

Defining AI Literacy

EWA Higher Education Seminar, Sept. 10, 2026



Lauren
Back,
Carleton
College

•AI literacy is the cluster of knowledge and skills that enables people to understand and think critically about AI, including how it works, how it affects people and society, and the ethical questions it raises. It's also the ability to put this knowledge into practice by navigating AI's opportunities and limitations responsibly and effectively.



Leo Lo, University of Virginia

- AI literacy is the ability to understand, use, and think critically about AI technologies and their impact on society, ethics, and everyday life. It rests on five components: Technical Knowledge, Ethical Awareness, Critical Thinking, Practical Use, and Societal Impact.

- Source: Lo, L. S. (2025). *AI literacy for all: A universal framework [Preprint]*. University of New Mexico Digital Repository.
https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/ulls_fsp/213/

Jessica Stansbury, University of Baltimore



•At the University of Baltimore, we are dedicated to integrating a comprehensive understanding of AI technologies into our curricula, emphasizing their predictive nature, underlying mechanisms, practical applications, and ethical implications. Our interdisciplinary approach connects communication, software development, psychology, and data literacy, fostering a holistic view of AI's role in various fields. Through hands-on, interactive learning, we equip students and faculty to use AI tools effectively, make informed decisions, and critically evaluate AI outputs, recognizing their potential and limitations. Prioritizing equity and inclusivity, we commit to ongoing professional development and evolving our AI literacy initiatives, preparing our graduates to excel in a competitive job market and contribute meaningfully to society by addressing real-world challenges with ethical and innovative solutions.

Resources from Leo S. Lo

Beyond the Chatbots: What AI Literacy Means for Colleges and Students · EWA Higher Education Seminar · Sept. 10, 2026

- 1 AI Literacy for All: A Universal Framework**
Five components, four levels, and a self-assessment rubric. Preprint, 2025.
digitalrepository.unm.edu/ulls_fsp/213
- 2 AI literacy: A guide for academic libraries**
College & Research Libraries News, 86(3), 2025.
doi.org/10.5860/crln.86.3.120
- 3 Evaluating AI Literacy in Academic Libraries: A Survey Study**
National survey of 760 library employees. College & Research Libraries, 85(5), 2024.
doi.org/10.5860/crl.85.5.635
- 4 AI Literacy and Action Lab, and the course “Thinking in the Age of AI”**
University of Virginia. Pilots, goals, and the fall 2026 study.
library.virginia.edu/ai/lab

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Frameworks, writing, and talks

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