

UBC Library Statement on Generative AI

[Generative Artificial Intelligence \(GenAI\)](#) is reshaping how knowledge is created, discovered, and shared. At UBC Library, we recognize both the opportunities and the complexities presented by these technologies. GenAI tools can support learning, enhance research workflows, stimulate creativity, and improve access to information. At the same time, they present challenges related to accuracy, academic integrity, transparency, privacy, equity, and the environmental impacts associated with large-scale computational models.

UBC Library is committed to supporting the responsible and critical use of GenAI within the academic community. We acknowledge that GenAI systems can produce inaccurate or fabricated information, propagate underlying biases, and obscure the provenance of sources—creating risks for learners and researchers. We encourage all users to apply strong information literacy practices when engaging with GenAI tools, including verifying claims, interrogating assumptions, and ensuring alignment with academic integrity expectations.

UBC Library's approach to GenAI aligns with international, human-centred frameworks such as UNESCO's guidance for generative AI in education and research, which emphasizes a human-centred mindset, critical judgement, ethical responsibility, inclusivity, sustainability, and lifelong learning in the use of AI. The UBC Strategic Plan, Indigenous Strategic Plan, StEAR Framework, and UBC Climate Action Plan have informed the development of this document. Wherever possible, the Library supports users' decisions to engage—or not engage—with GenAI tools.

Key Principles Guiding the Library's Approach to GenAI

- **Research Support and Literacy:** UBC Library promotes informed and responsible engagement with GenAI through instruction and research support that strengthens information literacy, [AI literacy](#), and digital literacy.
- **Academic Integrity:** GenAI may support aspects of the research and writing process when used in ways that uphold scholarly standards. Meaningful engagement throughout the research lifecycle remains essential, including critical engagement with sources, proper citation, and appropriate project management.
- **Copyright and Intellectual Property:** Copyright and intellectual property considerations in GenAI are evolving and not often transparent. The Library upholds Canadian copyright law, respects the rights of creators, supports scholarly attribution, and exercises due diligence in licensing, implementation, and user guidance related to GenAI tools and systems.
- **Knowledge Stewardship:** UBC Library recognizes concerns about how openly available content, including scholarly outputs and digitized materials, may be used by GenAI systems. The Library will monitor relevant legal, ethical, and technological developments and consider their implications for the stewardship of Library collections and the delivery of Library services.



- **Privacy and Security:** The Library will protect personal information, user interactions, licensed materials, and other private or confidential information. The Library will only recommend the use of tools that have passed appropriate privacy, security, and risk reviews, including the University's PIA (Privacy Impact Assessment) process. These reviews will be guided by UBC Policy SC14 and the UBC Information Security Standards.
- **Equity and Accessibility:** GenAI tools can reinforce systemic bias and may inadequately represent or exclude diverse perspectives. The Library will support GenAI services and guidance that support equitable access and reduces systemic biases or barriers.
- **Indigenous Data Sovereignty:** GenAI systems may use or reproduce Indigenous knowledge without appropriate consent, context, or governance. The Library respects Indigenous rights and protocols, including principles such as OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession), and upholds community-defined governance over knowledge.
- **Environmental Responsibility:** The Library promotes thoughtful and informed consideration of sustainability when deciding whether and how to use GenAI tools. The Library will educate users about their environmental impacts and encourage thoughtful and informed decisions regarding the selection and use of GenAI tools, considering both the requirements of the task and environmental considerations.
- **Human Oversight:** The Library upholds the central role of human judgment, expertise, and critical thinking in research and learning, including the need for appropriate human oversight in GenAI use.
- **Continuous Evaluation:** The Library will assess GenAI tools in Library licensed resources, considering their potential benefits, risks, accuracy, budget, user impact, and alignment with institutional values.
- **Transparency:** UBC Library strives for clarity about when and how GenAI is used in its services and tools. Transparency in the systems and services it procures will be prioritized, with active engagement with vendors to advocate for clear and responsible AI practices, alongside support for users in understanding how these technologies function.

As GenAI technologies continue to evolve, the Library remains committed to supporting the UBC community in making informed decisions about the use of GenAI within library tools, services, and research practices. By balancing innovation with critical inquiry, the Library seeks to empower learners, instructors, and researchers to use these tools responsibly and purposefully, or to choose alternative approaches.

Resource List

- [UBC Principles for the use of Generative AI Tools](#)
- [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#)
- [Frugal AI Principles](#)
- [UBC Guidelines for All Uses of GenAI in Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Use of Generative AI | UBC Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#)
- [UNESCO's Guidance for Generative AI in Education and Research](#)
- [What You Need to Know About UNESCO's New AI Competency Frameworks for Students and Teachers](#)