

Welcome to AI for Grantmakers

Check in poll

How you are feeling after this morning?

Scan the QR code with your phone

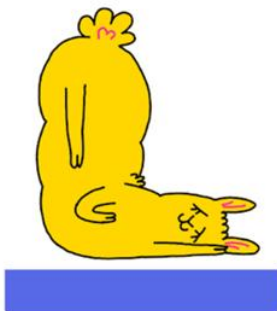
or

Go to menti.com and use vote code 7965 3325



On this llama-scale, how are you feeling right now?

10%



Need a nap

0%



A bit stressed

13%



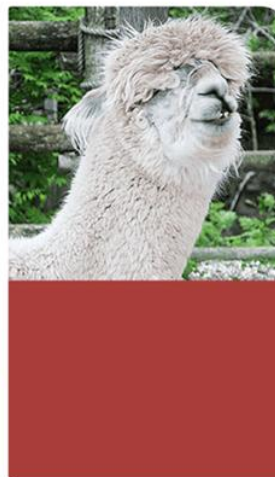
Energised

26%



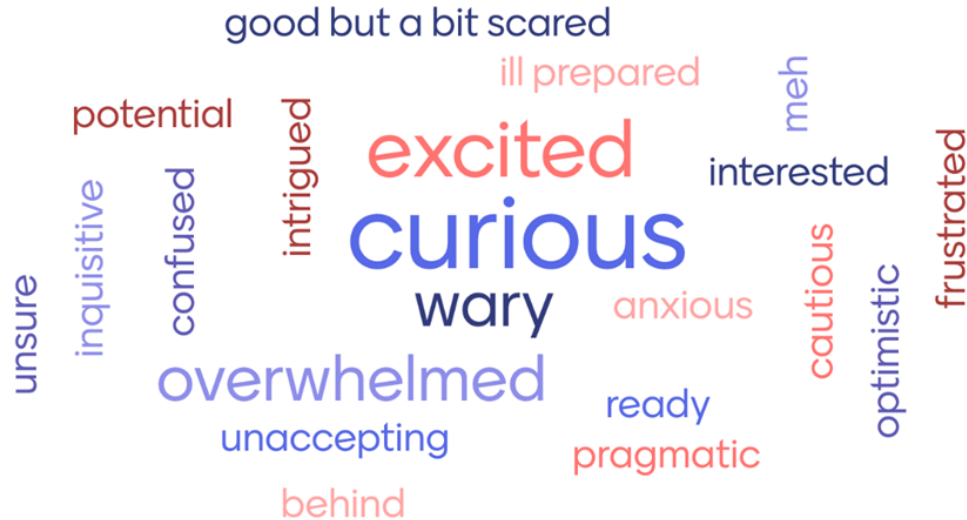
Chilled

52%

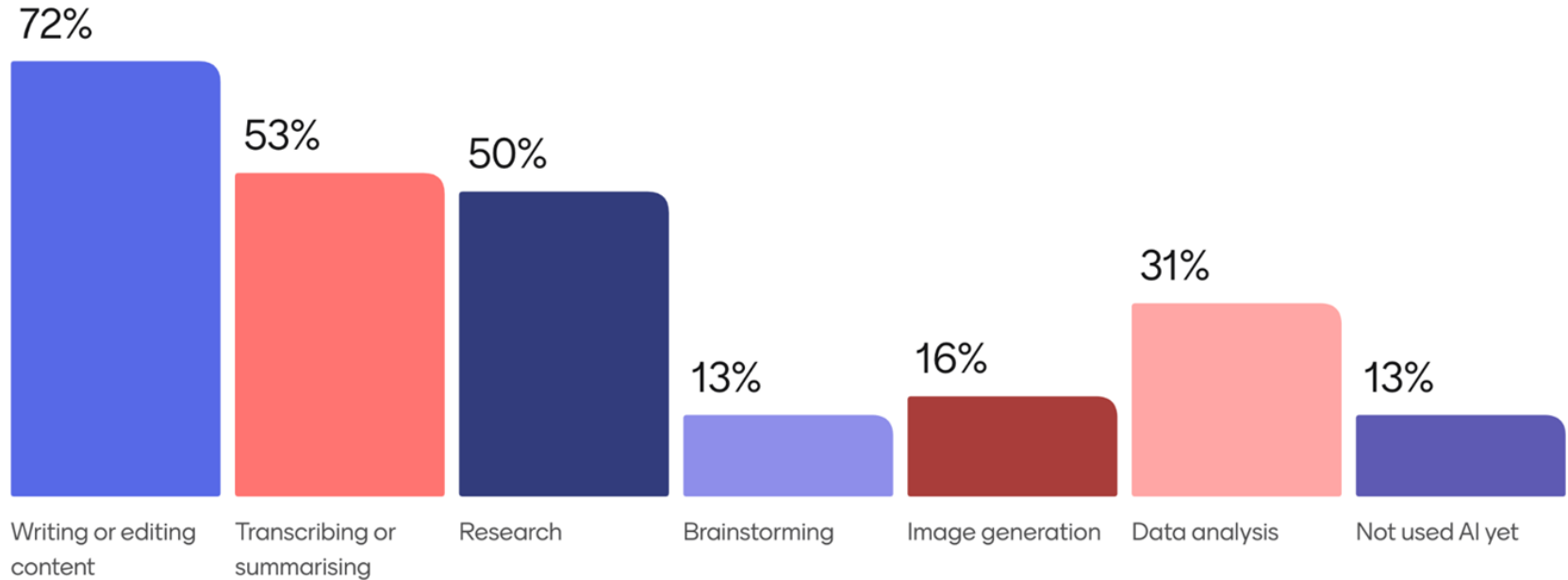


Excited and ready to learn

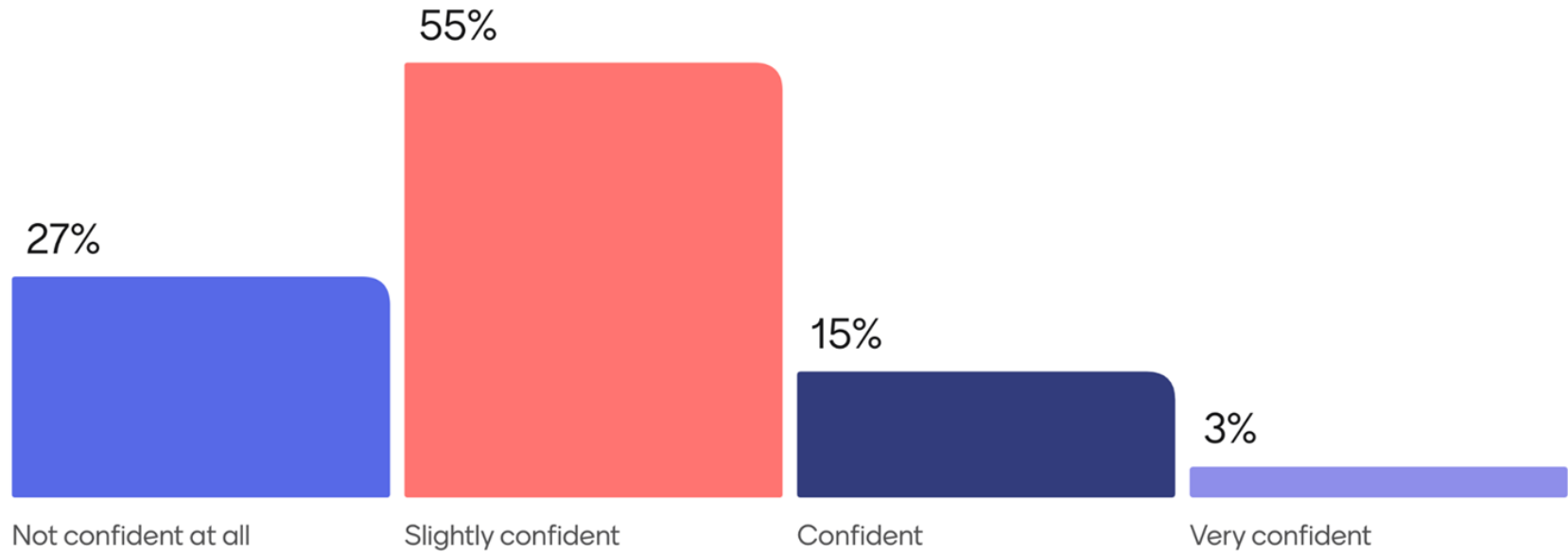
What's one word that sums up how you feel about AI?



