Every other Friday morning, after Coffee & Code in atrium.

January 24 – May 2

Coffee at every event!

Big screen with laptop; large table, sometimes two

Easy setup and take down

No formal evaluation – keep it informal, simple, and non judgemental



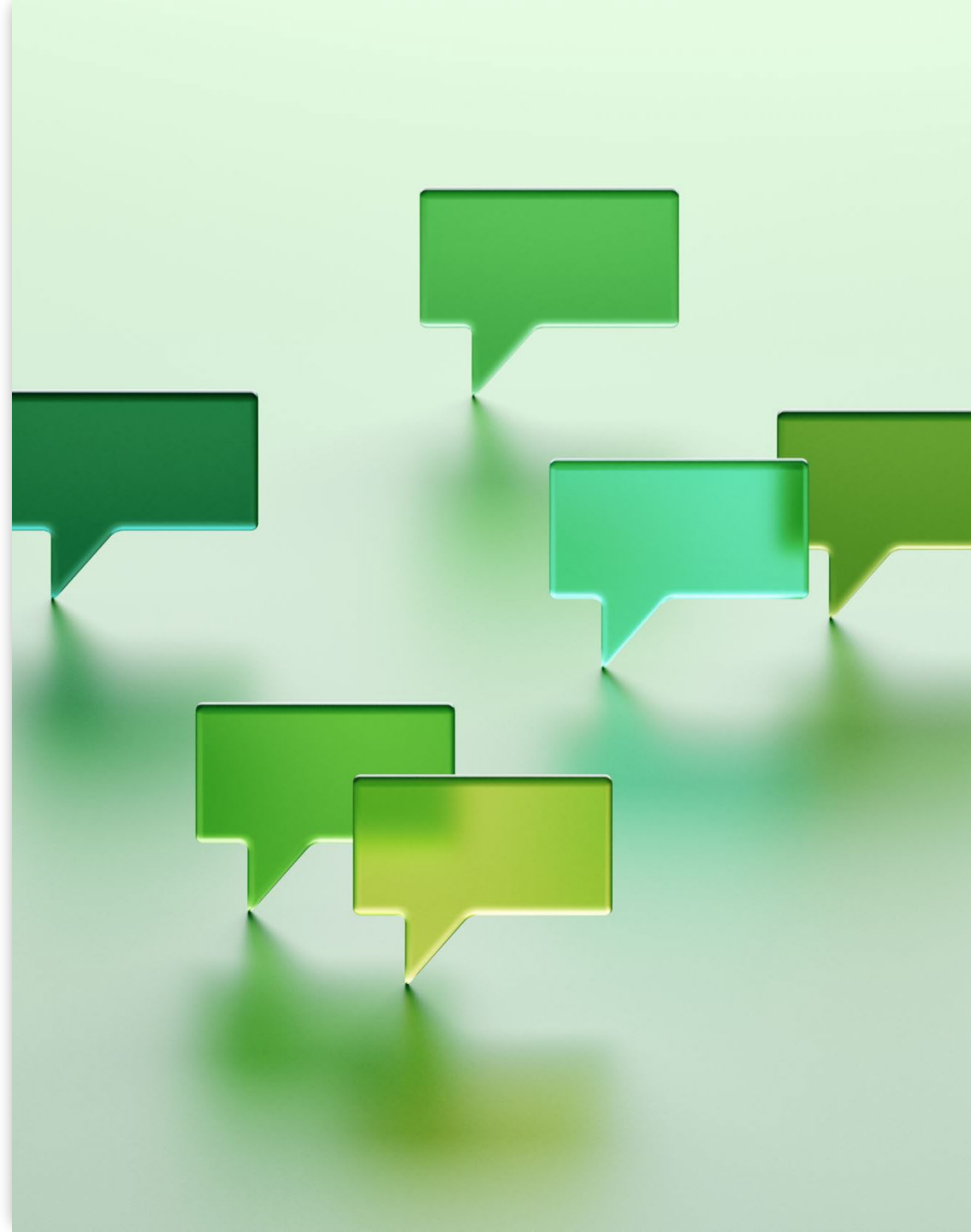
AI Fridays: Guiding Principles

- AI agnostic
- Hands-on experience
- Demonstrate how a tool works
- Low-stakes, stress free environment
- Drop-in format: chose public space so participants can come and go as they please



AI Fridays: Guiding Principles

- Let conversation emerge organically
- Usually led to discussion on bias, environmental impact, ethical use of AI in higher ed, academic honesty, weaknesses in using AI, and strategies for using AI effectively



AI Fridays: Guiding Principles

Not pushing
products

Not pushing AI on
students, faculty,
librarians, or staff

A large orange circle is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Logistics + Planning

RDS + AI Working Group open call
for ideas

Sign-up spreadsheet in Teams w/
dates, topic, and equipment needs

All AI tools must be readily
available!

