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San Diego, CA

**ALA 2024**

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# Transforming metadata: Getting ready for AI



# Merrilee Proffitt

Senior Manager  
OCLC Research Library Partnership

# Transforming Metadata series

[oc.lc/transforming-metadata-event-series](https://oc.lc/transforming-metadata-event-series)

*The Transforming Metadata series connects you with emerging trends in the world of next-generation metadata standards, services, and platforms. At Transforming Metadata events, you'll hear how OCLC staff and metadata practitioners are facilitating new ways of working that make libraries and their data central to contemporary research and scholarship.*





# Richard J. Urban

Senior Program Officer  
OCLC Research Library Partnership

# Harnessing collective expertise

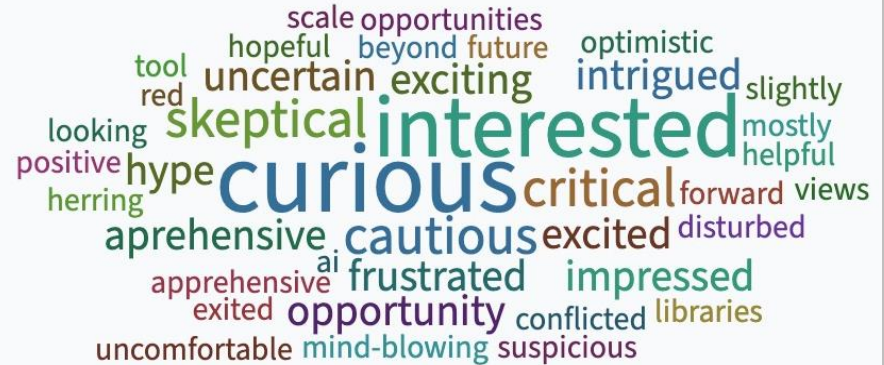
## Metadata Managers Focus Group

- Learning together
- Engaging AI with curiosity
- Thinking responsibly

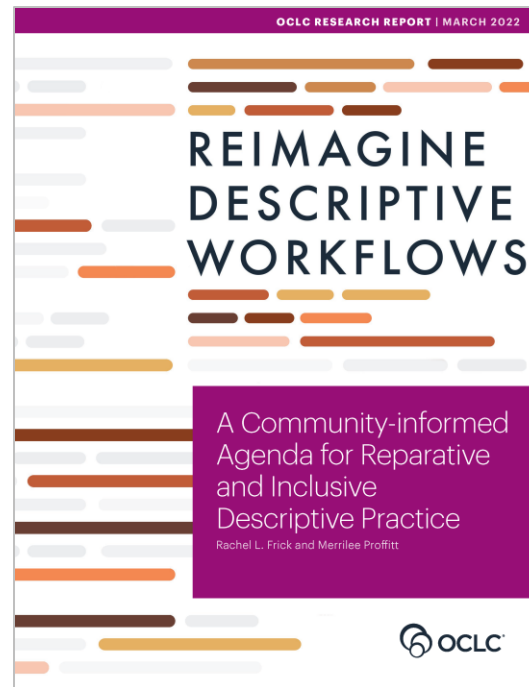
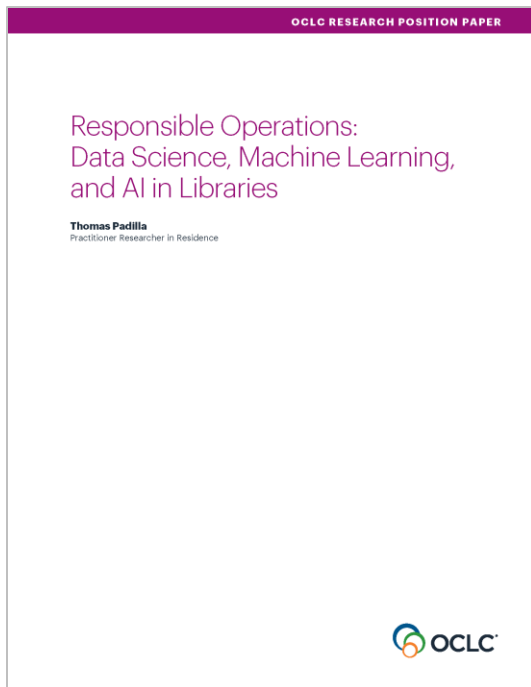
## OCLC-LIBER

*Building for the future program*

How do you feel about the use of AI and machine learning in the library context?