If you've used AI, what have you used it for?



How confident do you feel about using AI in your work?



CAST

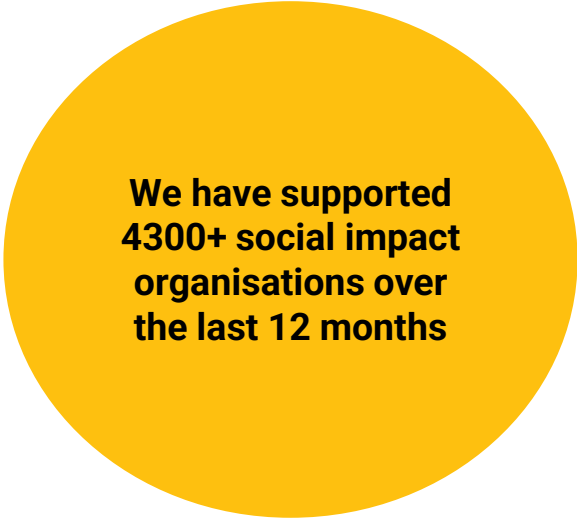
AI for Grantmakers
lessons, experiments
and ideas from the
sector

Joyce Borgs,
Head of Digital Learning and
Transformation



We are a charity helping organisations use digital for social good.

CAST works to ensure civil society has greater voice, presence and influence in the technologies that affect us all.



**We have supported
4300+ social impact
organisations over
the last 12 months**

Digital Leads Network



Peer group of c350
people from UK charities
with responsibility for
digital and data



AI in grantmaking

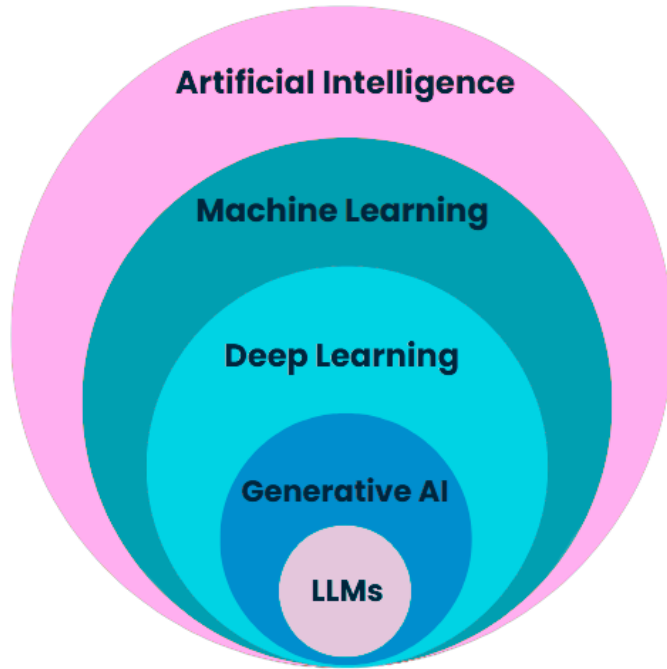
Ai peer group of >250 people from
190 grantmaking organisations
across the UK

What is AI?



