



## **Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Genealogy**

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The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in genealogy has inspired the creation of the Coalition for Responsible AI in Genealogy and the development of essential Guiding Principles to navigate these changes responsibly.

Recent advances in AI have been extraordinary. Since the introduction of Transformer architecture in 2017, groundbreaking tools like GPT-3 and DALL-E have reshaped what's possible. By late 2022, AI became accessible and widely adopted, profoundly impacting fields like genealogy. While these tools open up new avenues for research and discovery, they also introduce ethical questions and risks we must address.

Following the rapid expansion of generative AI, discussions at the 2024 RootsTech ethics panel emphasized the urgent need for a framework. Our coalition engaged in a collaborative effort throughout 2024, refining the principles through thoughtful deliberation and extensive community input.

These Guiding Principles ensure responsible AI use in genealogy, addressing essential areas such as accuracy, disclosure, privacy, education, and compliance. For a full description of these principles, please visit <https://craigen.org>.

Responsible AI use builds public trust and maintains the integrity of genealogical research. As AI technology continues to evolve, these principles offer a solid foundation for ethical innovation within our community.

## **Guiding Principles for Responsible AI in Genealogy**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming genealogy by offering powerful capabilities alongside new challenges and risks. These principles aim to guide the responsible use of AI within the genealogical community—including casual and professional researchers, societies, and supporting companies. The responsible use of AI will maximize its benefits while mitigating risks to the quality and trustworthiness of the work it generates.

### **Accuracy**

AI can generate false, biased, or incorrect content. Therefore, members of the genealogical community verify the accuracy of the information with other records and acknowledge credible sources of content generated by AI.

### **Disclosure**

Acknowledging the use of AI enhances trust. Therefore, members of the genealogical community disclose, as context requires, when AI materially influences the creation or modification of content.

### **Privacy**

AI usage can lead to unintended data exposure, putting private information at risk of being publicly disclosed. Therefore, members of the genealogical community take reasonable measures to safeguard private information when using AI.

### **Education**

The use of AI creates new opportunities and risks. Therefore, members of the genealogical community educate themselves about AI to maximize its benefits and minimize its risks to their work.

### **Compliance**

Adherence to legal and contractual obligations is essential for the ethical use of AI. Therefore, members of the genealogical community comply with contracts, terms of service, intellectual property laws, and data privacy regulations when using or creating AI tools.