The Authority File: Episode 431 Transcript

Transcript generated by Zoom's automated AI captioning.

Bill Mickey: So you mentioned in a previous call, in a previous discussion that we had that LLMs bring us closer to the research process, even testing steps of the scholarly communication life cycle for ethical practices. Can you expand on that? How might AI tools reveal pain points or the need for more human-centered research?

Anil Chandy: LLMs will certainly force us to re-examine how research is done. This is how I would look at it. This could be as simple as highlighting gaps, for instance, like how long it takes to summarize something, or how hard is it to identify relevant literature to perhaps leading to more sort of advanced method. Larger and larger data sets can be studied, based on the capability of the models to undertake even deeper research.

Anil Chandy: These developments are definitely going to be there in humanity, social sciences research. In particular, there is a price on human creativity, right? That complements all of the social and social sciences and humanities research methods, and for the foreseeable future this will continue to be the measure for originality.

Anil Chandy: But I expect even creative processes will not be immune to how AI develops, because artificial general intelligence is an area or a domain where our big tech companies are investing quite a lot, smaller companies as well.

Anil Chandy: And its ability to supplement these processes by an order of magnitude, can lead to say, wider, broader, and deeper understanding of certain topics and their study. By interacting with these tools we get a clearer view of the research journey itself, and where scholars probably need more support.

Anil Chandy: They expose also pain points, but also, I would say, opportunities for innovation. So there is going to be fundamentally changing the way research is conducted, understood, and interpreted, and also published, I guess.

Bill Mickey: Right. Yeah, excellent. Okay, so we talked a little bit about the librarian's role in AI regulation in a previous episode. How does the academic libraries' mission of accessible information, diverse research, and critical thinking intersect with shaping AI technology? I mean, do you see a throughline between the goals of the library and HSS subjects?

Anil Chandy: Yeah, academic libraries by their very nature champion equitable access to information. And they are obviously based in universities. So they are also very high trust

institutions. That's how I would characterize them. Everyone goes to the library to be guided to learn

Anil Chandy: and that also brings in a responsibility of yeah, and also shaped by trust. And that's something that that's not going to change. The impact that AI will have on education and research in general, therefore, will cascade into the function of libraries.

Anil Chandy: LLMs and artificial intelligence can aid across a wide array of service delivery that the libraries currently perform, including, of course, providing overall guidance for ethical and fair uses or shaping that collection development management. You know the services that libraries typically provide or reference services, virtual ones or digital information services, discovery, research, writing and publishing,

Anil Chandy: performance analysis, only even sort of bibliometric services. It can be helpful for libraries to meet other patron requirements, also support to streamline the research process and increase the efficiency of the ecosystem the library, the staff and the needs of the patrons in terms of understanding and accessing the knowledge they want, as a whole, more equitably and faster.

Anil Chandy: So their expertise, libraries have a lot of expertise in information science and metadata and digital preservation positions. They help them play a very sort of pivotal role in guiding ethical AI integration in academic research. I would see their position as fairly central in terms of not just guiding conversations, but also guiding academic norms, and, as we said earlier research processes going forward.

Bill Mickey: Yeah, they are. They're in a very advantageous position because they're currently, I think they're very, very focused on AI literacy and making sure that you know, students and researchers alike are understanding how to use AI most effectively, and ethically.

Bill Mickey: So they're kind of right there at the beginning for a lot of their constituents and library community. So they're, you know, helping them from the start, which is

Anil Chandy: Yeah.

Bill Mickey: A good position to be.

Anil Chandy: Yes, Bill, you also mentioned how social sciences, I think politics and other subjects are sort of approaching it as part of your question. And yeah, I would again go back to saying that there will be implications on how,

Anil Chandy: On with AI, on, say governance or on international norms and obviously legal frameworks. Also, I mean, so there will be, of course, potential. And also things that we need to learn about and understand better in terms of how public policy is guided in in these fields.

Anil Chandy: And so, and social sciences, I would say, has an extremely important central role to play in this in terms of how that, how it can help shape those conversations here. And that's where the field is, and we are in very exciting times.

Bill Mickey: Yes, indeed.

Bill Mickey: But I was just going to now ask you, like, how are disciplines like political science and international relations and law approaching this technology? It seems to me like politics and global legislation will play a major role in any sort of consistent uniform policies on AI.

Anil Chandy: Yeah, I think each one will approach it from you know the area that it is essentially, you know, or rather the specificities of the domain politics and international Asians. Most of the studies that we see are to an extent looking at things such as you know, modeling, for instance, and relation, international relations. For instance,

Anil Chandy: we, of course, deal with a lot of data sets. There or in the area of politics that is also ethical frameworks, governance norms or international norms. They also sort of seep into developing legal frameworks. Also, I mean, legal frameworks are also sort of

Anil Chandy: is an interesting area because, you know, on the one hand, AI means that you have to develop them. Specifically, new legal frameworks has sort of encompassed the arrival of this new technology. But at the same time you can actually deploy the technology to develop that as well,

Anil Chandy: and again, process large bodies of knowledge in terms of arriving at whatever framework you want to develop. I think the key thing that many legal scholars, and there are some prominent ones who are looking into these subjects mostly from an ethical point of view and also in terms of shaping governance and other details, is that

Anil Chandy: don't think in the short term. We have to think essentially keeping society at the center. These are still tools. These are still technologies that have been developed fundamentally, at least when we started developing it, we had supporting humankind mind for these technologies. They need to stay that way.

Anil Chandy: So that would be the guiding principle for most regulations as well, and politics or law are all subject areas that very much develop the sort of framework and the governance

mechanisms around which things are actually regulated, or guidelined. So that's where I would say that the scholarship also leads to in the coming years.

Bill Mickey: Yeah, excellent. Okay. Well, Anil, that's all the time we had. Thank you so much for joining us on this program.

Anil Chandy: Thank you very much, Bill.