

Dr Andrew Cox

Librarians and data

The presentation considers the strengths and weaknesses of the profession as we enter deeper into the age of datafication and artificial intelligence. Librarians may increasingly find management and use of data is proposed as an important part of their work. The research data management role is well established. Data literacy could become a key dimension of user training. Procuring and describing data content would also be more central. Indeed, as collections will increasingly be seen as data themselves, the provenance of data and its biases need to be explained. And as data is analysed more intensively in the management of users, a strong stance on data ethics rooted in professional values will become vital. The presentation seeks to identify the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will be required to make librarianship a data profession.