Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal

Kaela Casey

Instructor's Sabbatical Leave Status

Full Time Hire Date: August 2017
Previous Sabbaticals: None

Sabbatical Time Scope

Spring 2025

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this sabbatical leave is to broaden my knowledge and understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) and create content for students and faculty on AI, including its potential role in the research process, ethical concerns in its use, and the importance of critical thinking and information literacy (IL) in the age of AI. Artificial intelligence tools and capabilities are increasing and improving quickly. This sabbatical will give me the opportunity to strengthen my knowledge of AI tools and research AI's impacts on IL along with how other libraries are responding. Finally, the sabbatical will allow me to create content for both students and faculty on AI including a web-based guide, videos, and an additional Canvas module for the [Library Research Workshop Series](#).

Sabbatical Project Background

Community college librarians play an important role in supporting their institution's mission, values, curriculum, and student learning outcomes, as well as facilitating student success (ASCCC, 2019). Central to a librarian's work is teaching critical thinking and information literacy skills to support students' information competency. The Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education defines information literacy as "…the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning," (ACRL, 2015). As technology advances and changes the way information is created, distributed, and consumed, librarians must actively learn these new technologies and adapt their teaching methods and content to maintain currency, accuracy, and relevancy in information literacy instruction.

The rapid proliferation and improvement of AI technologies has vast implications for higher education, libraries, and information literacy. It is changing how information is discovered and created, as well as how we teach and learn. AI generally, "…refers to a cluster of technologies and approaches to computing focused on the ability of computers to make flexible rational decisions in response to often unpredictable environmental conditions," (Tredinnick, 2017).

These technologies can encompass natural language processing, semantic reasoning, machine learning, and intelligent data processing and retrieval, (Tredinnick, 2017). Examples of tools that utilize these technologies include AI assistants like Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa, and tools like [ChatGPT](#), [Grammarly](#), [Perplexity](#), [Dall-E](#), and [GitHub Copilot](#). Additionally, AI is becoming integrated into products widely used in higher education such as Microsoft Office, Adobe, and Google Workspace (Spataro, 2023; Wadhwani, 2023; Wright, 2023). With increased availability and access to AI tools, there are both concerns and potential opportunities for higher education and information literacy.

Some view the recent surge of AI as a, "…danger to authentic learning," and a means to cut corners and cheat, and due to the ease of access, this is always a possibility, (McMurtrie, 2023). However, AI is rapidly developing and becoming more seamlessly integrated in our society and everyday life. It is imperative to recognize this and explore the possibilities for integrating AI into academics and teach students to use the tools in a responsible and ethical way. Some examples include using generative AI tools for brainstorming research topic ideas, editing a first draft, or receiving personalized learning support, (McMurtrie, 2023; Chan & Hu, 2023). Many educational institutions and educators recognize the positive and negative potentials of AI and are updating policies and practices to address both.

Ventura College has recognized the potential impacts of AI and has taken steps to inform and support faculty. The [Ventura College Distance Education Faculty Hub](#) in Canvas provides a module on AI in the classroom, including information on developing classroom policies and AI detection tools. Additionally, the professional development session "Using AI as Part of the Learning Process" was hosted in Fall 2023. Recently, Ventura College's Academic Honesty Policy was updated to include, "Using artificial intelligence (AI) to generate content and presenting it as your own," as an example of academic dishonesty. As AI becomes more ingrained in our society and education, these are all important steps to take. As educators who work to build students' foundational information literacy skills and provide curricular support for faculty, it is essential for librarians to be a part of such efforts to address AI's role in academics.

