Embracing AI
Navigating Constant Change in Education

Exploring the historical pattern of change in education and the impending impact of AI on higher learning.

From the printing press to the internet, major technological shifts have brought apprehensions and opportunities. AI is no different. As we integrate AI into higher education, we're poised to uncover new methods of scholarship and ways of learning. The key lies in our ability and willingness to adapt, leveraging AI's strengths while maintaining the essence of human connection and thought.

Technological Advancements in Higher Education

1920s: Radio
Radio broadcasts extend education beyond classrooms, making lectures and educational content accessible to wider audiences.

1930s: Overhead Projector
The overhead projector simplifies complex concepts through visual aids, enhancing classroom teaching and engaging students.

1970s: Handheld Calculator
Handheld calculators revolutionize math education, enabling quick and accurate computations.

1980s: Personal Computers
Affordable personal computers provide tools for word processing, data analysis, and educational software.

1990s: Internet
The Internet transforms research, communication, and content delivery, fostering global collaboration and information sharing.

1997: IClicker
The iClicker facilitates real-time student polling, encouraging engagement and peer interaction.
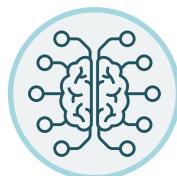
2000s: LMS and Online Courseware
Integration of these technologies enables instructors to offer digital resources, assignments, and discussions, enriching student-teacher interactions in traditional and online classrooms

2010s: Virtual Reality
Virtual Reality offers immersive learning, benefiting fields like medical training, architecture, and cultural studies.

2020s: Generative AI
AI-driven tools provide educators with instant personalized content, interactive learning, and innovative teaching approaches.

Three Educators on This Moment in AI

"Computers didn't kill our teaching nor did the internet destroy research, it just challenges us to think of new ways of engaging our students beyond just assessing a final project, and good pedagogical practices have taught us that all along."

—**Jennifer Duncan,** (Via Macmillan Learning Community)

"It's going to be a strange new world, but we've said that 40 times in the last hundred years and we've always adjusted."

—**Vaughn Scribner,** Associate Professor of American History at the University of Central Arkansas

"This is a situation where we need to adapt to a new environment and change how we assess students."

—**Karen Smith,** (Via Macmillan Learning Community)

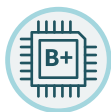## Four Practical Tips for Incorporating AI in The Classroom

Interactive Tutoring (Sandwiching)
Encourage students to ask questions related to the course material for extra support. AI can provide explanations, clarifications, and additional examples helping students understand complex concepts and lower their cognitive load by providing personalized assistance.

Critical Thinking
Create assignments that encourage critical thinking. For instance, provide a debatable topic and ask students to use AI to generate arguments from different perspectives, encouraging them to engage deeply with the subject matter and consider non-biased evaluation.

AI-Generated Answer Evaluations
AI is not perfect. Assign projects where students use AI to generate answers to questions. Students should then evaluate the quality of the AI-generated responses. They can compare these responses to their own knowledge and peer-reviewed sources to highlight inaccuracies, missing details, and suggest improvements.

Brainstorming
Encourage students to use the AI as a brainstorming partner. They can provide a topic or a challenge, and AI can offer multiple ideas or approaches. Students can then choose one idea, develop it further, and explain their reasoning behind the choice.

Learn More

Sources: Vaughn Scribner Interview; Macmillan Learning Webinar: Terminator or Transformer: ChatGPT Has Arrived in Our Classrooms; Macmillan Learning Webinar: Using Digital Tools to Encourage Human Connection; Forum Discussion on the Macmillan Learning Community