2021 02 15 Artificial Intelligence and Libraries

What does API mean?
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/API
  API: An application programming interface (API), is a computing interface that defines interactions between multiple software intermediaries. It defines the kinds of calls or requests that can be made, how...en.wikipedia.org
- Application Programming Interface - A way to programmatically collect the data that is offered by the KB without human actions needed

About the GPT-3 article: I am wondering if it also wrote the title? including the taunt?
"**A robot wrote this entire article. Are you scared yet, human? | Artificial intelligence (AI) | The Guardian**"
- -Very sharp remark. No, the title was not generated by GPT.
  You can read the entire story, plus how they did it, here:
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/sep/08/robot-wrote-this-article-gpt-3

I wonder if there is intellectual intelligence that is not human? The slide seemed to imply that
Added later after Barbara put the question to the speakers: **Actually, that was not my question at all -- in my view, AI is intelligent. I just wondered because Andreas Degwitz had a formulation on his slides "generated by humans or by intellectual intelligence" -- which sounded like there is "intellectual intelligence" that is not "human" (and it was opposed to AI)**
- Ah, I see. AI is intelligent, but (so far) only in a 'narrow' way. An AI can be extremely intelligent in one thing (e.g. playing Go) but at the same time it wouldn't even know what day of the week it is. When we talk about intelligence we usually think about 'broad AI', or even 'AGI', artificial general intelligence, which does not exist (or only in movies).
Intellectual intelligence means human intelligence of course.

How do you make sure that the humans in the loop aren't biased, consiously or unconsiously? It should be a very diverse, mulitcultural and of different sexes build up team. Do you think there should be a ethical standard for the composition of such a team?
- Yes, diversity is needed to overcome at least some forms of bias/exclusiveness. An ethical 'test' would be helpful. One should be pointed to 'weak' spots in their AI-system/data, where potentially bias can occur.
  Personally, I am in favor of an organisation like the FDA in the USA (I believe this is called BfArM in Germany), but for AI in stead of food and drugs.

Is the political world aware of the important role that libraries (can) play with regard to AI (e.g. the development of ethical standards)? Are libraries included in political strategies on AI?
- Hardly, I am afraid the honest answer is. In the Netherlands a Strategic Plan for AI was published a year and a half ago. We managed to get one paragraph about AI and libraries in it, but this wasn't picked up.

Libraries (or rather: international library organisations) should put this high on their agenda.

Cultural AI - a lab for culturally valued AI (cultural-ai.nl)
The Cultural AI Lab is organising a webinar next Wednesday, to register:
https://denhaag.beeldengeluid.nl/en/agenda/webinar-cultural-ai-lab/#
it will be in English

More information about the Dutch AI Coalition (NLAIC) working group:
https://nlaic.com/en/toepassingsgebied/culture/

One of the projects of Future Libraries Lab, that uses AI techniques is around describing images for visual impaired users and funded by the KB: https://delftdesignlabs.org/projects/describing-images/

Don't you think we need more LIS (Library and Information Science) RESEARCH concerning the connection between AI and Libraries and their political role in this context (and in democracy)?
- We always need more research and not only from the field of LIS, but in cooperation with researcher from other fields of expertise. The role of libraries as part of the Public Domain in informing and involving citizens is crucial in democratic processes and inclusive societies and we are learning every day how to best take our role and need all the research and tech info we can get a hold on.
- yes, we need more LIS and more skills to manage AI in libraries adequately.

Is AI putting in question our constitutional right to the freedom of information, as AI is also capable to hide or mislead information ?
- No, absolutely not. If AI generates misleading information or worse, then it is down to the persons using this to their advantage. If they break the law, there should be consequences. Obviously, the trade-off between freedom of informaton/speech and for instance inciting violence has always been complicated; AI will not change that.

we don't need to be "intelligent" but "educated" for dealing with this
- And a lot of wisdom!

The most important argument in this discussion for me was that it is strange that many people are so distrustful of AI because they don't understand how it works -- but use a lot of technical devices in their everyday life of which they do not understand how they work either. Thank you for sharpening this argument!

Info institutions have our own requirements for how AI operates and outputs (i.e. aligned with our AI-ethical guidelines), but we are dependent on the world's tech giants to provide AI (e.g. the technical requirements to produce GPT-3 far exceed the resources of public libraries) and they

often have different ideas about how AI should work. How can we be involved in the design process to ensure we have a say in the product we are employing in our institutions?
- This is a big, as yet unresolved problem, which goes beyond AI. Legislation, awareness, education are some of the elements needed for a solution. And libraries, who are trusted as far as providing information is concerned.

There is no difference with AI or older media. They all can be misused.
- Agree. Only the impact of misused AI is much bigger.