

# Evaluative Information Literacy Rubric for AI Tools

Purpose: to assess when and how to use an AI tool.

Description of your information need: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of tool: \_\_\_\_\_

Intentionally no point values; what's good enough to use will vary by person, information need, and situation.

<b>Attribute / Characteristic</b>	<b>Red Flag (Alarm bells)</b>	<b>Use with Caution (I'm skeptical, but it could still be useful)</b>	<b>Above Average (Maybe we can talk)</b>	<b>Importance for your need</b>
Is the purpose of the tool compatible with your information need?	It doesn't do what you need it to do	Has some overlap with your needs, but isn't targeting your exact use case	Designed to do what you're trying to do	
Is the company transparent about what they do with your data?	Privacy policy is non-existent or does not address how user information or input is used	Explanation of data use / privacy policy is unclear or puts undue burden on user to synthesize / interpret	Clearly stated data usage and privacy policy that's easy to find	
What does the tool / company do with your (the user's) information?	Not stated, would retain information that you don't want collected, or would use information in problematic ways	Uses data for internal product development, or collects personal data not related to your information need	Tool allows you to control use of your data, or doesn't collect it	
Is the company transparent about where information comes from?	Not stated, or data source clearly introduces problems around bias / prejudice / representation	Explanation of information sources / training data is unclear or puts undue burden on user to synthesize / interpret	Clearly articulated and easy to find. Acknowledges problems of bias and representation and may work to overcome them.	
Is the information /	Information was clearly	Unclear	Information / data used is in the	

data used by this source acquired in accordance with copyright, fair use, and / or open access best practices?	obtained in ethically dubious ways (using copyrighted materials without author permission, etc.)		public domain or appropriately licensed, or was shared with permission from the copyright holder	
Is the information relevant and comprehensive enough for your information need?	Information source doesn't cover your topic or isn't appropriate for your need	Information source has some overlap with your need but isn't complete / a perfect match, OR it's unclear and you'll have to test it out	Information source is a strong and relatively complete match for your need	
If this tool makes factual claims, does it provide citations for them? Can you find evidence the sources exist?	No citations, or the sources don't seem to exist	Partial / incomplete citations for sources that do seem to exist	Well formatted citations for sources that really exist	
Is the information available in this tool current?	Too old or too new for your information need	There's some overlap with your need, but you'll need to supplement with materials from other time periods, OR it's unclear and you'll have to test it out	Sources / datasets include the time period(s) you need	

# Evaluative Information Literacy Rubric for AI Tools

(Completed example)

Purpose: to assess when and how to use an AI tool.

Description of your information need: *Public librarian looking for a tool to help patrons identify books they can't remember the title or author of*

Name of tool: *Talpa.ai*

Intentionally no point values; what's good enough to use will vary by person, information need, and situation.

*Note: sample "choices" have a light grey background and are also outlined with a bold line.*

Attribute / Characteristic	Red Flag (Alarm bells)	Use with Caution (I'm skeptical, but it could still be useful)	Above Average (Maybe we can talk)	Importance for your need
Is the purpose of the tool compatible with your information need?	It doesn't do what you need it to do	Has some overlap with your needs, but isn't targeting your exact use case	Designed to do what you're trying to do	<i>Very important!</i>
Is the company transparent about what they do with your data?	Privacy policy is non-existent or does not address how user information or input is used	Explanation of data use / privacy policy is unclear or puts undue burden on user to synthesize / interpret	Clearly stated data usage and privacy policy that's easy to find	<i>At this point, because this tool is an experiment (according to their website) and not a finished product, I am not too concerned about this. However, I would want to know more about how it is using my patrons' data before subscribing.</i>
What does the tool / company do with your information? (the user's information?)	Not stated, would retain information that you don't want collected, or would use information in problematic ways	Uses data for internal product development, or collects personal data not related to your information need	Tool allows you to control use of your data, or doesn't collect it	<i>Similar to the last criterion, we don't know what they do with user information. Again, not concerned about this yet, but would want to know this before recommending to a patron.</i>

Is the company transparent about where information comes from?	Not stated, or data source clearly introduces problems around bias / prejudice / representation	Explanation of information sources / training data is unclear or puts undue burden on user to synthesize / interpret	Clearly articulated and easy to find. Acknowledges problems of bias and representation and may work to overcome them.	<i>Very important. They are very clear about the sources of information. Furthermore, they're sources most librarians are familiar with.</i>
Is the information / data used by this source acquired in accordance with copyright, fair use, and / or open access best practices?	Information was clearly obtained in ethically dubious ways (using copyrighted materials without author permission, etc.)	Unclear	Information / data used is in the public domain or appropriately licensed, or was shared with permission from the copyright holder	<i>Very important. It seems like most information is acquired legally, but I am unsure about whether LibraryThing users were consulted about usage of their "CoverGuess" contributions.</i>
Is the information relevant and comprehensive enough for your information need?	Information source doesn't cover your topic or isn't appropriate for your need	Information source has some overlap with your need but isn't complete / a perfect match, OR it's unclear and you'll have to test it out	Information source is a strong and relatively complete match for your need	<i>Very important. The website says this is better at identifying older books, so I would need to play around with it more to see how well it does with newer titles.</i>
If this tool makes factual claims, does it provide citations for them? Can you find evidence the sources exist?	No citations, or the sources don't seem to exist	Partial / incomplete citations for sources that do seem to exist	Well formatted citations for sources that really exist	<i>This isn't relevant to my need - I just need to know these are actual books that exist. Both the website's claims, and the sources they mention, confirm that they return real books.</i>
Is the information available in this tool current?	Too old or too new for your information need	There's some overlap with your need, but you'll need to supplement with materials from other time periods, OR it's unclear and you'll have to test it out	Sources / datasets include the time period(s) you need	<i>Important. As mentioned above, it may not be strong enough on current titles.</i>