Coordinated with UVM Libraries
communications and events team

Promoting AI Fridays



UVM events calendar

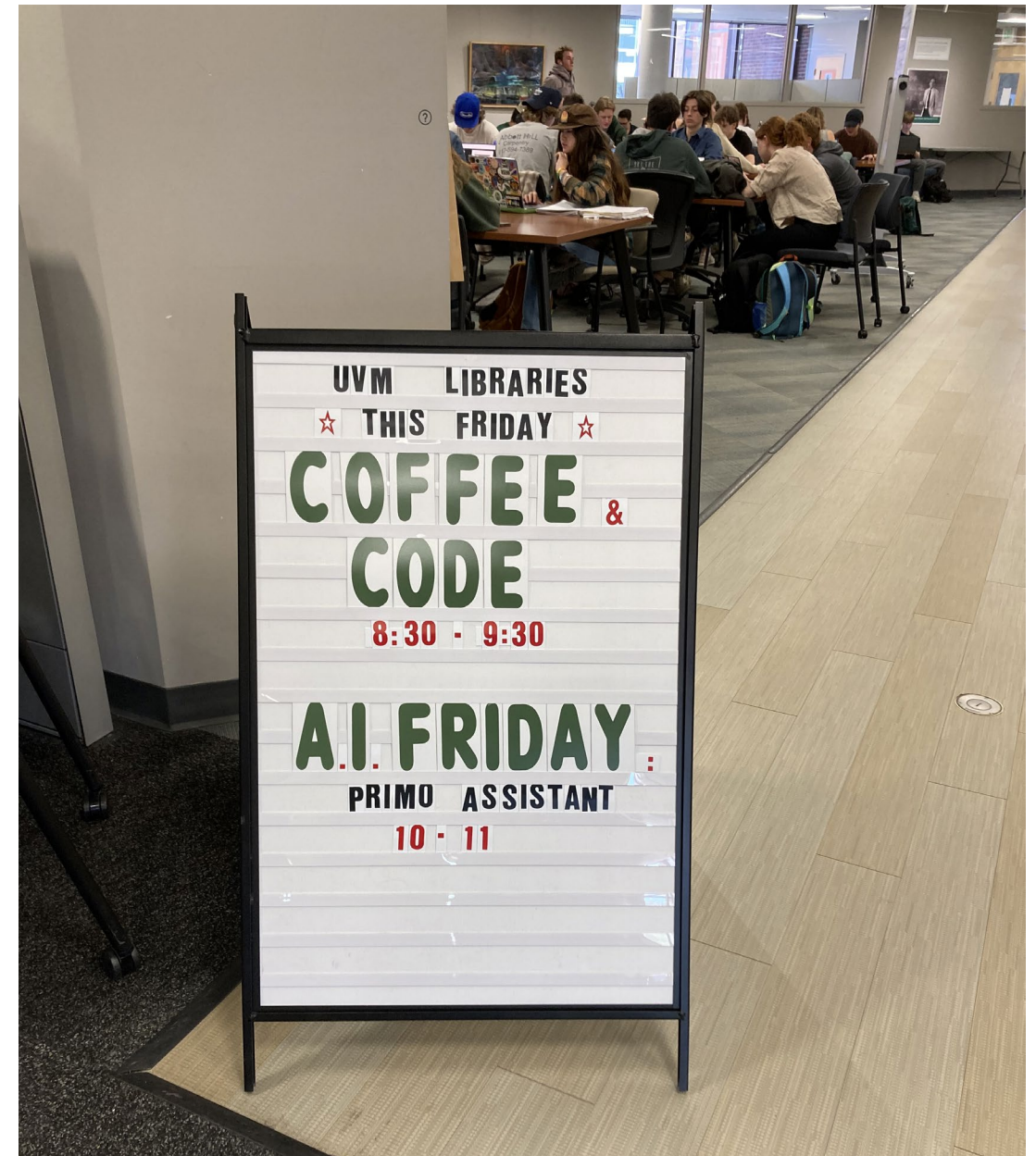


UVM Libraries website events
page



<https://events.uvm.edu/event/ai-fridays-at-the-libraries>

Promoting AI Fridays: Sandwich Board



Promoting AI Fridays: Big Screen Promo

Fridays are busy in Howe Library.