The [VC Library](#) supports student information literacy by offering in person and online reference assistance and research help appointments, in person and online library instruction sessions, online research guides, video tutorials, and a fully online, self-enrolled, self-paced Library Research Workshop Series through Canvas. The VC Library also supports faculty through the creation of educational content such as video tutorials and curation of content through our [Faculty Resources LibGuides](#). I have created many of these resources for students and faculty, which are popular and frequently used**.**

I created the Library Research Workshop Series during the fall 2021 semester. The series launched in spring 2022 with six modules covering library basics and information literacy concepts: Getting to Know the Library, Finding Books, Finding Articles, Online Research, Is This a Reliable Source?, and Citing Your Sources. The series has been successful, with more than 550 students enrolled and more than 2,300 module completion badges awarded since its launch.

Additionally, many faculty have included completion of one or more of the modules as part of their assigned coursework including courses in Geology, Engineering, and English.

Ventura College Library
The Evelyn and Howard Boroughs Library at Ventura College
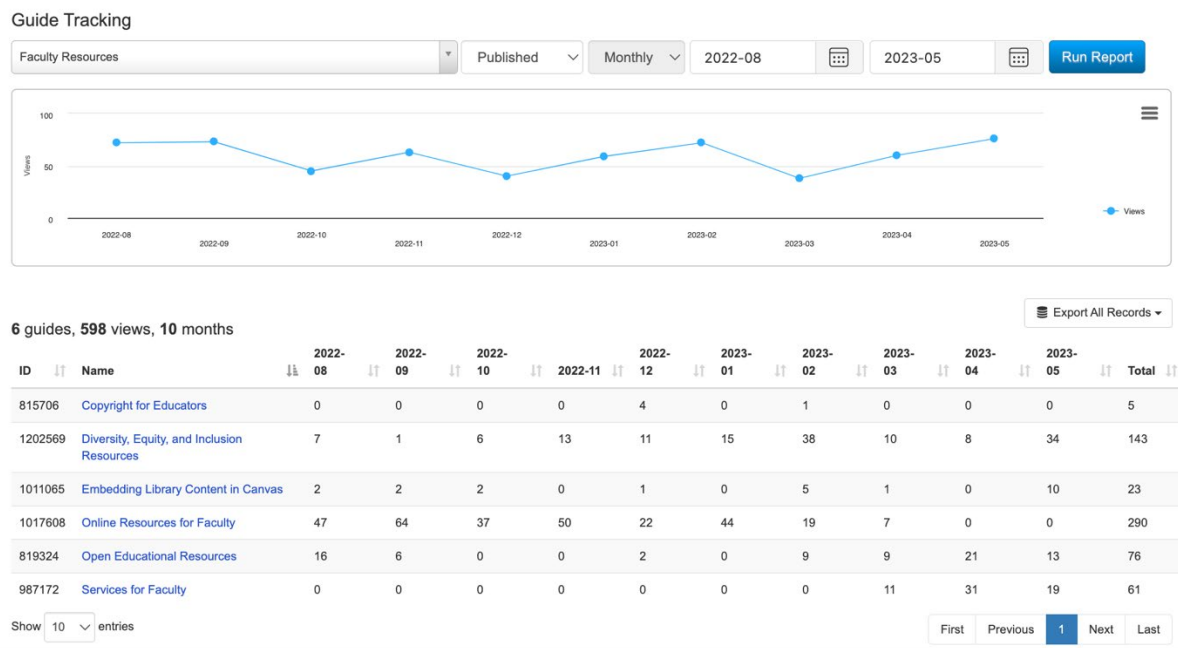
6	2,344	0	0
BADGES	AWARDS	GROUPS	GROUP MEMBERS

View Issuer

Similarly, the VC Library's resources for faculty are used quite often. I created six LibGuides for topics relevant to faculty including Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources, Copyright, and Services for Faculty. In the 2022-2023 academic year, there were 589 views of these Faculty Resources LibGuides.