# Collaborative research





NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

# Charlene Chou

Head of Knowledge Access  
New York University

# KA AI study group

**Goal: Demystify AI and understand its impact on the metadata operations through reading, testing, and training**

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**Research questions: Can AI/ML tools assist in metadata operations, such as metadata creation and quality control, and enhance the discovery of library resources, including those in non-Latin script resources?**

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## Completed tasks

- Discussed journal articles
- Lightning talks to present test results
  - GPT instructed using Python scripts to remediate 4K JSON files into structured format files required for the system upgrade of Spatial Data Repository





# KA AI study group (2)

## Completed tasks (continued)

- Using abstracts or rare book dealer descriptions to create MARC records or LC subject headings: To determine what's working or not
  - Tested different tools, such as Claude3, to transliterate and translate
  - AI learning resources (work in progress)
  - Prompt engineering training session
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**Work in progress: Continue to maintain this learning space to support interdisciplinary collaboration and address ethical concerns**



# KA AI study group (3)

**Work in progress: Continue to maintain this learning space to support interdisciplinary collaboration and address ethical concerns**

- Will hold a joint meeting with subject librarians (Research & Research Services) in September 2024
- Test an automated workflow for creating brief bib records
- Test NLP and machine learning for digital resources to mitigate AI harms

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## **Conclusion**

- The most gratifying outcome: Increased member engagement, including testing, discussions, and suggesting ideas for training





# Hannah Scates Kettler

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for Academic Services  
Iowa State University

# Project team

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[www.ims.gov/grants/awarded/lg-252307-ols-22](http://www.ims.gov/grants/awarded/lg-252307-ols-22)



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# Responsible AI in libraries project

How can we use AI to improve library and archives services while also upholding our values and protecting our communities from harm?

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## Goals:

- **Develop practical resources** that support responsible use of AI in library and archives contexts
- Help library and archives practitioners **consider values and ethical implications** as we embark on new AI projects

[lib.montana.edu/responsible-ai/](http://lib.montana.edu/responsible-ai/)

# Responsible AI in libraries project

## Phase 1: Literature review— 2022/2023

- Review of literature, gray literature, and conference presentations
  - Forthcoming in *Information Technology and Libraries* in 2024
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## Phase 2: Responsible AI case studies— 2023

- Published as a special issue of [\*Journal of eScience Librarianship\*](#)
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## Phase 3: Workshops with practitioners, admin, and users — spring 2024

- Consider professional values, discuss “irresponsible AI” scenarios

# Responsible AI in libraries project

## Phase 4. Responsible AI tool development and assessment —summer/fall 2024

- Analyze data, develop a draft tool
  - Expert testing of tool: Community experts, case study authors
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## Phase 5: Final tool and handbook— 2025

- Release final version of a tool for responsible AI in libraries and archives
- Publish handbook with instructions for using the tool





**What are the needs  
in this space?**

# Change management

# Ethics and values



S-L-O-W



(and intentional)

# Opportunities for scaling knowledge and learning

# Takeaways

## **Interdisciplinary collaboration for innovation and impact**

- Domain-specific data
  - High-quality metadata is still valuable and needed
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## **Create a safe learning space for change management and demystifying AI**

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## **Participate proactively in ethical AI projects creating quality datasets and metadata**

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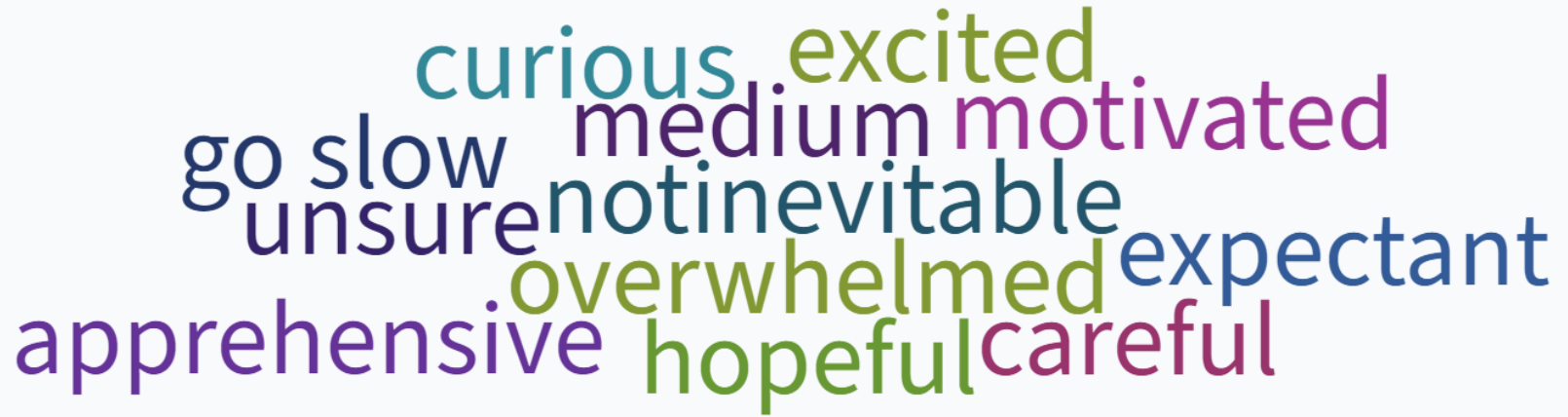
## **Manage FOMO by going *SLOMO***

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## **AI needs professional guidance, values, and communities of care**

# Poll results

Use a word or short phrase to describe how you feel about working with AI



A word cloud of responses to the poll question. The words are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with varying sizes and colors. The colors include shades of blue, green, purple, and teal. The words are: curious, excited, go slow, medium, motivated, unsure, not inevitable, overwhelmed, expectant, apprehensive, hopeful, and careful.

curious excited  
go slow medium motivated  
unsure not inevitable  
overwhelmed expectant  
apprehensive hopeful careful

**Because  
what is  
known must  
be shared.®**