Coffee and Code | AI Fridays

Network and chat about your coding
project.

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Test out emerging artificial intelligence
technologies.

10 - 11 a.m.

libraries.uvm.edu/about/events

**Howe Library
Atrium (near
the media
desk!)**

Promoting AI Fridays: Big Screen Promo

AI Friday: NotebookLM

Join Libraries expert, Gary Atwood, to learn more about this AI tool that sums up and pulls key info from sources.



February 7 at 10 a.m.
Howe Library Atrium

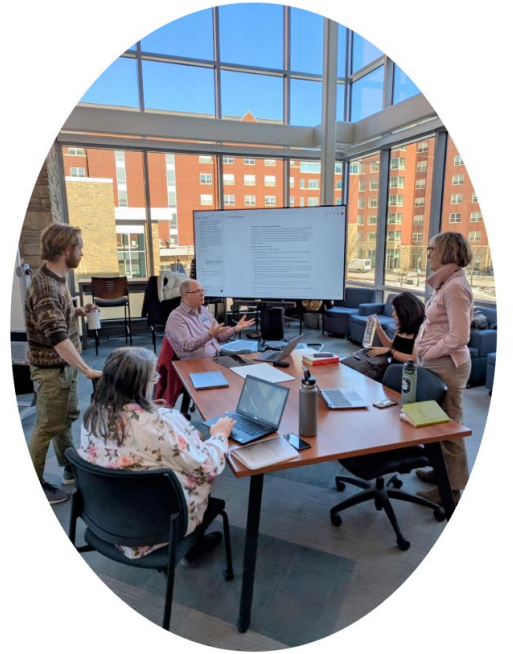
Promoting AI Fridays: Big Screen Promo

AI Fridays: Illustrator and Artificial Intelligence

Join us on Friday, March 7 at 10 a.m. in the
Howe Library Atrium for a conversation
about Illustrator and AI with Libraries experts
Kristin Florian and Anne Dixon.



**Learn
more!**



AI Friday Events

- Chat with Chat GPT
- Notebook LM
- ChatGPT and ArcGIS
- Create with Illustrator + AI
- Perplexity!
- Try Primo Research Assistant
- CoPilot + AI Do's and Don'ts
- Try Scite
- Try Primo Research Assistant



