PCC Task Group on Strategic Planning for AI and Machine Learning: Preliminary Report

Date: February 7, 2024

Charge:

[Task Group on Strategic Planning for AI and Machine Learning](#)

Roster:

Judith Cannan (Library of Congress)
Charlene Chou (New York University), co-chair
Christine DeZelar-Tiedman (University of Minnesota), co-chair
Caroline Saccucci (Library of Congress)
Alvin Stockdale (National Library of Medicine & SCA Intern)

Activities to date:

The PCC AI/ML Task Group held our first meeting on Friday, January 5, 2024, and we have set a biweekly meeting schedule.

At our initial meeting, we reviewed our charge to confirm a common understanding of the goals and deliverables of the TG.

We have started a document gathering information that we know of currently regarding possible partners, implementations, projects, and resources to use as a framework for an environmental scan. However, we feel that an expanded survey of the broader PCC community will be the primary tool to gather the most comprehensive information.

We have reached out to some PoCo members who responded to the initial survey about AI to find out more about projects or initiatives that they are involved in and to get input into the next iteration of the survey. We are still gathering this feedback.

We have had discussions among the task group members regarding the scope and definition of AI as related to the work of the task group and PCC. We would like guidance from PoCo on the following question:

- Should the task group focus on the Machine Learning aspects of AI, or should we be inclusive of projects and implementations that use AI to automate repetitive tasks? See the following definition for the distinction.

  "Automation and AI have similarities and differences. While automation is focused on automating tasks, AI seeks to create machines that can perform tasks that require human-like decision-making, analysis, and problem-solving skills. Automation is typically used for repetitive and routine tasks that can be easily programmed, while AI is applied to complex tasks that require human-like judgment and intelligence" (Automation Hero blog, April 28, 2023).

Completed deliverables:

- Create an initial documentation website on the PCC wiki for research and other resources, which will be enriched by the new task group.

Next steps:

- Finalize survey instrument and distribute survey
- Compile survey responses and complete environmental scan
- Recommend one or more AI-related action items to be added to the PCC Strategic Directions, 2023-2027.
- Recommend AI planning phases for PCC and outline next steps, including the establishment of a new task group with strategic goals and deliverables.