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# Framing the questions

Will AI Enable or Leave Learners with Disabilities Behind?

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## Are we asking the right questions?

- For every complicated question, there is a simple answer

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# Are we asking the right questions?

- For every complicated question, there is a simple answer
- It is usually wrong

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Disabled people  
are not a single  
group

They represent  
diversity

That leads to  
diverse impacts

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AI is applied in a range of settings

These may be in parallel

These influence the impact of AI

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# Employment

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# Education

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# Daily Life

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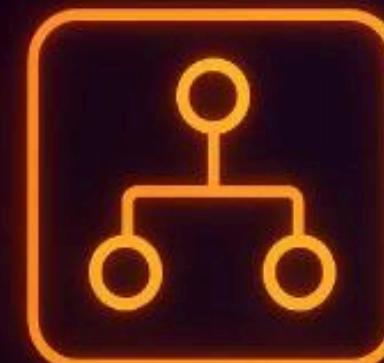
Do we Know what we mean by AI?

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## FOUR TYPES OF AI



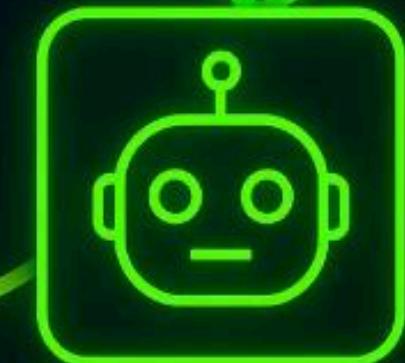
CAUSAL



PREDICTIVE



GENERATIVE



AGENTIC



# How is AI being used?

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Enhancing  
and  
expanding

Enhancing and expanding  
assistive technologies

Answering

Answering questions and  
augmenting creation

Deciding

Making decisions

# Enabling Impact of AI

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AI is reshaping assistive  
and inclusive consumer  
technologies.

Shift from specialised  
tools to adaptive  
mainstream systems.

# From Specialised Tools to Adaptive Technologies

- Traditional technologies required users to adapt to the tool.
- AI enables tools to adapt to user needs.
- Mainstream devices now include rich accessibility features.

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# Mainstream Adoption

- Speech recognition, captioning, magnification, text review and clarification and environmental description.
- Real-time translation and adaptive interfaces embedded in consumer tech.

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# Emerging Risks and Challenges

- Risk of misrecognition and misrepresentation due to limited datasets.
- AI monitoring and screening tools may penalise atypical behaviours.
- Accessibility barriers persist in interfaces; rapid updates disrupt workflows.

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So what do  
we need to  
ask?

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How are different people with  
disabilities experiencing AI?

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What do we believe has been  
the impact?

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What contributed to the  
benefits?

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What contributed to  
discrimination?

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Our question  
becomes

- Who is being excluded and discriminated against because of AI ?
- How do we recognise this?
- What is making this happen?
- How do we address it?

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## Key factors

Was the AI accessible to the user?

Was a range of needs included in the Data, including those with disabilities?

What was the chain of thought employed to think about that information?

Did we recognise Bias in the data?

How was that addressed?

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# Policy Evolution for Inclusive AI

- Accessibility and enabling technology now spans mainstream devices.
- Funding, procurement, and assessment models must evolve.
- Workforce needs support for ethical and accessible AI use.

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## Self-Determination and Equity

- Learners increasingly choose their own AI solutions.
- Access to devices, connectivity, and digital literacy is essential.
- Need policies addressing affordability and digital exclusion.

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# Rethinking AT Services

- Shift from impairment-based assessment to context and task-focused assessment.
- Continuous assessment reflects dynamic AI tools.

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# Future Guided by Human Values

- Independence, dignity, autonomy, transparency, co-creation.
- Outcomes depend on choices of governments, developers, educators, and disabled people.

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- The global Zero Project Network of more is uniquely positioned to provide insight on the intersection of disability inclusion, innovation, and artificial intelligence (AI).
- The Alliance aims to influence decision-making and discussions on AI developments poised to change our lives.
- The Alliance liaises with conference organisers and other channels to place experts at the heart of debates about opportunities and risks related to AI.

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# Our Approach

- **CONFERENCES:** Reach out for inroads in mainstream AI-related conferences.
- **EQUITABLE AI KNOWLEDGE HUB:** Find the resources you need for disability-inclusive AI Innovation  
<http://bit.ly/3K1bk3P>
- **LINKEDIN GROUP:** Join the discussion on 'Disability-Inclusive AI' with over 1000 members.

<http://bit.ly/42YXz77>

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# Contact the Equitable AI Alliance



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