“Artificial intelligence, or AI, is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human intelligence and problem-solving capabilities.”

Types of AI



Machine Learning

When AI **learns** from past experience (data).

Example: Email spam filters, Netflix Algorithm

Deep Learning

Uses 'neural networks' to **understand** and interpret huge amounts of data.

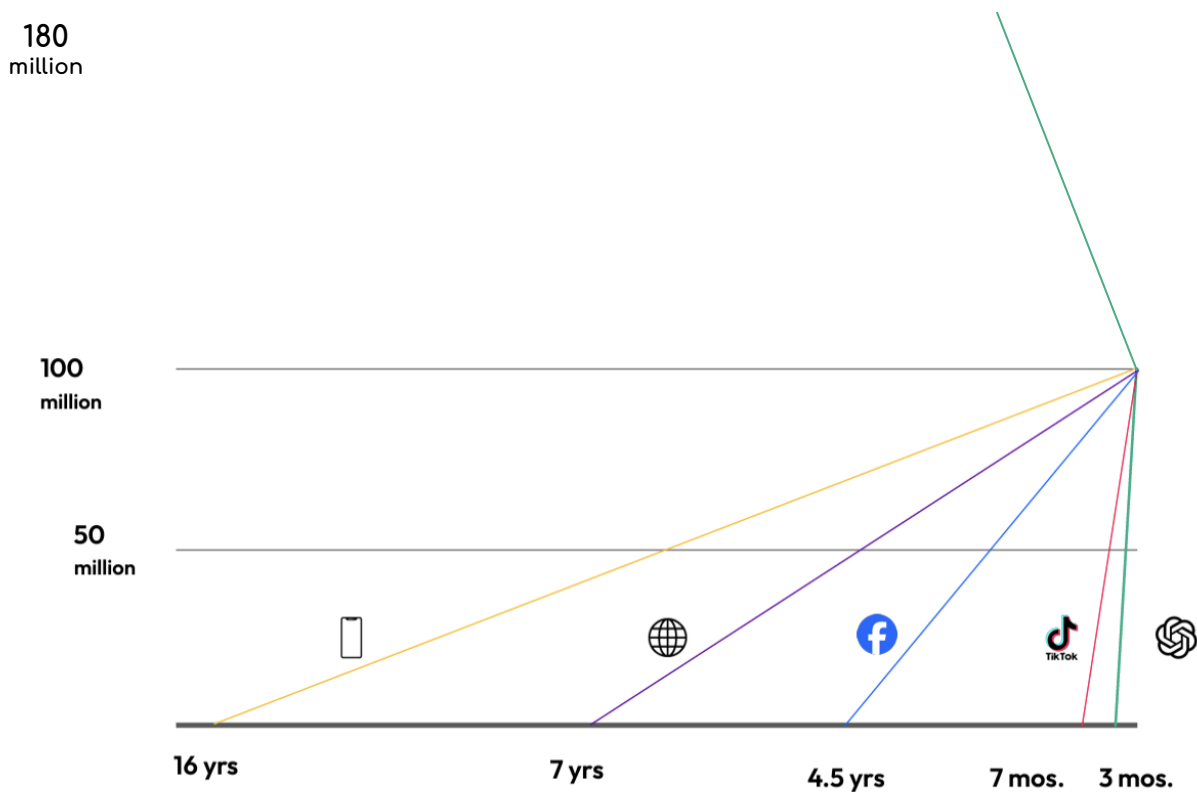
Example: Facial recognition, real-time translation apps

Generative AI

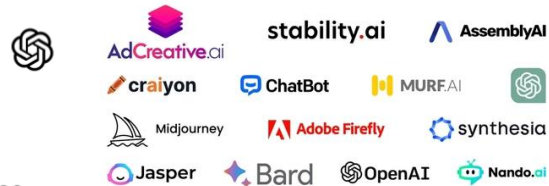
Uses deep learning to produce new content, ranging from text to images to music.

