

Curriculum Connect Symposium

Building critical thinking skills in an age of misinformation and artificial intelligence (AI)

Thursday 5 June 2025

TIME	EVENT
7 am	Registration, tea and coffee, trade stalls Queensland Terrace, level 2
8 am	Acknowledgment of Country and welcome Vicki McDonald AM FALIA State Librarian and CEO, State Library of Queensland slq Auditorium 1, level 2
8:10 am	Introduction Master of ceremonies: Professor Michael Dezuanni Program Leader Digital Inclusion and Participation, Digital Media Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology and Chief Investigator, Connected and Educated Child programs, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child slq Auditorium 1, level 2 Professor Dezuanni draws on his extensive experience as a media literacy educator and researcher to set the foundation for the symposium—to consider the challenge of, and critical need for, informed, resilient, and critically engaged citizens, able to navigate today's complex digital landscape.
THE CHALLENGE: A GROWING WORLD OF MIS-, DIS-, AI-GENERATED INFORMATION	
8:15 am	Keynote: The transformative potential of AI in education Dr Hassan Khosravi Associate Professor, Data Science and Learning Analytics University of Queensland slq Auditorium 1, level 2 Delve into the transformative potential of AI in education with Dr Khosravi as he explores four key dimensions: using AI responsibly, collaborating effectively with AI, enhancing learning experiences with AI and fostering essential skills that extend beyond AI capabilities.
9:15 am	Panel session: Navigating the future of education – opportunities and challenges in a world of information and AI-generated content Chair: Professor Michael Dezuanni Panel members: Dr Hassan Khosravi, Toni Peggrem, Laki Sideris slq Auditorium 1, level 2 Panelists will discuss evidence-based policy and digital practices, how innovative AI strategies are breaking down barriers and fostering a sense of belonging in education, and explore transformative initiatives like <i>Informit Explore</i> , which equips young learners with authoritative content. Together, they will showcase pathways for creating inclusive and impactful learning experiences in an era of information overload and misinformation.

10:10 am	Morning tea Queensland Terrace, level 2		
THE SOLUTION: CRITICAL THINKING AND MEDIA LITERACY SKILLS			
Keynote: Navigating uncertainty through curiosity and critical thinking			
11 am	Professor Deborah Brown University of Queensland, Director of the UQ Critical Thinking Project, Principal Practitioner at the Institute for Teaching and Learning Innovation, and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities slq Auditorium 1, level 2		
	Professor Brown's keynote explores practical strategies for developing students' media literacy, analytical skills, and positive engagement with AI—empowering them to assess credibility, question information, and navigate an increasingly complex digital landscape with confidence.		
CONCURRENT SESSIONS			
12:05 pm	Talk: The perfect information storm Dr Kay Oddone Lecturer and Researcher, Charles Sturt University. Consultant, Linking Learning slq Auditorium 1, level 2 Dr Oddone will examine the 'perfect information storm' created by generative AI and investigate ways to scaffold students as critical thinkers, emphasising algorithmic literacy, critical information evaluation, and academic integrity. She will also challenge you to consider a Teacher Librarian's role as a collaborator, to help you equip students to become ethical users and creators of information.	Talk: From archives to algorithms: leveraging AI for greater access and discovery in libraries and collecting institutions Margaret Warren Director, Content Management, State Library of Queensland slq Auditorium 2, level 2 AI is a transformative technology that is rapidly evolving and having an impact on almost every part of our lives, whether we know it or not. This presentation will explore ideas and opportunities, experiments and challenges of the use of AI technologies in libraries and other cultural collecting organisations.	Show and tell: Connecting with State Library's collections and resources* (session 1) White Gloves Room, level 4 Experience State Library's unique collections in this hands-on 'white gloves' session designed to inspire experiential learning. In addition to adorning white gloves to explore special collection items, discover how to also integrate these resources into your classroom to foster critical thinking and engagement through our curriculum-aligned programs and activities.
LUNCHTIME SESSIONS*			
1 pm	Lunch 1-1:50 pm Visit trade stalls Explore State Library Queensland Terrace	Show and tell: Connect with State Library's resources# (session 2) 1:15-1:35 pm slq, Auditorium 1, level 2 Overview of State Library's learning experiences and resources.	Show and tell: Connect with State Library's collections and resources# (session 2) 1-1:25 pm White Gloves Room, level 4 White gloves collections handling experience.
		Sponsored session: Informit 1:40-1:50 pm slq Auditorium 1, level 2 Discover <i>Informit Explore</i> , Australia's first major research and learning database designed for schools and public libraries, with curriculum-related modules on fake news and AI.	Show and tell: Connect with State Library's collections and resources# (session 3) 1:25-1:50 pm White Gloves Room, level 4 White gloves collections handling experience.

*Lunchtime sessions in Auditorium 1 will be live streamed for online participants.