ArcGIS Pro

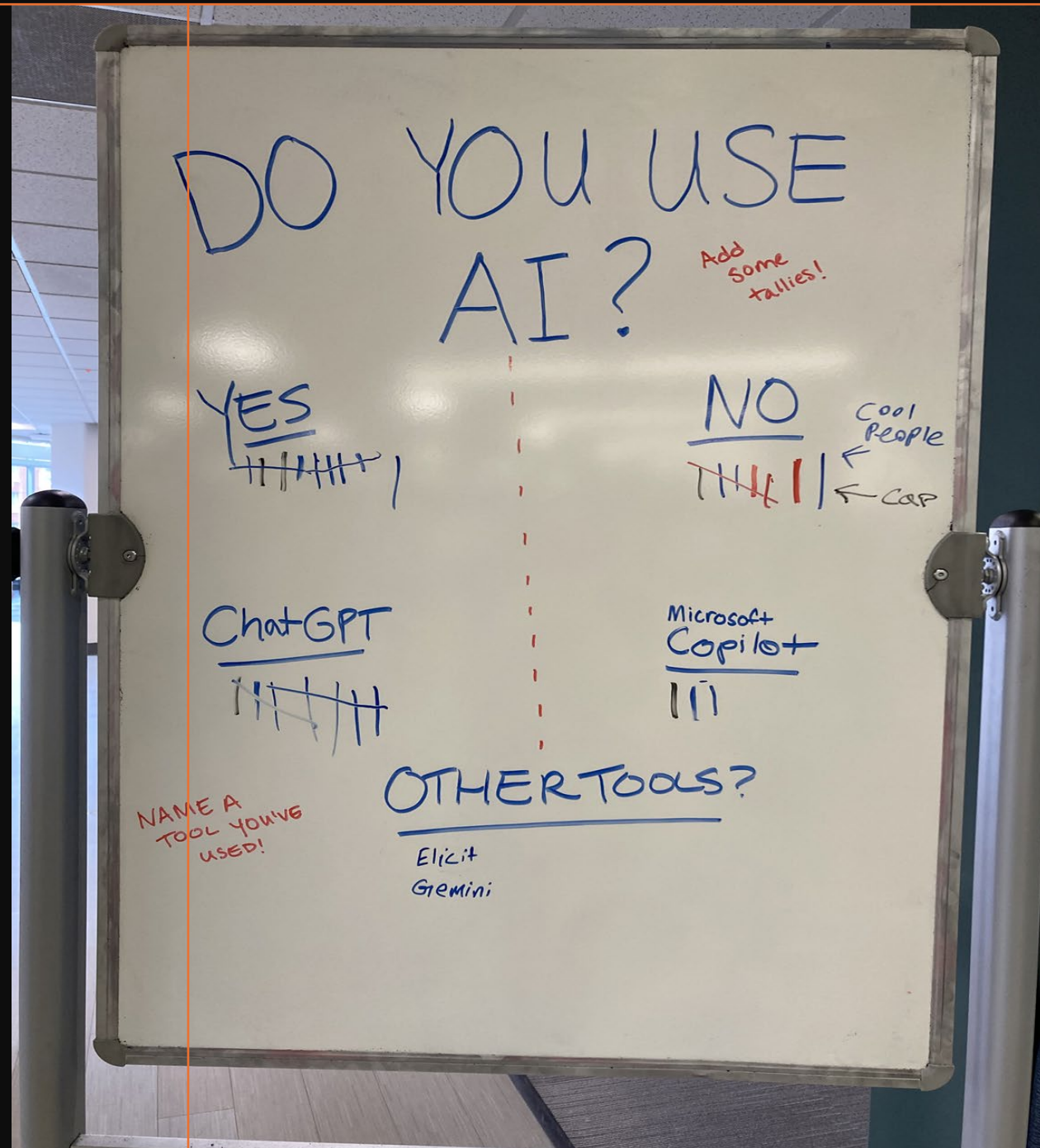


NotebookLM

Another look.....



Interesting Discussions



Interesting Discussions

Use your brain instead!
No!

No

DO YOU USE AI?

NO!

Only for outline

Add some tallies!

You're paying for labor this

Only for Outline

YES

D.H.

- AI kills the plan
- just do the work yourself!!

NO

Add
 some
 tallies!

Think 4
 yourself

You're paying
 to 'learn'

thinking
 is cool

Cool People

ChatGPT

→ Extra embarrassing
if ur a MED STUDENT
w/it.

Microsoft
Copilot

lazy

stop!

try using
your brain
instead

OTHER TOOLS?

NAME A
TOOL YOU'VE
USED!

my brain

PDF to Brainrot

Elicit

11 Gemini

GROK

111 Brzin

DEEP
SEEK ♡

GRAMMARLY

Grug III

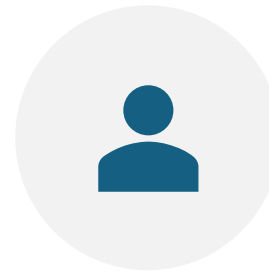
Outcomes: Collaboration and Connections



ETS



CAMPUS AI
WORKING GROUP



PROVOST'S AI
COMMITTEE



WRITING IN THE
DISCIPLINES



Takeaways

- Easy execution + Cheap
- Leverages some expertise from hosts
- Great conversation starter
- Gets people together – builds community
- Low stakes: No concrete outcomes or products expected
- Engagement for students and colleagues

Future of AI Fridays



Will probably be different. Not sure how just yet.



More direction from campus



UVM hopes to run pilots – will Libraries help?



Opportunity to test product usefulness for research



Libraries involved in education and workforce training



Questions + Discussion