Example: Chat GPT, Co-Pilot, Claude, Gemini

Chat GPT took just 3 months to get to 100m users



Now 180m users, alongside fast creation and growth of new tools



We need an empowered, vocal and influential civil society, confident in their use and understanding of these new technologies.

Spheres of influence



Socio-economic trends and forecasts; structural etc

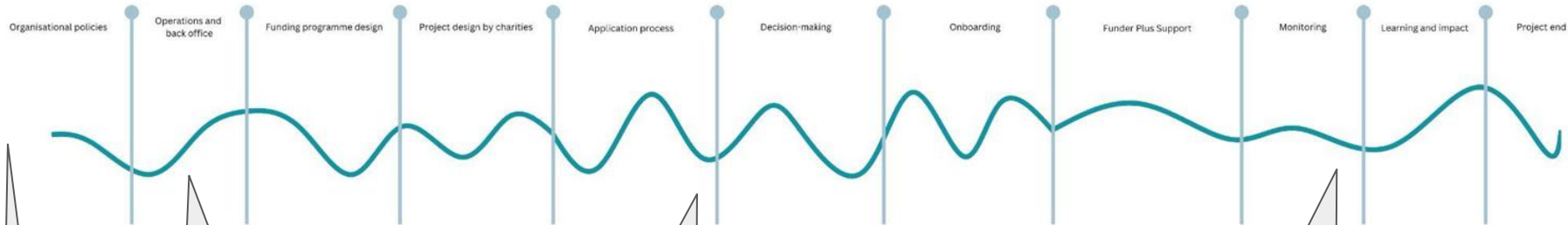
How does AI affect your mission and sector context?

How else might you bring about your mission by utilising AI?

How can you streamline, create efficiencies/greater connections/value within your existing workflows, patterns and activities?

“AI is like having unlimited interns”.

Benedict Evans, Tech Pundit



The AI trustee

The archivist

The researcher

The note taker

How charities are using AI

Drafting emails

Create first drafts of newsletters or donor emails

Meeting notes

Turn meeting recordings into transcripts and meeting notes

Social media

Generate draft posts and caption ideas

Simplify language

Make complex information more accessible - for non english speakers or a lower reading age

AI as your 'generalist' co- worker

- **Purpose:** To act as a flexible, helpful assistant for planning, drafting, brainstorming and everyday problem-solving.
- **Tool used:** [Chat GPT](#)
- **Risks:** It may sometimes generate generic ideas, miss key context or suggest content that sounds plausible but isn't fully accurate.
- **Guardrails:** Treat it as a starting point, not the final product. Always personalise, fact-check and adapt outputs before using them externally.

Prompt tips

- ◆ **Context:** You've explained who the audience is (small charities, little or no AI experience) and the goal (confidence-building, simple first steps).
- ◆ **Character:** You're telling the AI to *be* a practical, friendly workshop designer — not just a random assistant.
- ◆ **Clarity:** You're guiding the tone (supportive, jargon-free, balanced).
- ◆ **Questions:** Do you have any clarifying questions? How can I improve this prompt?

AI as your instant presentation wizard

- **Purpose:** To create clear, stylish presentations quickly by turning written content into slides and visuals.
- **Tool used:** [Gamma](#)
[Watch a quick video demo](#)
- **Risks:** Auto-generated slides might not capture your tone, message priorities, or context perfectly — some editing is still needed.
- **Guardrails:** Treat as a first draft creator, not the finished product. Always review, adjust, and put your voice and judgment into the final slides.

AI as your personal research assistant

- **Purpose:** To help you quickly understand, summarise and simplify the content of long documents and reports.
- **Tool used:** [NotebookLM](#)
[Watch a quick video demo](#)
- **Risks:** May miss subtle nuances, oversimplify important points or misinterpret complex material.
- **Guardrails:** Use it to support your understanding, not replace deep reading or expert review. Always sense-check important conclusions yourself. Do not input confidential or sensitive information

**If you had
unlimited interns
where and how
would you use
them?**

**Remember these are super
smart, very well read interns
who can take on any team
member role you'd like.**



If you had unlimited interns where and how would you use them?

