

AI-Enhanced Tools for Research and Teaching: What Works and What Doesn't (Yet)

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AI-powered tools now promise to speed up nearly every part of academic work: finding relevant literature, surfacing research gaps, analyzing data, summarizing papers, interrogating articles, and even writing literature reviews. In some disciplines, AI systems are being used to automate the research cycle end to end, from generating hypotheses to designing and running experiments to drafting manuscripts. A similar story is unfolding in teaching. Dozens of applications claim they can help instructors create assignments, design lectures and slide decks, grade student work, deliver personalized tutoring, or even build full courses. In this session, Science and Engineering Librarian Jason Coleman will show you how to locate and critically evaluate these tools, demonstrate use cases where they genuinely add value, and highlight their limitations and the harms they can introduce when used uncritically.