Guide Tracking

| Faculty Resources | Published | Monthly | 2022-08 | 2023-05 | Run Report |

6 guides, 598 views, 10 months

Export All Records ▾

ID	Name	2022-08	2022-09	2022-10	2022-11	2022-12	2023-01	2023-02	2023-03	2023-04	2023-05	Total
815706	Copyright for Educators	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	5
1202569	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources	7	1	6	13	11	15	38	10	8	34	143
1011065	Embedding Library Content in Canvas	2	2	2	0	1	0	5	1	0	10	23
1017608	Online Resources for Faculty	47	64	37	50	22	44	19	7	0	0	290
819324	Open Educational Resources	16	6	0	0	2	0	9	9	21	13	76
987172	Services for Faculty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	31	19	61

Show 10 ∨ entries

First Previous **1** Next Last

I have created more than 25 videos for the VC Library's YouTube channel. These videos range from general library tutorials and research methods videos to course and assignment-specific videos requested by faculty members. The VC Library's YouTube channel had 989 views between September 14, 2023 and October 11, 2023.
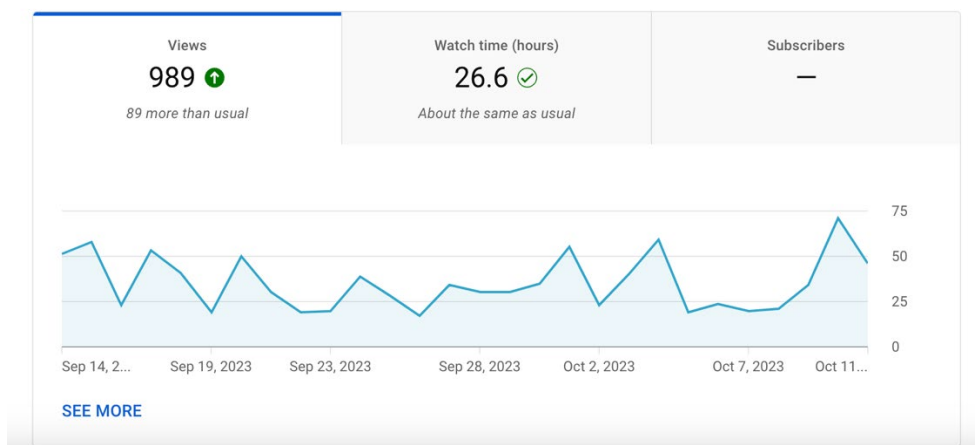
Channel analytics

Overview   Content   Audience   Research

Your channel got 989 views in the last 28 days

Views	Watch time (hours)	Subscribers
989 ⬆	**26.6** ✓	—
89 more than usual	About the same as usual	

Sep 14, 2...   Sep 19, 2023   Sep 23, 2023   Sep 28, 2023   Oct 2, 2023   Oct 7, 2023   Oct 11...

SEE MORE

Due in part to the resources I have created, the VC Library has positioned itself as the leader of information literacy efforts on campus. With AI changing the information landscape, it is necessary for me to keep up to date in order to teach the information literacy skills needed to navigate this new environment. The VC Library has an established suite of resources that are well known, trusted, and utilized across campus. This sabbatical will provide me with the opportunity to create new content on AI to add to this suite, which will benefit both VC faculty and students. Faculty will have additional resources they can turn to for their students and for their own professional knowledge and curriculum development. Most importantly, students will be able to develop the information literacy and critical thinking skills necessary to use AI responsibly and evaluate AI created content.

Sabbatical Project Components

1. Research AI and IL
   To start my sabbatical, I plan to broaden my understanding of the scope and applications of AI, as well as its implications for IL and how academic libraries are responding. This step will take about 15% of my sabbatical time and will give me the necessary background knowledge.
2. Research Open Educational Resources (OER) on AI and IL
   Content related to AI and IL may exist in the Canvas Commons and other OER repositories. I plan to search for existing OER content in these areas that can be adapted for use in the Library Research Workshop module and other content for students and faculty. This step will take about 15% of my sabbatical time and will both further my

knowledge and provide me with some existing content to integrate or adapt in my own creations.