Remember these are super smart, very well read interns who can take on any team member role you'd like.

Solo reflection (2 mins)

At tables (10 min)

- Share what's on your wish list
- Is there anyone on your table who already does this?
- Notice any themes

Menti feedback (2 min)

- What's your favourite use for your new team member?



Join at menti.com | Use vote code 7965 3325

Your favourite tasks for your 'new team member'?



Rules of thumb for responsible AI

- **Purpose:** Have a clear purpose
- **Start small:** Begin with low-risk examples and simple tasks - find your hook!
- **Data compliance:** Follow your organisation's data policies
- **Confidentiality:** Don't share personal or sensitive data unless you have permission
- **Standardisation:** Start with tools that are already adopted by your org to safeguard data and privacy

Rules of thumb for responsible AI

- **Human in the loop - you're in charge!**
 - **Ensure no biases** (gender, racial, ethnic) are present
 - **Check the content is *factually correct* - politically and socially appropriate**
 - **Use AI for assistance and support, not to make final decisions or final outputs without your input**

AI Experiment Canvas

wearecast.org.uk

Experiment title:				Published?	
Description <i>Overview description of experiment</i>	Hypothesis <i>We think that... will result in</i>	To test this we'll	We'll know if it works by measuring	Tools used <i>Are there any open source or community-owned tools that will build the capacity of the sector?</i>	
Boundaries of the experiment <i>How are you ensuring this experiment is safe, measured</i>		Person in the loop <i>What role does the team play in delivering this?</i>	Data and privacy <i>What data used for training, what's being added, what is public?</i>	Engagement <i>How have you consulted, co-designed or engaged with potential users or those impacted by this experiment?</i>	
Success / Failure notes			Summary reflections		
Links					

RESET CHAT ↺

ADD PDFS ⊕

VIEW MY PDFS →

Public categories



Organisation categories



Private categories



Chat window



Dan

what is the AI for Grant makers peer group?



worthwhile AI ✓ Bot

Based on the shared context, the AI for Grantmakers peer group is a regular meeting forum where grantmakers come together to explore and share opportunities and challenges related to AI. The sessions typically run for 2 hours (13:00-15:00) and include:

1. Regular introductions and check-ins
2. Discussions about AI experiments and experiences
3. Deep dive sessions on specific topics like:
 - Creating AI policies
 - Responding to AI-written applications
 - Environmental impacts of AI
 - Sharing practical examples of AI use in the sector

The group appears to be focused on peer learning, sharing experiments, and developing collective understanding of how AI can be used in grantmaking contexts.

