Maximizing use & avoiding pitfalls of GAI at Liverpool
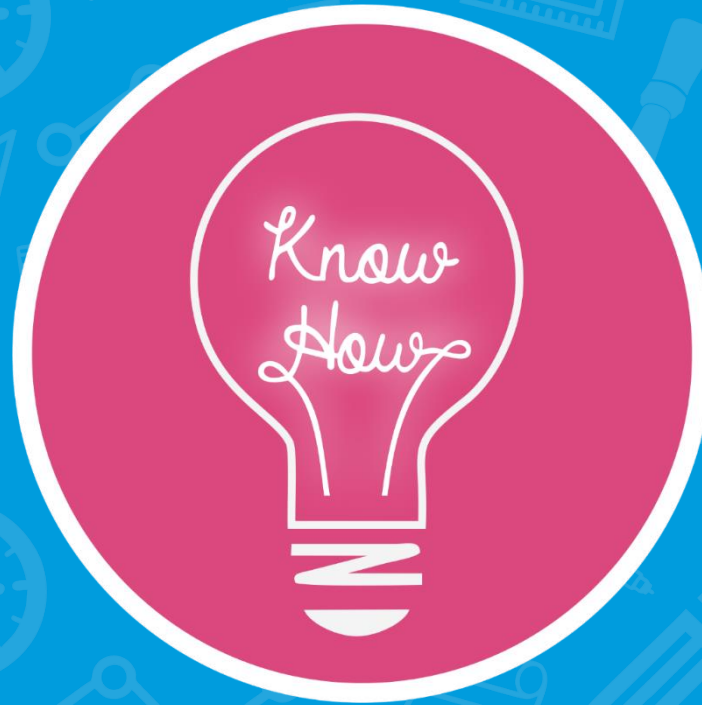
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Library research into GAI at Liverpool

- In 2023 a team of Learning Developers and student investigators in the library researched "Student perspectives on the use of GAI technologies in HE"

- In conclusion "the results of this research suggest that students require clear policies on the use of GAI and that these technologies should not be banned from the university, but consideration must be made to ensure different groups of students have equal access to the technologies"

KnowHow online tutorial

- At Liverpool we have an online tutorial promoted to students as part of our KnowHow academic skills programme
- The tutorial is called *GAI technologies: maximise use and avoid pitfalls in your studies*
- Developed further following the research in 2023
- Gives students the guidance they asked for – helping them to be confident in when they can and cannot use GAI

Engineering: how to use GAI responsibly

- Based on this tutorial a colleague put together an in-person lecture session for students.

- This is for first year Engineering students in a technical writing lecture, it sits alongside the project brief and is in the same session as more traditional information literacy searching and referencing skills.

What you should never use GAI for:

- Never submit an assignment or sections of an assignment entirely generated by GAI

- Never use GAI to paraphrase text created by someone else to pass it off as your own

- Never use GAI content without citing it appropriately – in some cases you should not use it at all.

When GAI can be helpful:

- **When you want a broad overview of a topic**
  - Prompt – *describe the process of selective laser melting*

- **Generate a list of relevant keywords**
  - Prompt - *I'm studying engineering and would like a list of keywords I can use to help me find sources about metallic powders in selective laser melting.*

- **Help with identifying key concepts on a topic**
  - Prompt – *can you explain how metallic powders are made?*

- **An explanation of a difficult concept in simple terms**
  - Prompt – *can you give me a beginner's explanation of 'chaos theory'*

Finding Academic Information

- Make sure you always follow up the use of GAI with your own research

- Google Scholar, Compendex and Scopus are good examples of where you can find quality academic information

- Never ask GAI to cite its sources. It always likes to give an answer so will often completely make up references

- Use the library resources available to you!

What next?

- Integrate further within our information literacy offer

- Offer visual activities that make students think and really understand where GAI can go wrong

- Stay aware of developing technologies but talk to students in general rather than recommending specific tools