3. Create content for VC
   The majority of my sabbatical (70%) will focus on creation of content for students and faculty.

   a. Content for Students
      I plan to create a seventh module for the Library Research Workshop Series dedicated to AI and its implications for students' research process and information literacy. The focus will be on understanding how AI works and how it can be used responsibly to aid in the research process. The module will additionally cover recognizing ethical issues in using AI including bias, copyright, plagiarism, and propagation of misinformation.

   b. Content for Faculty
      To support faculty in broadening their understanding and potential uses of AI in an educational setting, I plan to create content such as videos and infographics, and curate existing content found through my research such as articles and other OER materials within a LibGuide accessible to faculty through the library website.

Value of the Sabbatical Project

To Ventura College and the Community

The content produced during this sabbatical project will provide increased opportunities for VC students, staff, and faculty to broaden their understanding of AI and its impacts on higher education, the research process, and information literacy. The sabbatical project supports VC's Institutional Student Learning Outcomes 3 (Critical Thinking and Problem Solving), 4 (Information Literacy), and 5 (Personal/Community Awareness and Academic/Career Responsibilities).

To the Instructor

As a librarian, I teach students the skills needed to navigate the digital information environment and use information responsibly. AI is changing education and the information landscape, so it is vital that I keep informed and update my teaching practices and content. Through this sabbatical, I will be able to gain expertise on AI and its implications for information literacy instruction and create new resources and learning objects specific to AI and IL to augment the VC Library's current offerings.

Additionally, other instructors can incorporate the content produced during this sabbatical project into their courses to support their course SLOs and overall student information literacy, and use content geared toward faculty to improve their understanding of AI including potential uses in coursework and related ethical issues.

To the Student

Students will have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of AI, learn ethical ways to use AI in their education, and improve their critical thinking and information literacy skills.

To the District

Any content created during this sabbatical project will have a Creative Commons License and will be shared with colleagues at Moorpark College and Oxnard College, so they may have the opportunity to adapt and use content at their college.

References

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC). (2019). *The Role of the Library Faculty in the California Community College.* https://www.asccc.org/sites/default/files/Role_of_Library_Faculty.pdf

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). (2015). "Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education." http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework

Chan, C.K.Y., & Hu, W. (2023). Students' voices on generative AI: Perceptions, benefits, and challenges in higher education. *International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education, 20,*(43). https://doi.org/10.1186/s41239-023-00411-8

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Tredinnick, L. (2017). Artificial intelligence and professional roles. *Business Information Review*, *34*(1), 37-41. https://doi-org.ezproxy.csuci.edu/10.1177/0266382117692621

Ventura College (2023). "Academic Dishonesty." https://www.venturacollege.edu/faculty-and-staff/academic-resources/academic-dishonesty

Ventura College. (2022). "Ventura College Institutional Learning Outcomes (ISLOs) and Service Unit Outcomes (ISUOs)." https://www.venturacollege.edu/college-information/student-learning-outcomes/institutionalge-student-learning-outcomes-islos

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https://blog.adobe.com/en/publish/2023/03/21/bringing-gen-ai-to-creative-cloud-adobe-firefly

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Links

ChatGPT
https://chat.openai.com/

Dall-E
https://openai.com/research/dall-e

GitHub Copilot
https://github.com/features/copilot

Grammarly
https://www.grammarly.com/

Perplexity
https://www.perplexity.ai/

Ventura College Distance Education Faculty Hub (Canvas)
https://vcccd.instructure.com/courses/91

Ventura College Library Faculty Resource Guides
https://libguides.venturacollege.edu/?group_id=29132

Ventura College Library Homepage
https://www.venturacollege.edu/departments/student-services/library

Ventura College Library Research Workshop Series
https://www.venturacollege.edu/departments/student-services/library/library-instruction

Ventura College Library YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKCXZ7Z6_fBkm72_o9agPBg/featured?view_as=subscriber