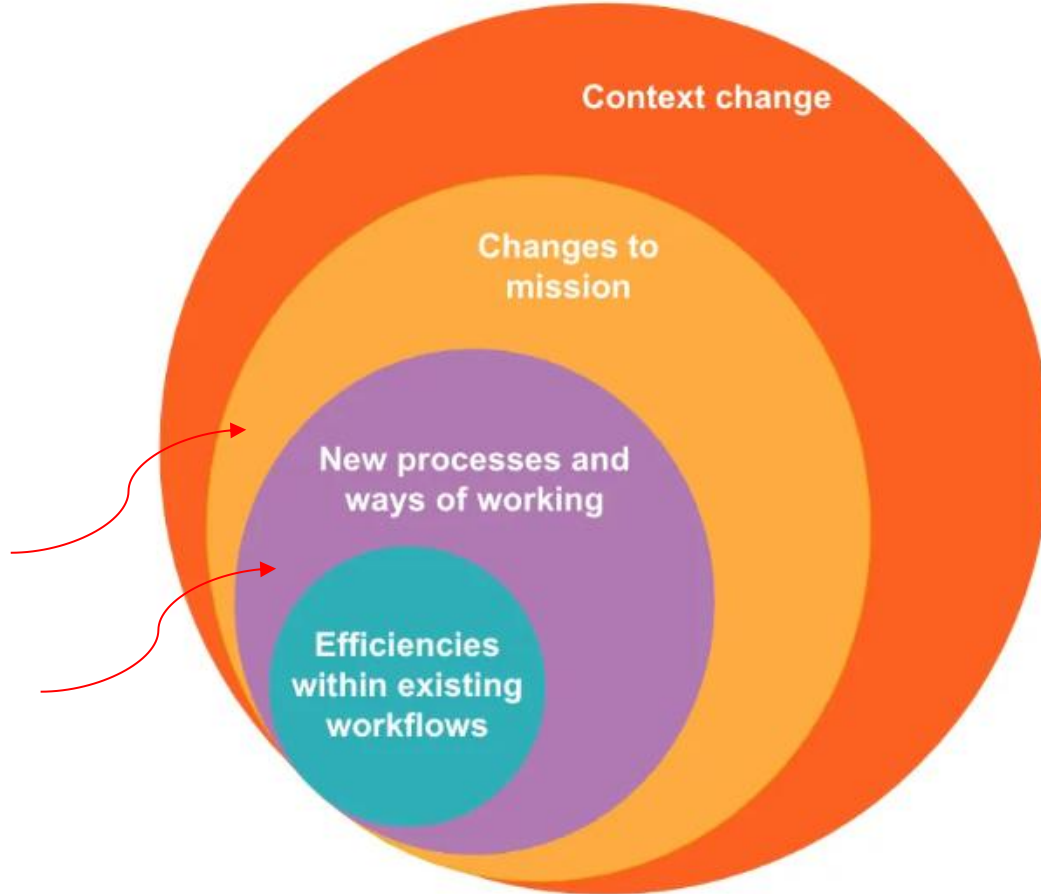


Send a message...



The broader impact

AI Spheres of Influence



New behaviours, needs and expectations emerge

What does this mean for your community, customers or users?

How does this impact your mission?

How can you sense and respond to these changes?

Mission:

or key focus for this session

Mission characteristics:

People, nouns, change wanted

What do we know?

What are you confident about regarding the impact of AI on your mission's characteristics?

What do we think we know?

What assumptions do you have about the impact of AI on your mission's characteristics?

What don't we know?

What questions do you have about the impact of AI on your mission's characteristics?

Mission
knowledge board

Shared questions or assumptions?

Any overlap with others in your group?

Next steps?

Individual or collective action?

What we know

- People are experimenting
- Expectations will change - of grantees and beneficiaries
- The pace of change won't let up
- There is a lack of research on the impact of AI on beneficiaries
- There is a lack of support to upskill the sector and some need it more than others
- There is a concern in the sector around privacy and security

What we think we know

What we don't know

Join the AI for Grantmakers peer support group to explore answers to your unknowns

“Generative AI changes our very relationship with knowledge. If you want to find a comparison in history, it is the invention of the alphabet and the printing press”.

Prof Donald Clark, entrepreneur, investor and academic

We need an empowered, vocal and influential civil society, confident in their use and understanding of these new technologies.

Next steps

1. [Getting started with AI course](#): A seven-week, self-serve course
2. [AI resource hub](#): A living library of resources to help you explore the challenges and opportunities
3. AI peer groups: [Digital Leads Network AI Peer Group](#) and [AI for Grantmakers](#)

In your organisation:

1. Internal peer groups to explore new ways of working
2. Permissive environments for safe explorations - policies, encouragement and sharing

Checking out - Live Poll

One AI action you'll take after today's session?

Share your thoughts:

Scan the QR code with your phone

or

Go to menti.com and use vote code

7965 3325



One AI action you'll take after today's session?