#Sign up for Show and tell sessions during registration. Places limited.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Keynote: Tech trends – safeguarding children and young people in an AI-driven world

Kellie Britnell

Representative, eSafety Commissioner

slq Auditorium 1, level 2

2 pm

Kellie Britnell's keynote delves into the world of emerging technologies, ensuring a shared understanding of the opportunities and risks they present. It will explore the latest AI advancements and how young people are engaging with these technologies. This session also emphasises the need for critical thinking, examining the various techniques used to persuade and manipulate. eSafety's crucial role in preventing the weaponization of generative AI will also be highlighted along with key resources to help educators navigate this new landscape.

Closing remarks

Professor Michael Dezuanni

slq Auditorium 1, level 2

3 pm

NETWORKING (OPTIONAL)

Networking

Queensland Terrace, level 2

Join the team from Informit for drinks and snacks on the Queensland Terrace.

3:15 pm

Please note all presentations will be recorded except for Kellie Britnell's keynote. Recordings will be made available to all symposium attendees.

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Bronze sponsors



Speakers



Professor Michael Dezuanni **Master of Ceremonies**

Professor Michael Dezuanni is a leading expert in digital media, literacies, and learning across home, school, and community contexts. He serves as the Program Leader for Digital Inclusion and Participation at the Queensland University of Technology Digital Media Research Centre, where he contributes to world-leading research fostering a creative, inclusive, and equitable digital media environment. Michael is also a chief investigator for the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. He has authored *Peer Pedagogies on Digital Platforms: Learning with Minecraft Let's Play Videos* (MIT Press, 2020), edited three academic books, and published more than 45 journal articles and book chapters. Michael's contributions extend to advisory roles with organisations such as the Australian Digital Inclusion Alliance, the Australian Media Literacy Alliance, and ACARA. Most recently, he contributed to the International Federation of Libraries Association 2024 Trends Report, *Facing the Future of Information with Confidence*.



Dr Hassan Khosravi **Keynote**

Dr Hassan Khosravi is an Associate Professor in Data Science and Learning Analytics at The University of Queensland. A computer scientist by training, he is passionate about the role of artificial intelligence in education. His research combines insights from the learning sciences with human-centred AI to create solutions that enhance student learning and experience. Hassan has taught at Simon Fraser University, and the University of British Columbia, coordinating 30 courses for around 7,000 students. He also mentors future educators in areas like active learning and assessment design.



Deborah Brown **Keynote**

Deborah Brown is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Queensland and Director of the University of Queensland Critical Thinking Project. She also serves as Principal Practitioner for Critical Thinking at the Institute for Teaching and Learning Innovation and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Deborah leads professional learning and research collaborations with Prep-12 schools, education departments, and both government and non-government organisations to embed critical thinking across education and leadership development. She also coordinates academic capability-building programs designed to support marginalised school students.



Kellie Britnell **Keynote**

Kellie Britnell brings more than 15 years of expertise in online safety, leading eSafety Commissioner's awareness and capability initiatives with a dedicated focus on creating safer online environments. A former educator with experience in schools across Australia and overseas, Kellie has developed and delivered professional learning programs for diverse audiences, including school leadership teams, librarians, parents, elite sports teams, law enforcement, and members of the judiciary. She has also forged key partnerships with universities, education bodies, and support services, significantly broadening the reach and impact of eSafety's Commissioner's work.



Dr Kay Oddone
Sessional speaker

Dr Kay Oddone is a lecturer and researcher at Charles Sturt University and Course Director of Master of Education: Teacher Librarianship. With expertise in teacher librarianship, education, and leveraging social technologies to enhance learning experiences, Kay is dedicated to empowering learners with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the digital age. She holds a PhD in Connected Learning, Social Media and Personal Learning Networks, as well as a Master of Education in Teacher Librarianship. Through her work with Linking Learning, Kay has also provided consultancy services to educational organisations across Australia and internationally.



Margaret Warren
Sessional speaker

Margaret Warren is the Director of Content Management at State Library of Queensland, responsible for managing the lifecycle of collections—from selection and acquisition, through to description, access, discovery, storage and preservation—for both physical and digital content. She is an advocate for copyright reform and Creative Commons and the role of libraries as open access champions. She is excited about the potential of AI technologies to improve access and discovery to collections and to develop innovative and engaging user experiences.



Toni Peggrem
Panel member

Toni Peggrem, Executive Manager of the Queensland AI Hub, brings over 30 years of experience in strategic planning and leading organisational reform. Renowned for her ability to navigate complex environments and foster collaboration across stakeholders, Toni is committed to evidence-based policy and digitally enabled practices with a focus on continuous improvement.



Laki Sideris
Panel member

Laki Sideris is the Head of Product at Informit, a business of RMIT University which is centred around providing library access to the vast richness of Australia's publishing and research outputs. With a particular interest in fostering bibliodiversity for the promotion of critical thinking, Laki has initiated projects such as the student-centred *Informit Explore* resource, designed to deliver authoritative, evidence-based content into the hands of young learners.