

## ChatGPT's answers to requests about the librarian profession

By Julio Santillán-Aldana

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Jan 6, 2023 9:26 PM -5 GMT

**Julio Santillán-Aldana:**

*Hello, I am a librarian. Can I ask you a few questions?*

**ChatGPT:**

*Of course! I'll do my best to help you with any questions you have. What do you have in mind?*

**Julio Santillán-Aldana:**

*What is the future of the library profession?*

**ChatGPT:**

*The future of the library profession is likely to involve a combination of traditional library services and roles, as well as the incorporation of new technologies and approaches. Some possible developments that may shape the future of the library profession include:*

*Increased use of digital resources: Libraries are likely to continue expanding their digital collections and offering more services and resources online. This may involve developing new skills related to digital curation and preservation, as well as creating virtual programming and events.*

*Changes in the way information is accessed and used: As more people turn to the internet and other digital sources for information, libraries may need to adapt by shifting their focus from traditional print materials to more digital resources. This could involve working with new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, to help people find and use information more efficiently.*

*Greater emphasis on community engagement: Libraries may place a greater emphasis on collaborating with and serving their local communities, including through partnerships with schools, government agencies, and other organizations. This may involve offering more targeted services and resources, such as those related to job search and career development, as well as hosting events and activities that bring people together.*

*New roles and responsibilities: As the needs and expectations of library users evolve, library professionals may need to take on new roles and responsibilities. For example, they may be called upon to serve as advocates for digital literacy and privacy, or to provide training and support for people who are new to using digital technologies.*

**Julio Santillán-Aldana:**

*Will information technologies replace the librarians' work?*

**ChatGPT:**

*It is unlikely that information technologies will completely replace the work of librarians. While technology can certainly assist with certain tasks and make it easier to access and manage information, it is not a substitute for the knowledge, skills, and expertise of trained library professionals.*

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*Librarians play a vital role in helping people find and use information, and they bring a unique perspective and set of skills to their work. They are trained to evaluate the quality and reliability of sources, to provide research assistance, and to teach information literacy skills. They are also knowledgeable about the organization and classification of information, and are able to help people navigate complex systems and find what they need.*

*In addition, librarians often serve as advocates for access to information and for the protection of intellectual freedom. They work to ensure that all members of their communities have the opportunity to find and use the information they need, regardless of their background or circumstances.*

*While technology can certainly be a useful tool for librarians, it is not likely to replace the need for human expertise and judgment in the field.*

**Julio Santillán-Aldana:**

*What technologies can replace librarians' work?*

**ChatGPT:**

*It is not accurate to say that technology can replace the work of librarians, as librarians bring a unique set of skills and expertise to their work that cannot be easily replaced by technology. However, there are a number of technologies that can assist librarians in their work and make certain tasks more efficient.*

*For example, library management systems and cataloging software can help librarians keep track of and organize the materials in their collections. Electronic databases and search engines can make it easier for librarians to locate and access information, and can also help users find what they are looking for. Digital collections and e-book readers can make it easier for people to access and use library materials remotely.*

*In addition, artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies are beginning to be used in libraries to improve the discovery and recommendation of resources, as well as to assist with tasks such as cataloging and metadata creation.*

*While these technologies can be useful tools for librarians, they are not a substitute for the knowledge, skills, and expertise of trained library professionals. Librarians are still needed to evaluate the quality and reliability of sources, to provide research assistance, and to teach information literacy skills. They also play a crucial role in ensuring that all members of their communities have access to the information they need.*

**Julio Santillán-Aldana:**

*How can artificial intelligence help the librarians' work?*

**ChatGPT:**

*Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies have the potential to assist librarians in a number of ways. For example, AI can be used to improve the discovery and recommendation of library resources, such as by analyzing user search patterns and recommending relevant materials based on those patterns.*

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*AI can also be used to assist with tasks such as cataloging and metadata creation. For example, natural language processing algorithms can be used to analyze the content of a document and extract relevant metadata, such as the author, title, and subject. This can help librarians save time and reduce the need for manual data entry.*

*In addition, AI can be used to analyze library usage data and identify trends and patterns that can help librarians better understand the needs and preferences of their users. This can inform the development of new services and resources, as well as the collection development process.*

*Overall, AI has the potential to help librarians work more efficiently and effectively, but it is not a replacement for the knowledge, skills, and expertise of trained library professionals. Librarians will still be needed to evaluate the quality and reliability of sources, to provide research assistance, and to teach information literacy skills.*

**Julio Santillán-Aldana:**

*How can ChatGPT help librarians?*

**ChatGPT:**

*It is not clear how ChatGPT, a variant of the GPT (Generative Pre-training Transformer) language model, could specifically be used to help librarians. However, language models like GPT have the ability to generate human-like text and can be trained to perform a variety of language-based tasks.*

*For example, a language model could potentially be used to assist with tasks such as generating summaries of documents, creating metadata or catalog records, or answering frequently asked questions. It could also be used to generate recommendations for books or other resources based on user input.*

*However, it is important to note that language models are not able to fully replicate the knowledge, skills, and expertise of trained library professionals. Librarians bring a unique set of skills to their work, including the ability to evaluate the quality and reliability of sources, provide research assistance, and teach information literacy skills. These tasks are likely to require human judgment and expertise, and cannot be fully automated.*

**Julio Santillán-Aldana:**

*Are you the tomorrow's librarian?*

**ChatGPT:**

*As an artificial intelligence, I do not have the ability to physically be present in a library or perform the tasks that librarians do. However, I can assist with tasks such as finding and organizing information, answering questions, and providing recommendations.*

*It is important to note that while AI can be a useful tool for librarians, it is not a replacement for the knowledge, skills, and expertise of trained library professionals. Librarians bring a unique set of skills to their work, including the ability to evaluate the quality and reliability of*

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### **Julio Santillán-Aldana:**

*I think you are our partner. We will be very good friends. Thank you very much for your feedback.*

### **ChatGPT:**

*I'm happy to be of help! As an AI, I don't have the ability to physically be present in a library or work alongside librarians, but I'm always here to assist with questions and provide information. If there's anything else I can help with, please don't hesitate to ask.*