Join network

Play with various AI tools

Experiment more Make it personalised

Do the intro course

Try out Gamma and NotebookLM!!

Speak to colleagues about next steps

Join the peer support group

Subscribe to CAST

Try out AI

Move to an uninhabited island in the middle of the pacific

Sign up to the getting started with AI course

Just have a go !

One AI action you'll take after today's session?

I will trial more tools and deffinatly sign up to the peer group

Exploration with applicants and grantees

Investigate how we can use AI for saving time in grant making.

To spend an initial half day exploring Co-Pilot to get a better understanding of capabilities, possibilities and limitations.

Use it more for everyday tasks

Subscribe to cast

To try it! Sense check

That was really informative to someone who only just getting started with this. Thank you so much.

Check the different AI softwares and see which can be beneficial to my role

Getting started with AI course

Join the grantmaker network

Thanks!

joyce@wearecast.org.uk

<https://www.wearecast.org.uk/>



Further resources

Risks

AI has a lot of risks if not used carefully:

- Environment
- Data privacy
- Bias
- Hallucinations
- Copyright
- Data privacy

Data safety

Data Safety - In brief

- **Free AI tools can use what your inputs to improve their models - unless you're on a paid plan, your data might be stored and learned from.**
- **That includes sensitive charity info - so it's risky to paste in reports, plans or personal data if you're not on a secure plan.**
- **Check what your team is using - many people start with free tools without realising the data risks.**
- **Paid accounts or team plans offer better privacy controls and let you opt out of data sharing by default.**
- **Nothing is free!**

Environmental impact



Environmental Impact - In Brief

- **Data centres use a lot of energy** - up to 12% of US electricity projected by 2028; already 21% in Ireland.
- **Digital demand is rising** - from video calls and streaming to gaming, crypto and AI.
- **AI isn't harmless:**
 - Training large models and running them at scale consumes significant electricity.
 - Growing AI use could worsen carbon emissions if powered by fossil-fuel-heavy grids.
- **Comparisons:**
 - Chatting with AI for a full day uses about the same energy as streaming a 1-hour HD video.
 - Generating 100,000 AI tokens (equivalent to a full report or several chat sessions) uses less energy than:
 - i. Driving 1 km in a fuel-efficient car
 - ii. One hour of online gaming on a console
- **Charities should weigh impact vs. benefit, and use it responsibly.**

Source: AI Playbook for charities

Hallucinations



AI Hallucinations - What to look out for

- **AI can confidently make things up** - known as *hallucinations*
→ e.g. “Paris is in the US” or inventing fake events.
- **Error rate ~1–2%**, often better than humans in repetitive tasks
→ But mistakes can be weird and surprising.
- **Human vs AI Mistakes**
 - Human: wrong but sounds reasonable
 - AI: wrong and sometimes clearly odd (easier to catch!)



What you can do

- Always double-check facts and advice
- Look for weird or obviously false statements
- Use clear and detailed prompts + ask for sources

Intellectual Property



Intellectual Property & AI: What you need to know

Who owns the IP of AI-generated content?



It's complicated - and varies by tool.

Key risks & realities:



- **Different tools = different rules**

Some allow full use and resale; others limit commercial use or keep partial ownership.



- **Human authorship still matters**

Copyright often requires a human creator - though UK law has rare exceptions.



- **Even if you own the output...**

You can still infringe on someone else's IP (e.g. if AI unintentionally replicates copyrighted material).

Bias & Trust

Bias & Trust in AI

- **AI is trained on human content** - some sources are reliable (e.g. BBC), others less so (e.g. Reddit).
- **AI can reflect and amplify human bias**
→ Especially risky for sensitive topics or advice for vulnerable people.
- **Safeguards have improved, but risks remain.**

What you can do

- **Treat outputs as suggestions, not facts**
- **Use human oversight for public content**
- **Fact-check and verify information**
- **Prioritise care when working with sensitive subjects**

AI should enhance - not replace – human judgment!