

Understanding AI & Algorithmic Literacy



What Exactly Is AI?

At its core, AI is about machines doing tasks that usually require human intelligence. This could be anything from recognizing speech to playing chess to generating text that sounds like a human wrote it. But here's an important point: AI doesn't think or understand things the way we do. It's a tool—an incredibly advanced one, but still just a tool.

Algorithm literacy is defined as:

"being aware of the use of algorithms in online applications, platforms, and services, knowing how algorithms work, being able to critically evaluate algorithmic decision-making as well as having the skills to cope with or even influence algorithmic operations. The combination of these cognitive and behavioral dimensions thus allows internet users to understand, evaluate, and cope with algorithms in a self-determined way. Practically speaking, this means that individuals are able to apply strategies that allow them to modify predefined settings in algorithmically curated environments, such as in their social media newsfeeds or search engines, to change algorithms' outputs, compare the results of different algorithmic decisions, and protect their privacy."

Source: DOI: [10.1080/19312458.2021.1968361](https://doi.org/10.1080/19312458.2021.1968361)

Algorithmic literacy is the ability to understand how algorithms work and how they affect our digital

experiences. It includes being aware of how algorithms are used in online services and platforms, and how to critically evaluate algorithmic decisions.

[How to identify AI-generated videos online](#)

AI slop: [Tips from a tech expert on how to spot fake pictures and videos](#)

[AI Chatbots: Are They the Next Big Spreaders of Misinformation?](#)

[Not Teaching Kids About AI in 2025 Is Like Ignoring the Internet in the 1990s](#)

[ChatGPT Glossary: 52 AI Terms Everyone Should Know](#)

[ChatGPT Features Useful for Teachers](#) (Edutopia)

[AI literacy: What it is, what it isn't, who needs it and why it's hard to define](#)

[Why AI Literacy Is Now A Core Competency in Education](#)

[AI Unlocked-Evaluating & Testing AI Tools](#) (Lesson Plan, PBS)

[AI Literacy Guide: How To Teach It, Plus Resources To Help](#)

[Six things to know about AI](#) (News Literacy Project)

[MediaWise and PBS launch AI literacy video series for teens](#)

[AI Literacy Lessons for Grades 6-12](#) (Common Sense)

See free resources [AI Literacy Content For K-12 Students](#), at this website (Getting Smart)

[Improving Algorithmic Literacy](#) (UK)

[AI Literacy in the Future of Libraries: Adapting to a New Information Landscape](#)

[Algorithms and Media Literacy](#)

[Algorithm & Data Literacy Project | Understanding algorithms](#)

[Unpacking Algorithmic Literacy](#)

[Without AI Literacy, Students Will Be 'Unprepared for the Future,' Educators Say \(Ed Week\)](#)

[Top 5 Articles on Algorithmic Literacy \(ALA\)](#)

[What Makes Students \(and the Rest of Us\) Fall for AI Misinformation? \(Ed Week\)](#)

[Algorithmic Literacy Strategies \(video\)](#)

[Cultivating Critical AI Literacy and Digital Citizenship for Equity and Justice \(video\)](#)