Would You Use AI?

Pair Discussion Activity

Work with a partner to discuss each scenario. Consider the potential benefits, risks, and what policies or human oversight your library might need before using AI tools.

Scenario 1: AI-Generated Grant Narratives

A library uses AI to help draft sections of a grant proposal, including the project description, event and activity descriptions, and statement of need.

Discuss:

- What parts of grant writing are appropriate for AI assistance?
- What should never be fully AI-generated?
- How do you ensure authentic community voice?
- Should funders know AI was used?

Notes

Scenario 2: AI Grant Research Assistant

A library uses an AI tool to identify grant opportunities and summarize funder guidelines.

Discuss:

- How could this save time or increase capacity?
- Could staff rely too heavily on summaries?
- What happens if AI provides incorrect information?
- How should staff verify eligibility and requirements?

Notes

Scenario 3: AI Translation for Community Input

A library uses AI translation tools during a community needs assessment for a grant project. AI translation tools are used for surveys, live AI captions and translation during community meetings, and for translating patron comments from interviews, focus groups, and feedback forms. Flyers, social media posts, and outreach materials are also translated into other languages.

Discuss:

- Could this increase participation and access?
- What are the risks of inaccurate translation?
- When should human review be required?
- How could cultural meaning be affected?

Notes

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Scenario 4: AI-Generated Grant Images & Stories

A library uses AI-generated images in a grant proposal or report because they do not have photos of actual participants.

Discuss:

- Is this misleading to funders?
- Should AI-generated images be disclosed?
- Could AI reinforce stereotypes or bias?
- What ethical concerns arise when representing communities?

Notes

Scenario 5: AI-Assisted Grant Writing for Small Libraries

A solo librarian at a small rural library uses AI extensively to help write a major grant application due to limited staff capacity.

Discuss:

- Does AI increase equity for under-resourced libraries?
- What risks still exist?
- What human review is still necessary?
- How should authenticity and local knowledge be protected?

Notes

Debrief Questions

- Which scenario felt lowest risk?
- Which scenario raised the biggest concerns?
- Where is human oversight most important?
- How can libraries use AI responsibly in grant work and community-centered planning?

Key Reminder

AI tools can support grant work and increase capacity, but they should not replace professional expertise, ethical judgment, authentic community voice, or human relationships.